

All-Americans from Carolinas

Continued From 8B

three. Jackson State's James Carson was named coach of the year.

Sheridan Broadcasting Network All-America team:

Offense
Quarterback - Aaron Sparrow (Norfolk State).

Running backs - Michael Hicks, (S.C. State), Richard Huntley (Winston-Salem State). Receivers - James Roe (Norfolk State), Robie Jenkins (Alcorn State). Tight end - Clarence Benford (Albany State). Line - Jamain Stephens (N.C. A&T), Elliott Womack (Grambling State), Raleigh Roundtree (S.C. State), Roderick Hill (Southern) and Demetrius Billie (Florida A&M). Kicker - Carlos

Leach (Southern).

Defense

Line - Hugh Hunter (Hampton), Bryant Mix (Alcorn State), Kendall Shello (Southern), Reggie Lee (Florida A&M). Linebackers - Earl Holmes (Florida A&M), Kenya Rounds (Southern), Kevin Williams (Hampton). Defensive backs - Telley Priester (Virginia State), Picasso Nelson (Jackson

State), Marco Maddox (Albany State), Willie Ogieby (Bethune-Cookman). Punter - Alex Campbell (Morris Brown).

Offensive player of the year - Richard Huntley, Winston-Salem State. **Defensive player of the year** - Earl Holmes, Florida A&M. **Coach of the year** - James Carson, Jackson State.

Smith gets a needed boost from Evans

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"What I'm real pleased about right now in terms of emotional stability and development, he's probably right now (more) ahead of the game than most people we have."

Smith's lack of a consistent scorer to team with Abrams has been due in part to the team's inexperience. As Evans and the 10 underclassmen (Abrams is the only senior) develop, the Bulls will be able

to compete. Right now, Evans is farther along.

"As you get pieces of the puzzle going, it frees up your No. 1 scorer, your No. 2 scorer," Joyner said. "You just can't come out and pay attention to them and those other guys are sitting around and telling them to win the basketball game for them. Ahmed eventually, and even now, is going to present that kind of opposition for our opponents. I'm sure

everybody is going to look for him a little bit more."

That's what Evans wants. Even in the midst of rebuilding, he sees his role as helping to smooth the transition for a team learning how to keep fighting.

"Hopefully it will. We fell down, and most teams will fall down and just lay down," he said. "I try my best because we've lost too many games like that."

Although Smith isn't a dominant team, Evans and Joyner are holding out for the kind of improvement the Bulls showed against Bowie. Determination and concentration can be as important as talent in some instances.

"We knew if we got together as a team and became of one mind," Evans said. "As a result, we took care of business."

Queens rolling along with Leo and Ansley

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group that I've had to this point, as far as chemistry, our players generally like one another," Royals coach Dale Layer said.

"There has been little if any selfishness, jealousy, they just want the team to do well and they've been a pleasure to coach."

This is a veteran team with three seniors and two juniors among the starters. Leadership has been spread among the five, but Leo and Ansley have jumped to the front. Both players recently reached the prestigious 1,000 career point mark. Ansley, last year's team MVP, says there's no substitute for experience.

Leo's story is an interesting one. The 24-year old is a native of Castries, St. Lucia, an island in the Caribbean. He came to Queens in 1992 after playing for his national team and being named Basketballer of the year 1990. His decision to go to Queens has paid off handsomely.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for me, it provides me with the opportunity to play basketball, the game I love, plus get a good education," Leo said.

"Coming out of the islands,

you're not known as a basketball player, so you have to take the best offer. Not too many schools recruited me, not too many people knew about me."

They know about him now. Leo, whose real name is Mervin, was the Royals' MVP in 1994 and is at it again this year, averaging nearly 20 points and 8.5 rebounds per game, both team highs. He's a force under the basket but wouldn't mind a chance to take his game a little further out.

"This year I wanted to go out a little, play a little (small forward)," Leo said. "I wanted to shoot a little more but basically my game has always been inside, though I'm not tall (6-5), but I tend to think of myself as a big man. Playing that kind of role but my game has improved over the years at Queens."

Also improving in his four years at Queens is Ansley, a native of Live Oak, Fla. Ansley sat out the 1994 season for personal reasons but reemerged last year as another inside threat, averaging 14.9 points and 7.5 rebounds, both team highs. The 6-7, 225-pound Ansley, says his year off made him a better player.

"The season I sat out I think

helped me a lot because I missed the game and I came back strong wanting to play more and with a better attitude toward the game and this year I feel I'm more of a team player," he said.



Layer

Renewed confidence has also improved Ansley's game.

"When I first got here, I didn't want to shoot the ball, kind of thinking what other

people would think," he said. "Now when I get the ball in the post, you know if it's one-on-one, I'm trying to score because I think I can score on just about anybody. You have to go into the game with that kind of attitude."

The Royals' lofty national ranking hasn't gone to their heads, they know there's room for improvement.

"We enjoy it. It's an honor and we feel privileged to be where we are, but at the same time, it's only January and the only ranking that matters is the one in March," Layer said.

Cowboys feel like champions

Continued From 8B

has been a hard, difficult season for the team.

"The two previous Super Bowls were great," Johnston said. "The first one was special because it was a new experience. The second one was great because we began the year 0-2. This one feels really good because it has been such a roller coaster season for us."

"Everyone got down on us, and we came out to play and made it this far. We felt pressure getting here, but we knew success would follow if we settled down and just won."

Owner Jerry Jones said: "We did this the same way we went to the other two Super Bowls,

with everyone pitching in. Everyone gets on Barry Switzer for his coaching, but all he has done is get to an NFC championship game and a Super Bowl. I'm proud of what he has done the past two years."

Center Derek Kennard said it feels great to get to the Super Bowl after all the adversity.

"Our offense came together," he said. "We had some great drives. That 99-yard drive we made was a classic."

Smith, who had an NFL record-tying sixth 100-yard rushing game in the playoffs, said the Cowboys showed a lot

of character in hanging together.

"It's easy to jump off the bandwagon," he said. "A lot of people were wrong about the Cowboys."

Offensive tackle Nate Newton said the Cowboys played "tough, exciting, emotional football against the Packers."

"Now we have a week off for conditioning and getting Charles Haley healthy," he said.

Haley, who had back surgery six weeks ago, has a good chance of playing in the Super Bowl against Pittsburgh, trainer Kevin O'Neill said.

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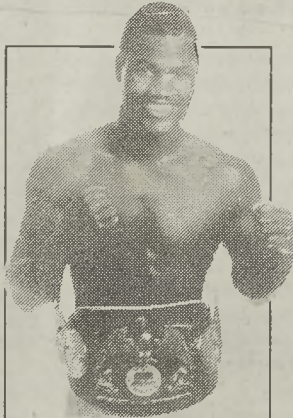
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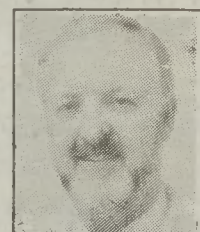
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