

Davidson's Hubbard emerges as top threat

Continued from page 1C receiving. Under first-year head coach Tripp Merritt and tutelage of more experienced receivers, Hubbard has blossomed.

hard getting into the mix at receiver," Hubbard said. "Getting into the feel of the game (because) the game is faster in college ball than high school ball. We've got a really good core unit of

receivers and we help each other out and being in that environment with the quarterbacks makes you comfortable and you get in the groove." "We know he's talented and

I think we had big expectations this season and he's met those and exceeded them," Wildcats quarterback Ryan Alexander said. "He's just a tremendous athlete and when the ball's in his hands

he's very dangerous." Austin Peay's Governors found out the hard way. Hubbard and Alexander exploited the defense quickly and put the game away early. "Hubbard got after us on

just about every coverage we threw up," Austin Peay coach Carroll McCray said. "He's a good player. My hat's off to him." That's happening more often.

McNeill finding third season with Golden Bulls isn't a charm

Continued from page 1C to celebrate often. The defense actually creates turnovers and at times even puts the offense in great field position. But the D can't do the O's job. Three freshmen recruited by McNeill start on the offensive line. The quarterback, McNeill recruit Carlton Richardson, is a freshman, too. Together,

they've struggled to find anything remotely resembling rhythm, the main ingredient for winning. As a result, Smith's best player, receiver Marquis Belton, a Harkness recruit, doesn't get the ball often enough to make a difference. As a result, Smith's side of the scoreboard is often quieter than winter nights in the country. The offense hasn't scored two touchdowns in a game this

season. So what to do? Smith can hope to catch someone napping. This week, the Bulls play at Fayetteville State for the Broncos' homecoming. FSU will likely be ticked at having no shot at the Western Division title. Then there's Winston-Salem and N.C. Central, both alive in the division race and perhaps the Pioneer Bowl. None of the three have a good rea-

son to lose to JCSU other than trying to get their coach fired. Even if Smith can avoid another winless season, McNeill has pledged a shakeup for 2006. Offensively, he needs play-makers like fish need water. Belton is good, but he needs a quarterback who can get him the ball. Richardson has the tools and has slowly improved, but still isn't a dif-

ference maker. Freshman Andre Williams is the rare Bulls running back with size at 5-11, 215 pounds and enough skill to make plays. The key to everything in football, of course, is up front, and Smith's line needs help yesterday. Perhaps maturity is what that group needs. The players and coaches have been exemplary in their attitude so far. The

defense supports the offense and have kept the urge to gripe hidden. McNeill deserves credit for that. He also understands he's here to produce wins, otherwise Tim Harkness would still be on campus running things. McNeill has the luxury of a five-year contract and an administration that dug deep to bring him back. All he has to do now is live up to his reputation.

Lucas living up to reputation as a shutdown cornerback

Continued from page 1C against the Cardinals, Fitzgerald exploited the injury Gamble eventually told the coaching staff he was useless. "He just didn't feel like he could explode out of breaks with it... and when a guy is thinking like that, he's better off not in there," Fox said. "Chris has been around long

enough to understand how competitive and how tough it is, especially with the receiving corps they have, and it was a problem." At the same time Gamble was asking out, Lucas was asking for a change in assignments. He shadowed Fitzgerald everywhere he went in the second half and it proved to be the difference.

"I went to the coach and he told me to put me on number 11, because I knew Chris was still banged up from last week," Lucas said after the game. "We took number 11 out of the game and made it a game." Lucas, who played four seasons in Seattle before signing with Carolina during the off-season, came to the Panthers

with a reputation as a shutdown corner. He's lived up to it in all four games he's played this season, and it was obvious the Panthers missed him when he sat out during a loss to Miami during which the Dolphins threw at Gamble most of the game. Against the Cardinals, he tipped two balls to create

interceptions at crucial times. The first came at the end of the first half when Josh McCown heaved the ball in the air toward Fitzgerald in the end zone. Lucas jumped up and swatted it away, right into the hands of safety Marlon McCree. The second tip was also to McCree and came with 2:15 to play. McCown threw a jump ball toward Fitzgerald

at the goal line and Lucas again knocked it to McCree, who intercepted in the end zone for a touchback. "He came here advertised as a shutdown corner, and that's what he was in the second half," safety Mike Minter said of Lucas. "We put him on Fitzgerald, and then it was up to the rest of us in the back to shut down everyone else."

