

# *The 1979-1980 VSC Lady Blazers*



## *The Coach*

Lady Blazer head coach Lyndal Worth, in her sixth season at Valdosta State College.



## *1979-1980 Lady Blazers*



# The Lady Blazers at a Glance

**STEVE ROBERTS**  
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR



School .....	Valdosta State College
	Senior Unit of University System of Georgia;
	4-year plus graduate division
	multi-purpose, 70 major degree programs
Location .....	Valdosta, Georgia
	Deep South Georgia
	Population 40,000
Enrollment .....	5000
Nickname .....	Lady Blazers
Colors .....	Flame Red and Black
Conference .....	GAIAW Division I
National Affiliation .....	AIAW
President .....	Dr. Hugh C. Bailey
Athletic Director .....	Bill Grant
Head Coach .....	Lyndal Worth
Career Record .....	118-27
Graduate Assistants .....	Carol Higginbottom Cathy McCurdy Steve Higginbottom
Sports Information Director .....	Steve Roberts
Starting Time of Home Games .....	8:00 P.M.
Home Court .....	Blazer Fieldhouse
Capacity .....	1500
Lettermen Lost .....	5
Lettermen Returning .....	5
Starters Returning .....	2



# Schedule

## NOVEMBER

14 Wed.	Lady Blazer Tip-off Tournament
15 Thurs.	Lady Blazer Tip-off Tournament
23 Fri.	Tennessee Tech Thanksgiving Tourn
24 Sat.	Tennessee Tech Thanksgiving Tourn
28 Wed.	*Albany State
30 Fri.	Mississippi University for Women

Valdosta  
Valdosta  
Cookeville, TN  
Cookeville, TN  
Albany  
Columbus, MS

## DECEMBER

1 Sat.	Mississippi College
8 Sat.	*Georgia Southern
10 Mon.†	*Georgia Tech
14 Fri.	Midwestern Classic
15 Sat.	Midwestern Classic
17 Mon.	UT-Chattanooga

Clinton, MS  
Statesboro  
Valdosta  
Columbia, MO  
Columbia, MO  
Chattanooga, TN

## JANUARY

4 Fri.	Mississippi
7 Mon.	Alabama
9 Wed.	Mississippi College
12 Sat.	Tennessee
14 Mon.	*Mercer
18 Fri.	*Georgia Tech
19 Sat.	*Georgia State
21 Mon.	South Carolina
26 Sat.	*Georgia

Valdosta  
Valdosta  
Valdosta  
Valdosta  
Macon  
Atlanta  
Atlanta  
Columbia, SC  
Athens

## FEBRUARY

1 Fri.	Old Dominion Tournament
2 Sat.	Old Dominion Tournament
5 Tues.	*Albany State
7 Thurs.	*Mercer
11 Mon.	*Georgia State
13 Wed.	*Georgia Southern
15 Wed.	*Southeastern Louisiana
18 Mon.	*Georgia
21 Thurs.	GAIAW State Tournament
22 Fri.	GAIAW State Tournament
23 Sat.	GAIAW State Tournament

\*GAIAW Conference Games      †3:00 P.M. Game      \*\*Homecoming

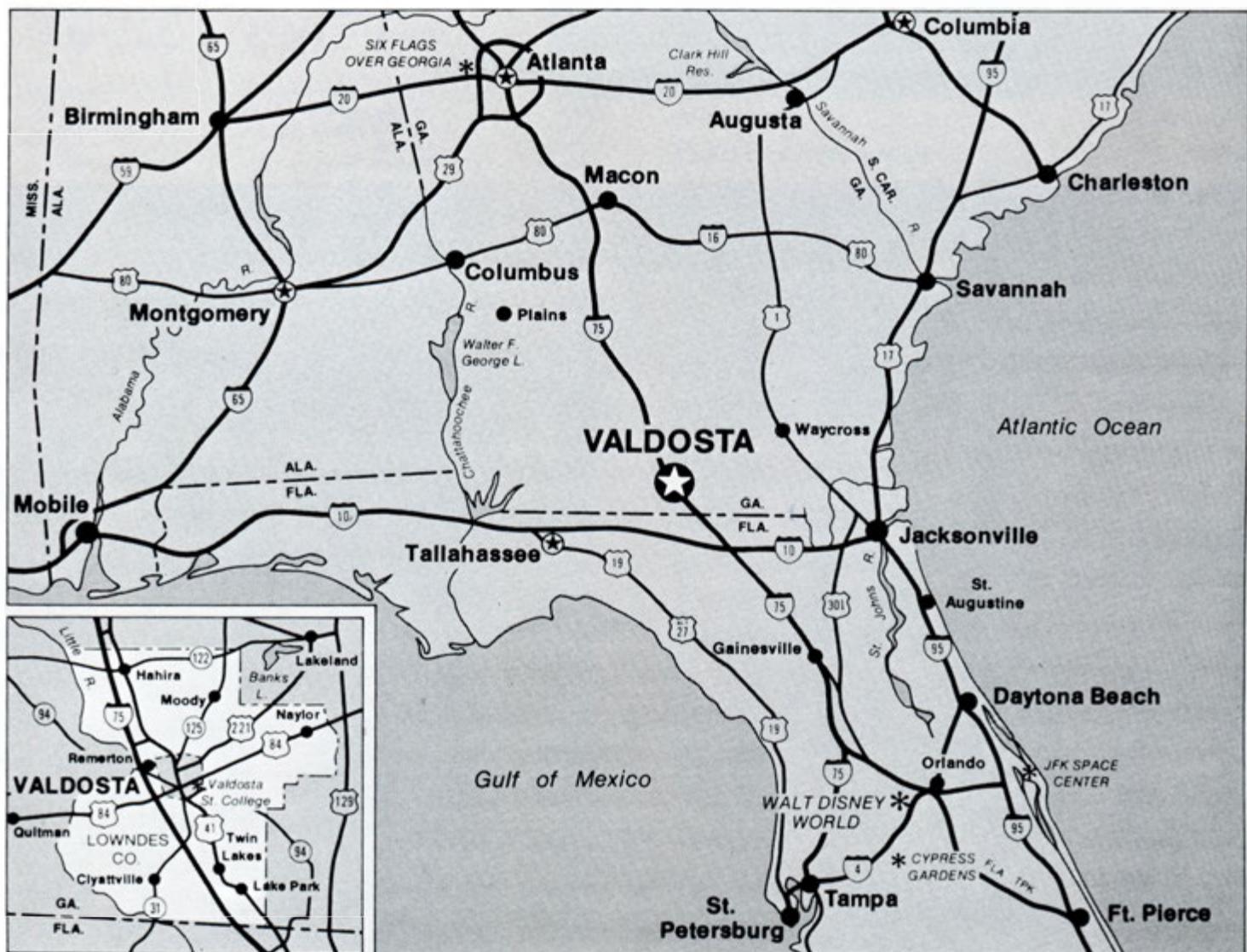


# Valdosta, Georgia

## Hub of the Deep South

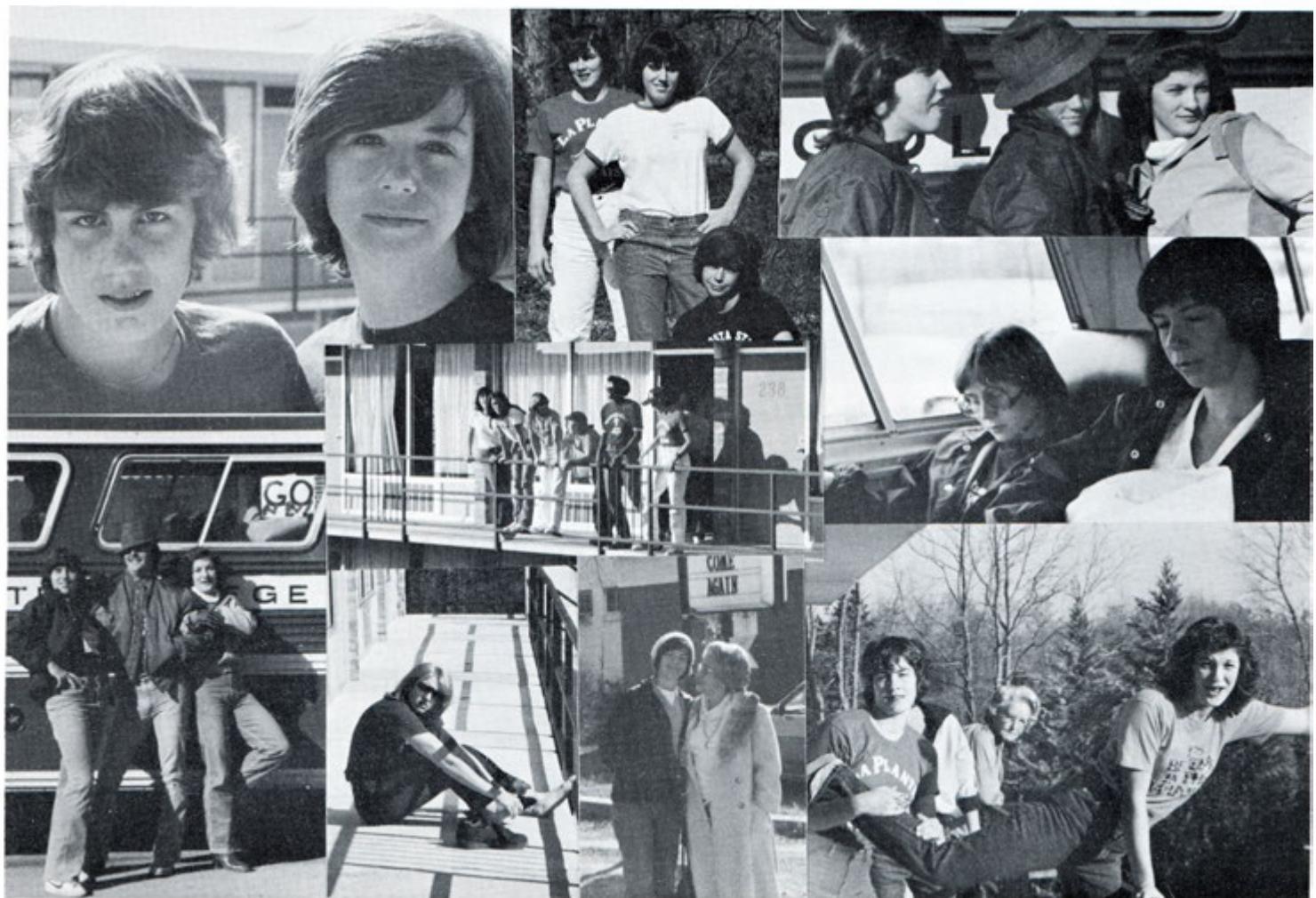
Located on the Georgia-Florida border, Lowndes County is bisected by Interstate 75, the major highway into Florida. Valdosta, the seat of Lowndes County, is the ninth largest city in Georgia. From Valdosta, Tallahassee, Florida is only 75 miles to the southwest; Jacksonville, Florida, only 124 miles to the southeast. Interstate 10 links the two Florida cities, and con-

