SIAC ROUNDBALL

A&M rules, but Paine is a legitimate threat

Alabama A & M continues their reign in the conference. But Paine College looms as perhaps the only team that has a legitimate chance to derail the Bulldogs Express.

A & M coasted through their SIAC schedule undefeated until the Lions slapped them with an 83-70 upset loss.

At the time of that game, Paine wasn't eligible for the SIAC tourney or the NCAA playoffs. They had been put on probation for not fielding enough people for the school's track and field program.

Tourney Time

The SIAC tournament will take place March 10-12 at the Elmore Health & Science Building on the campus of Alabama A & M in Huntsville, Ala. Game times for the various rounds had not been set as of presstime.

The tournament field will be comprised of the top four teams from the Eastern and Western Regions. For more information on this SIAC post-season affair, contact the SIAC office at 404/659-3380.

Paine's course was altered when the NCAA voted to reduce the number of people required to field a track team at their annual convention. So while PC's win didn't cost A & M a loss in the conference standings, the Lions still succeeded is sending a strong message to the

They are now eligible to play for all the marbles and are a bona fide threat to put an end to A & M's stranglehold on SIAC roundball.

The Lions, coached by Ronnie Spry, can only be truly appreciated by seeing them in action. Spry's teams normally don't have an overpowering individual who does it all statistically.

But what PC does have is a team cohesion that produces victories. You team is the best defensively in the conferwon't find an abundance of Lions ranked ence, allowing a miserly 65.3 ppg. The among the league leaders in individual Lions are winning games by an average categories. But as a team, they come out margin of + 10.3 points. on the plus side more than they do on the

top scorer (16.4 ppg). But the points fall coach Vann Pettaway's Dogs may find off after that in terms of scoring average. The same is true for rebounding -- P. Davis is the team leader with 7.2 a game, but the board numbers fall after you minded, averaging 95.4 ppg. On defense,

Teamwise, the Lions average 75.6 and that's proven to be very effective ppg) provide the scoring punch. against up tempo teams like A & M.

