

Golden Bulls recruit for offensive help, especially on thinned line

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Smith has extensive travel plans, with seven road games to open the season.

The Bulls open the season Aug. 28 against CIAA West Division rival N.C. Central and won't play in Charlotte until Oct. 16 against Fayetteville State at Belk Complex. Non-conference games include road trips to Division I-AA powers Georgia Southern (Sept. 11) and Wofford (Sept. 25) sand-

wiched by Morehouse Sept. 18 in Atlanta.

Three home games will close the campaign: defending CIAA champion Fayetteville State (Oct. 16), West rival Winston-Salem State (Oct. 23) with 2003 East Division champ Bowie State the homecoming opponent Oct. 30 at Memorial Stadium.

Johnson C. Smith 2004 recruiting class by position, high school and hometown.

Offensive line: Robert Peterson, Gwynn Park High, Clinton, Md.; Roscoe Williams, Glenn Hills High, Augusta, Ga.; Frederick Rice, Mount Tabor High, Winston-Salem; Benjamin Alford, Redan High, Lithonia, Ga.; William Burgess, Darlington High, Darlington, S.C.; Ralph Manns, Frederick Douglas High, Atlanta; Thomas Ryans, W.J. Keenan High, Columbia, S.C.

Receivers: Anthony Daigle, Ozen High, Beaumont, Texas; Travis Johnson, Bowman High, Bowman, S.C.; Brandon Benjamin,

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High, Orangeburg, S.C.

Defensive line: Johnny Sharpe, East Chapel Hill High, Chapel Hill.

2004 football schedule
Aug. 28 at N.C. Central
Sept. 4 at Shaw
Sept. 11 at Georgia Southern
Sept. 18 at Morehouse
Sept. 25 at Wofford
Oct. 2 at Livingstone
Oct. 9 at St. Augustine's
Oct. 16 Fayetteville State
Oct. 23 Winston-Salem State
Oct. 30 Bowie State

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NCAA tournament OK with no-names

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evaporate once he sacrifices his playing eligibility. Some folks forget that.

We have to get past this thing in our society, especially when sports are concerned, where we always have to pinpoint a villain. When it comes to the teenagers and the NBA, there really are no villains.

College basketball continues to come out on the winning end of things, because protagonists always will be discovered during the NCAA tournament. And as long as that's happening, television ratings will continue to sky-

rocket, and the NCAA will continue to make money hand over fist.

The NBA also prospers with young kids going pro because, whether the league executives admit it or not, every team in the league continues to look for the next Kevin Garnett or LeBron James. With the exception of a handful of players - Shaquille O'Neal, Tim Duncan and Allen Iverson - the NBA's brightest stars are young men who made the jump directly from high school to the pros.

Go down the line: Garnett, James, Tracy McGrady,

Kobe Bryant, Jermaine O'Neal, Dirk Nowitzki. Each turned pro as a teen. Now ask yourself if you've ever sat and given five seconds of thought to how much better the NCAA tournament would have been if the aforementioned players had participated in March Madness. Go ahead. Be honest. I didn't think so.

The truth is, even when great young players do go to college, the best stories in the tournament aren't created with their letters-of-intent. No, the best stories are created once the tournament actually starts. The

best stories evolve; they aren't pulled from some national ranking of top prospects. College basketball is fine, even with no-name players.

As long as teams in the NCAA tournament are required to win six near-perfect games in order to be crowned national champions, there always will be new heroes created in March. And it really doesn't matter if they never make it to the NBA to play with the prodigies.

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Ross holds own in postseason

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receives," Radebaugh said. "He had a wonderful senior year and displayed great leadership by always putting his team first. He displayed tremendous abilities on the basketball court and provided great leadership throughout the season."

Ross, a 5-11 guard, shot 52 percent from the floor and 48 percent from three-point range this season. He averaged a Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference-leading 21.1 points per game. Ross was a junior college

Barber-Scotia made the NAIA Elite 8 for the second straight year.

The Sabers advanced by upsetting No. 13 Union (Tennessee) 61-53 and No. 4 Robert Morris (Ill.) 74-61. The Sabers lost to Georgetown (Ky.) in the semifinals 64-60.

Barber-Scotia took home several honors, including Santos Martinez (all-tournament team) Ronald Rutledge (second team all-America); Phillip Hillstock (honorable mention all-America); Tony Taylor (champion of character) and team award for sportsmanship.

Elizabeth City State guard Jonathan Harris has been named to Daktronics South Atlantic all-region second team.

Harris, who played high school basketball at East Mecklenburg, averaged 20 points a game and 5.1 rebounds for the Vikings. He was twice named CIAA player of the week and voted to the all-conference team.

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