tinues west through Mobile, Biloxi, New Orleans, Houston and on to Los Angeles. Best-known as the halfway point between Atlanta and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, Valdosta has become familiar to thousands of travelers for its warm hospitality. Many also are discovering that Valdosta itself is more than a traveler's oasis... it's a great place to call home.



# *Valdosta State College*

Valdosta State College is a fully accredited, coeducational institution. The about 5,000 students, coming from all over the United States and abroad, are enrolled in over 70 different undergraduate and graduate majors in arts and sciences, business, education, fine arts and nursing. An Air Force ROTC unit, nationally recognized intercollegiate athletic teams and a full program of student activities add much to the educational experience at VSC.

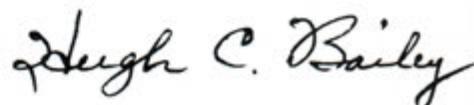


# The Administration



One of the greatest assets of Valdosta State college is the Lady Blazer basketball team. This group of splendid young ladies and their outstanding coaching staff provide the finest of spectator sports for the entire region, and have brought national recognition to our college in recent years. They are as dedicated to excellence in their area as any other segment of the campus in its particular field. Their success shows that dedication and effort pay handsome dividends.

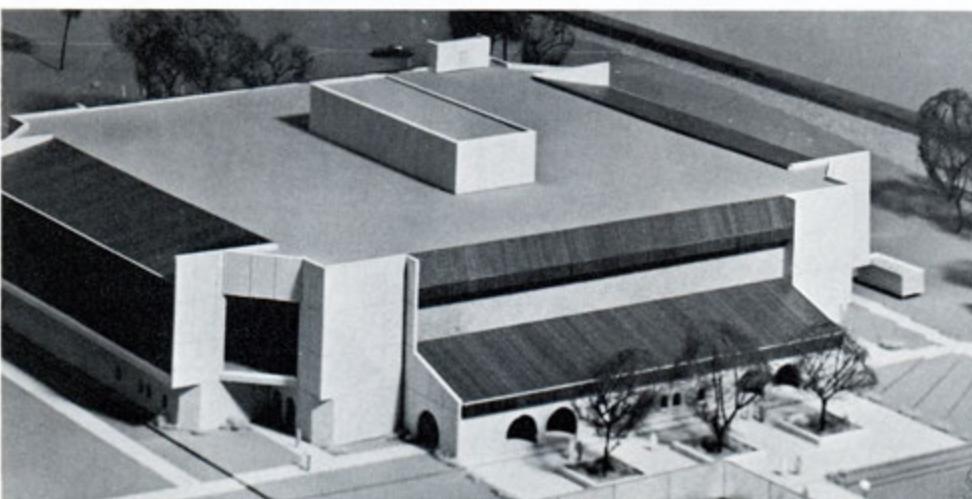
Much of the support for the Lady Blazer basketball team must come from the contributions of their supporters on and off campus. Few investments will bring richer rewards to a larger segment of the people. The continued success of the Lady Blazers depends on each of us.



Hugh C. Bailey  
President of VSC



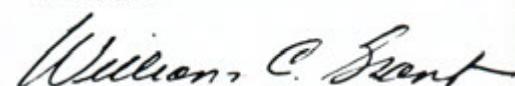
Coaches & Administration at ground breaking for future home of Lady Blazers (below)



In just five years the women's basketball program at Valdosta State college has brought honor, prestige and much welcome national attention to the college and the community.

The Valdosta State College Athletic Department is extremely proud of this group of dedicated young women. Through the untiring efforts of head coach Lyndal Worth and her staff, the Lady Blazers have made their mark in the AIAW on the state, regional and national levels.

This year VSC is playing perhaps the most ambitious schedule in the six-year history of the program. I join the rest of the athletic department and college administration in wishing the Lady Blazers the best of luck as they enter a new season.



William C. Grant  
Director of Athletics

# AIAW Affiliations

STATE: Georgia Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (GAIAW).

Valdosta State competes in the newly structured Division I of the GAIAW, a seven-team league which includes in addition to VSC the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Albany State, Georgia Southern and Mercer. The Lady Blazers will play a home-and-home series with conference members, and the team with the best regular season record against league opponents will receive a bye in the first round of the state tournament February 21-23 at Georgia Southern.

The winner and runner-up in the state tourney will advance to the AIAW Region III tournament at Delta State March 6-8.

REGIONAL: GAIAW is part of the Southeastern Region -Region III - of the AIAW. It is comprised of teams from Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi. The Region III tournament is an eight-team event that gives berths to the champion and runner-up from each of the four states. This year in the first round the top-seeded team from Georgia will play the



Valdosta State College  
1977-78 Georgia State Champion  
1977-78 Region III Champion  
1978-79 Region III Champion

Number 2 team from Florida while Georgia's Number 2 team will play Florida's top seed.

The champion in the region will advance to the AIAW National Tournament. The runner-up, as well as the third place team could be considered for an at-large berth.

NATIONAL: The AIAW is the national governing body under which Valdosta State's Lady Blazers compete. The nation is divided into 10 regions consisting of all 50 states. The AIAW National Tournament is structured to allow 24 teams to advance from regional to national competition.

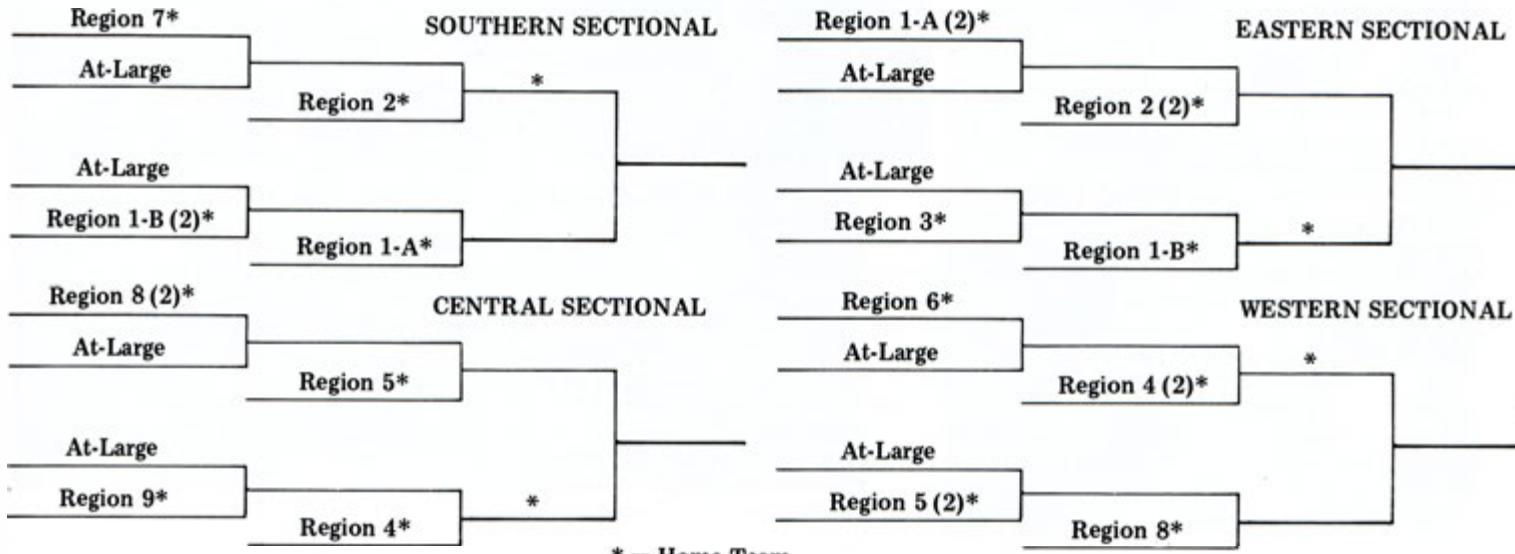
All 10 region champions advance, as well as the Number 2 teams from the regions placing in the top six at the previous national tournament plus eight at-large berths. The at-large selections are new this year and will be picked by a committee that

will consider teams on the basis of results against inter-regional opponents, common opponents, strength of schedule and home court advantage. All teams must qualify through a regional tournament.

