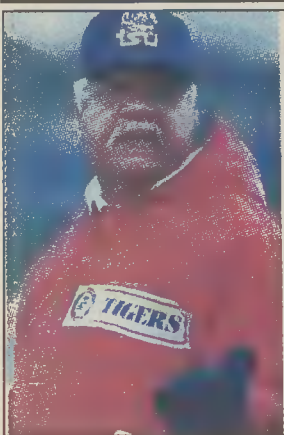


# SPORTS

## Feeling OK, Davis returns to JCSU



PHOTO/MADE NASH

Bill Davis is back at work after a heart attack.

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Bill Davis' heart - and sense of humor - are doing just fine.

A week after being admitted to a Charlotte hospital after what was described as a mild heart attack, the Johnson C. Smith football coach was at his campus office preparing for next season. Comparing his condition to a car, Davis said his time away from football was a chance to do some preventative maintenance. At any rate, he plans to be on the

sidelines when the Golden Bulls start fall practice.

"The engine light came on and I had to go in for a tune-up," Davis said. "I'm ready to go another 500,000 miles. I'll be here. I'm not going anywhere."

Davis, who said he feels better, has been told to slow down for a while to avoid taxing himself too much too soon. At this stage, easy does it best.

"I'm doing fine," he said. "I had a big scare. I've just got to do things on a smaller scale for the next four to six weeks."

Davis still has work to do over

the next three months. The first job was to let everyone connected with the program know that he's OK and will be on the sidelines next season. For a program that lost coach Daryl McNeill in the middle of spring practice, maintaining stability is important.

"I'm making sure the players finish the semester, let them know that nothing has changed and grading spring practice," Davis said. "One of the most pressing things we have to do is hire some new coaches."

One of Davis' duties will be to

recruit more depth for the offensive and defensive lines and receiver corps. He was encouraged by the Bulls' starters, but sees room for improvement.

"On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the best, I'd say a 6," Davis said. "We need some depth. We looked pretty good with our first 23 players, but after that we're kind of thin."

Although most high school and junior college players have made commitments for next year, Davis believes good athletes will be available. Some players with Division I potential may have to

look at the lower levels because their college entrance scores may force them to move down. He's also hoping to attract junior college players looking to get into a four-year school.

"You're going to have a lot of guys who don't make what they are required to score to get into Division I," Davis said.

"You always find guys late. You find guys who had big dreams of going Division I but that bubble bursts. It's a difference between a big college and no college. What we have to do is be smart and open our wallet."

## Aldridge a Power player

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Former UNC Charlotte guard Markita Aldridge is going to be an American Basketball League rookie again.

Aldridge was selected by the Portland Power in the fifth round of the league's draft Monday, the 38th player taken overall. She played with Portland and Colorado during the ABL's inaugural season last year, but was cut, making her eligible for the draft.

Aldridge is UNCC's all-time assists leader (442), fourth leading scorer (1,440) and eighth-best rebounder (601), making her the only athlete in school history to collect over 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 300 assists. A former Michigan Miss Basketball at Martin Luther King High in Detroit, Aldridge was a Parade All-America.

Aldridge, who averaged 14.4 points a game in four seasons as a 49er, joins Florida's DeLisha Milton, Auburn's LaTicia Morris, Louisiana State's Elaine Powell, Colorado's Erin Scholz and Stanford's Charmin Smith as Portland draftees.

## Cunningham gets 2nd chance

By Ron Lesko  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. - Randall Cunningham II fell at home in Las Vegas the other day. He got a cut over his eyebrow.

For one of the few times in the boy's life, daddy couldn't be there for him. He was off playing football again, trying to revive a career that once made him one of the most exciting quarterbacks in the NFL.

"It feels weird," the father said. "Really weird."

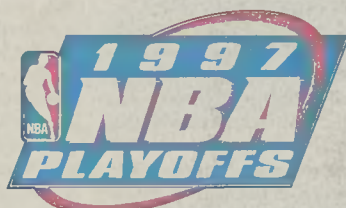
After sitting out last season, Randall Cunningham started his first minicamp with the Minnesota Vikings on Friday. He left his 15-month-old son - the boy whose birth cost him a week of practice before a playoff game against Dallas in January 1996 - and began settling into what he insists will be a comfortable role as Brad Johnson's backup.

