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SPORTS

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

DeShaun Foster leaps for the end zone ahead of Detroit linebacker Earl Holmes and safety Brian Walker (45) in Carolina's 20-14 win over the Lions at Ericsson Stadium. The win was the Panthers' 10th of the season with the finale Sunday at the New York Giants. The loss set a new NFL record of futility for the Lions, who've dropped 24 straight on the road.

Reserves may get a chance to be a factor in finale against lowly Giants

By Herbert L. White
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The Carolina Panthers will play for health in the regular season finale Sunday.

The Panthers, who deactivated five starters in a 20-14 win over Detroit last week, may do the same against the New York Giants. While no significant injuries were reported after the Detroit game, the Panthers will likely take a cautious approach in preparation for the play-

offs next week. "We'll be healthy," said defensive tackle Brenston Buckner, who sat out the Detroit game. "The coaches are doing a good job of being smart with everything and sometimes you have to



Buckner

do that. Come Jan. 3 or 4, you'll see us out there." Even with some starters missing, the Panthers dominated Detroit everywhere but on the scoreboard. The Lions, who set an NFL record with their 24th straight road loss, were no match for Carolina's revamped lineup save a punt return and fumble recovery for fourth-quarter scores. "That shows what kind of team we have, strong safety

Mike Minter said. "We've got a team that has backups that can step in and play. When you have that, you have a great football team." One of those new backups is receiver Kevin Dyson, who caught a couple



Dyson

of passes and returned punts in his first game as a Panther. Dyson, who tore an achilles during a minicamp drill, has been looking forward to getting back into action. "I just appreciate the opportunity to still be here playing. I've had three major surgeries, two of them have been career-threatening. To be on a team, to be on a roster and actually line up and go out and play, I'm just very

blessed." Dyson's value to the Panthers during a playoff run may be his versatility as a speed receiver and kick returner. Best known as the recipient of a lateral that resulted in the "Music City Miracle" that helped Tennessee advance to Super Bowl XXXIV, Dyson's not pushing for an increased role. "I would hope so, but it's See SUBS/2C

Reserves pouring in to help JCSU build on 5-game winning streak



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Forward Chris Clyburn is one of the Golden Bulls who have shown improvement during a five-game win streak.

By Herbert L. White
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Johnson C. Smith will get reinforcements to build on a five-game winning streak. The Golden Bulls, who

have improved to 6-4, are adding some depth in time for CIAA play next month. Smith's next action is Dec. 28-29 at the Clayton (Ga.) College & State University Tournament. The additions

will also help ease some injury concerns Smith faced at the start of the season. "We picked up Rico Mungo and Winter McCotter and we hope to pick up one or two more players to make us better," Bulls coach Steve Joyner said. "We're getting better, we're healing up and we certainly need Ben Chasten back, he's another one of our junior leaders." Chasten has missed three games with a broken toe and is expected out until January. Although inexperienced, the Bulls' streak has been fueled in part by better execution on both ends of the court. Smith, which struggled to convert 40 percent of its shots in falling to 1-4, has been consistently close to 50 percent during the win streak. Freshman point guard Jerome Givens has been an effective scorer, but sophomore forward John Fulton has been the most consistent, leading the Bulls in rebounds while second in scoring. "We're getting better in some regards, but we're still a young basketball team," Joyner said. "The thing that Please see JCSU/2C

Serena withdraws from tennis' opening event

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERTH, Australia - Serena Williams has delayed her scheduled return to competitive tennis to concentrate on preparations for the Australian Open. Williams, the No. 3 player in the world, has not played a tournament since winning Wimbledon in July. She had knee surgery on Aug. 1 and early last month said she had recovered well. Hopman Cup director Paul McNamee said Williams withdrew from the mixed teams exhibition tournament to focus on her preparation. See SERNA/2C



FILE PHOTO

Serena Williams has delayed her return to competitive tennis.

Black athletes threatened over relationships with white women

By Jack Chevalier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA - The FBI is searching western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio for an apparent racist who has sent more than 30 hate-mail letters to prominent African-Americans threatening to kill or maim them because of their relationship with White women. Philadelphia Eagles receiver Freddie Mitchell is one of six NFL players to admit receiving such a letter. He said, "It doesn't make any sense, but, you know, there's racism everywhere." Special agent Charles Hawk, assigned to

the FBI office in Cleveland, said the "racially hateful letters" threaten to kill, castrate or set on fire Black men who establish relationships with White women. Hawk said the mail had been sent over a period of several months to business leaders, civic officials and pro athletes. Mitchell, who is single, does not have a romantic relationship with a White woman. He made an appearance with a White model on "A Dating Story" on The Learning Channel in 2002, but that date was arranged by the show's producer and did not lead to anything serious. Please see BLACK/2C