These 24 teams advance to Sectional competition which will be played on the home floors of some of the participants. If Valdosta State can reach national tournament play, two of the games at the sectional level could be played in Blazer Fieldhouse. However, the sectional play formula is complicated and will be easier to understand later in the year when the participants are decided.

The four winners of sectional competition advance to the final round of the National Tournament, to be held this year at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan on March 21 and 23.

## 1979 - 80 AIAW NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



# *Milestones Remembered . . .*

"I expect a great season. I think great expectations have been a pattern with us."

The speaker was Lyndal Worth, talking to former Valdosta Daily Times sports editor Mike Chason on the eve of the 1978-79 Lady Blazer basketball season.

A little more than four months later, when VSC's fifth women's cage campaign was history, most of Worth's expectations had been fulfilled, and one of the highest individual honors for two of her players was yet to come.

The 1978-79 Lady Blazers had a very great act to follow. The preceding team had won 27 of 31 games, completely dominating AIAW's Region 3 in the process. It won the school's second straight state large college championship and the first Region 3 crown. It set a very high standard of excellence.

That challenge was further complicated by a rugged schedule that included many of the top-ranked women's teams in the country. And the 1978-79 Lady Blazers didn't have the element of surprise on their side. The preceding team had put Valdosta State solidly on the map in big time women's basketball circles.

But like all Lyndal Worth teams, the 1978-79 Lady Blazers responded to the challenge brilliantly, winning 27 of 35 games and adding the second consecutive Region 3 championship trophy to the school's ever growing case of gold.

The season was not without disappointments. The Lady Blazers did not advance past the first round of the Sectional tournament in Cookeville, Tennessee, but the highlights of the season completely overshadowed the few valleys.

The season had its moments of high emotion. The emotional peak perhaps was the night of January 11 when three-time national champion Delta State invaded Blazer Fieldhouse.

Forth-five minutes before gametime a standing room only crowd filled the gymnasium and the excitement reached into every corner of the aging fieldhouse. The Lady Statesmen never had a chance as the fired up Lady Blazers rolled to a 106-95 victory.

Big crowds, which had been the exception in previous years, became the rule for almost all of VSC's home games. The tough schedule was a factor which brought out the fans, but the biggest reason was the exciting brand

of basketball played by the Lady Blazers.

Seniors Carol Chason, Coretta Bloom and Cathy McCurdy, juniors Susan Taylor and Jeri Roche and freshman Vicki Smith orchestrated a high-powered offense that averaged 90.7 points per game and generated more than 100 points 11 times. Nationally-ranked powerhouses Louisiana State, South Carolina and Tennessee Tech in addition to Delta State dropped exciting verdicts before packed crowds in Blazer Fieldhouse.

Merger's Teddy Bears were a thorn in VSC's side, beating the Lady Blazers in Blazer Fieldhouse during the regular season. That defeat snapped a home court winning streak that dated back to the 1976-77 season and was the only home floor loss of the year.

Merger also stunned VSC in the finals of the GAIW state tournament in Albany, but the Lady Blazers gained sweet revenge in the finals of the AIAW Region 3 meet two weeks later in Auburn, Alabama, burying the Teddy Bears 106-73 to win their second straight regional championship and

next night, however, and ended the season on a winning note by beating Kansas State 104-92 for the sectional consolation prize.

The icing on a tremendous season by Chason and Taylor came a month later when the dynamic duo were named to the Kodak all-America team. Valdosta State is only the second school to ever have two players selected the same year to that elite 10-member squad.

The team's other senior starters—Bloom and McCurdy also turned in outstanding final campaigns and were named to various all-conference, all-state and/or all-region teams.

Taylor, in addition to making the A-A squad, was the school's first nominee for the prestigious Wade Trophy, emblematic of the outstanding female college basketball player in the nation. Only 30 players are nominated for that honor.

Chason, who scored a school record 2265 points during a brilliant four-year career, was named the Region 3 tournament's Most Valuable Player for the



**1978-79 Southeastern Regional Champions**

become one of the 16 finalists for the national crown.

Maryland ended VSC's quest for the national championship in the first round of the South Sectional in Cookeville. The Lady Blazers, a 50 percent field goal shooting team all year long, were stone cold from the floor, hitting only 32 percent against the Lady Terps and dropping a 73-66 decision. Valdosta State rebounded the

second year in a row.

And Worth, who has now won 118 games while losing only 27 in five years, was one of the 20 nominees for the Wade Coach of the Year Trophy which goes to the coach voted best in the nation by her peers.

*Milestones remembered... for those who were a part of the 1978-79 Lady Blazers, they will never be forgotten.*

# *Lady Blazer Boosters*

It does not take much time at a Lady Blazer basketball game to realize how exciting this championship team can be. It is a skilled, well-disciplined, and dedicated team that has attracted the attention of the students, faculty and the Valdosta-Lowndes community—many of whom banded together to form the Lady Blazer Booster Club.

The boosters organization has grown from a handful of dedicated followers to a throng of avid devotees intent on helping the VSC Lady Blazers achieve their goals.

Last year we cheered from Plainview, Texas to Cookeville, Tennessee and ended as national contenders with memories of games in almost every state in between. We rallied around the victories and delighted in the honors and awards earned by the team members.

With the return of our veteran players and the addition of some great new talents, we anticipate another fabulous year in the large college division of the Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW).

We encourage fans who desire to see an exciting brand of basketball and twelve talented athletes to join us at Blazer fieldhouse for another year of Lady Blazer basketball. Travel with the boosters as we confront such worthy challenges as Tennessee Tech, Old Dominion and Stephen F. Austin!

*Charlie Cleere*

Charlie Cleere  
President,  
Lady Blazers Booster Club



VSC Booster Club Officers





Susan Taylor receives Wade Trophy Nomination



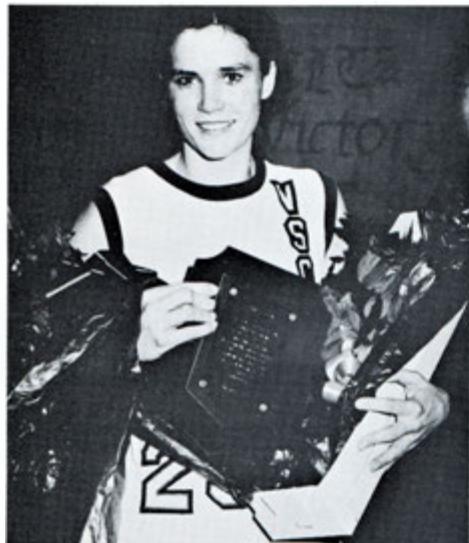
"Right on, girls!"



Chason in Hanes All-America Classic



Lady Blazers claim Region III Championship once again...



VSC Students salute Lady Blazer Basketball with "Carol Chason Day"



Carol Chason and Susan Taylor named to the Kodak All-America Team



VSC seniors honored at last game by sororities



## *Blazer Basketball*



Awards Banquet sponsored by the Lady Blazer Booster Club

It's hard to believe it's been six years since a young and enthusiastic but inexperienced assistant high school coach was hired on a part-time basis to head up the neophyte Valdosta State College women's basketball program.

A lot has happened in those five basketball seasons, mostly good things. The time has flown because the Lady Blazers have been ultra successful, winning 118 games and two state and two regional championships. The person behind those 118 victories is Lyndal Worth. She's still young (32), still enthusiastic but no longer is she lacking in experience although she says she's still learning.

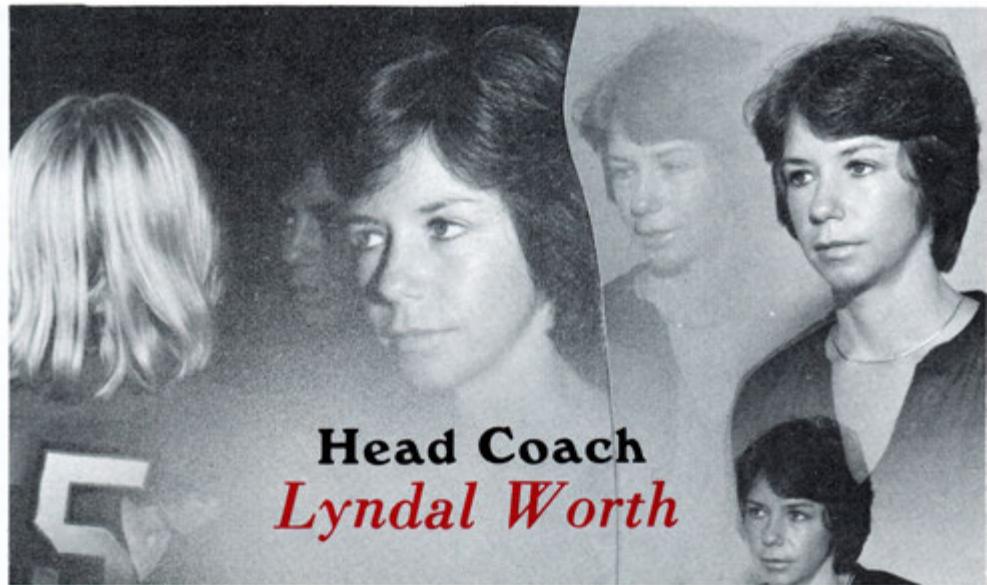
Lyndal Worth is obviously a winner. Her five teams have run up records of 18-5, 20-4, 26-6, 27-4 and 27-8 against some of the best competition the AIAW has to offer. But her love affair with the game of basketball goes beyond winning and losing. She says it best:

"My approach to basketball goes beyond viewing it just as a game. It's a way for a young lady to make a statement about who she is. My players, the way they respond, allow me to make a statement about who I am."

