

Sports

Bronco Spotlight

with

Lori Little

This week's Spotlight is on Gastonia's Darrell Armstrong, a starting guard on the Bronco basketball team. Armstrong, better known as "Sky" around the FSU campus, is a Physical Education major and he plans to start out in his chosen field upon graduation.

"I like working with kids," Armstrong stated. "A job is much easier when you are doing something you like."

Armstrong injured his right shoulder in a recent game, but he returned Monday night (January 28th) against Winston-Salem State University.

"It is very hard for me to shoot," he said. "I'm having trouble with my right arm. When I played Monday night, I suffered some swelling but I hope to be well before tournament time. I just have this desire to win. I don't want to stop, I have to play hurt."

During January 19th's loss to Livingstone College, "Sky" scored his 1000th point as a Bronco.

"I feel pretty good about it, I didn't expect myself to get 1000 points," he said. "(But) it's not that important if you don't win the game."

Continuing his playing career is important to "Sky", but if he never gets to play pro ball, he is confident about his education.

"If it comes, it comes," he said. "If I never played ball again because of an injury, it would be hard for me to cope with. But I will always have my major to continue with."

Down But Not Out

Injuries Slow Broncos

by Lori Little

On Jan. 17, the Broncos defeated St. Paul's 95-73 in Lawrenceville, Virginia. Darrell Armstrong led the way with 28 points and Sherman Pride added 20.

On Jan. 19 the FSU downed Livingston College 91-82, in Cumberland County Civic Center. Armstrong paced the Broncos with 17 points while Emmanuel Calloway contributed 16.

The Broncos traveled to Winston-Salem on Jan. 21 to take on the Rams of Winston-Salem State University. The result was a disappointing loss, 75-72. Armstrong and Pride were the high scorers with 18 and 15 points, respectively.

The Broncos climbed to ninth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's rankings of Division II teams for the week of Jan. 17. However, coach Jeff Capel does not put a lot of emphasis on the rankings.

"It's great for the university and it's great for the players," Capel stated. "I think that once the season ends, rankings mean a lot more to me. But it's great publicity for the school. It should be a great recruiting tool not only for the athletic program, but for the admissions office as far as bringing students to the university."

On Jan. 24, the Broncos hosted St. Augustine's College. The Broncos fell, 104-95. Armstrong poured in 31 points and Danny Muldrow contributed 18 to lead FSU.

The Broncos played at Shaw University on Jan. 26. The Bears defeated the Broncos 103-92. Travis Spells was the top scorer with 24 points and Derrick Hawkins added 21.

On Jan. 28, the Broncos were defeated by Winston-Salem State University, 79-75. Muldrow had top scoring honors with 19 points, and Armstrong contributed 14 in the Broncos' third consecutive loss.



Darrell Armstrong (23) should be healthy by tournament time. (Photo: Kenneth Hawkins)

Starting point-guard Emmanuel Calloway did not play in the Shaw game on January 26th due an injury. Coach Capel said not having him on the floor certainly had something to do with the way the Broncos were playing.

"Emmanuel is a very important part of what we do," Capel said. "He allows us to extend our defensive pressure and offensively he is the 'straw that stirs the drink', so to speak. He gets us into our offensive sets, and not having him definitely hurt us. But this team has lost players before and responded well. I expect them to do that again."

Coach Capel does not feel that the players lost their confidence.

"I think what hurt (the players) the most was the fact that it seemed like a lot of the student body turned on them when they lost some games," Capel stated. "That's the time when the student body should put their arms around them and say, 'Okay, let's go'."

Coach Capel said that other situations arose that caused some problems.

"There were instances where people would go through our suites in the dorm and cause some problems and say 'you guys are not good', and I think that hurt us. It really hurt in the heart. We are all supposed to be one family here, and when

things are going well, everybody's hanging on and wants to be around. But when a little adversity comes, those same people that were patting you on the back now have a knife in their hand."

After holding the top spot in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Southern Division for most of the season, the Broncos were tied for 3rd place with St. Augustines at press time. But Coach Capel said there are more important things to worry about this late in the season.

"The only thing that (winning) the Southern Division does is place you in certain brackets for the (CIAA) tournament," Capel pointed out. "It would be great to win the Southern Division, but you really don't win anything. You don't get a trophy. You don't get anything for winning the Southern Division other than the fact that you are the number one team going into the tournament."

"We are more concerned right now about getting healthy and getting back to playing the way we were playing earlier in the year so we can be at our peak during the tournament."

The Broncos will travel to Livingstone on Feb. 4, Shaw University, Feb. 9, and the last home game of the season will be against Johnson C. Smith on Saturday, Feb. 16.