

Who'll be CIAA upstart?

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popular figure among fickle Central alumni - to get the heave-ho.

Also-rans that can:
Fayetteville State. The Broncos (15-10) have a versatile 'tweener in forward Kenny Haywood and a good shooter in Donnell Williams,

but FSU will need to play with ill humor to go anywhere.

Winston-Salem. Strong start more than negated by second-semester disinterest. They haven't shown up for a game since Saddam Hussein was nabbed in Iraq, but have the talent to make at least

one splash.

Elizabeth City. Charlotte's Jonathan Harris (East Mecklenburg) is the Vikings' best player. ECSU (11-15) gets more out of limited talent than anyone else, but somebody (probably two) will have to step up big to make it to Thursday.

Rattlers finally do right thing

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needs. Gainous said accreditation visits and program reviews continue to turn up the need for more money, faculty, equipment and facilities, the Democrat reported.

So why be the first HBCU to go I-A if you're setting yourself up financially to be the worst?

As for the uncertainty ...

The MEAC should take FAMU back with open arms. After all, with all due respect to the other schools, FAMU is the marquee football name in the conference.

Schedule-wise, it doesn't matter if the Rattlers have to play a bunch of Division II

schools or junior colleges this year.

And if the new recruits want out, FAMU should let them out. After all, isn't that what FAMU did with Division I-A recently?

Either way, this public relations/football mess will be temporary. Real financial messes, as HBCUs such as Morris Brown can attest, can have lingering effects.

Black colleges have no place in Division I-A.

For one, football programs at most I-A schools typically finance the entire athletic department and, in many cases, some of the school's academic endeavors. In

addition, alumni at white colleges usually donate hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, if not millions, to their athletic departments. Other assistance comes from former athletes who go to the pros and then build practice facilities or other structures on campus. Like the TV show, it's a different world.

At black colleges, athletics usually don't even come close dictating the schools' mission. Thank goodness FAMU has seen fit to keep things that way.

Even if it's only for three more years.

E-mail C. Jemal Horton at seejemalwrite@aol.com.

Top prep athletes to be honored

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Ronald Curry of the Oakland Raiders.

Finalists are chosen based on their unweighted grade point average, their personal statements, extra curricular activities, community service, and letters of recommen-

ation. Each winner will receive an award, ring, and dinner in their hometown.

For more information about the Watkins Award, The Alliance, or tickets for the awards ceremony, call (704) 494-3980 or log on to www.naaaa.com.

Cobras look to open 3-0 against Arizona in Arena home opener

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Last season is but a distant memory for the Carolina Cobras.

Carolina, which went 0-16 in 2003, will try to go 3-0 Saturday in its AFL home opener against the Arizona Rattlers at Charlotte Coliseum. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

A win would give the Cobras a 3-0 start for the first time in franchise history and their longest victory streak since 2002. Carolina has never beaten Arizona in four meetings and lost 62-22 last season.

The Cobras are winning with a rejuvenated offense that is finding the end zone. In two games, Carolina has outscored opponents 121-94, including a 54-53 win at Columbus when Matt Nagy connected with Damien Groce on a 6-yard touchdown pass with no time on the game's final play.

Carolina leads the league in scoring offense at 60.5 points per game and is second in total offense (310 yards) and pass offense (289). Nagy leads the AFL in passing yards (598) and completions (54) while receiver Todd Doxzon is second in receptions with 20.

The Cobras have avoided costly mistakes and are taking advantage of opponents' miscues. Carolina is the only AFL team to have no turnovers and have forced a league-best seven, including four fumbles recovered.

On defense, Carolina is led by specialists Damon Mason and Glenn Davis. Mason leads the Cobras with 14.5 tackles and an interception. Davis has eight stops and an

interception. Lineman DeAngelo Lloyd, a former Independence High all-America, plays on both sides

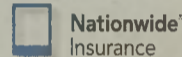
of the ball - the norm in the Arena League for everyone but quarterbacks and specialists - and has 1.5 tackles.

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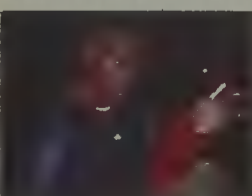
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Correction



A photo caption in last week's Post misidentified Johnson C. Smith tennis player Justin Stuckey.