Worth is very demanding, a rugged taskmaster. Her players respond to her grueling schedule because they know Worth demands more of herself. Again the Lady Blazer boss says it best:

"We are an intense group. I do demand total commitment, and my players respond to that. They appreciate it because they are rewarded for doing their best."

Worth is a Valdosta native, graduate of Union (Tenn.) University with a BS degree and Valdosta State with a MEd degree. She is an instructor in the physical education department and married to Jimmy Worth, owner of Music and Worth Construction Company.



## Head Coach *Lyndal Worth*

*Worth talks about coaching and what it means to her.. .*

*To be quite frank, there are times when I question the sanity of it all. At 6:00 in the morning, when the rest of the world seems to be still sleeping, there is definitely an issue of reason. I know that my players must question also. That is one of the reasons that I respect them so much... knowing how difficult it becomes for me at times without my having the physical work load that they carry. I am sure, also, that I see more clearly than they do just where we are headed. As I watch them push and test their bodies beyond anything they have conceived of before, I can envision their effortless movement as they claim whatever trophy or goal that waits for them out there somewhere. I know that at those moments they envision nothing... they only feel the discomfort and the frustration of never being able to do quite enough.*

*I don't think that playing for me is easy... I mean beyond the physical effort. I've been told that I'm quite demanding of my team in many ways. For some players that is a good experience, for others it is overpowering. To play four years at VSC you must be very good or very stubborn, dedication notwithstanding. I don't apologize for that approach. It makes for good teams comprised of super individuals.*

*The greatest challenge that I face is that of holding the entire program together. The balance and chemistry of 16 lives merging is really delicate. The intense internal competitiveness of our people threatens that balance continually. A foundation of genuine caring*

*for one another is the magic ingredient that makes it work. The human element is what it is all about. The concept of the game, separated from the people, the players, the fans, the opponents... well, to me, the game alone, winning alone, is a very empty and stale concept.*

*Winning is not the end within itself. It seems to me to be a by-product of the way we do things. When we are successful it says to me that we are going about things in the right way; we are achieving understanding; we are developing skills. When we are not successful there is always a reason. Finding that reason, whether it lies in our abilities, our preparation, our attitudes or whatever, and then having the courage and discipline to deal with that inadequacy is the real value of participation.*

*I enjoy my work immensely. I question it constantly. It is much more than a job. It is achievement and failure, ultimate depression, unlimited joy, unbelievable frustration and equally unbelievable satisfaction. This game has within it the highest highs and the lowest lows conceivable. The raw emotion alone is enough to captivate the mind and imagination. The anticipation of the contest, the challenge of our own limitations, the fulfillment of achievement, the excitement of creating celebration for others, all of this and so much more makes the hours and effort worthwhile. Beyond any of that, it is the simple pleasure of touching the lives of others in a positive way that makes coaching meaningful for me.*



when the old gym is empty  
and the sound of pounding feet  
and bouncing balls  
is only an echo in my mind . . .

in quiet moments  
after the crowd has gone  
and the last locker is slammed shut,  
just before i turn out the lights  
down the pale yellow hallway . . .

there is a space in time  
caught somewhere  
between yesterday and forever  
that belongs to you

crystal clear memories  
of movement and emotion  
the beauty of your talent  
and achievements,  
your fears and failures,  
as you shared them with us all

there is, for just a moment,  
an overwhelming melancholy  
as i realize there are new names  
on old lockers  
and old numbers on new backs

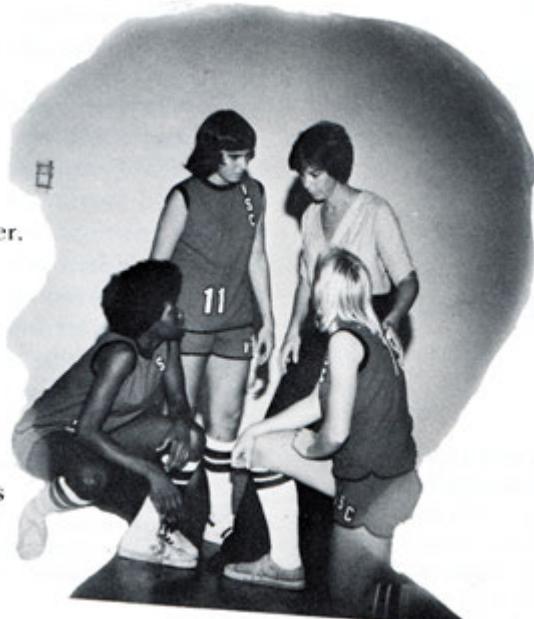
the excitement of new expectations  
is overshadowed, just then,  
by the flooding feeling  
of changing times  
moving me against my will,  
and wanting to hang on a little longer.  
i conjure up your face,  
caught-up once more,  
spellbound,  
in the magic you created  
just because  
you wanted to so badly

reluctant to leave  
i realize  
how quickly  
time has slipped through my fingers  
and yours,  
and i wonder  
if we ever really know  
the value of one another  
until the time of give and take  
has passed

looking back now across the shadowed floor  
and slowly up  
to the perennial nets  
silent and still from their constant song . . .  
it is your image  
i see racing up and down  
bringing the crowd to its feet

in my mind the cheers echo  
loud and long  
painting a picture of your world  
as we saw it  
and then, suddenly,  
it is quiet again  
the moment is gone  
and this old place belongs once more  
to the present,  
and i go with it  
filling my mind with tomorrow  
and the immeasurable challenge  
of it all

still  
somewhere deep inside of me  
i tuck away the memories  
you've given  
and i understand a little better  
why i love this game  
the way i do



## *Carol Higginbottom*

Carol, who completed a great four-year career last season, is Worth's top assistant coach this year. The Bainbridge native is also in VSC's graduate program in addition to her assistant coach's duties.

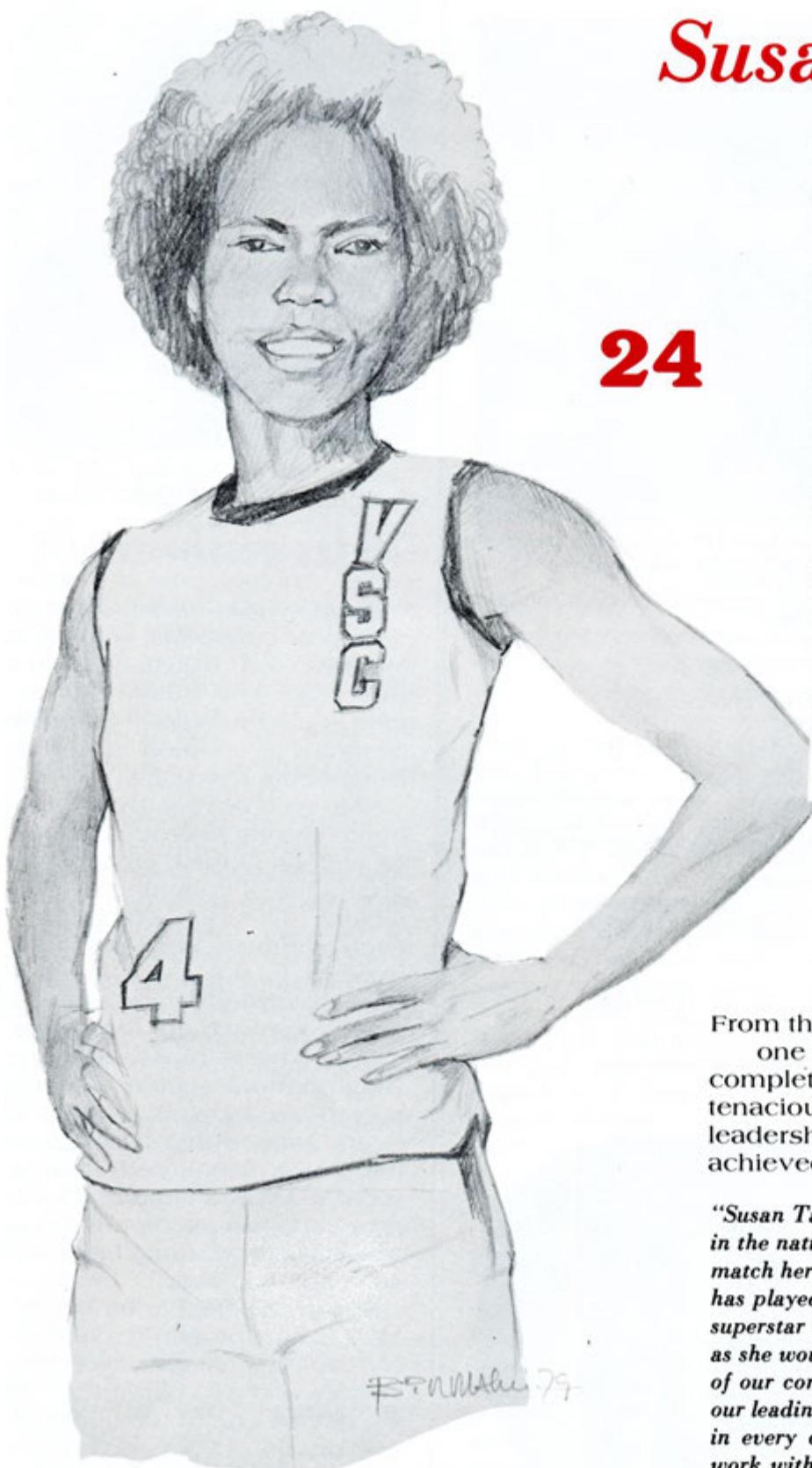
She will be Worth's "right hand" during practice sessions as well as games, assuming a great deal of coaching responsibility. The two compliment each other very well, and Worth expects to rely on Higginbottom's knowledge and enthusiastic approach to the game.

