

# Rebuilt defense can't afford to rest for JCSU

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mentally as well. With so many new players on the roster, old attitudes have given way to a team-first mentality. "The biggest difference has been attitude," junior safety/linebacker Omar Bizzell said. "We've got the talent ... and if everybody plays like they're supposed to, that's the biggest difference - the attitude that we know we're going to win. And when you know you're going to win it, it's going to happen." McNeill and defensive coordinator

Greg Richardson are emphasizing speed and versatility. Haynesworth has also practiced at defensive tackle in Smith's 4-3 scheme and Bizzell moves from the secondary to linebacker depending on the down and distance. "Defense is speed on every level," McNeill said. "It doesn't take a whole lot of size to play defense with the way the zone scheme has taken over. The thing you want to do is put your best people on the field." The secondary returns the

most experience with Bizzell, George Pope, and De'Audre Dix starting games last season. The linebackers are solid with Chris Nelson and Jerrell Goodwin returning. But the line is much bigger than last year's, with Haynesworth, fellow sophomore Leroy Bradley and freshman Thelder Gamble hovering near 300 pounds each. "We've got some quick guys," Haynesworth said. "We're big and fast. We can get to the quarterback." Their first test is Saturday, and the Bulls are excited

about the possibilities of showing those changes off in a game that actually counts. "We did a pretty good job (in scrimmages) but there's always room for improvement," Haynesworth said. "We're just going to get better." Said Bizzell: "Everything is new, we're coming off with a new start, the past is in the past. We're looking forward to a lot of things."

**Notes**  
• Edvard Jean will start at quarterback against Glenville State Saturday. Jean, a senior from Philadelphia, is the only quarterback on the roster who has played in a college game. Freshman Carlton Richardson is the backup.  
• Smith is trying to break a school-record 14-game losing streak as well as an 0-6 mark

at Belk Complex.  
• The JCSU coaches' show debuted last week on WAXN (channel 64). The program, which airs Sundays at 11:30 p.m., will run through the regular season.  
• Glenville and Smith have played twice, with the series tied at a win each.  
• Smith won the first game 13-10 in 1992; Glenville won 45-0 in 1993.

## Peppers makes case for dominance

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over the last couple of weeks. It's just a little sore," Peppers said. "There's no need to make it anything but what it really is ... (it's) just a little, slight sprain. I'm just being a little extra cautious, just resting it with the boot." Hence, Peppers' anticipated season from heaven remains on course. While it was uncertain whether Peppers would play in the Panthers' preseason game at Cleveland Friday, few would argue that Peppers resembles the best defensive player in the league in Carolina's exhibitions. In the preseason opener, Washington tried to triple-team the 6-foot-7, 283-pound Peppers - emphasis on "tried." And in last week's loss to the New York Giants, Peppers awed everyone yet again. In single coverage against Kareem McKenzie, Peppers blew by, knocked the ball from quarterback Eli Manning, scooped the ball up and ran 29 yards for a touchdown. "He's already had about five of those since he's been here," Carolina safety Mike Minter said, when asked to rank Peppers' play days later. "With him, you expect something like that to happen. It doesn't even surprise us anymore." "When he did that, I was just like, 'OK.' It's like Michael Jordan dropping 36 points, you're

like, 'OK, fine, that's a good night, I guess.' But if it was somebody else, you'd be like, 'Aw, wow!' But Julius? No big deal." Which explains why so many expect Peppers to eclipse his career-high of 12 sacks and take on some NFL records. "Maybe the expectations of me are as high as they've ever been. I don't know," Peppers said. "They've always been there. It's not something that really affects me. I try to ignore it as much as I can. But I know they're there. As long as I go out and handle my business, I think everything should be fine and take care of itself. I'll be fine." Obviously, though, Peppers has to be more than "fine." "I expect him to dominate," Minter said. "I expect him to break those all-time records - sacks in a season and sacks in the National Football League all-time. So the expectations are real high, and he's going to live up to them. He's that good." "A lot of people don't understand, but he's real smart. He understands the game of football. On top of that, he's big and strong and fast and athletic. And when you have those things, and the dedication and the heart to get it done, that's when you see Hall-of-Fame type players. And that's what's happening with Julius right now."