There will be none of the bitterness that defined his last season and a half in Philadelphia, none of the turmoil. Cunningham promised that when the Vikings signed him last month, and he promised again last week.

"I matured as a person," Cunningham said. "The year off has helped me to calm myself down and get all the negative feelings out of my heart and just to start thinking positive. I feel really, really good."

Cunningham looked pretty

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## Last running of the Bulls

### Chicago goes for last hurrah

By Mike Nade  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - One final fling? The breakup of the Chicago Bulls is possible - maybe even imminent - and Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman and coach Phil Jackson are approaching each playoff series with the requisite sense of urgency.

"This is a team that was put together for the sole purpose of winning a championship this year," said Jackson, whose team swept Washington in the first round and opened a best-of-7 series against the Atlanta Hawks with a 100-97. "It might be the last time you see this team together."

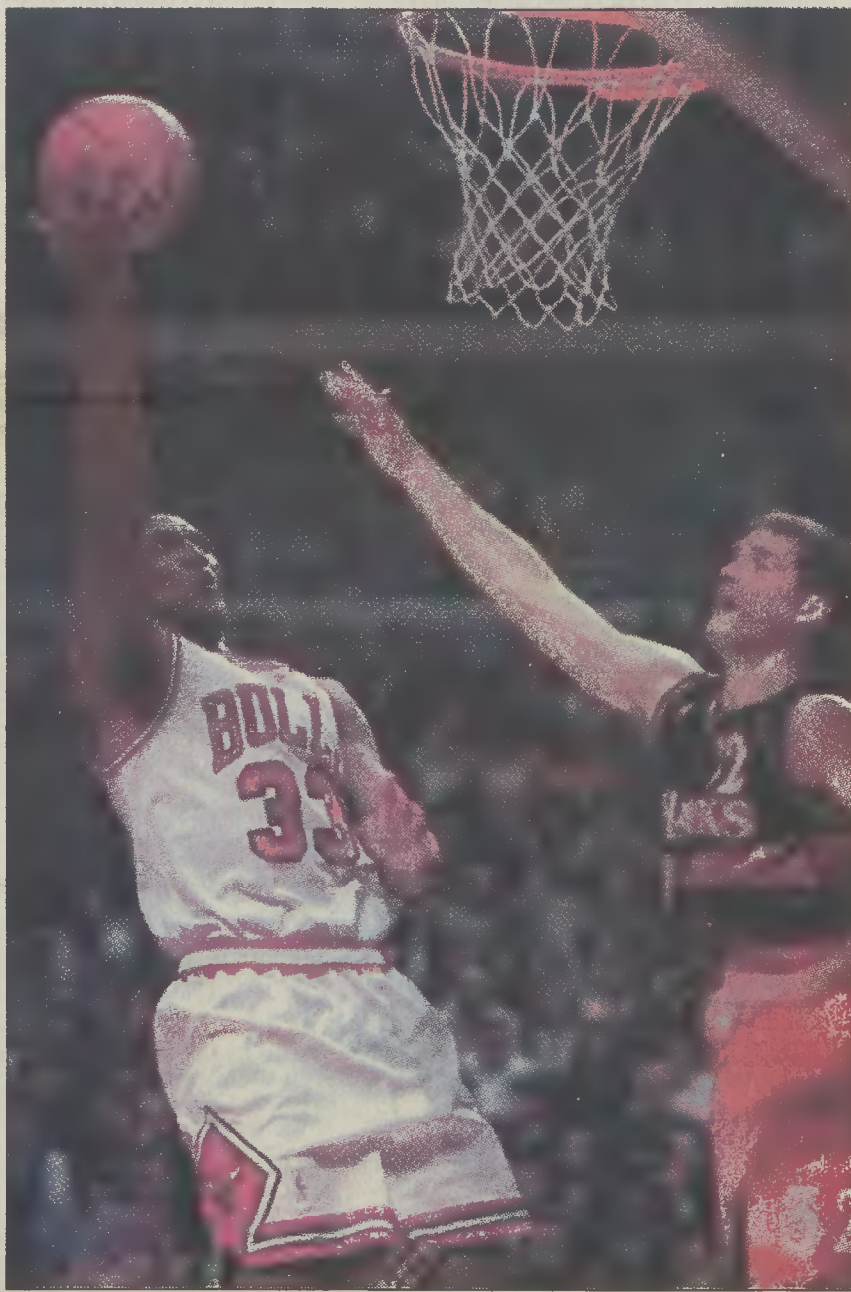
Jackson, who has guided the Bulls to four titles in the '90s, is nearing the end of an unusual contract that gives him the right to negotiate with other teams during the playoffs. Jordan, the 34-year-old megastar who is getting paid \$30.14 million, has said he will retire if Jackson goes.