Brock jazzed to fight for first pro title



FILE PHOTO

Charlotte heavyweight Calvin Brock (right) will take on David Bostice for the International Boxing Association Continental Americas championship Nov. 19 at Cricket Arena.

By David D. Dawson THE CHARLOTTE POST

Heavyweight boxer Calvin Brock returns home to Charlotte to challenge David Bostice in a 12-round bout for the International Boxing Association Continental Americas Heavyweight Championship at Cricket Arena on Nov. 19. Brock, (26-0, 21 KO's) a West Charlotte High graduate is ranked in the top-10 by the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation, The Ring magazine, and ESPN. The

30-year-old last fought in Charlotte in January against Derek Berry, scoring a technical knockout in the sixth round.

Brock is excited to fight for a professional championship in front of a hometown crowd.

"I can't ask for anything more than to fight for a championship title in front of my hometown fans. I am looking forward to making the fans proud and allowing them to see good championship boxing," said Brock.

His father Calvance, who

moved the family to Charlotte from Portsmouth, Va., when Calvin was one, is his manager. Calvance says that it has taken extreme patience and great timing for this event to happen.

"We have had to wait a long time for this. This is an historic event, so the fans need to save their tickets because he will be the champ," said Calvance.

Since turning pro in 2001, Brock has knocked out 16 opponents within the first three rounds. Brock captured the biggest win of his career in Las Vegas on April 23 when he climbed off the canvas to out-punch and out-hustle former title challenger Jameel McCline to earn a unanimous decision victory.

Brock is confident that he can handle any fighter in the

world after the victory against McCline. Calvance touts Brock's versatile boxing style is the reason for the confidence.

"Calvin has been 100 percent focused since turning pro. He does not do much trash talking, so he lets his punches do the talking for him. We wanted him to be a well rounded boxer so he can change his style anytime he needs to," said Calvance.

Bostice (35-9-1, 15 KO's) has won four of his last five bouts. The 33-year-old San Bernadino, Calif., native's last bout was on Oct. 1 against Ronnie Smith where he earned a six round unanimous decision.

Tickets are on sale and priced at \$50, \$30, and \$20 and can be purchased at the Cricket Arena box office or by phone at (704) 522-6500.

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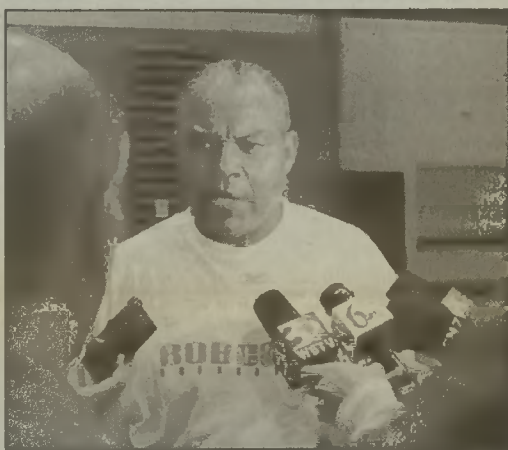


PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte Bobcats head coach Bernie Bickerstaff talks to reporters after Tuesday's practice in Fort Mill, S.C.. The Bobcats open the regular season Nov. 2 against Chicago.

Charlotte to host Pioneer Bowl

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case both the SIAC, the CIAA and the Charlotte Community, not only within the region but around the nation, since the game will be broadcast to millions through ESPN Classic," said SIAC Commissioner William Lide. "The SIAC looks forward to taking back the Pioneer Bowl Cup."

Charlotte's geography will makes it a good site for the game, McLeod said. The participating teams are usually chosen between the leagues' champion or runner-up.

"It's the southernmost city in the CIAA, Benedict (an SIAC school in Columbia, S.C.) is right down the road and so is Atlanta," he said. "Geographically, it's the best city for the CIAA and SIAC."

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