

# Hornets retooled for run at championship

More depth, skill throughout roster

Continued from 1B

because they bring a physical presence to the floor, they're both athletic and they're playing great defense so it's not many adjustments you need to make," he said.

"It's an easy welcoming because they're coming in and doing a good job. I knew they were great players but they're just really coming in being unselfish and putting it on the line for us."

The offense should also be better this year. Phills has averaged 10.5 points a game in six NBA seasons, all spent with defensive-minded Cleveland. Wesley averaged 16.8 points a game last season with the Boston Celtics and 10.5 points for his four-year career. The Hornets can show several different looks on offense, creating headaches all over the court.

"When you look at this team, this team is very deep, a lot of different versatility, people can play different positions at any given time," Phills said.

"It was evident (during pre-season), with me playing the small forward, Glen (Rice) playing some of the (shooting guard) spot, so a lot of different guys play a lot of different positions at any time."

Leading the offensive charge again is Rice, the NBA's third-leading scorer and All-Star game MVP last season. He averaged 26.8 points, 4.0 rebounds and 2.0 assists last year but vows to do even more to be a complete player.

"At times we're pretty outstanding on the offensive end," he said. "The ball was moved around really good and everyone seemed to be in sync with one

another and that's the point that we want to get to."

Divac, who is in the last year of his contract, starts at center despite a strong challenge in the preseason by Matt Geiger. Divac averaged 12.6 points, 3.7 assists and 9.0 rebounds a game. As good as last year was, he doesn't want to see Charlotte resting on its laurels.

"We have a lot of good players and good talent on this team, even better than last year," he said. "Last year was a very suc-

cessful season but we have to step up and be even better this year."

A quick start would serve the Hornets well but it won't be easy. Ten of Charlotte's first 14 games are against teams that made the playoffs last year.

"You have to make a statement in the early season," Divac said. "What you want to do is have the same kind of game plans for this season - run up and down the floor, rebound, play tough defense."

Charlotte finished 4-4 in the preseason, but Mason sees a lot of areas the Hornets can improve.

"We've still got to start dominating the boards," he said. "We've got enough size, we have enough athletes, we've got a great rebounding guard. We've got to keep the defense consistent for 48 minutes, then I can tell you later on if we're further ahead than we anticipated."

The Hornets hope they're ready

## Champs from Charlotte



PHOTO/MILTON GAINES

John White, Tom Beatty, Milton Gaines, Ray Rorie, Eugene Young and Jan White display the winner's trophy from their victory over a team of Bermudan golfers in their match earlier this month in Atlanta. See story on page 5B

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# Changes in JCSU lineup

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"We just weren't tackling," Davis said. "We had several third down and long (situations) and we had them stopped in the backfield (but) guys are just not tackling. That's something you just can't get out there and do. The only time our offense was getting the ball was on kickoffs."

Even then the Bulls didn't do much, gaining only 12 yards in the first half and 109 for the game. Tailback Lee Scott was held to 51 yards on 14 carries and quarterback Desmond Brown was 10-for-28 and 110 yards. In essence, Smith looked like a team playing out the string.

"They really just sat down on us... point-blank," Davis said. "We're not a very good football team at this point in time, and we're going to have to make some changes, go with some folk who want to play football."

Smith's defensive front, one of the smallest in the CIAA, is vulnerable to the run, with six runners going over the 100-yard barrier in eight games. The secondary hasn't been much better, especially sophomore cornerback Joey May, who was torched for a couple of touchdowns by Winston-Salem.

"There's going to be some changes made personnel-wise," he said. "We're going to go with some young folk in our last two games and see what we've got and find some folk to bring in the program that we need."

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