



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Johnson C. Smith forward John Fulton (21) recorded back-to-back double-doubles in the Tip-Off Classic last week.

## Golden Bulls learn sharing is winning ticket

By Herbert L. White  
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Maybe the lessons are starting to sink in for Johnson C. Smith.

The Golden Bulls broke into the win column for the first time this season with an 85-72 victory over Wingate Saturday in the Tip-Off Classic at JCSU. For a team that's showed its inexperience in losing its first three games, the Bulls finally showed some offensive consistency.



Joyner

"It's nothing but patience, and that's what we've been trying to tell them," coach Steve Joyner said. "They don't have to score quickly or anything like that with a sense of urgency. We think move the basketball and it'll come back to you if you're open, and that was key."

Everyone seemed to benefit from that patience. Five Bulls scored double-figures against Wingate, with point guard Jerome Givens scoring 20 for the second straight game. Forward John Fulton notched a second straight double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds, but more important, committed just two turnovers.

"What's impressive is his turnovers are down," Joyner said. "Against Augusta State and (Voorhees Friday) he had six, but tonight he had two, so it's working out for him as well."

Smith still doesn't have much shooting accuracy, with only one game at 40 percent, but the Bulls' 40.8 was good enough to win Saturday. Joyner is looking for more improvement Tuesday when they go to Belmont Abbey, followed by a trip to Wingate Dec. 2 for a rematch with the Bulldogs

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## N.C. A&T focuses on Wofford, playoffs



PHOTO/WADE NASH

N.C. A&T receiver Brad Hinton heads downfield in the Aggies' 49-9 loss to S.C. State last week at Memorial Stadium. A&T plays at Wofford Saturday in Spartanburg, S.C.

## Road to title starts in Spartanburg

By Herbert L. White  
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N.C. A&T's disastrous regular season finale is but a memory.

The postseason is worth looking forward to. A&T, which lost to S.C. State 49-9 at Memorial Stadium last week, plays Wofford in the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs Saturday in Spartanburg, S.C. Gametime is 1:30 p.m. at Gibbs Stadium. Tickets: are \$20 for adults, \$10 children under 18.

A&T (10-2) earned an automatic berth by winning the MEAC. Wofford (10-1), seeded third in the playoffs, won the Southern Conference

Wofford was the first team to go unbeaten in the Southern Conference since 1998. The Aggies' loss at S.C. State cost them the first unbeaten MEAC record since they won the league title in '99.

A&T, which sat out several starters due to injuries, played distracted against S.C. State, which has beaten the Aggies three straight. Those players, led by running back Michaux Hollingsworth, should play against Wofford.

"I hope so," Small said. "I think they will." Three Aggies turnovers - two of which were returned for scores - didn't help A&T. And the Bulldogs also converted a blocked field goal into

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C. JEMAL HORTON



## Level field for sports prodigies' access

The headline definitely made a lot of people cringe last week:

"14-year-old Freddy Adu joins professional soccer team."

A great many people began screaming about how ridiculous it was for Adu - a boy, for crying out loud! - to be wandering around a locker room full of grown, worldly, naked men. Others began wringing their hands about how Adu and those around him were putting professional sports before his education.

Of course, all these reactions are totally understandable and appropriate - as long as we apply the same rules to every occupation.

But that's the thing: We don't apply the same rules to every occupation. The sports world gets held to a higher standard.

For some reason, since the dawn of entertainment, long before sneaker contracts and mix-tape tours, sports have been under an entirely different set of rules when it comes to young people.

It was all right when we had young Mickey Rooney and Little Stevie Wonder - and other kids - staying up late so they marvel us with their talents back in the day. But when Moses Malone wanted to declare hardship in 1974 and enter the American Basketball Association right out of high school? Well, all of a sudden we had a serious problem. Suddenly, the madness had to stop.

I still don't understand the difference.

We gripe about education. We say that's the real tragedy in all these teenagers turning pro. But where was the No Pro Faction when Gary Coleman and Britney Spears didn't go on and get their college degrees?

It's the same concept, right? Freddy Adu is sacrificing part of his youth by

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### PATRIOTS CLASH WITH RAIDERS



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Independence High running back Dominique Lindsay will try to help the Patriots extend their N.C. record winning streak to 62 games Friday against Richmond County. Independence rallied from a 16-7 deficit to beat Mecklenburg County rival Providence 27-16 last week in the second round.

## All eyes on Charlotte's prized freshman

By James Hamlin  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

It's hard to miss Martin Iti. The Charlotte 49ers center stands 7 feet tall, weighs 240 pounds, and speaks articulately with a distinct accent. So it's safe to say that he sticks out on campus. The problem is that head coach Bobby Lutz would like less attention on his prize recruit because he knows Iti is still a work in progress. "You have to be patience. I'm glad everybody's excited about him and they should be," says Lutz. "But there are going to be some days that he struggles and there also going to be some days that are going to be very good... But (fans) have to be patient."

Despite Lutz's wishes, there will be plenty of expectations of Iti and they are warranted. Iti is the school highest recruit ranked third in his high school class by most publications. He gives Charlotte a dimension that they haven't had, an athletic shot-blocker to fuel their high-octane offense. There were even whispers that Iti would skip college altogether and go pro. The seven-foot freshman knows

that many eyes will be on him but it something he tries not to think about, "In a way there is a lot of pressure on me but I just go out there forget about everything else and play. That's all I can do."

Iti still is getting used to the speed of the college game. In the 49ers season opening 80-76 loss to George Washington, Iti saw limited action because of foul trouble. He played five minutes and accumulated four fouls with zeros across the stat sheet. Not the best debut for the freshman.

"I was disappointed but all I can do is go out there and hustle and play my game," he said. "The refs were calling the fouls both ways, so I can't argue with that."

Iti not only has to earn the respect of referees but playing time as well. He plays behind senior center Calvin Clemmons who doesn't look like he'll be handing over the starting role anytime soon if he keeps putting up 17 point, 12 rebounds efforts like he did in the opener. But Iti does have a strong work ethic, which has caught Clemmons' eye.

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Charlotte 49er freshman Martin Iti (2) is the most-hyped recruit in school history, but he's learning the ropes of playing college basketball.