

Bulls move to 19th in poll

Continued from page 1B

along well, and the chemistry is carrying us a long way."

The trip isn't over yet. After the Marriott, there's the CIAA's Western Division, where N.C.

Central has dominated for the last five seasons. The Bulls realize they'll be the hunted now, but that's better than being an also-ran.

"It's something we wanted to get

back to," Joyner said. "To some degree, we deserve to be where we are. The question is whether we do the things that allow us to stay there as the season progresses."

Who's No. 1? Jaguars make case

Continued from page 1B

Tuesday. The championship race could be as close as last season's, when Howard nosed out Jackson State for the top spot. Ironically, the Bison overtook the Tigers by beating Southern in the Heritage Bowl.

Southern did its share of winning, but it might not be enough to overtake Hampton. The Pirates rolled to the MEAC title in its first year of eligibility, beating FAMU and S.C. State in the process. Southern, on the other hand, lost to the Rattlers 33-3, which could damage their chances of taking the top spot. But the Jaguars were more dominant throughout the season and managed to win its final game, something that FAMU and Hampton didn't.

"We knew we had to play a full 60 minutes against S.C. State," Richardson said. "They have a

great football team. We had to try to control the line of scrimmage. They have a huge offensive line, and if they get the lead they will start pounding you, so I thought the game had to be won in the pits on both sides."

S.C. State held a 28-20 lead in the fourth quarter, only to have the Jaguars snatch the momentum with big plays on special teams and defense. Southern's Terrance Blackwell returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown and the Jaguars converted a Bulldogs turnover into a 3-yard Jermaine West run for the winning score.

"There were two good football teams out there today," S.C. State coach Willie Jeffries said. "We didn't make the big plays. Southern made the big plays."

The Heritage Bowl, maligned in past years for meager crowds

and poor scheduling, had a turnaround in fortunes as well. The game drew more than 32,629 fans to the Georgia Dome, more than 14,000 better than last year.

With McDonald's as the title sponsor for two

more years and a switch to Saturday kickoffs, organizers hope the game can grow into a big-time event.

"We are very excited about the future of the McDonald's Heritage Bowl," executive director Craig Cason said. "We think this game will transcend not only black college football, but bowl games in general."



Jeffries

Enis leaving Penn State for the NFL

By Alish D. Wright
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, Pa. — All-America running back Curtis Enis is leaving Penn State to enter the NFL draft.

Enis, a junior, was suspended by coach Joe Paterno for the team's New Year's Day appearance in the Citrus Bowl after accepting a suit from a sports agent to wear at an awards show. In issuing an apology for his actions Monday, he also revealed his decision to turn pro.

"I would like to begin by apologizing to my family, teammates, coaches and fans for recent events," he said. "I made a mistake and I accept full responsibility for my actions."

"However, I did not want to hurt Penn State University in any way or the people that have

been so influential in helping me achieve my goal of playing major college football.

"I am going to forego by senior season at Penn State and enter the 1998 NFL draft."

Enis, who rushed for 1,363 yards and 19 touchdowns, violated NCAA rules when he took the suit from agent Jeff Nalley. Enis also lied to Paterno about it.

"Before the recent incidents

took place," Enis said, "Coach Paterno, who has always looked out for my best interests, advised me to turn pro."

"I have spoken at length throughout the year with my family, the Penn State staff and various NFL personnel who advised me that I was ready for the next level and should strongly consider making the jump to the NFL."

Old rivals meet in AFC playoffs

Continued from 1B

Elvis Grbac has practically none.

"The one thing is I'm not playing against Elway — I'm playing against their defense," said Grbac, who started in the regular season finale against New Orleans after missing six weeks with a broken collarbone.

"I'm going to focus on what I have to do. You could say John Elway's been in this league for so many years, but if you don't have a team around you that supports you, you're not going to do well. It always comes down to that."

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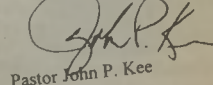
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