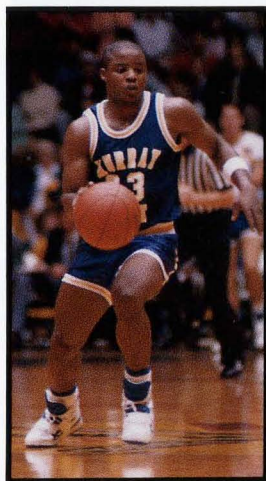


**S**enior forward Linzie Foster looks to pass over Louisville defender Kenny Payne. Louisville defeated Murray State 83-51.



Robin Conover



Allen Hill

**L**ooking to start the fast break, senior guard Don Mann dribbles up the court against Vanderbilt University. Mann dished out 144 assists last season.

**After gaining post season experience, the Racers anxiously awaited the start of the season to try and repeat as OVC champions and**

# Return To Glory

## Men's Basketball

**A**fter winning the 1987-88 Ohio Valley Conference regular season and tournament championships, Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year Steve Newton, and his highly touted Racer squad, began the 1988-89 season with high expectations.

Coach Newton had a nucleus of four starters returning from last year's 22-9 squad that defeated North Carolina State 78-75 and lost to eventual national champion Kansas 61-58 during the NCAA Tournament.

For the fourth straight year, 6-foot-6 Jeff Martin started at forward for the Racers, bringing with him his 26.2 points-per-game average. Martin, the leading active scorer in NCAA Division I basketball, the 1988 OVC Player of the Year, the 1988 OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, and the 1988 OVC Male Athlete of the Year, received another special honor before the season began. Martin became the first player in Murray State and OVC history to be invit-

ed to the Olympic trials in Colorado. Although he did not make the squad, Martin impressed coaches and scouts from across the country with his shooting ability.

Also returning for the Racers was 5-foot-7 senior guard Don Mann. The other half of the famed "M & M Boys," Mann was the OVC's returning assist leader, dishing out 144 assists last season. Recognized as the league's premiere point guard, Mann finished runner-up as the league's Player of the Year last season.

Junior Chris Ogden returned to flank the power forward spot. Ogden proved to be instrumental for Murray State to be a successful rebounding team. Guard Paul King returned as the fourth starter and perhaps the conference's best defensive player.

Adding to the Racers' attack was the strength of their bench. Senior Linzie Foster, 6-foot-8 freshmen Ron "Popeye" Jones, Terence Brooks, Doug Gold, and guard Jeff Robbins provided the lift the Racer starters needed throughout the season.

With all the publicity the Racers received last season, it was no sur-

prise that they were picked to win the OVC in the preseason coaches' poll. The element of surprise was gone for this year's team.

"I think establishing new goals and reaching high in terms of our potential is really what we're looking at. I see it (the first-place prediction) as a plus. I don't see it as a negative at all," Newton said.

After much anticipation, the Racers opened the season in Racer Arena with a 68-49 victory over NAIA school Oakland City College. Martin led the MSU offense by tossing in 21 points, followed by Mann and Foster with 12 each. The Racers, fueled by a 16-2 scoring spurt to start the second-half, also outrebounded the Mighty Oaks 33-12, with Ogden and Foster each ripping down eight.

The Racers packed their bags and headed to Texas to play in front of a vocal Lamar Cardinals crowd. Playing in front of NBA scouts from the Dallas Mavericks, Martin put on a second-half barrage to lead the Racers to a 96-83 victory. The senior forward drilled eight of 12 second-half shots to pace the Racers with 27 points. Ogden also played well by collect-



Allen Hill

**G**uard Terence Brooks runs the motion offense against Louisville. Brooks provided strength off the bench for the Racers.