By most accounts, MORRIS

BROWN is the dark horse in this

year's race, thanks to a good recruiting

Tally, who averaged 21 points during the regular season, is back in the lineup along with guard-forward Barry

Christian believes that if his team makes it through its December schedule, which includes a trip down Tobacco Road to North Carolina A&T and Winston-Salem State, the Spartans will be just right entering the CIAA Tournament at Richmond.

Christian is relying on his newcomers to contribute as soon as

"We expect them to come in and do the job immediately," the coach said. "They're a tall group of guys that are definitely good help on the boards."

Adding height to the Spartan roster are forwards Lee Johnson, Matt Henson and James Walker and center Walter Reynolds.

ELIZABETH CITY STATE (7-5, 11-8, 17-12) is going through a transitional period. Coach Mackey said his team needs to mature before it can con-

"We have some growing up to do," Mackey said. "We have a lot of new people on the team, but I think that we have enough of what it takes to have a good season."

The Vikings, who dropped their first two games to St. Augustine's (95-72) and to UDC (71-64), return three significant players in all-CIAA forward Tim McDaniels (22 points, 10 rebounds, 2.6 blocked shots), guard Jamie Turner (13.4 points) and forward Ervin Harris (seven points).

Mackey, who likes his offense to settle around the guards, said he's having a hard time finding someone to fill the shoes of Greg Spruill (13.7 points, three assists), who graduated, and Marcus Anderson, who did not return

"We have some good players in that who will carry on through the season as the guard that we need," Mackey said.

So far, freshman Andre Towe is the likely candidate. "Andre has come and really helped

our backcourt play," Mackey said. "He's going to become a fine player." VIRGINIA STATE (3-9, 7-12, 13-16)

Coach Floyd Laisure has set his sights on a strong finish in the division.

"We have nine people back," Laisure said. "We are very optimistic and expect to have a great season."

The Trojans return guards Darren Sanderlin and Brian Price, forwards Mark Swain and Leonard Harris and 6-10 center David Blackwell.

Laisure also said that his second team will play an important role in the Trojans' success.

"We have a very experienced

bench," Laisure said. "They have out of action until January. tremendous potential and are going to do whatever we might need them

Coming off the Trojan sideline are forwards Shawn Henderson, Mike Winguard and Kevin Jackson, as well as guard Dwayne Ellis.

ST. PAUL'S (4-8, 7-12, 12-15) Coach Moses Golatt said his young Tigers will have to grow up fast to con-

came down on his ankle," Golatt said. "It's a terrible blow to our team, but we're going to have to do our best without him for a while."

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY (8-4, 13-6, 16-9) received a much-needed infusion of talent from state champion Martinsville High School. Stacy Clark and James Hunt led Martinsville another Virginia 2A title last year.

SHARPSHOOTER

Guard Vincent Brown of J.C. Smith shoots three-pointers as if they're free throws (photo by James Parker).

"We have nine new players who are Golatt said. "Our guards have to learn to become leaders on the floor and adjust to any unusual game situations

that may come about." The Tigers, who so far have beaten Shaw 64-61 and lost to James Madison 88-59, are going to have to go almost jured his ankle in practice and will be foul trouble.

Clark has been hot early for the going to have to do some maturing," Pirates, averaging 14 points and eight rebounds. Hunt scored 18 points in one game as HU got off to a 4-0 start.

Last season's team was led by 6-9 center Rowan Gomes. He was second in the league in rebounding with 9. per game and first in shooting percentage (68 percent). He and 6-8 Derrick half the season without top player Dunson have split time at center, Lawrence Walden. The Tiger guard in- though Dunson has been plagued by

Raymond Lee, a 6-0 junior from "He went up for a rebound and Plainfield, N.J., has been responsible for running the attack from his point position. Lee kept Hampton in a good offensive flow in its first four games.

BOWIE STATE (0-12, 1-18, 1-25) is back with a new coach who is familiar to both this league and the MEAC. Warren Reynolds, who stepped into the program's top spot in August, had been at Shaw and once also coached at North Carolina A&T. He inherits a program bereft of talent and faces a major rebuilding task this season.

"We've got eight walk-ons," Reynolds said. "This the first time I've had to put together a team primarily composed of people from the student

The Bulldogs also are without one of their few veterans, forward Kevin Broadus.

"He broke his arm in a car accident," Reynolds said. "We're going to miss his presence on the floor, but we'll have to make it without

Among the other veterans back are guards William Boyd and Eric Blake and forwards Gregory Young and Charles Peterson. They'll join newcomer guards James Nolan and Mike Sinclair to make the Bulldogs a bit better than might be expected.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Coach Robert Moore of JOHNSON C. SMITH (9-3, 12-7, 21-10) lost to Virginia Union in the CIAA semifinals 87-85 last season on a last-second tip-in by Panther guard Tony Dallas. Moore said the Golden Bulls intend to pick up from where they left off then.

"We finished strong last year," Moore said. "We're going to pick up with the same winning attitude this season and take it back to the tourna-

The Bulls, who opened the season with a 127-96 rout over Benedict College, return starters Vincent Brown, Dante Johnson and Kevin Hinton. Brown and Johnson were all-CIAA selections.