During her impressive career, Higginbottom scored a school record 2265 points, started in every game of her career, was the AIAW Region III tournament's Most Valuable Player as a junior and senior and was a Kodak All-America first team selection last year.

She was selected as the No. 1 backcourt player in the country by one respected rating service and was named by that service as one of the five starters on its All-America team. The service's comment on her ability: "an excellent player who will be greatly missed."

Her talents as a player will be greatly missed. Thankfully, she is still very much a part of the Lady Blazer basketball program.

# Susan Taylor



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Height: 5'9"  
Weight: 150 lbs.  
Classification: Senior  
Position: Forward  
Hometown: Enigma, Ga.  
Major: Psychology

## From the Coach...

one of the premier players in the nation, a complete player, explosive offensive abilities, tenacious defense, excellent quickness, great leadership on and off the court, can do it all, has achieved through hard work and determination

*"Susan Taylor is, in my estimation, the most complete player in the nation at her position. I've yet to see anyone who could match her offensive ability and her superb defensive play. She has played for three years in a program that does not have a superstar concept, and therefore has not been in the limelight as she would have been in almost any other program. In spite of our concept and her great team play, she has emerged as our leading scorer and rebounder for the last three years. Once in every coach's career there should be the opportunity to work with an athlete of Susan's caliber and character."*

## Inside Susan Taylor...

honor student, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, VSC Homecoming Court, a beautiful voice, loves music, a quiet and independent person, an achiever with very high personal goals, strong relationships with a few good friends

## Taylor's Numbers

G	FG-FGA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	PTS.	AVG.	Reb-Avg.
1976-77	30	.264-.541	.488	.104-.140	.743	632	21.1
1977-78	31	.315-.610	.516	.98-.159	.616	728	23.5
1978-79	35	.350-.687	.509	.168-.238	.706	868	24.8
Career	96	.929-.1838	.505	.370-.537	.689	2228	23.2

# Jeri Roche



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Height: 5'8"

Weight: 150 lbs.

Classification: Senior

Position: Forward

Hometown: Cordele, Ga.

Major: Accounting

## From the Coach...

returning starter, pure shooter, strong offensive player, extremely coachable, strong and positive leadership on and off the court; greatly improved defensive play underneath, must respond to "key role" position this season

*"Jeri has been a real joy to work with for the past three years. She is one of those rare players who is always 110% supportive of the entire program. She became, last year, the first player in the history of our program who did not start as a freshman to work her way up into a starting position. In many games it has been her ability to score from the outside that has been the edge we needed to win. She has been our finest free throw shooter for three years and has never missed one in the clutch. Her positive and optimistic attitude is contagious and a great plus for our team."*

## Roche's Numbers

	G	FG-FGA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	PTS.	AVG.	Reb-Avg.
1976-77	30	67-152	.441	38-44	.864	172	5.7	132-4.4
1977-78	24	49-128	.383	17-22	.773	115	4.8	89-3.7
1978-79	35	171-345	.496	45-56	.804	387	11.1	186-5.3
Career	89	287-625	.459	100-122	.820	674	7.6	407-4.6

## Inside Jeri Roche...

a sharp mind and quick wit, a cut-up and a clown, a fiercely loyal friend, loves little children, water skis a little, has a talent for drawing, a positive and strongly opinionated outlook, easy to know, fun to be around



## Vicki Smith

"Vic is just a super athlete. She really hasn't shown yet, on a consistent basis, what she is capable of on the court. In high school she was used under the boards and has been asked to make a terrific change in her style of play in coming out on the perimeter for us as a guard. I am confident that she will complete that adjustment this year and really come through for us in a big way."

Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 150 lbs.  
Classification: Sophomore  
Position: Guard-Forward  
Hometown: Flint, Mich.  
Major: Special Education

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### From the Coach...

strong, strong player, super quickness, excellent defense, improved shooting, very coachable; a leader, must assume leadership role on the court, key role in many victories last season as "6th player", experienced reserve who should start this year

### Inside Vicki Smith...

loves southern cooking, a talented artist, a truly talented vocalist, interested in photography, sarcastic humor and dry wit, loves to dance, red Firebird is her pride and joy...actually keeps it clean, loves to be outdoors, chases down "critters" bugs, lizards, etc.

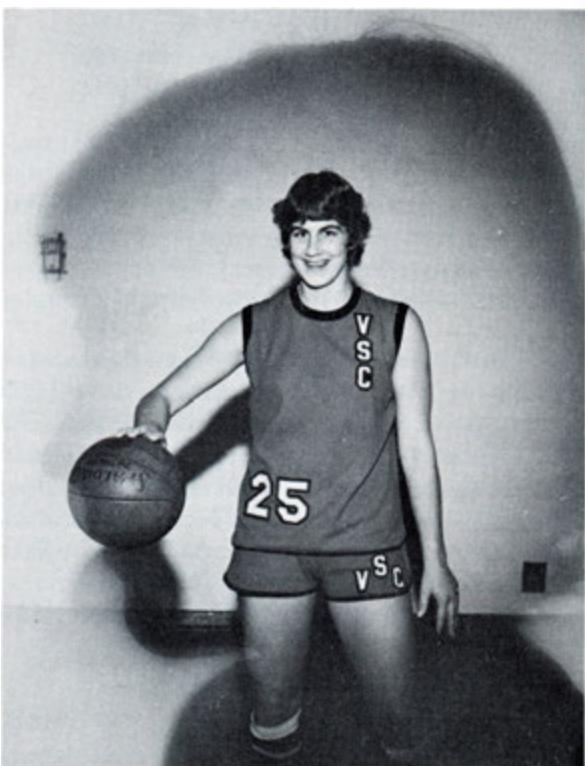


## Debby Dernay

"Debby is a very capable young lady. She can accomplish most anything once she sets her mind to it. She has finally begun to conceive of herself as a player, in our sense of the word, and it shows on the court. Right now, she's getting out on the break for us better than anyone else. The rest of her game is developing too, but her contribution to our running game alone is enough to assure her plenty of playing time. She is a very fine athlete who has had to overcome a poor basketball background."

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 150 lbs.  
Classification: Sophomore  
Position: Forward  
Hometown: Lavonia, Mich.  
Major: Physical Education

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### From the Coach...

power player underneath, good, solid board play, excellent full court conversion, improved shooting range, worked extremely hard all summer, reported in "ready to play", excellent condition, very coachable

### Inside Debby Dernay...

friends call her "Der", loves to party, favorite outfit is a pair of overalls, a real hustler when it comes to work, will do more than her share, a "jack-of-all-trades" and master of several from house painting to car repair, has been known to pull off a practical joke or two



## Missie Milton

*"Missie has been our most pleasant surprise this fall. I thought I was seeing great development this spring, but it is really gelling for her now. This time last year she was a walk-on with little, if any, court sense and not a strong personal dedication to the game. Today she is half a step away from three years in the most vital position on our team. No one can replace Cathy McCurdy, but Milton may claim the position and rewrite the description to suit herself."*

Height: 5'5"  
Weight: 140 lbs.  
Classification: Sophomore  
Position: Guard  
Hometown: Albany, Ga.  
Major: Physical Education

### From the Coach...

phenomenal development, has overcome poor basketball background to become prime candidate for starting guard position; reported in excellent condition, solid shooter, good leadership, becoming a "player" in every sense of the word, must improve intensity

10



### Inside Missie Milton...

strong personality, independent minded, demon on the highway in her red "tomato can" Honda, only girl with 3 brothers, loves donuts and parties, throws a softball like a bullet, can laugh at herself, many people's "best friend"



