



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON  
**Tamika Mackey is one of UNC Charlotte's most versatile players. The junior guard-forward can handle the ball, shoot and doesn't mind playing defense.**

## Mackey is versatile force for UNCC

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points per game. She's versatile, playing the wing or working into the post up to score. She's also a tenacious defender. "Sometimes she's so athletic and she sees so many things that she'll be kind of going everywhere," senior forward Drewana Bey said. "I think she's a real plus to our team. "On the perimeter she's strong. She's kind of tall, (so) she can post up as well as step out. During the summer we were both here working out and I saw her working on her shot a lot, so her jumper has really improved." During Mackey's senior year at West Meck, coach Becky McDonald moved her to the post and her offensive numbers took off: 21 points and 12 rebounds a game. But Mackey feels more comfortable on the wing, where she played before moving to Charlotte and during a successful AAU career. "I've adjusted very well," she said. "I'm the type of person who

can pretty much survive anywhere." Mackey, who majors in journalism and communications, hopes to play professionally in the U.S. or Europe one day. In the meantime, she's enjoying UNCC on and off the court. "The college experience so far has been very interesting," she said. "I've met a lot of new people, seen a lot of new faces." The 49ers' season will depend on how well they handle close games. With a deeper bench and more experience, UNCC expects to rebound from last year's disappointment. "Of course, we haven't had the season that we would have liked my freshman and sophomore year," she said. "But I think this is the year for us to come together and show people what we can do." "We're a year older, we're more mature, we have more depth than we've had in the past, so we're going to work for it," Baldwin said.

## Playoffs include four Mecklenburg teams

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coach." Providence (9-2) emerged as one of the Southwestern 4A Conference's top teams, going 6-1 and finishing second to West Charlotte. Panthers head coach Jim Secord's bunch will go on the road to face 10-0 Scotland County. Providence's offensive punch comes from fullback Alex Nash with over 800 yards rushing, and tailback Jeff Means' 748 yards. Defensively, Nash racked up 75 tackles at linebacker, but free safety Dave Jacobs leads the team with 80 tackles and five interceptions. Cornerback Greg Kirkland anchors the secondary with nine picks. "They really play well together, there is no one star on this team," Secord said. "Making the playoffs is what you work for, and this team deserves it. We played Scotland County four years ago, and they are a good team. They run the ball well, and they pass a good bit. We are just going to have to out and play them." West Mecklenburg's 7-3 record was good enough to earn the Panthers a trip to Richmond County to face the 10-0 Raiders. If West Mecklenburg has an advantage against the state's top-ranked team, it's on the offensive line. With Jerobi Gray (6-3, 365) and John Suttle (6-4, 315) bolstering a unit which includes, Carl Good, David White, and Clint Hughes, West Mecklenburg may have enough power up front to lean on Richmond County's defense. "Our strength is a great line," West coach John Gammon said. "They have been the heart and soul of this team, and when it's gut check time, we go behind our big boys."

Whatever the test, Jester summed up the emotional as well as physical task that these teams face this weekend. "There are a lot of variables that wear on the kids," he said. "Just to get to the playoffs is a test of character for these kids. Right now there are 32 teams preparing to win a state championship and it's tough." It all starts Friday. 

## Bulls

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defensive backs led the Bulls in tackles. Jeffrey Brooks had 96, third in the CIAA. Adrian Calhoun had 78 and Angel Rivera had 76 stops while splitting time at linebacker. The bad news is they had to make all those tackles. The good news is they're underclassmen. "Most of them are coming back," Davis said. "We're going to be pretty good down the road. We just gotta put it together and go from there." 

### What to do?

Expectations were high that the Bulls could put together a second straight winning season, but reality set in early. Graduation, a change in coaches and academics turned Smith's strengths into weaknesses. "We were not a very strong football team in the beginning and we had makeshift people here and there," Davis said. "We've got time now to sit down with our program. We have a full year with this program and we can do some recruiting."

# Bogues left an indelible mark as the Hornets' little big man

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that, I'm sure the organization respects that. "There's nothing I can really do or say, just go out there and do what I'm paid to do and that's to play basketball and do it to the best of my ability." The trade's timing was fortunate for Armstrong. After Saturday's 89-82 victory over the Indiana Pacers, the Hornets have been off preparing for tomorrow night's tilt with the defending champion Bulls in Chicago. The last five days have allowed Armstrong to practice with his new teammates, who have won five straight games. "This week of practice will be a big week for me as far as developing and learning how to play here," he said. "Hopefully by Friday, (I can) get myself in the mix and go out and contribute," he said. How much Armstrong con-

tributes and exactly what his role will be isn't clear yet but he should help. Armstrong is a good ball-handler and a dynamic outside shooter. His career .430 three-point percentage is third-best in NBA history. He's also won three NBA championships with the Bulls and brings a determined attitude to the Hornets. "It's definitely going to give us a chance to be a whole lot better," Rice said. "With B.J., we have a guard that's coming here with experience, a guy that knows how to win and is the type of guard that really gets everyone involved. It's a big plus for us." "He's going to add to what we already have," Wesley said. "I think we already have a strong team." "He's welcome here, he's going to help us," Divac said. "B.J. is a pretty good player." Armstrong also brings a tremendous will to win. He

wanted out of Golden State because the Warriors were clearly not close to winning. That's not the case in Charlotte. "I'm excited to be here and be in a situation that gives yourself a chance to win," he said. "Not only win but contend and compete night in and night out. "That's what I'm most excited about and feel very positive about the situation and I hope we can go on, progress and develop where we can with this ball club." Armstrong downplays the significance of his championship experience, saying that was with a different team. Now he wants to help Charlotte reach the next level. "They're looking to take the next step," he said. "It's a process and hopefully we can get closer to the ultimate goal, which is to win a championship."



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON  
**At 5-3, Muggsy Bogues has flourished in a league of giants The Charlotte Hornets traded him to Golden State last week.**

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