

# 'New year, new leader, same goal'

Fresh off a CIIA championship, Broncos reload with new quarterback

By Quinton Graham  
Voice Sports Editor

Last year quarterback Ben Williams led the Broncos to an 8-4 record and ultimately the CIIA championship, but this year the success of the Broncos rests on the shoulders of new quarterback Robert Benjamin.

Mr. Benjamin didn't play the first game (Two River's Classic) due to administrative issues, but in his debut against Bowie State he had 13 completions with 26 attempts, 140 passing yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

So let's get to know our quarterback.

Mr. Benjamin was born in Phoenix, Arizona, where he began playing football at age 8, and he said that he fell in love with the game by watching it on T.V.

He played high school football at South Mountain High in Phoenix, where he set the record for most touchdowns in a single game with seven.

When he finished his high school career he attended the University of Wyoming and Phoenix College, a junior college in Arizona, where he was the starting quarterback for a year, and led them to a 7-4 record. He was heavily recruited by FSU Head Coach Kenny Phillips.

"I felt as though FSU was a good fit for me since I was familiar with some of the players and I liked the fact that Phillips showed great interest in me," Mr. Benjamin said.

He feels as though he's a smart quarterback who makes good decisions. He's also athletic, which he says helps him make plays and get out of trouble.

When asked how it feels to fill Mr. Williams' shoes, he replied, "Those were his shoes, I must find my own way. I feel as though my team has a great chance to play for another CIIA Championship and possible national championship." Mr. Benjamin seems to have a good head on his shoulders judging from his performance against Bowie State. "I think Benjamin is a great asset to the team and is going to be a great part of our success," comments coach Phillips.

Here are some things you might not know about Mr. Benjamin.

**The Voice:** What do you do for fun?

**Robert Benjamin:** Hang out with my teammates, listen to music, play football, dominos, and watch NFL football on Sundays.

**TV:** What is your favorite food?

**RB:** I really enjoy my grandmother's and



Voice photo by Quinton Graham

Quarterback Robert Benjamin, center, and offensive linemen Robert McClure go through drills during football practice recently. Mr. Benjamin is the new starting quarterback for the Broncos this season.

mom's cooking, Jamaican, Mexican, Chinese, and Italian. Pretty much anything that touches my soul.

**TV:** Who's your biggest inspiration in life?

**RB:** My mother, grandparents, and son. My faith in the man who gives me every

breath I take, the fight everyday to become a man, and be a better father than the one who never raised me, but I still love him with all my heart.

**TV:** How does it feel to be away from those people?

**RB:** Honestly it's not as bad as I thought it would be. I'm handling life as best I can for the most part.

**TV:** What's your favorite color and why?

**RB:** All shades of blue. I think it's a cool color and also because I love swimming.

## Down, up, and down again

Loss at Down East Classic leaves Broncos 1-2 for the season

By Quinton Graham  
Voice Sports Editor

Although the season began with a major upset, Bronco football redeemed themselves by clicking on all cylinders against Bowie State. Due to a lack of offensive drive in the first game, the Broncos seemed to be overwhelmed by the Braves' defense. Due to the starting quarterback's absence, it appeared as if there was a lack of leadership within the huddle. The Two River's Classic ended with massive Bronco disappointment and a cloud of doubt hung over the Bronco football team.

Luckily, the game against UNCP won't tarnish the Bronco conference record, and hopefully won't serve as an indicator of future team performance. They made a strong comeback against Bowie State, delivering blow after blow to the Bulldogs who were fresh from being dominated at the 2009 CIIA Championship game. Richard Medlin rushed for 163 yards, collaborating with Robert Benjamin on a tough offensive strategy, with significant yardage gains.

Unfortunately, the Broncos couldn't find their standing against Elizabeth City State University Saturday in Rocky

Mount. The Broncos fell, 38-26, adding to their 39-0 loss against UNCP and leaving fans wondering if their win against Bowie State was pure luck or home-game adrenaline.

The Down East Classic began with two scoreless drives from both offenses. Then the game seemed to change in favor of the Broncos once they scored their first touchdown on a pass to Lamaricus Bond from Mr. Benjamin with 3:57 left in the first.

The momentum continued at the end of the first quarter with a blocked punt which was picked up in the end zone by Joshua Scales for a touchdown that gave

the Broncos a 13-0 lead.

The Broncos seemed to be in rhythm. Everything seemed to be clicking. That all changed in the second quarter, with two touchdowns and a field goal putting the Vikings up 17-13 at halftime.

It appeared like the Broncos just ran out of gas in the second half. ECSU delivered two more touchdowns in the third quarter, giving them a comfortable lead. They then drove down the clock and held onto their lead to send the Broncos packing.

**NEXT UP:** The Broncos host Winston-Salem State University at home Saturday at the Luther Nick-Jerald's Stadium.