## Kelly Bozeman

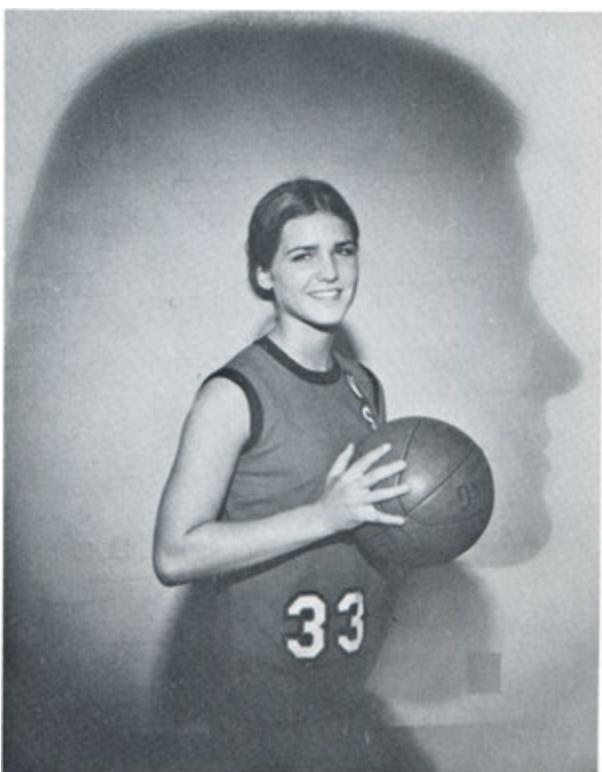
*"Kelly Bozeman deserves to play. I'm looking forward to seeing her on the floor in a Lady Blazer uniform almost as much as I am the season opening. Seeing her deal with the frustration and disappointment that she has faced since being at VSC has been an inspiration to me. This girl is no quitter. She is very hard on herself at times and impatient to regain what her injury has taken from her. She's not there yet, but she's sure on her way to a very good year."*

Height: 5'4"  
Weight: 125 lbs.  
Classification: Freshman  
Position: Guard  
Hometown: Sylvester, Ga.  
Major: Biology

### From the Coach...

fine shooting guard, comeback from two bouts with knee surgery, not 100% yet but improving every day, great determination to play, has made tremendous strides since fall practice began, capable of contributing right now, however, not satisfied with less than her best

33



### Inside Kelly Bozeman...

"K.B." is a sassy little thing, a chewing gum fanatic, sharp wit and quick cuts if you're not careful, eats strange foods like mushrooms and liver, eats salads with her fingers, her sister, Debbie, plays basketball for Alabama, likes to be outdoors, enjoys fishing, horseback riding, skiing and camping



**44**

## *LeAnn Harrell*

From the Coach...

great shooter with fantastic passing game for a player her size, ideal player to work with, talented, capable, and a hard worker; she'll play, time will tell exactly what her role will be

Height:  
5'10"  
Weight:  
155 lbs.  
Classification:  
Freshman  
Position:  
Forward  
Hometown:  
Bainbridge, Ga.  
Major:  
Business

**5**

## *Pam Lee*

From the Coach...

a great shooter but more importantly a great scorer under defensive pressure, a hard worker whose effort has been impressive, extremely coachable; needs to improve defense and quickness, good passer, good ball handler



**21**

## *Sybil Rivers*

From the Coach...

has been a strong and pleasant surprise, a lot closer to being a great player than thought earlier; must still prove herself against college competition but is expected to be an explosive player who will be exciting to watch



**5**

## *Pam Lee*

From the Coach...

a great shooter but more importantly a great scorer under defensive pressure, a hard worker whose effort has been impressive, extremely coachable; needs to improve defense and quickness, good passer, good ball handler



**13**

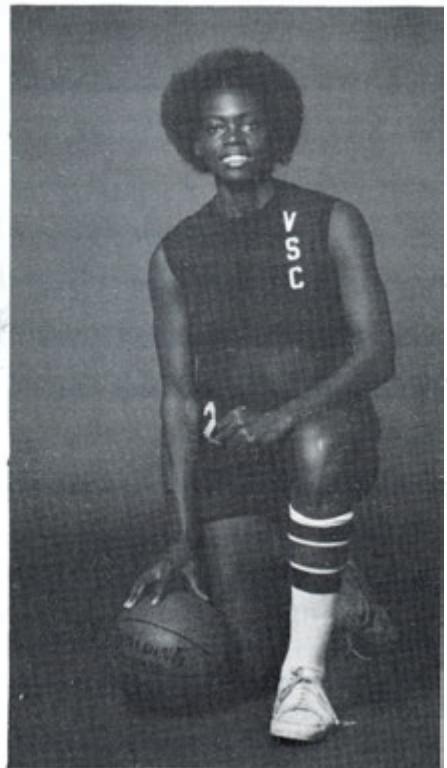
## *Tracy Patrick*

From the Coach...

must become more aggressive, hard worker who is extremely quick for her size, good mobility, good jumper; a sleeper who could contribute early in her career



# Portrait of



## The Lady

*"With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I will reach for the stars."*

The achievements of these two players speak for themselves. Emblematic of the Lady Blazer Creed, it is how they achieved that is the real story. Both were walk-ons into an unknown, non-schol-

## Susan Taylor . . .

- 1978-79    GAIAW Player of the Year  
              GAIAW All Tournament Team  
              AIAW Region III All Region Team  
              AIAW Region III Player of the Year  
              AIAW Region III All Tournament Team  
              AIAW Kodak All Region Team  
              AIAW Kodak All America Team  
              Final Nominee Wade Trophy  
              WBL All America Team

*a Winner. . .*



### *Blazer Creed*

arship program. They both had a dream, and worked very hard to make that dream come true. From obscurity to two of the best ten in the nation was not easy. These athletes, these young women, are a credit to their institution, their program and their coach.



### *Carol Chason. . .*

1978-79 GAIAW All Conference Team  
GAIAW All Tournament Team  
AIAW Region III All Region Team  
AIAW Region III Tournament MVP  
AIAW Kodak All Region Team  
AIAW Kodak All America Team  
Hanes Classic All America Team  
ABA-USA Women's National Team to Russia  
World University Team Gold Medalist

# Milestones to Come. . .

It's a whole new ball of wax for Lyn-dal Worth and the 1979-80 Lady Blazer basketball team.

For the first time since the program was begun six years ago, Worth won't have an abundance of experience to work with. This edition of the Lady Blazers will be young and will make the mistakes of youth. But if early season practice sessions are any indication, they will also be exciting and fun to watch.

While this Lady Blazer team is young, it does have more talent up and down the 12-player roster than any other club Worth has coached.

"For the first time in the history of our program we'll be looking to substitute to get a player in the game rather than trying to find someone to replace a player that must come out," Worth said. "That's a big difference."

If you had to point to a single thing that kept the Lady Blazers from advancing past the AIAW Sectionals the last two years, it would be depth. The VSC style of play is constant pressure, which means constant movement. This movement takes its toll in the last stages of the game and a strong bench is vital.

While the Lady Blazers won't be as experienced, they aren't exactly starting from scratch. Worth has a rock solid block to use as the cornerstone for the foundation of her sixth club.

Kodak all-American and Wade Trophy nominee Susan Taylor, a 5-9 senior who is coming off a superb junior season in which she averaged 24.8 points and 11.5 rebounds, is a consensus selection as one of the best players in the nation.

Taylor has been the team's leading scorer for three straight years. She will continue to score, but what she must do more of than ever before is lead. Her young playmates will be looking for strong leadership both on and off the court, and Worth is convinced Miss T will supply it.

"She fully realizes her position," Worth said during preseason practice sessions. "and she is responding beautifully. She is an all-American in every sense."

Another returning starter is senior Jeri Roche, who had a strong season last year, averaging 11.1 points a game. The 5-8 forward has a strong perimeter game and also will be looked to for leadership.

Much of the remaining experience on the club is wrapped up in 5-7 sophomore Vicki Smith, last year's sixth man who saw action in all 35 games. Sophomores Debby Demay and Missie Milton played some in 1978-79 and are expected to assume bigger roles this season.

With most of the veterans graduating a strong recruiting year was a must, and Worth landed some outstanding freshman talent to wear the Lady Blazers' flame red and black uniforms.

Sybil Rivers, LeAnn Harrell and Tracy Patrick, all 5-10 or better, have joined the VSC front line, giving the Lady Blazers more height than ever before. Pam Lee, a 5-8 guard, was a great scorer in high school, averaging 37 points a game for Alexander Central in New York.

More quality depth will be supplied by 5-4 Kelly Bozeman, who missed all last season with a knee injury, 5-8 transfer Stephanie Skolik and 6-0 center Linda Connell.

Worth is particularly excited about the added height this club possesses.

"Instead of just sticking a hand in a big girl's face, we now have four people bigger than ever before who can put some pressure on underneath," Worth said. "And we're not giving up anything in quickness. We're going to be bigger than ever before, but at the same time we're going to have more quickness and more overall speed than ever before."

step beyond. It's so different than it's been in the past. This group has worked as hard as any team I've coached and had a better time in the process.

"I feel good about the season."

It's apparent the Lady Blazers have improved in each of the five years when the schedule is taken into consideration. Each year the schedule has gotten tougher. The 1978-79 slate was rated the eighth toughest in the country. On paper, the 1979-80 schedule is tougher still.

Three teams that finished in the Top 10 last year—Old Dominion (1), Tennessee (3) and Stephen F. Austin (5)—are on the agenda as well as No. 13 Penn State and No. 15 South Carolina. Several other highly regarded schools which were ranked at one time or another last year will be played including Louisiana State, Tennessee Tech, Queens, Missouri and Clemson.

A revamped state conference that includes Georgia Tech and Georgia State



All those ingredients will be necessary because the Lady Blazers lost three quality players with the graduation of Carol Chason, (now Higginbottom), Coretta Bloom and Cathy McCurdy. Almost 37 points a game went with Higginbottom and Bloom while McCurdy averaged more than eight assists an outing (third in the nation) last season.

