

# Adding new FSU sports is daunting task

By Charnell Harris  
Voice Features Editor

Once upon a time, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke students decided that they should have a football team. They figured that since university athletics were paid for with their student athletic fees, then they should be allowed to decide what it goes to. So they went to their university officials and asked them for one. The university told them how much it would cost to have a football team and that if they wanted one, and then they would have to be willing to raise money, around 4-million dollars just for the stadium alone. They were told how much of a struggle it would be for them to succeed. When asked if they were sure about going through with it, the student body readily declared "Let's play ball."

Backed by their community and their Student Government Association, they were able to put it all together and they enjoy a Division II football team.

So Broncos, "Are you willing to go the distance to get the activities that you want to be here at FSU? And if so, just what are you willing to do to get them?"

At Fayetteville State University, there are many talented athletes who are dying to play the sports they excelled in while in high school. And every year, the university is losing great academic students simply because those students play sports not available at FSU, so they opt to go to other universities or transfer. While many students complain about what is missing here, students just do not know how much it takes in putting together new athletic programs.

One of the more popular requests is to start a track and field team.

FSU's Director of Athletics, Edward McLean, said that if he could bring in any other sports program, it would be track and

field. However, bringing in a new team sport would require more than a group of talented and interested students. He estimated that it would cost around \$250,000-\$300,000 per year to fund a well-organized, quality track team.

Mr. McLean points out that it is not just about getting enough money for uniforms and equipment. The bulk of the money would go to hiring experienced and qualified coaches, giving scholarships to talented individuals and having money for the team.

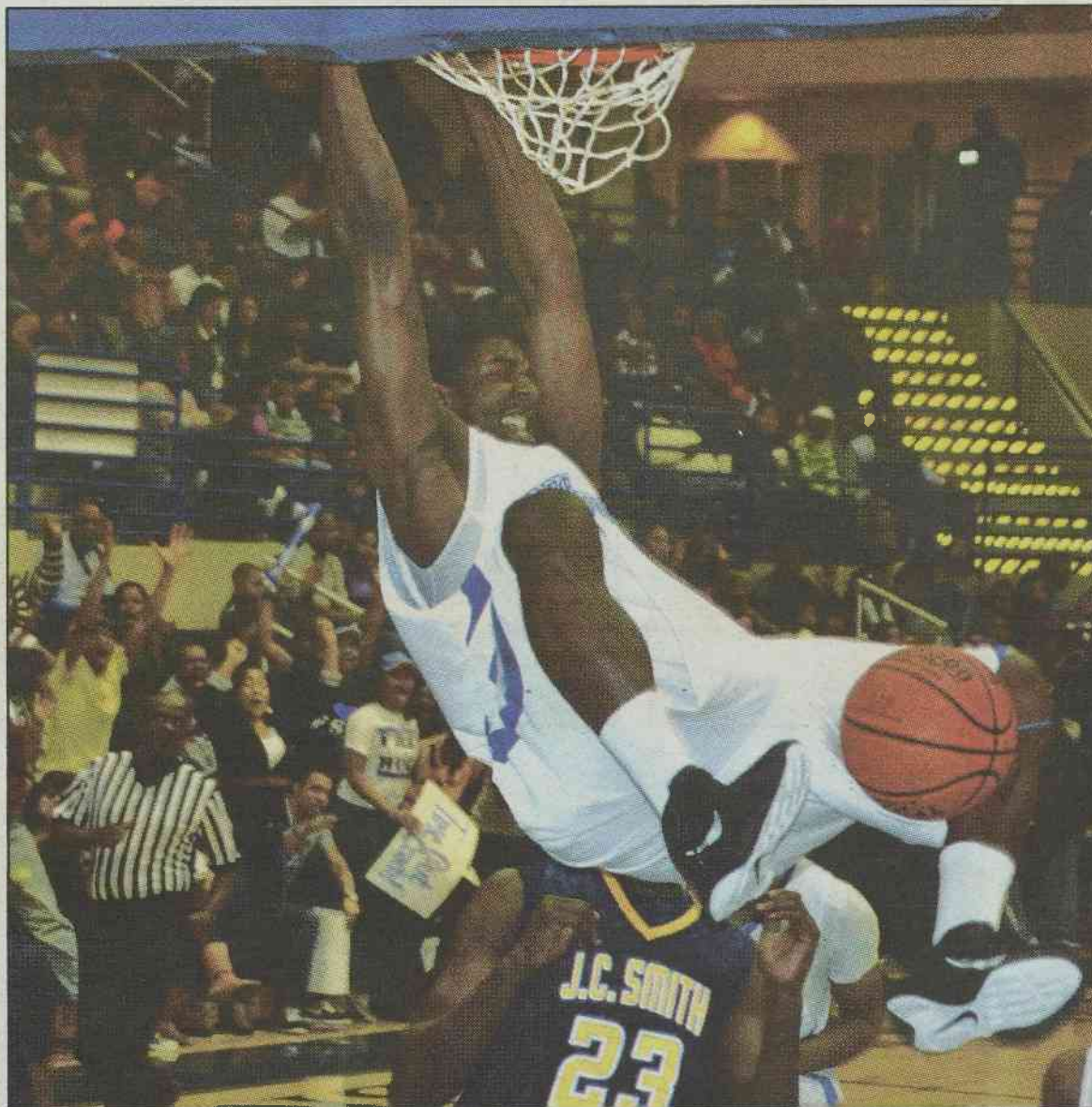
FSU to have a legitimate team, it would require at least 28 students or full-time employees. For those who participated in track and field, know that in order to have a decent team to compete, you need more than 50.

Athletic programs are funded through tuition money, via the athletic fees. If students want to add new programs, they would have to accept higher fees. So far FSU charges the lowest amount for athletic fees in the state.

Another major factor in bringing in more athletic programs is student support. No one wants to establish a team that they feel the student body will not support. Mr. McLean wants to make sure that whatever program they may add in the future, the student body will be proud to support them.

Such popular sports like soccer and swimming are not offered at FSU, simply because there are not many universities in our conference that offer them as well. In order for FSU to compete, the university would have to allot more money for travel outside of the region, than other sports like football and basketball.

When it comes down to it, adding more athletic programs is fully up to the student body. Students pay for it already. At the end of the day it's about whether or not students are willing to help better our school by demanding that it gives us what students ask for.



Voice photos by Dea Spicer

Tim Plummer makes the crowd go wild with a slam dunk en route to 77-73 win against Johnson C. Smith Gold Bulls at Saturday night's competitive match in the Capel Arena.

## SLAMMIN' ACTION



Lady Bronco Je'Lena Robertson passes as Lady Golden Bull Shavonda Price defends Saturday night at the Capel Arena. The Golden Bulls beat the Broncos 60-32.

An exciting win Saturday brought the Broncos to a record of 5-5. Most importantly, a memorable shot was executed by Broncos guard Tim Plummer which enabled the Broncos to close in on the St-Augustine Golden Bulls. Both teams showed fierce determination during the entire duration of the game. Broncos guard and forward, Ariel Robinson and Seth Hawkins also did well during the victory scoring 5 points together.

As for the performance of the Lady Broncos, they fell short of a victory on Saturday. The Broncos trailed St Augustine by 20 points. The final score was 78-58. The highlight on the side of the Broncos was their lead scorer Capricia Smalls. Capricia scored 14 points and had 6 rebounds. La Quasha Jordan also played a part as well scoring 11 points. Regardless of the loss, the Lady Broncos put in a strong effort to end.

~ Courtney Miller