

# Livingstone moves into first

UNCC junior brings rare quality

Continued from 1B

undefeated, but that's very difficult because we have a tough league and we don't have a lot of depth. If we get the conference championship, the rest of it kind of falls into place."

Even with the loss, Virginia State (3-1, 1-1) coach Lou Anderson remains defiant. The

Trojans deserved the championship, and don't have to apologize.

"Everybody's hollering we didn't play them last year," he said. "We came in here to play. We won't back down from nobody no time and nobody's going to win this championship unless they go through us."

"I know it's not over. I know it's not," Anderson said. "It's one loss. Shoot, 7-1 will win the championship, I'll promise you that. I'll never rest until we fin-

ish 7-1 in the conference. I guarantee we won't lose any more."

Although Livingstone's remaining schedule looks favorable, with only N.C. Central the most serious threat, Abrams is cautious when assessing the Bears. "We just hope we can stay healthy," Abrams said. "For us, that's real important. We just can't afford injuries. We just don't have the numbers, we don't have the depth."

# Scott is J.C. Smith's workhorse

Continued from 3B

doesn't complain, you don't hear him moaning and groaning. He knows he has a young offensive line in front of him. He's a fine young man."

"It doesn't matter if it's 11 guys on the line, if we run a certain play an everybody does their job, it should develop," he said. "Every play is a big play. I think we can run anything. It doesn't matter if they put eight guys, 11 guys or whatever."

"I don't want to be in a position just to sit back where I'm the starting tailback and everything is easy street. I have to work harder than everybody else and try to work on the little things and try to make things happen."

At 5-7, 190 pounds, Scott isn't big, but Davis plans to put his 4.3-second speed in the 40-yard dash to more use. After alternating backs in two blowout losses to start the season, Scott has been

the Bulls' most consistent offensive threat as an every-down back.

"I think he knows he's got to carry the load for us," Davis said.

"He's going to shoulder the offensive responsibility, and he takes it all in stride. He's probably one of the finer backs, pound-for-pound, that I've ever had."

Despite being labeled too small and injury-prone, Scott says he can handle the responsibility. After that fateful game four years ago, he's learned how to battle the odds.

"I don't think size really matters, it's the size of the heart," he said. "You can be a big back and be soft. The thing is do you want

to do it. I put God first, and with God, you can do anything."

Scott has proven he can handle the pounding running backs face on every down, Davis said. In the Bulls' offense, he lines up at full-back, tailback and receiver, and has proved to be up to the task physically, regardless of the position.

"He's more durable than I thought he was," Davis said. "He's been our workhorse, really, because we don't have anyone else back there with him."

Scott has come a long way since he was a freshman. Although his leg was shattered, hard work and determination put his career back to where he wants it to be.

"I had a plate and seven pins in my leg," after the accident, Scott said. "The next year, I played a little bit, but I was watching out for the leg. I waited for my chance, and this year is my chance."



Davis

# Wolves, Garnett re-open talks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves have increased their contract offer from \$103.5 million to \$120 million over six years for forward Kevin Garnett, a report said today.

An unidentified team official said the offer may include the ability for Garnett to opt out of the contract before six years are up, the Saint Paul Pioneer Press said Tuesday.

A portion of the money also may be structured as part of a charitable contribution on behalf of Garnett, the newspaper said. Timberwolves vice president Kevin McHale said he was unaware of any offer being made Monday.

The team had until 12 p.m. EDT Wednesday to sign Garnett or he will become a free agent after the upcoming NBA season. The Wolves originally thought the deadline was tonight.

More talks between owner Glen Taylor and Garnett's agent, Eric Fleisher, were scheduled for today. They met privately Monday and declined to talk with reporters.

Garnett also declined to talk with a reporter in his hometown of Mauldin, S.C.

Wolves officials remain unsure when Garnett will return to the Twin Cities. Players aren't required to report to the team until today for physicals and media day.

"At some point, Glen will have

to meet with Garnett before a deal is done," a source told the Pioneer Press. "Everybody, including Eric, is in agreement with that."

Garnett, who will earn about \$1.8 million this season in the final year of his three-year rookie pact, already has turned down — or at least Fleisher has rejected — a six-year offer worth \$103.5 million. That deal's \$17.25 million average would have been the richest long-term contract in NBA history.

