

Williams wants to finish strong

BY ANDREW MASON
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

DeAngelo Williams isn't exactly on pins and needles waiting for the announcement of Pro Bowl rosters, which was released this past Tuesday.

"I don't care about the Pro Bowl at all," the running back said. "It's one of those things where it's name recognition, TV time, things of that nature. I don't really care about all that stuff. As long as our team is being productive, and we continue to win, it doesn't matter to me."

He'd rather play in the sandbox, so to speak, than the sand of Hawai'i.

"I'm one of those guys where, on Sunday, it's game day, it's time to shine, it's time to get on that playground and in that sandbox — whether it be the Carolina Panthers or New York's or wherever we're playing at, that's the sandbox for us," he said. "We're like big kids having fun, and that's what we go out and do."

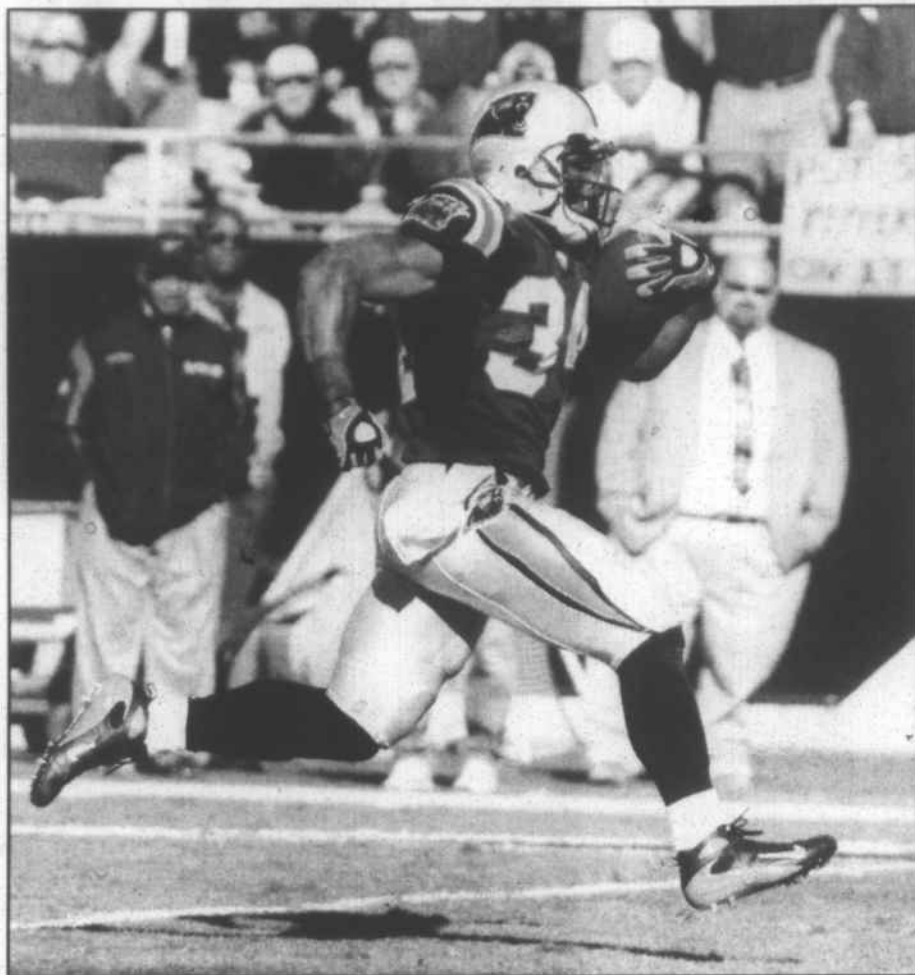
From the Panthers' perspective, Williams' priorities are in the right place. Instead of pondering the Pro Bowl, he told reporters in the locker room after Sunday's win that he planned to get a jump on studying the New York Giants, first by watching their 20-8 Sunday Night Football loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

And instead of frittering away moments fretting over an individual honor for a season that has seen him score a league-leading 16 touchdowns, he'd rather relax, refresh and re-energize for a game that looms even larger than the ones he just completed.