Brown is the league's premier threepoint shooter, making 63 percent from downtown. He averaged 14.5 points per game, while Johnson checked in with averages of 18.2 points and 9.2 re-

The Bulls are without starting center Chris Jones, who broke his foot while running cross country. But the Bulls intend to compensate for his absence on the court.

"We got a lot of depth on our bench," Moore said. "Our second

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SIAC

The story in this league is Paine-fully obvious

Morris Brown's LeVoyd Wardlow skies for a slam following a steal in last

players, five of whom have started.

last year, averaging 16 points and 11

year's SIAC Tournament final (photo by Craig T. Greenlee).

not as offensive-minded as Brackett,

"The only thing I promised when I

ALBANY STATE returns six shooters.

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE Review Staff Writer

THE word around the SIAC is Paine-fully clear: Defending champ Alabama A&M will be strong again, but Paine College is the team to beat -at least during the regular season.

Paine was the only team to down the Bulldogs twice last year, equaling A&M's 12-4 conference mark and going 19-8 overall. But any satisfaction Paine might receive with a regularseason title would end right there.

The Lions are in the second year of an NCAA-mandated probation for new schools joining the conferences. They are eligible for the regular-season title, but cannot compete in postseason play, according to SIAC Commissioner Howard Davis.

PAINE Head Coach Ronnie Spry is somewhat amused that his team is regarded so highly. "We're overrated," he says flatly. "It's really too early to tell."

Granted, Paine is not an overpowering team. But the Lions rarely beat themselves and excel at taking advantage of opponents' mistakes.

While the Lions' top scorer and rebounder has graduated, guards Don Smith and Tim Gilliam return in the backcourt. Both can play either guard slot, and they often flip-flop as the situation dictates. They'll get ample help from 6-3 Byron Johnson and sophomore center Mike Jones (6-51/2).

"I honestly don't know why we're being picked as the team to beat," says Spry, who has a 161-78 record at Paine in seven seasons, and who at least concedes that his players are fundamental-

"We're always prepared mentally and physically, and each year we're respectable," he says. "We don't structure our system around one player. It's a collective effort."

Meanwhile, ALABAMA A&M (23-9 overall last year) is anxious to avenge those losses to Paine.

But sweet revenge will have to wait, says Vann Pettaway, who took over for Ben Jobe when he became the new coach at Southern.

Despite losing all-Americas Donald Reedus and Wesley Brackett, A&M should have no problem filling the point guard position, and while he is

First, there's Robert Thomas, the he spreads the scoring load by getting senior center who averaged 16 points more people involved in the Bulldogs' and 8,3 boards an outing. Then there offense. are two all-SIAC Tournament selections in Nathan Crowder and King took this job," Pettaway points out, Bradford, an all-conference- scoring behind that other Lee in the "is that we'll be entertaining and com- tournament selection. Byron Martin Green. Ondray Wagner, a junior guard, led the team in steals last petitive. I believe we're on track so (6-7) provides stiff defense for ASC,

Sophomore Willie Hayes handles the

year stocked with junior-college transfers. The top returnees are two seniors: Jeff Lewis, a 6-2 guard/forward who led the team in scoring (20 points a game) and LeVoyd Wardlow, a 6-5 forward who plays heady defense and is a streak shooter.

Newcomers expected to make an immediate difference for the Wolverines. who were 12-18 last season, include 6-6 Jerome Shelton, 6-7 C.J. Jones, 6-6 Ron Amey and 6-4 Shawn Sapp.

CLARK COLLEGE'S main weapon is the nation's leading scorer, Ernest Lee, who averaged 30.2 points last year. However, Coach Robert Prit- 4 chett has more than one nationally ranked threat in his arsenal. Anthony Ikeobi (6-9) was fourth in Division II rebounding with 11.4 per game last season, while Robert Pritchett Jr. will run the offense.

Consistent production from Clark's supporting cast could open things up for Lee and spark a few surprises.

At TUSKEGEE, Coach Charles Thompson would be happy just to have enough bodies, let alone blue-

Thompson has lost five experienced players due to academics, injuries and personal reasons. If he's fortunate, allconference guard Joe Johnson (21 points a game) will be eligible in January, as will Fred Brown, who is badly needed for his play inside.

If the Tigers are still minus those two in January, it's going to be a long, tough road. With only five solid players at press time, the Tigers will wilt against deeper benches and fresher

Look for SAVANNAH STATE to run the entire floor as usual. Richard Summers (6-5) and Tim Shepard are the lone returning starters and will be joined by guard Alfred Jackson, who played backup last season.

Coach Jimmy Wesley begins his second year with the Tigers after Russell Ellington left to join the Harlem Globetrotters. Steve Kelly, a freshman swingman, is emerging as the SSC's top scorer and will get help from 6-7 In the middle is Chamberlain Camp-Keith Seales, who missed last year with bell, a 6-6 senior who made all-SIAC

MOREHOUSE is missing 29 points rebounds. Orchestrating the Rams' at- a game with the graduation of Marcus tack is junior point guard Macklin Lee, who finished second in Division II SIAC, Clark's Ernest.

Coach Arthur McAfee rests his usually against opponents' toughest hopes on how soon and often a Please See Page 23

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