"Obviously we'll be more inexperienced than we've been since the program started," Worth said. "I've got to look for excitement and enthusiasm. These kids have a lot of tradition to live up to and I see enough good things that I'm excited about this year."

"We have more pure raw talent in quantities that I've never had before. It's a matter of how quickly it all comes together. I see this group as going a

for the first time will be stronger than in the past with Mercer expected to be particularly strong.

The Lady Blazers begin an attractive 13-game home schedule with their first tip-off tournament Nov. 14-15. VSC will play UT-Chattanooga in the tourney opener while Louisiana State meets Mississippi University for Women.

Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi pay visits to Blazer Fieldhouse in early 1980 and Southeastern Louisiana will provide the Homecoming competition on Feb. 15.

The GAIAW state tournament will be in Statesboro Feb. 21-23 with the regular season champion drawing a bye in the tourney's first round. The top two finishers in the state meet will advance to the Region 3 tournament March 6-8 at Delta State.

# All-Time Scores

## 1974-75 (18-5)

VSC

51	Savannah State.....	47
56	Mercer.....	96
77	Georgia College.....	67
51	Mercer.....	53
61	Ft. Valley State.....	55
65	Georgia.....	62
57	Florida.....	47
53	Florida State.....	42
74	Georgia.....	73
113	Tift.....	52
85	Albany State.....	45
69	Savannah State.....	57
71	Ft. Valley State.....	78
61	Albany State.....	50
65	Tennessee Temple.....	28
56	Ft. Valley State.....	53
57	Savannah State.....	43
49	Florida State.....	32
49	Ft. Valley State.....	53
65	Florida.....	60
54	Florida State.....	50
83	Tift.....	56
60	Ft. Valley State.....	79

## 1975-76 (20-4)

VSC

71	Florida.....	68
81	Georgia Southern.....	70
60	Mercer.....	76
80	Georgia State.....	67
89	Florida.....	59
54	Savannah State.....	52
109	Tift.....	52
84	Georgia.....	61
93	Albany State.....	70
99	Florida State.....	44
106	Ft. Valley State.....	71
70	Georgia College.....	28
84	Savannah State.....	72
81	Albany State.....	71
81	Georgia.....	69
73	Georgia Southern.....	69
57	Ft. Valley State.....	54
79	Mercer.....	82
62	Georgia College.....	34
101	Florida State.....	50
75	Albany State.....	56
84	Georgia Southern.....	53
74	Mercer.....	77
76	Talladega.....	78

## 1976-77 (26-6)

VSC

79	Florida.....	65
59	Savannah State.....	49
101	Georgia.....	65
78	Mercer.....	73
92	Georgia Southern.....	58
104	Florida State.....	65
64	Memphis State.....	58
81	Blue Mountain.....	63
54	Mississippi.....	68
-	Talladega (forfeit).....	-
94	Georgia.....	68
69	Ft. Valley State.....	79
93	Berry.....	72
70	Savannah State.....	71
83	Mississippi College.....	69
85	Ft. Valley State.....	70
115	Florida.....	62
90	Albany State.....	68

VSC

## 1977-78 (27-4)

84	Florida.....	65
74	Alabama.....	72
94	Florida State.....	57
73	Mercer.....	70
105	Albany State.....	87
107	Mississippi College.....	89
63	Pittsburgh.....	65
78	Mississippi Gulf Coast.....	67
68	Mississippi.....	62
90	Savannah State.....	61
100	Memphis State.....	84
92	Albany State.....	73
92	Savannah State.....	82
108	Florida.....	59
100	Georgia Southern.....	76
103	Ft. Valley State.....	82
70	Mississippi College.....	69
61	Delta State.....	73
86	Georgia Southern.....	71
87	Berry.....	74
67	Tennessee Tech.....	81
88	Belmont.....	75
108	Mercer.....	65
110	Georgia.....	70
107	Georgia Southern.....	80
110	Ft. Valley State.....	76

## 1978-79 (27-8)

VSC

85	Long Beach State.....	74
103	Missouri.....	81
70	Wayland Baptist.....	81
80	Louisiana State.....	101
115	Georgia Southern.....	88
102	Mississippi College.....	78
95	Belmont.....	75
107	Tennessee Tech.....	99
88	Mississippi State.....	81
93	Tennessee Tech.....	84
85	Louisiana Tech.....	82
65	Stephen F. Austin.....	79
79	Mercer.....	80
77	Ft. Valley State.....	74
96	Mississippi College.....	81
106	Delta State.....	95
73	Albany State.....	65
113	Ft. Valley State.....	99
73	Tennessee.....	93
101	Albany State.....	78
89	Berry.....	78
89	Memphis State.....	91
96	Alabama.....	87
100	Louisiana State.....	81
98	South Carolina.....	91
90	Georgia Southern.....	84
78	Mercer.....	75
105	Georgia.....	62
99	Albany State.....	76
81	Mercer.....	90
80	Alabama.....	68
87	Mississippi.....	79
106	Mercer.....	73
66	Maryland.....	73
104	Kansas State.....	92



# Lady Blazer

## Scoring Leaders By Years

Season	Player	Games	Pts.	Avg.
1978-79	Susan Taylor	35	868	24.8
	Carol Chason	35	709	20.3
1977-78	Susan Taylor	31	728	23.5
	Carol Chason	31	579	18.7
1976-77	Susan Taylor	30	632	21.1
	Sue Ann Christie	31	609	19.6
1975-76	Sue Ann Christie	24	432	18.0
	Carol Chason	24	380	15.8
1974-75	Sue Ann Christie	23	457	19.9
	Bessie Bloom	23	278	12.1

## 2000 Point Club

Name	Games	Pts.	Avg.	Years
Carol Chason	121	2265	18.7	1975-79
Susan Taylor	96	2228	23.2	1976-79

## 1000 Point Club

Name	Games	Pts.	Avg.	Years
Sue Ann Christie	109	1978	18.1	1974-78
Coretta Bloom	120	1659	13.8	1975-79

## Lady Blazers Overall Record

Year	Won	Lost	Pct.	Coach
1975	18	5	.783	Lyndal Worth
1976	20	4	.833	Lyndal Worth
1977	26	6	.813	Lyndal Worth
1978	27	4	.871	Lyndal Worth
1979	27	8	.771	Lyndal Worth
TOTALS	118	27	.814	

## Team History

**Won - 118      Lost - 27      .814**

1974-75	18-5
1975-76	20-4 GAIAW Large College Runner-up
1976-77	26-6 GAIAW Large College Champion, 3rd Place AIAW Southeastern Regional, 5th Place NWIT National
1977-78	27-4 GAIAW Large College Champion, AIAW Southeastern Regional Champion, 3rd Place AIAW South Sectional (National Tournament)
1978-79	27-8 GAIAW Large College Runner-up, AIAW Southeastern Regional Champion, 3rd Place AIAW South Sectional (National Tournament)

## All-Time Statistical Leaders

### Team In A Game

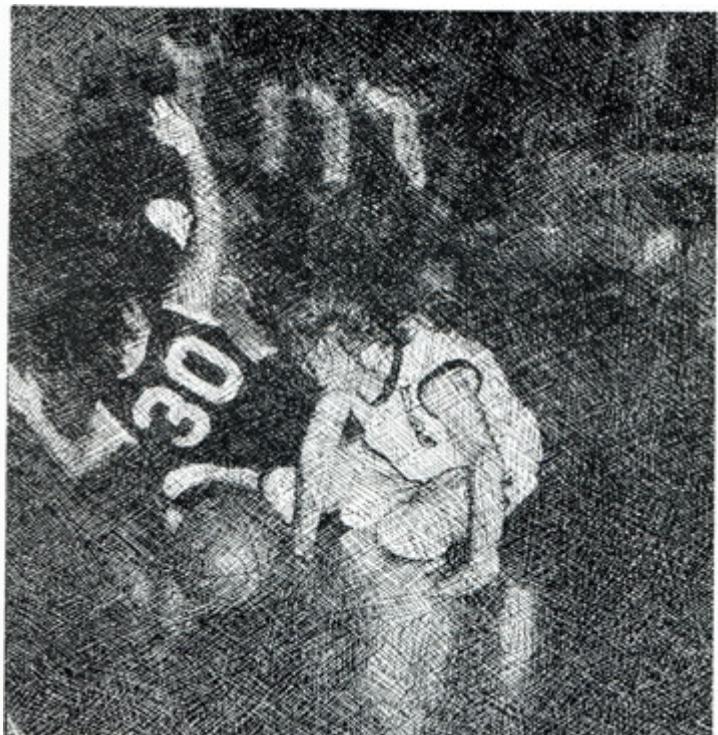
Most Points Scored— 115 vs. Georgia Southern, 1979; vs. Florida, 1977  
 Most Field Goals Scored— 53 vs. Ft. Valley State, 1975  
 Most Free Throws Scored— 36 vs. Ft. Valley State, 1978  
 Most Rebounds— 72 vs. Ft. Valley State, 1978  
 Largest Combined Score— 212 points vs. Ft. Valley State, 1979 (VSC, 113-99)  
 Fewest Points Allowed— 28 vs. Tennessee Temple, 1975  
 Largest Victory Margin— 61 vs. Tift, 1975 (113-52)  
 Largest Defeat Margin— 21 vs. Louisiana State, 1979 (101-80)