## N.C. Central aims for CIAA West

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defense. The unit, which finished eighth in Division II last year, lost nine starters, including the top seven tacklers. Sophomore tackle Courtney Coard and junior end Birkes Williams are the lone returning starters. To make matters worse, the defensive line, which Broadway thought would be one of his strongest areas, has been weakened by injuries in practice. Most are not too serious, but any missed practice time at this juncture is crucial. "At this time of year, you're concerned about everything," Broadway said. **Nesbitt ready for final finale**  
St. Augustine's QB Darrell Nesbitt jokingly stated that this is definitely his last year. The well-traveled Nesbitt was given a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA after breaking a finger in his throwing hand last season against Mars Hill. Nesbitt said he is 100 percent healthy and ready to fly the Falcons to a CIAA championship. "God gave me one more chance to play so this is a special season for me," he said. "I think I'll go 110 percent since I got another chance. I'll have to strive a little harder and make my teammates better." Like his other two Triangle counterparts, coach Michael Costa has a veteran core returning, including 18 starters and the entire defensive unit. The defense will be the strength of the team, with veteran defensive linemen Alex Hall, Cedric Clark, Michael Dobson and Marcus Montgomery. Linebacker Tyrone Pettaway, whom Costa says to "keep an eye on this season," leads a big and tough linebacking core that will make it hard for opponents to score. Costa said St. Aug's (4-6, 3-4) theme this year is "Keeping tradition alive in 05." The football team hopes to piggyback off the successes of the world renowned track and field program. With Nesbitt back at the helm, anything is now possible.

The rest of the Western Division:  
• Fayetteville State (8-4, 6-1)  
For the past three years, opposing fans have been waiting for Fayetteville to fall, and every time the Broncos are the last team standing. The Western Division champs are vying for their fourth consecutive division title and fourth straight appearance in the football championship game. Shaw tripped up FSU in the championship game last season, and coach Kenny Phillips is still smarting. "In 2005, we are going to do the things that got us our first two championships," said Phillips who has posted a 35-21 record in five years. In other words, don't count FSU out.  
• Winston-Salem (4-6, 4-3)  
The Rams had one of the toughest schedules in Division II last year and don't slack off this year as they prepare to leave the CIAA for Division I-AA status. Winston opens at home against D-II power Catawba, then take to the road to face D-I-AA foes Howard and South Carolina State. Coach Kermit Blount has dynamic duo RBs' Martin Hicks (1,448 yards) and Jerrell "Jed" Bines (1,137) - Nos. 1 and 2 in the conference in rushing - returning. Blount's biggest losses are graduating QB Josh McGee, who is now the Ram's quarterback coach and McGee's go-to guy, WR Brandon Free. Defense will be the key for the Rams who finished next to last in total defense last year.  
• Johnson C. Smith (0-10, 0-7)  
Where else can the Golden Bulls go but up. That's what new coach Daryl McNeil believes anyway. McNeil shocked the audience at the football luncheon by announcing that he plans to bring a football championship to Charlotte before the CIAA tournament ends its three-year run in the city. Good luck. Smith was last in rushing offense, scoring defense, rushing defense and total defense. Their ineptitude cost coach Tim Harkness his job and gave McNeil his

second stint as head coach.  
• Livingstone (2-8, 2-5)  
Robert Massey was initially hired as defensive coordinator but took over the head coaching duties after former New England Patriots star Ben Coates bolted for the NFL. Livingstone returns seven starters on offense and defense, but its biggest loss is All-American linebacker Moises Gordon who led the Division II in tackles. Starting QB David Melton also graduated. If given the resources and time, Massey can be successful, but the operative words are: resources and time.

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