

## Jamison OK with reserve position

Continued from page 1C

things. With Jamison, Walker and Nowitzki all playing the same position, something had to give.

Coach Don Nelson asked Jamison if he could handle coming off the bench. He immediately agreed, realizing that it was better to be a reserve on the playoff-bound Mavericks than a starter on the lottery-bound Warriors.

"The important thing for me was that I was going to

be able to win a lot of games," said Jamison, who never won more than 38 in Golden State. "You just make the best of it."

Van Exel was in a similar situation when he came to Dallas. He handled it by making the Sixth Man award his goal. Jamison never did because he didn't think he'd be a candidate for very long.

"I thought it would be like, 'Let's try it for a month and see how it goes,'" he said.

Jamison scored 22 points in his third game and went for 26 before Thanksgiving. He hit 26 twice more and finished with a 14.8 average.

He led the team in scoring seven times and had 17 games in which he either matched or outscored an opposing team's entire bench. He was third in the league in shooting percentage (.535) and 13th in offensive rebounds with 233, 2.8 per game.

"He's definitely the Sixth

Man of the year as far as I'm concerned," Nash said. "He's sacrificed a lot and still been incredibly productive."

The Kings understand the importance of a super sub because they have Bobby Jackson, last year's top sixth man.

They appreciate it even more now that he's out with an abdominal injury. Jackson hasn't played this series and missed 28 of the final 29 regular-season games.

## Thompson again leads Hoyas fortunes

Continued from page 1C

It's not that Esherick let the place go to shambles; it's just that John III will be such a better fit for the program. He was the only fit for the program. Unless, of course, Big John himself rolled out of the TV/radio booths and returned to Georgetown.

See, the Hoyas no longer come close to possessing the best athletes in the Big East, as they did in the 1980s. But with John III running that Princeton-styled offense at Georgetown, the above-average athletes on the roster will take the system - and the team - to heights not seen since the Hoyas were wearing gray T-shirts with sweat rings under their dark blue jerseys.

No, John III isn't a Georgetown alumnus, but you can best bet he knows how his daddy put together those Hoyas teams that

went to the Final Four three consecutive years.

You can best bet that John III will know how to take classy stands and endear himself to a generation of kids whose uncles and fathers probably used to think Georgetown was a black college located across town from Howard University.

I know that's what I thought.

And, no, I didn't love Georgetown because I thought it was a black college; I loved it because I saw John III's daddy, Big John, exemplifying a strong-minded, professional black man, which went against the grain of the mainstream images of black men in the early 1980s. And I loved Thompson because he was producing young black men just like him - men who were educated, confident and prepared for anything.

I'm not saying Esherick didn't turn any of his players into good, productive men during his tenure. But truth be told, John III is better equipped to do the job. And please don't misconstrue things and think I'm saying any black man could do this.

The fact is, John III is closer to being Big John than anybody who could have applied for the job. Except, perhaps, Ronny Thompson, an assistant at Arkansas.

Big John was what Wooden was to basketball in Westwood, what Rockne was to Notre Dame football. Big John is the face of Georgetown basketball, if not the whole dang university.

And now the school has his namesake.

A picture of Dale Earnhardt Jr. taking the torch from Dale Sr. comes to mind.

Had Georgetown hired any

other man - white or black - the chance was too great for it to become just another top program. That would be so esoteric at a school such as Georgetown.

Hey, I know coaches with great graduation rates get fired all the time (see: Esherick, Craig), but it just has to be about more than the wins and losses.

Thankfully, Georgetown didn't go after the "hot" coaching prospect.

It went after the right prospect.

E-mail columnist C. Jemal Horton at [seejemalwrite@aol.com](mailto:seejemalwrite@aol.com).

## Dodge Durango's qualities make it a fetching pickup

WINFRED B. CROSS

### Test Drive



Build a bigger truck and they will come. Build a bigger truck with a big honkin' grill and they will come running.

That's one of the reasons why so many find the new Dodge Durango the newest gotta-have monster. It also helps it's a lot better than the outgoing Durango in every element.

It's the Kenworth looks that draw people to the beast. I didn't like the look of the last Durango and I'm not crazy about this style either. Yes, it's cleaner looking, but that grill is way too big. You can drive the old truck through the openings in this snout.

That said, I like the rest of the truck a lot. The interior is a major upgrade. There's still too much plastic, but it's now higher grade and fits better. The front seats are easy chair comfortable while being supportive. The next rows of seats are as comfortable but kudos go out to the third row. Even adults will fit.

The Durango has a surprisingly smooth and quiet ride considering its girth. Not much road or engine

noise gets in, but wind going around those big mirrors does have a pronounced hum.

Driving the Durango is a pretty good experience. It feels like a much smaller vehicle (until you try to park it). Handling is helped by the 17-inch tires and an all wheel drive system that knows what to do when.

