

# Broncos' Football Off To Good Start

## Staff Report

The Fayetteville State University football team is talking CIAA Championship.

If early play is any indication, the team just may be well on its way to bringing the school its first championship crown.

After a come-from-behind win over Benedict College, a close loss to Division I-AA Tennessee Tech, and wins over rivals Elizabeth City State University and Livingstone College, the Broncos sport a 3-1 record, and set up a showdown with two-time defending champion Winston-Salem State University. That game is slated for 7 p.m. in Luther "Nick" Jeralds Stadium on the FSU campus.

During the first three-quarters of the Benedict game, the Broncos looked as if they weren't ready to challenge conference power WSSU.

The fourth quarter, however, proved differently. With their backs against the wall, the Broncos rallied for 17 unanswered points to beat Benedict 23-17 in front of 3,043 fans at Jeralds Stadium. Tori Calloway

had the biggest play of the game. When it appeared the Tigers were attempting to run out the clock with a 17-14 lead, Calloway came to the rescue. With 2:32 remaining, Benedict safety, the Broncos got the ball back on their own 26 with 1:30 remaining. Four plays later, running back Nathaniel Benton fumbled. Willie Smith recovered the ball on the Broncos 33.

Benedict quarterback Royton Williams completed a 32-yard pass to Curtis Rampersant on four-and-15 from the Broncos 38. But Williams was called for an illegal forward pass on the play. The ball was bought back to the 43. Williams' next pass fell incomplete, giving the Broncos the win.

Benton had 96 yards on 17 carries for the Broncos.

Against Tennessee Tech, the Broncos led 10-7 in the second quarter before TTU reeled off 24 straight points to win 31-10 Aug. 30 in Cookeville, Tenn.

"The kids played their behinds



Phillips is pleased with team

off," Phillips said after the game. "Right there in the third quarter we had some opportunities we didn't capitalize on and, playing a team like Tennessee Tech, you have to capitalize on your opportunities. It was 14-10 and

we blew 14 points in the third quarter. That really hurt us."

Not only did FSU fans witness a win against ECSU, but they also had the chance to see a remarkable comeback of one of their players.

DeAngelo Bridges, who 11 months earlier suffered a stroke, went 65 yards in three plays to give FSU a 21-14 win before a sellout crowd of 5,146 at Jeralds Stadium.

Bridges, playing in his second game since his illness, had carried the ball only five times before making his way onto the field with 12:37 remaining. The Broncos had just surrendered the lead and desperately needed a lift.

Phillips called on Bridges and he delivered.

Taking a handoff at 35, Bridges bounced off a tackle and broke free down the sideline. He was pulled down from behind after a 59-yard run. Two plays later, the junior dove into the end zone for what appeared to be the winning

touchdown.

After a week off, the Broncos returned to action Sept. 22 with a 26-9 win against Livingstone.

Nick Green had 90 yards on 12 carries and scored a touchdown. "The break was needed," Phillips said. Although the team is healthy and hasn't suffered any major injuries, the rest gives the team time to work on certain areas and focus on the next game.

"It (the break) gives you a chance to heal up," Phillips said. "Of course you have a tendency to be a bit rusty, but as the game goes on, you tend to pick up the momentum and get back to what you are doing. The open game is designed to get guys back and get them rested up for the long haul we are getting ready to go into."

Phillips isn't one to look too far ahead, but for many FSU fans, that long haul could mean the Sept. 29 match up against WSSU.

FSU and WSSU played a close game last season.



Venus and Serena Williams celebrate tournament win.

## Tennis Phenoms Raising A Racket

By Tonya Jameson

TMS Campus

The Williams sisters need to concentrate on tennis. A killer serve is a terrible thing to waste.

Venus and Serena stormed professional tennis nearly four years ago with strength, speed and a mouthy dad who predicted they'd eventually be No. 1 and No. 2. Instead, they've spent the last two years splitting their attention between tennis and fashion school, and tennis has suffered.

Venus is ranked fourth in the world and Serena 10th, which is respectable except past seasons have shown they have the talent to hold the top two spots. Playing too few tournaments and early exits have hampered their status.

The sisters met in the finals of the U.S. Open a few weeks ago. The match was a typical Venus-Serena matchup - lots of unforced errors and double faults.

The Williams sisters see fashion as post-tennis careers, which is good planning. But school will always be there, tennis won't.

If they don't focus on tennis, they won't become No. 1 and 2, win all four grand slam titles in one year or silence Martina Hingis, who told Time magazine being

black helps the sisters get endorsements.

Besides, I'm tired of them losing winnable matches - like Serena at Wimbledon or Venus at the French Open - because they're physically and mentally rusty after playing about a dozen tournaments instead of the 17 to 20 like their competitors.

