

Smart a double threat

Continued from page 1C



Smart

major blow to the Panthers' special teams unit, which has relied heavily on Smart on the coverage and return teams since the club claimed him off waivers from Philadelphia in 2002.

Instead of the proven Smart, who shares the team

record with a 100-yard kickoff return, the Panthers were forced to depend mostly on youngsters.

Jamall Broussard, Jamal Robertson and Brandon Bennett last season. Ultimately, the team toiled through a 7-9 season.

Now that the double-threat Smart is back and apparently healthy, special teams are expected to be a strength for the Panthers this season, although they'll have to make up for the loss of punter Todd

Sauerbrun, who was traded to Denver, and Smart's best friend on the team, Jarrod Cooper, who was released after a series of off-the-field incidents.

"I think we'll be fine," Smart said. "I think I can make a difference, but we've also got a lot of players who contribute on special teams. I'm just excited to be playing with them again."

Just ask Antonio Brown.

Black college sports popular

Continued from page 1C

and so they are more familiar with the 50,000 people that may show up for a game than people before them who have no idea that this market exists," Moore said. "All of these factors are bringing the black college market to the attention of businesses who didn't know they existed, because they had no interaction with their own experiences."

Wanna know how hot black college sports is?

Eric wears many hats. He, and the entire Moore family, provide game statistics for just about any and everybody. His Web site is a must-read for all HBCU sports

fans, and he services Web sites for various colleges and universities.

With the growing popularity of BCS, Eric is seeing his territory invaded. More white companies have begun paying HBCUs to service their Web sites in return for advertising. No HBCU can afford to give up free Benjamins.

But instead of becoming bitter over these Johnny Come Latelays, Eric has accepted the challenge.

"It has forced me to become a little more creative," he continued. "We still have a local knowledge advantage. I can pick up the phone and get almost any info I need."

Indeed, knowledge is king and that's something money can't buy.

ESPN found that out. The crew initially came to Raleigh with this uppity, know-it-all attitude, but they got schooled real fast.

"A lot of people picked up on that aura," Moore added. "But after a day or two, they backed up off their high horse and realized we knew what we were doing."

Black college sports is hot. Are you listening presidents, chancellors, athletics directors? The time to hop on that money train is now.

Choo-choo.

Bonita Best is sports editor at The Triangle Tribune in Durham.

J.C. Smith turns offense over to inexperienced QBs

Continued from page 1C

throw to. Despite the quarterbacks' inexperience, they spent the offseason in Charlotte working toward the fall.

"Over the summer a couple of the quarterbacks stayed here and we worked out, working on our timing, trying to get better," Belton said. "I think we'll be clicking on all cylinders by the time the season starts."

The best thing about this competition, McNeill says, is that each candidate is capable of winning the job. Last season, former coach

Tim Harkness rotated quarterbacks before turning the reins over to junior Donja Goodson (79-of-190, 927 yards, 6TDs, 5 interceptions) who didn't return.

"The thing is everything is new to all of them as far as the offense and what we're trying to do," McNeill said. "What we're trying to do is really keep that going and let them grow together and once we start scrimmaging and throwing seven-on-seven who's completing the passes and taking the team down the field to the end zone."

Brickey takes over Shaw basketball

By Eric N. Moore
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH — After tapping a Durham connection for its last two men's basketball coaches, Shaw continued the trend by announcing the hiring of former Duke standout Robert Brickey as its next basketball coach.

Brickey succeeds former N.C. Central and Fayetteville State coach Michael Bernard who followed former NCCU standout Joel Hopkins as men's basketball coaches at the Raleigh institution.

"We are indeed very fortunate to attract someone of Robert Brickey's caliber to Shaw," stated President Clarence Newsome in introducing Brickey at a press conference. "He has excellent credentials, but more importantly, he has a love for the students and believes in molding athletes who can be leaders in our society."

A Fayetteville native, Brickey comes to Shaw from

James Madison where he was an assistant coach. Prior to joining Dean Keener's staff, Brickey had spent two seasons at Southern Methodist. He also coached at Army and served as community outreach coordinator for Duke's athletics department.

In a statement circulated at the press conference, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said "I am so proud of Robert Brickey. He was a terrific leader for us. Now he is taking that leadership to another step in becoming a head coach. I commend Dr. Newsome on an excellent choice."

Brickey played four years at Duke from the 1986-90. He served as team captain in 1990 and received first team all-Atlantic Coast Conference tournament honors in 1988. He was a member of three Final Four teams and started in the national championship

game in 1990.

"Coach 'K' has said that anybody can win, but to win in the long term is a lot more difficult," Brickey said. "We want to build a program not just tied to wins and losses but growing young men, having them graduate and going on to do good things in their lives and in this society."

Brickey's appointment follows the resignation of Bernard "to pursue other employment opportunities."

Bernard was the head coach for three years at Shaw, compiling a record of 40-46 at the school. His best season was his first (2002-03) when his team finished 21-9 and earned a berth in the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regionals. Last season, his team finished 8-20.

"We wish Coach Bernard well in his future endeavors and appreciate his contributions to Shaw athletics," Newsome said.

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10:00 am	Parade of Bands - Blount Street
10:00 am	Aggie-Eagle Street Fest - BTI Center Plaza
2:00 pm	Battle of the Bands & Pep Rally - Raleigh Conv. & Conf. Center
8:00 pm	Aggie-Eagle Classic Step Show & After Party - Raleigh Conv. & Conf. Center

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4:00 pm	SOUL FEST 2005 CONCERT - Alltel Pavillion

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9:00 am	Parking/Tailgating - Gates Open
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