The engine is the 4.7-liter Magnum V8, which used to be top dog. That crown now goes to the Hemi. The Magnum is enough to haul the truck about with a quickness. It's also torque rich so you can tow just about anything you want.

The base price of my SLT

test truck was \$30,945. The nearly six grand in options included leather seats, traction control, sunroof, stereo upgrade, beefy off road tire upgrade and a options package with lighted mirrors, CD changer and overhead console.

At \$36,565 the Durango isn't cheap, but it has more interior room than some of its competitors and more standard horsepower. How good is it? Well, it's another reason to go out and look at a big honking truck.

It's not a quantum leap above the others because nearly every manufacturer builds a quality large truck. But the 2004 Durango is going to be an easy sell.

Your source for things that go VROOOM!  
Read Test Drive in  
**The Charlotte Post**

### FORD'S USED TIRES

New Tires

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

• Brake Job  
Front \$35.00  
Back \$45.00



• Oil Change - \$21.88

3401 Tuckaseegee Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
(704)393-1109

Ford's Busy Bee Mini Mart  
505 Beatties Ford Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28216  
(704)333-8448

1222 Central Ave.  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
(704)377-0870

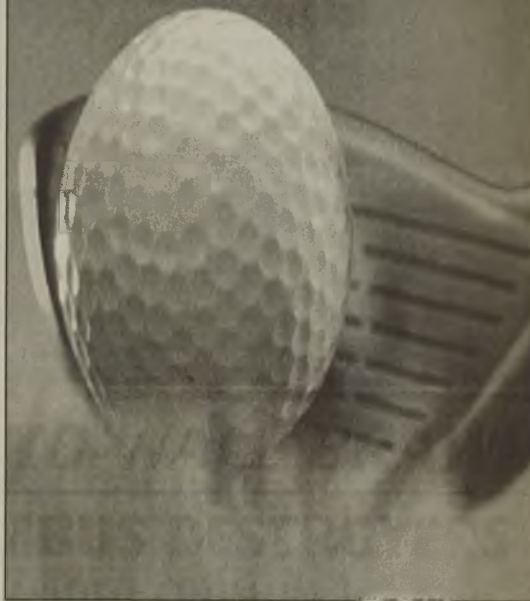
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY  
SURROUNDED WITH SUCCESS AT THINKPAD U

Presents the  
**7th Annual Jack S. Brayboy  
Memorial Golf Tournament**  
Monday, May 3, 2004

8:00 A.M. Registration/Open Range

9:00 A.M. Shot Gun Start

Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation  
7500 Olde Sycamore Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
704-573-1000



**SAVE THE DATE!**

American Cancer Society  
Relay For Life of West Charlotte  
May 14-15, 2004

*New date and location this year!*



Dear Friends,

Mark your calendars for May 14-15 (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.) for your American Cancer Society Relay For Life of West Charlotte. This year's Relay will be held at West Charlotte High School.

Relay For Life is your American Cancer Society's signature activity and is the largest, most recognized event held by any non-profit organization in the nation to celebrate survivorship and raise money for cancer research and services. During Relay, teams of people will gather at West Charlotte High School and take turns walking, jogging or running laps. Throughout the night, each team is asked to keep at least one representative of their team on the track at all times.

We will be featuring our traditional luminaria ceremony, so you may purchase a luminaria "In Memory" or "In Honor" of a loved one for \$10 each. Cancer survivors are also encouraged to join in the celebration of life and will be honored as they kick off Relay by taking the first lap of the event.

Come help fight the war on cancer and get involved in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of West Charlotte today. To sign up or for additional questions, please call me at (704) 634-1222 or your local American Cancer Society office at (704) 552-6147.

Relay For Life is fun, and it is in your neighborhood! Join "The Power of Purple" today!

See you in May!

Sincerely,

Tameka King

Chair, Relay For Life of West Charlotte

For more information about Relay For Life of West Charlotte, contact Tameka King at (704) 634-1222.

Come Join the Fight Against Cancer at  
West Charlotte H.S.!

1-800-ACS-2345 • [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)



THUNDERSTIX  
TO FIRST 5,000  
FANS COURTESY  
OF ADT

## SATURDAY NIGHT WALL-TO-WALL BRAWL

**CAROLINA COBRAS vs. COLUMBUS DESTROYERS**

SATURDAY, MAY 1 • 7:30 P.M. • CHARLOTTE COLISEUM

WITH A SPECIAL HALFTIME PERFORMANCE BY "LIVE ACTION WRESTLING"  
FEATURING BUFF BAGWELL, RICK STEINER, MONEY MIKE & TOMMY GUNN

CAROLINA  
COBRAS



Tickets starting at just \$10 available now at the Charlotte Coliseum box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and by phone at 704-522-6500.

Charlotte's Finest  
Rehabilitation Center

LAW  
LIVE ACTION WRESTLING