"I know a lot of people are going to build this game up as one of the largest games in December, but we just played one last week," Williams said. "We're accustomed to playing in big games now — not just that one, but over the years. I think the coaching staff is going to put us in a position where we can make some plays come Sunday."

That's the kind of mature response that illuminates his growth as not only a running back, but as a teammate and a professional in his third season.

"Whatever business you're in, that first year is usually the toughest. So it usually gets better and more comfortable after that," head coach John Fox said. "A



Carolina Panther running back D'Angelo Williams races for a touchdown.

lot of that — mentally, maturation, there are all kinds of words — but he got better only through hard work, and it's a tribute to his work ethic."

Williams' success this year is also due to his feel for the game improving, which was in evidence on his 56-yard touchdown run Sunday against Denver, when he reversed his field and moved away from the flow of the play, turning a potential two-yard loss into an untouched sprint to the goal line.

Such a run might have been impossible in his first two seasons.

"When I first got here, I couldn't feel guys diving at my feet or where guys were at on the field," he said. "I've got a really good feel for that this year as opposed to

the first two years."

Notes: Fox had no update on the status of defensive tackle Maake Kemoatu and right Keydrick Vincent, both of whom were hurt Sunday. Kemoatu suffered an ankle injury, while Vincent succumbed to a groin injury early in the fourth quarter ... Fox said that offensive lineman Jeremy Bridges, who replaced Vincent, "did a superb job." Vincent started four games in October at right tackle while Jeff Otah recovered from a sprained ankle ... Fox declined to discuss the playoff scenarios awaiting the Panthers this Sunday. "I know next week's our new 'biggest game ever' — like the last three," he said.

Five Deacs earn soccer All-America honors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Wake Forest soccer team may have dropped a heartbreaker to UNC in the semifinal round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament the over the weekend. But that hasn't stopped the postseason honors from rolling into Wake Forest. Five Deacons were named All-Americans by College Soccer News.

Former Mt. Tabor star Sam Cronin, Ike Opara and Marcus Tracy were named first team All-Americans, while Cody Arnoux and Corben Bone notched second team accolades.

The honor marks the third time this postseason that Tracy and Opara have earned All-American honors. Tracy has been named a first team All-American by Top Drawer Soccer and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Opara was a first-team selection by Top Drawer



Sam Cronin graduated from Mt. Tabor High School.

Soccer and a second-team pick by the NSCAA.

Cronin, who's a senior, played and started every game during the 2008 season, extending his consecutive games started streak to 98. He

became the all-time career leader in games played and games started at Wake Forest during the 2008 season. A 2008 Hermann Trophy finalist and Lowe's Senior CLASS Award winner, Cronin scored 10 goals on the season.

Opara was named the 2008 ACC Defensive Player of the Year. The sophomore defender from Durham, N.C., helped the Wake Forest defense to 14 shutouts during the 2008 season. A 2008 first team All-ACC selection, Opara also scored five goals during the 2008 season.

Tracy finished the 2008 season with 13 goals, 10 assists and 36 points. The senior forward from Newtown, Conn., was one of only two players in the country to finish the season with double-digit totals in goals and assists. A 2008 Hermann Trophy finalist, Tracy scored at least one point in 16 of the team's 24 games in 2008.

Arnoux led Wake Forest the plug and go back to Division II. When is enough, enough? I mean, really.

I want to ask this before I leave. What's the point in winning the conference tournament in basketball only to be defeated in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament? I mean, I thought it was about winning championships. Just like during the Civil Rights movement, it was about more than just walking through the door. We wanted to eat too.

Sometimes smaller is better.

Anthony Hill is the sports editor for The Chronicle. He can be reached at 722-8624 (ext. 111) or ahill@wschronicle.com.

Hill

from page B1

the intensity or execution that we needed to win the game. We didn't take advantage of second chances and overall our execution was poor."

And, do I need to talk about the football season? I may have been off when I said the Rams wouldn't win a game. They turned around and won that same week I wrote about it. Which was fine with me. I want to see them win, which is why I don't like to see all of these great athletes, and passionate fans endure so many pitfalls.