Rodman, six times the NBA's top rebounder, also has a one-year deal. Pippen, one of the game's best all-around players, is signed through next year but has been unhappy with his relatively meager salary (\$2.25 million this season) and probably won't stick around after 1997-98.

"The whole Phil-Michael thing, the makeup of the team, that's something that we'll decide after the season is over," owner Jerry Reinsdorf said Sunday. "I only have one goal, and that is to win the most possible championships over whatever period of time that I own the team."

On Monday, Jackson said: "All I know is that the management and I have made a truce ... that we wouldn't talk about it. Since

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ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/FRED JEWELL

Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen goes up against Atlanta Hawks' Christian Laettner during the fourth quarter Tuesday in Chicago. Pippen scored 29 points as the Bulls beat the Hawks 100-97.

### Knicks battle rust and Heat

By Chris Sheridan  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - The New York Knicks, a.k.a. Team Boredom, waited all week to learn their next opponent. They found out Sunday it's Miami, and their wait wasn't over.

The Knicks-Heat series didn't begin until Wednesday night in Miami, meaning the Knicks went almost nine days without a game.

That factor, combined with back-to-back games at Madison Square Garden next Sunday and Monday, give the Heat a distinct advantage, coach Jeff Van Gundy said.

"Two days would have been plenty of time to prepare for anybody. Now they also have two full days to prepare," said Van Gundy, who started his preparation for the second round last Tuesday - the day after New York completed a three-game sweep of the Charlotte Hornets in the first round.

Victories by Orlando in Games 3 and 4 prolonged the wait for the Knicks, who flew to Charleston, S.C. for a three-day minicamp before returning home Saturday night.

The Knicks were expecting to play Games 1 and 2 on Tuesday and Thursday, with the possibility of having back-to-back games at home next Saturday and Sunday.

Instead, the schedule makers booked the start of the series a day later - yet kept the back-to-backs in place for next Sunday and Monday.

"Certainly for the road team, and the younger team, to play back-to-backs is an advantage for them. They come in, play two quick games, then go back home," he said.

New York and Miami had a

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## Livingstone takes on CIAA track elite

By Brian Powe  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Livingstone College doesn't have a big budget track program.

Or big-time athletes.

But the Bears have become one of the top teams in the CIAA by making the most of what's available.

Several Livingstone athletes qualified for the NCAA championships in Evansville, Ind., May 22-26 and the women's team finished second in the CIAA cham-

pionships in Norfolk, Va. The Bears' 400 meter relay of April Davis, Yolanda Morgan, Rasheeka Jones and Denise Brown team finished behind St. Augustine's with a time of 48.08 seconds.

Livingstone coach Clifton Huff, who has been at the helm for six years, says his athletes work hard, which allows the Bears to compete with bigger schools.

"St. Augustine has always been at the top of track and field, winning 11 national titles," he said. "So, if we come second to

them or Norfolk State, who's also just as competitive as St. Aug's, we should be proud. These are programs with 8,000 to 9,000 students with a lot more resources and equipment than we have, and we still performed quite well.

"To qualify is not new for us, but to have excelled with such a young group of guys. We are made up of 90 percent freshmen and sophomores."

Huff, a Livingstone graduate, came back to restore the notori-

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PHOTO/LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE

Livingstone's 400 meter relay team of April Davis, Yolanda Morgan, Rasheeka Jones and Denise Brown qualified for the NCAA championships May 22-26. The Bears finished second in the CIAA championships with a time of 48.08 seconds.