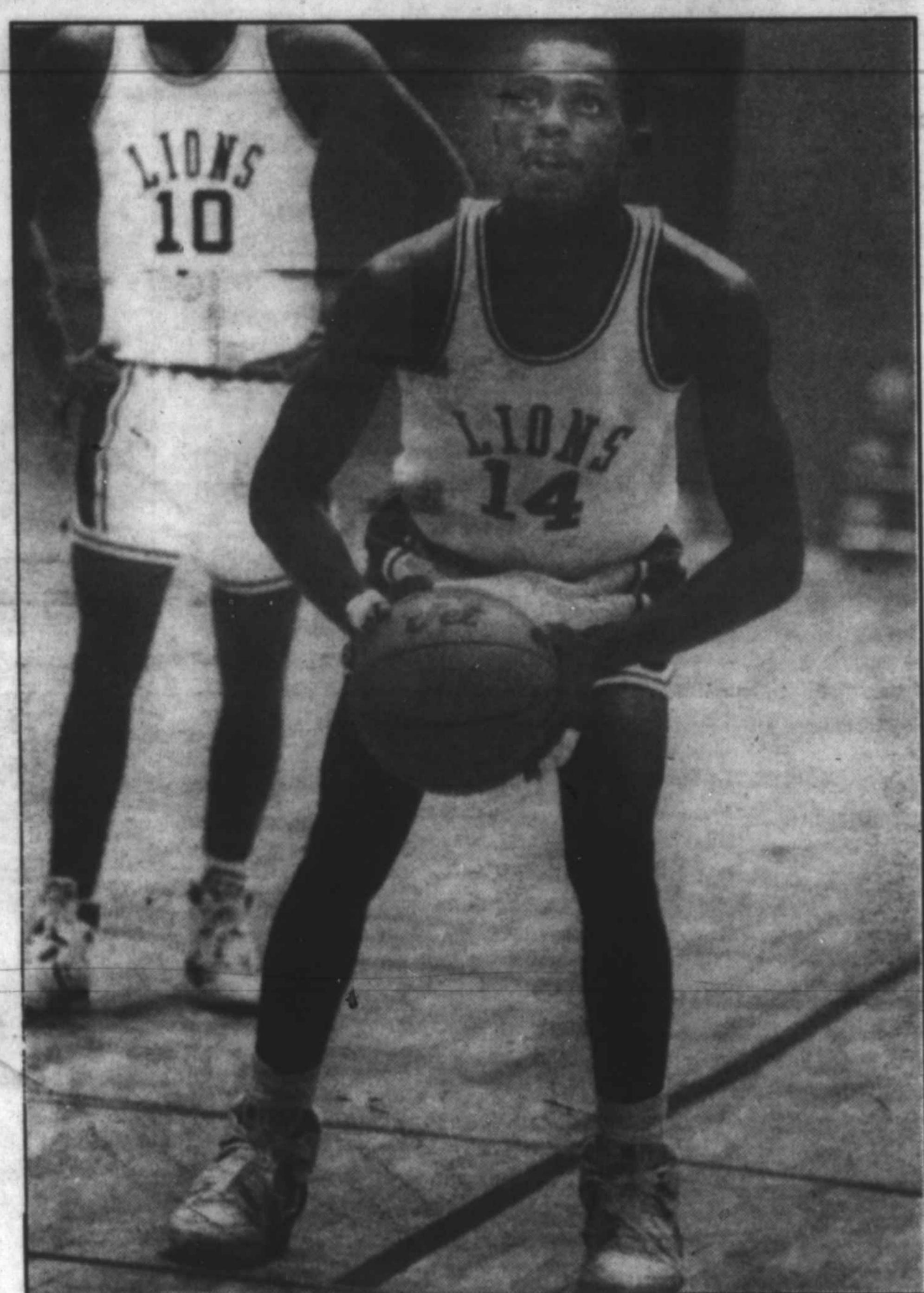


Photo by Max Dunhill

Don Smith is Paine's most experienced backcourt player. He's a virtual coach on the floor because he is very familiar with coach Spry's system. The Lions will need Smith's savvy in order for them to unseat Alabama A&M as league kings.

As a result, folks don't score their usual average when they face PC. Spry's

This doesn't mean that A & M is out For example -- Scott Johnson is the of the picture -- far from it. It's just that

> The Bulldogs are very offensive they're no slouches -- yielding 81.6 ppg.

Individually, A & M has a very ppg on offense, which ranks them next to potent scoring arsenal. Frank Sillmon last in the conference. But their deliberate (25.5 ppg, 9.8 rpg), Willie Hayes (22.3 offensive style slows the pace of games ppg, 7.9 apg) and Ronnie Tucker (19.3

Against Morehouse, a game that A &

M won handily, 110-96, Hayes, Sillmon, and Tucker combined for 80 points. The Dogs led 50-41 at the half, shot 51.1 percent from the field for the game, and enjoyed a 54-46 advantage in rebound-

Morehouse is this year's SIAC version of Cinderella.

The Maroon Tigers' only conference loss came at the hands of A & M.

Freshman Harold Ellis has been a major find for coach Arthur McAfee. He scores 20.7 ppg, rebounds at a 7.4 per game rate, and shoots 65 percent from the field. Against A & M, he lit up the scoreboard for 38 points. Damon Dixon adds more offense for Morehouse with a 15.7 ppg scoring average.

The Maroon Tigers have played solidly this season. They're No. 2 in the conference in scoring offense behind A & M (94.2 ppg) and they hold the same ranking in scoring defense (73.1 ppg).

In the East Region, Albany State, Savannah State and Morris Brown appear to be the teams who will make the final round of eight for the conference tournament. C. McGill (16.5 ppg) is the main guy for the Rams and SSC is led by A. Roper (14.4 ppg), S. Kelly and T. Dunham (both score 13.9 ppg).