Where's the respect?

Some teams look at Winston-Salem State as if it were a second class institution. I didn't graduate from there. But I have friends that have. Some of them hate when I talk like this, while others ask me to get more gutter with it. I don't write these types of columns to please them either. I write them because I think the students, fans, coaches and alum deserve better.

I'm just saying. Don't you get tired of seeing loss after loss while checking out scores scrolling across the screen on ESPN? Again,

that's not a knock on the athletes. It's not a knock on the coaches. It's not even a knock on the athletic director.

It's almost like me going up to a well-respected hot dog salesman with a lil stand and asking him why he's still trying to sell hot dogs in an area where there are established steakhouses? You're just not going to make any money in that area. You may sell a couple of hot dogs. But not enough to be as prosperous as you were on that street with limited food resources.

And, who wants to sign with a school they always see taking L's? Winston-Salem State is too good of an institution for that kind of stuff. At least, I think so. Yet, no one is trying to pull



Don't Feel Miserable This Fall!
Call your doctor and get a flu vaccine today!

The flu vaccine can help protect you against the flu, so you won't have to experience the common symptoms like headaches, fever, muscle aches, extreme tiredness, sore throat and cough.
This ad is sponsored by the North Carolina Immunization Branch of the Division of Public Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

WANT TO APPLY FOR STUDENT LOANS?

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

WANT TO RENEW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Want to know where to get all this information?

From Social Security benefits to buying surplus government property, all kinds of government information are just a click or call away.

FIRSTGOV.gov
1 (800) FED-INFO

Discounted Winter Get-A-Ways On 100s Of Luxury Condos & Beach Homes!

- Linens & Departure Maid Svc. Avail.
- Mild Temperatures • No Crowds
- Championship Golf • Shopping
- Christmas Shows • Fine Dining

ELLIOTT
REALTY
866.878.2768
NorthMyrtleBeachTravel.com

FREE DIRECTV 4 ROOM SYSTEM!

130 HD Channels

265+ ALL DIGITAL CHANNELS!
130 HD CHANNELS!
FREE HBO, Showtime & Starz for 3 Months!
Packages Start only \$29.99
FREE DVR/HD
No Start Up Costs!
We're Local Installers!

Channel Pkgs. Start \$29.99 / mo

Toll Free 866-695-7938

SAVE 50% OFF YOUR NEXT HEATING BILL!

One Time Only Factory Direct Sale, Call Today!
AS SEEN AND HEARD ON POPULAR TV AND RADIO PROGRAMS
iHeater Quartz Infrared Portable Heater IH1000

- Safely and efficiently heats wall to wall, for Pennies a day!
- Heats up to 1000 Sq. Ft. for \$1/Day
- Lifetime Air Filter
- Factory Warranty
- Safe for kids and pets
- Cannot start fires
- Heats multiple rooms
- Slash your heating bill up to 50%

REG. PRICE \$379
NOW ONLY \$279

ONLY \$279 and FREE Shipping (while supplies last)

Call Now to order 1-800-469-0456
Phones Busy? Order online 24/7 www.iHeaterStore.com

Two Brands. Endless Options.

Dutchway

www.dutchwaypolebarns.com

CONESTOGA Buildings

www.conestogabuildings.com

1-877-434-3133

Community Care Center

Volunteers working together to provide free medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured families.

You must be approved as a patient before seeing a doctor or dentist. We accept applications for new patients on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1:30-4:30 PM.** We suggest you pick up a brochure about our requirements to prepare for the interview. Applications are taken on "first come, first served" basis. We accept only 40 applications per week.

- We are not able to provide care for pregnant women
- We are not a walk-in clinic.
- We can't handle emergencies.
- We can not accept patients with Medicaid, Medicare, Veterans' Administration Benefits or private health insurance.

Volunteers and our small staff provide medical and dental care for our patients. We are supported with donations from churches, individuals, businesses, foundations and the United Way. We do not receive government funds.

2135 New Walkertown Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(across from Evergreen Cemetery)
More Information: 336-723-7904