To be fair, they attend Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, a junior college in Florida, during the off-season. They plan to design their own lines in three years, ready-to-wear for Venus and evening wear for Serena. They're already known in fashion circles. Serena has a signature line with Puma and they posed in Vogue wearing Carolina Herrera gowns. They've forsaken bland white tennis outfits for brightly colored mini-skirts, such as Serena's yellow and black outfit at the U.S. Open.

Venus recently told the New Haven Register she might play more tournaments next year so she can go to school in the fall. If she does, she'll need WD-40 to get the rust out of her game before spring play starts.

Tonya Jameson is a columnist for the Charlotte Observer.

## FSU Cheerleading Squad Motivating The Crowd

By Aisha Brooks

Staff Writer

It's 7 p.m. Deeked out in blue and white pompons in hand, ready to enjoy another night of Bronco football. Stroll to the concession stand to purchase popcorn. An unusual amount of cheers are heard. Throw the money on the counter, grab the food and make a mad dash to the stands.

Kickoff?

No, Cheer Phi Smoov.

This bright and energetic group, led by captain Shauna Jones, is able to get the crowd hyped with their presence alone. Voices are loud. Feet are in sync. It's enough to make you wonder, "That's hot, how do they do that?"

It's not easy. Daily practices of foot-stomping, leg-kicking routines prepare these Smoov Broncos for long nights of "Go, Broncos, Go!" Even the four-hours per week to a local climbing facility help prepare Cheer Phi Smoov for those

spectacular stunts we are eager to see. Enduring a rope course improves their team building skills of trust and communication.

However, the smooov squad would be nothing without a smooth coach. LaWanda Miller, a receptionist in the chancellor's office, has been the squad's advisor for two years. Miller has also been doing her homework to prepare herself for the long nights of practices and games. Fresh from attending the National Cheerleading Coaches Conference, Miller came back to FSU equipped with new strategies and ideas to hold this squad of 20 progress to a higher level.

"I look forward to another exciting season," Miller said about the upcoming year.

Miller isn't the only one enthused about the year. Sakiyna Peets, a freshman criminal justice major from Charlotte, called Miller one weekend to express how much she is enjoying cheerleading season. Miller said that makes her proud because there are

other university squads the young ladies could have cheered for but they chose FSU. She said she would make them proud of their decision.

Miller said there are certain characteristics she looks for in a cheerleader. She said she seeks dedication to the sport, a commitment to improve, to carry out their motto, "Image is Everything", and Miller's personal motto, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

Got what it takes to be a cheerleader? Trial for the basketball squad will be held Oct. 26 at 5:30 p.m. on the football field.

"I know that any organization is only as good as its members, and I honestly can't say that I could ask for a more enthusiastic, dedicated, talented group of people," Miller said. "Each year I think it gets better for me. Each year I enjoy it more. I think Fayetteville State is blessed with a wonderful group of students, and I do think we are the best-kept secret of the south."

## Lack Of Division-I Coaches Evident On Football Sidelines

By Fred McKissack

TMS Campus

Football season is upon us, but the college gridiron is not a welcome place for black head coaches.

Of the 117 NCAA Division I-AA football teams, only five have blacks as head coaches. The news doesn't get any better if you total the coaches from Division I-A and I-AA. The percentage drops from 4.3 percent to 2.9 percent, even though Division I-AA football schools include a number of historically black colleges such as Grambling, Florida A&M and Howard.

If you remove such schools, the percentage of black head coaches in Division I football further falls to 1.1 percent, according to NCAA statistics taken from its website. Indeed, there are more black head coaches of tennis teams at the

Division I level than there are black coaches heading football programs, according to NCAA statistics.

The lack of black head football coaches is not a result of old white coaches hold on to their jobs. Of the 156 openings for head coaches at the Division I level since 1992, only 12 percent went to black coaches. This figure boggles the mind when you consider more than 20 percent of assistant coaches in Division I-A and I-AA football are black.

The differential between black and white head coaches could be partly a result of one of the last unwritten dictums of football: Black coaches do not have the necessary strategic skills to run major college or professional-level football teams.

In football, which is fast replacing baseball as the American pastime, think of how many years we all heard black players were not smart enough to play quarterback. Now,

white college coaches from the PAC-10 to the SEC have no problem having their offenses led by a black player.

But coaching seems to be another thing.

The ignorant prejudice that blacks can't coach is easily exposed. Just consider the achievements of Tyrone Willingham at Stanford, where he led the Cardinal to the Rose Bowl last year.

Sports have played a significant role in race relations in this country. Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Althea Gibson and Tiger Woods not only excelled in their individual sports, but reshaped how blacks viewed themselves and, in some cases, how whites viewed blacks.

No one is suggesting that anyone unqualified should be given a head coaching position because of his skin color. We're not talking restitution issues.