Fleisher reportedly has been seeking a contract that would average more than \$20 million a season.

The Wolves made the playoffs last spring for the first time in their eight-year history.

# Boxer dies chasing ring dream

By Tim Dahlberg  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — Johnny Montantes came to this boxing capital still carrying the slim hope he might finally become a contender. He ended up losing his life for a \$2,000 payday in the main event he so eagerly sought.

What was supposed to be the start of a renewed career for the 28-year-old journeyman boxer turned instead to tragedy when he died Sunday after being knocked out in the sixth round of a fight two days earlier with James Crayton.

"My heart goes out to his family," said Nevada Athletic Commission director Marc Ratner. "He was in my office the day before the fight and he was excited about it. He was in great spirits just talking about what he was going to do."

Montantes, who had fought most of his fights in Minnesota, moved to Las Vegas with his girlfriend and their two young jumpstart a boxing career that had seen him win 26 of 29 fights.

The fight against Crayton was to be the first step toward the ranking that Montantes so coveted. It was the main event of a club card at the Orleans hotel-casino off the Las Vegas Strip, and it was a fight where Montantes hoped to get some attention.

Montantes, who had fought most of his fights as a lightweight, moved up to junior welterweight to fight Crayton, who was known as a respectable fighter but one that didn't carry much of a punch. Certainly, Crayton's record of 23-8 was

comparable to those of fighters Montantes had faced before.

"I told Johnny Wednesday that if he didn't get by this kid or if he didn't win impressively, he should get out of the business," said Wes Wolfe, Montantes' manager. "He was totally confident. He said he had no doubt he was going to win."

Montantes, by all accounts, started well Friday night, winning the first round on one scorecard. But though Montantes hadn't taken a beating, Crayton was sharper and was winning the fight easily going into the sixth round.

Wolfe said he didn't notice anything unusual in his boxer's condition.

"When he came back to the corner in between the fifth and sixth rounds, his only concern was the other guy getting tired and his eye swelling up," Wolfe said.

In the sixth round, a right hand from Crayton landed solidly and Montantes went down, probably already unconscious. His head hit the ring canvas hard, and referee Ken Bayless did not even both to finish the account.

Ring Dr. Robert Voy was between the ropes and tending to the fighter almost immediately. A waiting ambulance crew had him to the hospital and in the emergency room at University Medical Center 19 minutes later. But there was nothing that could be done.

Doctors tried to relieve pressure in the brain in a Friday night surgery, but Montantes never came out of his coma. He was declared brain dead

Sunday afternoon, and his family agreed to donate his organs.

"It was just a fight you'd never dream anything like this would happen," Ratner said. "These are things that just can't be explained."

The death was the third in a little more than three years in Nevada, where casinos stage the biggest boxing events in the world. Before that, it had been 12 years since a boxer lost his life in the ring in the state.

Under Nevada regulations, boxers are covered for \$50,000 in medical expenses stemming from a fight, and have a \$50,000 accidental death benefit. The \$50,000 will likely go to Montantes' two sons, 4-year-old Marciano and 2-year-old Sonny. The money would be the biggest payday the boxer ever had.


Tammy Brunette, Montantes' girlfriend and the mother of his sons, said she was setting up a trust fund for the boys.

"I wanted to make sure my kids get through college, so they don't have to ever enter a boxing ring," Brunette said.

Brunette said Montantes had been perhaps the most popular fighter in Minnesota for years, and was the state lightweight champion there.

They came to Las Vegas about a year ago, but the fight was his first in the state. His previous fight was in Costa Rica in May when he was stopped after being knocked down three times.


"First of all, he was a beautiful father," she said. "When he came out here to Vegas, he was chasing his dreams. He felt this is where he had to be."




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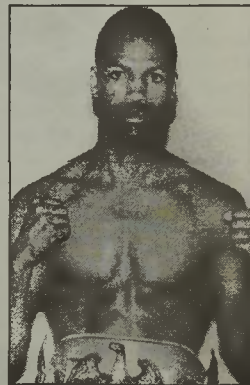
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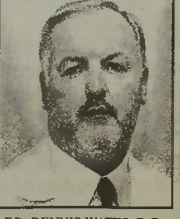
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