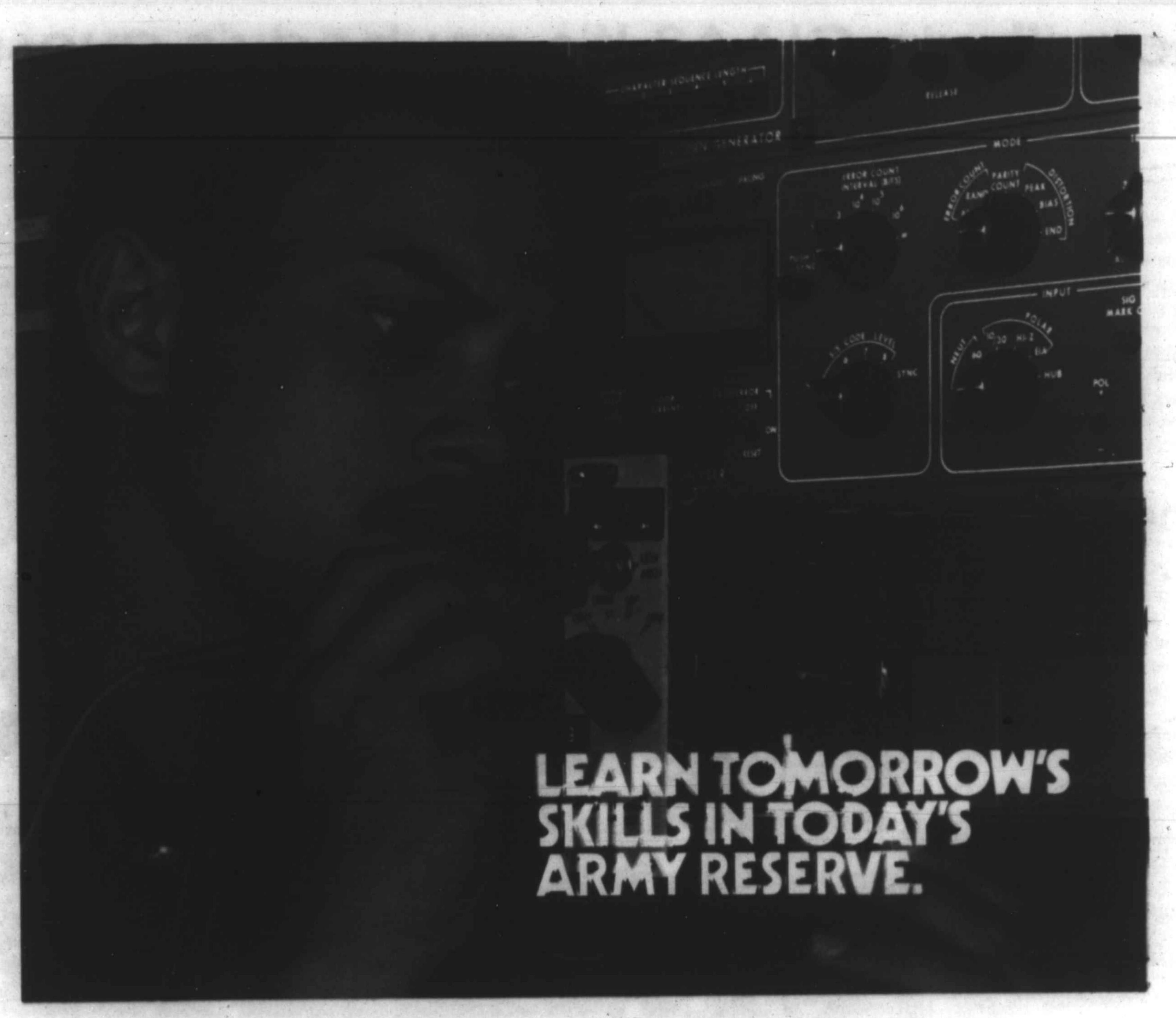
Morris Brown has perhaps the league's most dominant inside player in C.J. Jones. Jones is the SIAC's frontrunner on offense (27.1 ppg), field goal percentage (.673) and rebounds (15 a game).

In the Western Region, LeMoyne-Owen and Tuskegee are sound picks to finish behind A & M and Morehouse. H. Williams is LeMoyne's offensive leader (25.5 ppg) and A. White is also very productive as a scorer (19.7 ppg).

'Skegee gets most of its points from G. Hunt and L. Smart. This duo combines for nearly 43 points a game.

-Randall Davenport

SIAC Standings As of February 9, 1989 Eastern Region		
Paine College	8-0	18-3
Ibany State	5-3	12-7
avannah State	5-3	
orris Brown	2-5	6-12
lark/Atlanta University*	1-5	6-15
ort Valley State	1-6	5-14
Vestern Region		
	Conference	Overall
labama A & M	9-0	16-3
orehouse College	6-1	15-3
eMoyne-Owen College	6-4	12-3
iles College	3-5	
uskegee University	3-6	4-16
ane College*	2-7	4-19
noxville College*		3-15
Indicates teams that are not		
SIAC/NCAA post-season com		III PICITS III PICIT



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