### Team In A Season

Most Points Scored — 3174 in 1979  
 Highest Game Average — 90.7 in 1979  
 Field Goals Made — 1259 in 1979  
 Field Goals Attempted — 2523 in 1979  
 Field Goal Percentage — .499 in 1979  
 Free Throw Made — 656 in 1979  
 Free Throw Attempted — 920 in 1979  
 Free Throw Percentage — .713 in 1979  
 Rebound Average — 49.9 in 1978  
 Longest Winning Streak — 14 games in 1976  
 Longest Losing Streak — 2 games in 1976 & 1979  
 Most Times Scoring 100 Points — 11 in 1978 & 1979  
 Most Games Won — 27 in 1978 & 1979  
 Best Winning Percentage — .871 in 1978



# Record Holders



## Individual In A Single Game

Most Points Scored— 43 by Sue Ann Christie vs. Mississippi College, 1977  
 Most Field Goals— 17 by Susan Taylor vs. Savannah State, 1978; Kansas State, 1979; Sue Ann Christie vs. Mississippi College, 1977  
 Most Free Throws— 13 by Carol Chason vs. Belmont, 1978; Sue Ann Christie vs. Albany State, 1975 & 77  
 Most Rebounds— 21 by Susan Taylor vs. Florida, 1977; Coretta Bloom vs. Georgia, 1977  
 Most Assists— 16 by Cathy McCurdy vs. Ft. Valley State, 1979

## Individual In A Season

Most Points Scored— 868 by Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Highest Scoring Average— 24.8 Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Most Field Goals Scored— 350 by Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Most Field Goals Attempted— 687 by Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Best Field Goal Percentage— .572 by Carol Chason, 1979  
 Most Free Throw Made— 185 by Carol Chason, 1979  
 Most Free Throw Attempted— 238 by Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Best Free Throw Percentage— .864 by Jeri Roche, 1977  
 Most Rebounds— 403 by Susan Taylor, 1979  
 Best Rebound Average— 12.6 by Susan Taylor, 1977  
 Most Consecutive Free Throw— 17 by Carol Chason, 1977  
 Most Assists— 290 by Cathy McCurdy, 1979

## Individual In A Career

Most Points Scored— 2265 by Carol Chason, 1975-79  
 Highest Scoring Average— 23.2 by Susan Taylor, 1976-79  
 Most Field Goals Scored— 929 by Susan Taylor, 1976-79  
 Best Field Goal Percentage— .527 by Carol Chason, 1975-79  
 (882-1675)  
 Most Free Throw Made— 501 by Carol Chason, 1975-79  
 Best Free Throw Percentage— .820 by Jeri Roche, 1976-79  
 (100-122)  
 Most Games Played— 121 by Carol Chason, 1975-79  
 Most Games Started— 121 by Carol Chason, 1975-79

## Record Against Opponents

	W	L
Alabama.....	4	0
Albany State.....	13	0
Auburn.....	1	0
Belmont (Tenn.).....	3	0
Berry.....	3	1
Blue Mountain (Miss.).....	1	0
Delta State (Miss.).....	2	1
Florida.....	8	0
Florida State.....	9	0
Fort Valley State.....	10	4
Georgia.....	8	0
Georgia College.....	3	0
Georgia Southern.....	10	0
Georgia State.....	1	0
Indiana State.....	1	0
Kansas State.....	1	0
Long Beach State (Calif.).....	1	0
Louisiana State.....	1	1
Louisiana Tech.....	1	0
Maryland.....	0	1
Memphis State.....	2	1
Mercer.....	6	7
Mississippi.....	3	1
Mississippi College.....	5	1
Mississippi Gulf Coast.....	1	0
Mississippi State.....	1	0
Missouri.....	1	0
Old Dominion (Va.).....	0	1
Pittsburgh.....	0	1
Savannah State.....	9	1
South Carolina.....	1	0
Southern Connecticut.....	0	1
Stephen F. Austin (Texas).....	0	1
Talladega (Ala.).....	1	1
Tennessee.....	1	1
Tennessee Tech.....	2	1
Tennessee Temple.....	1	0
Tift.....	3	0
Wayland Baptist (Texas).....	0	1

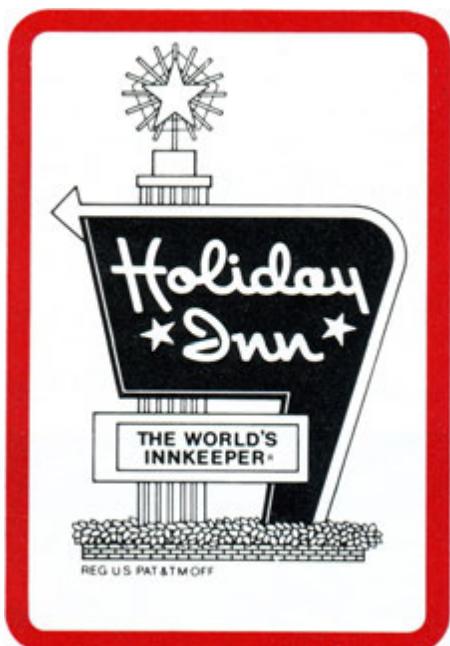


"Official Lady Blazers Program Photographer"

# MODERN PHOTOGRAPHICS



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DAVE BOSSE — Photographer



**Number One in  
People  
Pleasin'  
salutes the  
Lady Blazers...**

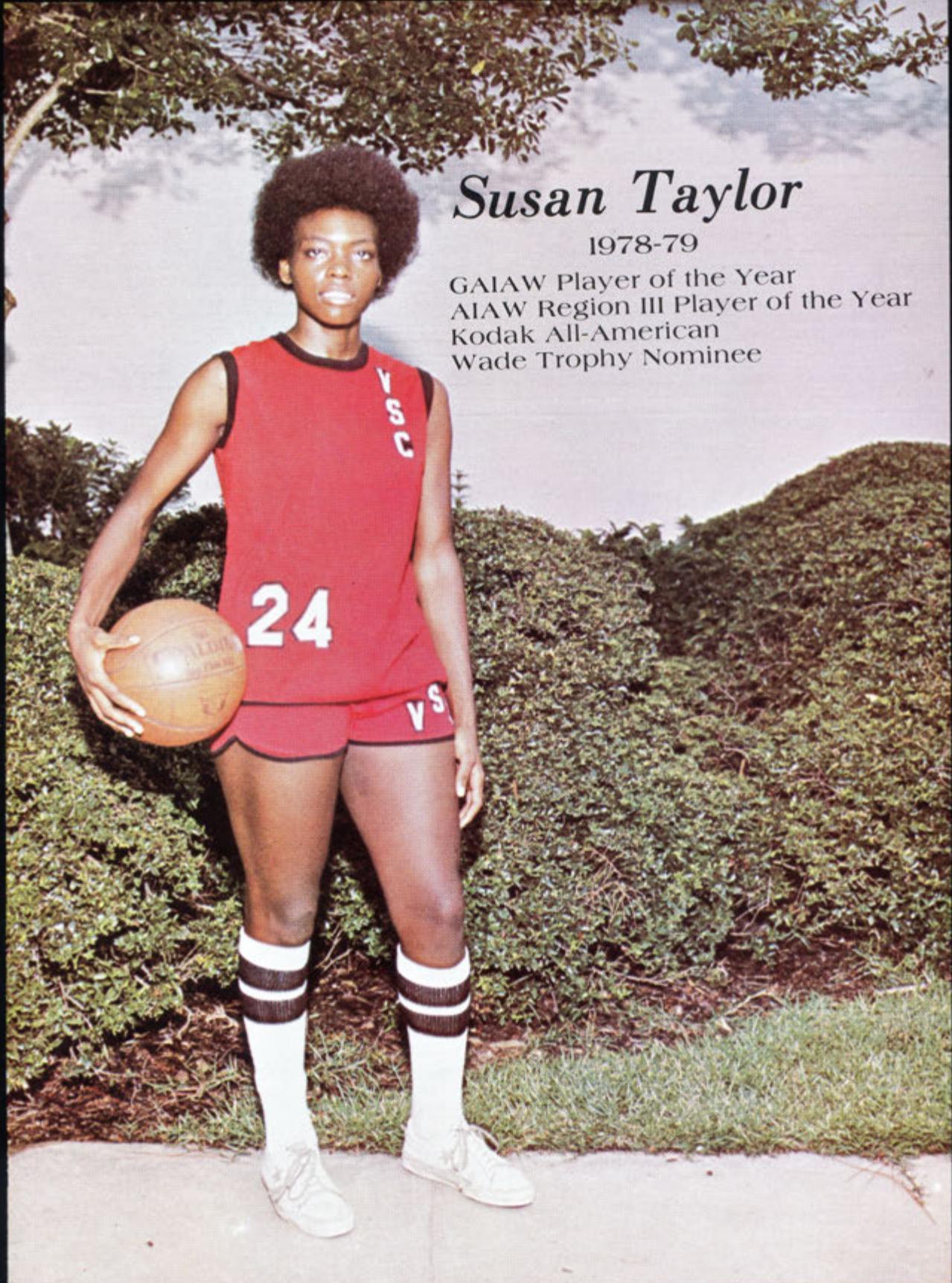
**Number One in  
AIAW Region III Basketball**

and enjoy the Lady Blazers  
this Basketball Season!



HAVE A DAY  
OF THE  
PEPSI





# *Susan Taylor*

1978-79

GAIAW Player of the Year  
AIAW Region III Player of the Year  
Kodak All-American  
Wade Trophy Nominee