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SPORTS

Black College Sports/4C



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Freshman guard Jerome Givens leads Johnson C. Smith in scoring, averaging more than 18 points per game

JCSU looks for consistency on both ends

By Herbert L. White

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It's not struggling that bothers Johnson C. Smith basketball coach Steve Joyner.

It's the lack of execution.

The Golden Bulls, who are 2-4 after Tuesday's 95-83 win over Wingate, aren't expected to be a juggernaut this season because of inexperience and lack of size. But Joyner expected more consistency, which hasn't been there but for a sweep of Wingate.

"I thought our effort and our attitude regressed" after last week's 85-82 loss to Belmont Abbey. "We didn't play any defense, we didn't transition very well on release men. When you get open shots like that and don't have to go behind screens to get open, it's an easy night."

Smith has been competitive, which bodes well for the future. The Bulls average 80.2 points per game and have uncovered a prime scorer in freshman point guard Jerome Givens, who averages 18.6 points per game. Sophomore forward John Fulton averages a double-double at 14.2 points and 10.2 rebounds per outing and is learning to limit mistakes. What the Bulls haven't done is consistently close games out. Two losses were by three points or less and Smith doesn't shoot very well, connecting on just 40.4 percent of its shots. Opponents don't have as much difficulty shooting, hitting 44.6 percent of their field goal attempts.

"We don't have a consistent attitude and a consistent effort," Joyner said. "Somewhere down the line, we're going to have to motivate our kids to have that type of attitude but a lot of it has to come from our leadership, and that's been my concern."



SPECIAL TO THE POST

The Freedom Drive Broncos will play for the Pop Warner National Super Bowl next week.

Charlotte Pee Wee champs playing for national title

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Freedom Drive Broncos are playing for the biggest prize in Pee Wee football next week.

The Broncos (13-0) will travel to Orlando, Fla. Monday for the Pop Warner National Super Bowl after winning the Mid-South regional title in Winston-Salem with a 13-7 overtime win over the Durham Fighting Eagles.

The Broncos started their run to Disney World with a 6-0 win over PAL Tuckaseegee Buccaneers in the Charlotte championship game, followed by victories over the Country Day Broncos (30-0) in Winston-Salem, Coastal Cowboys (7-0) in Wilmington and Dale City Cowboys (33-7) in Raleigh.

"The victories are blessings from God, all of the kids are talented kids," Broncos coach Sammy Shannon said. "Not one, but all of the kids get the job done."

Twenty-nine players, seven coaches and eight cheerleaders will make the trip to Florida at an expense of \$19,000. The Freedom Drive Athletic Association is seeking donations to defray costs through tax-deductible donations. Contributions can be sent to: Freedom Drive Athletic Association c/o Reeves Barber Shop, 2321-G West Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28208.

Patriots try for fantastic fourth



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Independence High receiver Bradley Davis (80) and Richmond Senior defensive back Jamar Bryant (10) battle for a pass in Independence's 20-18 win last week in the N.C. 4AA Western final. The Patriots, riding a state-record 61-game win streak, take on New Bern Saturday at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem. Kickoff is 4:30 p.m.



PHOTOS/WADE NASH

Panthers defensive tackle Brenston Buckner (99) pressures Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb during the Eagles' 25-13 win at Ericsson Stadium last week. Carolina, which has lost two games in a row for the first time this season, play at Atlanta Sunday.

Panthers wary of slipping late

By C. Jemal Horton

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Carolina Panthers coach John Fox shrugs off the notion his team is panicking as it heads into the final stages of the regular season.

But after the team followed up its perfect 5-0 start with a 3-4 record over the last seven games, this much is certain: Things are a little tense in the biggest building on South Mint

Street.

As the Panthers (8-4) prepare for Sunday's game against Atlanta, they are searching for answers about how to solve their recent red-zone struggles and untimely defensive breakdowns. And after back-to-back losses to likely playoff teams Dallas and Philadelphia, those shortcomings are more pronounced.

During his weekly press conference, Fox seemed to get a little defensive when asked if his

team was where he expected it to be at this point of the season.

"I'd say, at this point a year ago, we were 4-8 and, at this point this year, we're 8-4. And I prefer this year over last year," said Fox.

While the players are not conceding panic, either, they at least are very concerned about what has transpired over the past few weeks.

"We're upset about it," quarter-

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HORTON

Ailing Zo is still a man apart

This was the summer of 1992.

This was long before Alonzo Mourning desperately needed a kidney transplant.

That year, Mourning pulled into Mecklenburg County and slid on that number 33 jersey he would make popular for the Charlotte Hornets.

Right away, you could tell he was different.

No, I'm not talking about the way he swatted away shots when opponents ventured into the paint.

What was truly different was Mourning's attitude about community and philanthropy — he considered both to be his obligation.

He had basketball courts built in some of Charlotte's most needy neighborhoods. He wasn't just a superstar passing through town; he was visible. He was approachable.

Before he ever started buying houses and luxury SUVs, Mourning had exemplified everything a good person — not just a rich person — was supposed to be.

That's why it's unfair now that some cynics are accusing Mourning of cashing in on his celebrity because many people want to give him a kidney.

Mourning recently was forced to retire from the NBA's New Jersey Nets because a kidney ailment he's had for three years, focal glomerulosclerosis, has worsened. Mourning's doctor said Mourning needs a kidney transplant in the next several months or he faces dialysis.

The day after his retirement, there were calls from people who said they wanted to donate a kidney to Mourning.

However, there has been a vocal minority saying it is wrong for Mourning to "take advantage" of his celebrity and receive so many wannabe donors, while others in need of transplants wait years for the opportunity, sometimes to the point of death.

Should we feel badly for those people who need transplants but aren't getting them? Yes. Should we try to do something to change that? Absolutely. There needs to be more awareness and definitely more action.

Nonetheless, it's pretty mean-spirited to begrudge a man for being in a position to receive offers from potential donors before he makes the national waiting list. Especially when that man is Alonzo Mourning — a celebrity, yes, but one who has dedicated his professional career to helping those who aren't in a position to help themselves.

Already there is has been indisputable good that has come from Mourning's unfortunate predicament:

Mourning is forcing people to talk openly about becoming organ donors. More important, he is forcing African-Americans to talk about becoming donors.

According to the Kidney and Urology Foundation, there are 23,000 African-Americans on the organ donor waiting list. Last year,

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