

Lady Golden Bulls program has gotten back on right 'Street'

When Barry Street took over the women's basketball program at Johnson C. Smith, he accepted the challenge head-on.

Although he didn't really know what would happen under his tutelage in his first season, Street couldn't have asked for a better welcome into the CIAA.

The Lady Golden Bulls lost Konecka Drakeford, their All-American from last season, and with her the bulk of their rebounding and scoring. But Smith has made a smooth transition and is now enjoying an exciting ride with Street at the helm of the program.

While losing Drakeford, was a challenge for the Lady Golden Bulls, losing a head coach was an even more demanding challenge for the women student-athletes.

Street, a graduate and former assistant coach at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, took the head coaching position at JCSU during a time of change for the Lady Golden Bull's program.

Many of the players in the program were apprehensive about the future after the departure of former Coach Hythia Evans under less-than-desirable circumstances.

But after a year full of alternating and shifting, the program has bounced back.

Prior to the start of the season, the Lady Golden Bulls adopted a slogan that they felt appropriate for the 1998-99 season. The motto "A New Day" has fit the team to perfection.

After going through a series of growing pains, Street's philosophy and

determination has begun to shine through. His love and knowledge of basketball has helped develop a team into a program.

In the process, Street has proven to be somewhat of a prophet. During his press conference, in which he was formally named the Lady Golden Bulls' coach, on April 28, 1998, Street predicted the team would "win games they were not supposed to and prove their presence in the CIAA".

Optimism abounded for their first contest, which took place on Nov. 13, against Belmont Abbey. Though not a victorious game by score, Street's first experience in a game with Smith as a head coach proved his determination to overcome lots of boundaries.

By the second game, the

team had pulled together and the Golden Bulls defeated Queen's College by a one-point margin. Wins against Elizabeth City State, Virginia Union, Fayetteville State, and St. Augustine's followed, renewing the program's optimism and pumping new life into the players.

The Lady Golden Bulls may not yet be powerhouses in the CIAA, but they are beginning to make some rumblings in the loop. Throughout the season Smith has ranked in the top three positions of the CIAA's Western Division.

Street has gotten the most of the Lady Golden Bulls' talents. Erin Moore and Marquisha Clayburn have provided the bulk of the team's scoring, with added consistent play from freshman Blanche Doctor and Alicia Lynn. With four



Barry Street

players averaging double figures, Street's pre-season outlook of not relying on one scorer still holds true.

While the road to CIAA elite is still long, The lady Golden Bull's appear to be moving in the right direction. Street's program proves that achieving successful results is not about time, but determination.

—Patricia Harvey

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