

CIAA tournament: A homecoming opportunity

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sure Charlotte will do a super job.

Stinson, a Charlotte native, said having the tournament in his hometown provides the comforts of familiarity.

"You really don't have a problem with the fan base with the CIAA, so the fan base is going to travel wherever this great tournament goes," he said. "It gives you an opportunity with your family and friends to be a part of (activities) throughout the week."

Charlotte is also a recruit-

ing tool for the league, Stinson said. For a week, the conference will have prime exposure to athletes who may not be familiar with CIAA basketball in person or on ESPN, which will televise the tournament.

"It gives you a little bit more motivation in that you need to not only succeed but be representative of your family and institution," he said. "It's a marketing tool and it's an opportunity for other student athletes in this area to see one of the greatest tournaments in the world."

Union and Smith are pre-season picks to win their respective divisions in the CIAA. The Panthers (30-4, 11-4 CIAA) lost seven seniors, including three starters, but were a unanimous choice in the East Division in voting by coaches.

"It's an honor to be conference champions and national champions, but that was a year ago," Robbins said. "People always play Virginia Union hard. We're used to being the team everybody gets up for. Usually when we go to someone's building, no

matter what kind of record they have, they play us harder than they do other teams."

Smith (16-13, 9-7) was picked to lead the West ahead of Winston-Salem State. The Golden Bulls return all-CIAA forwards Charles Clark and John Fulton as well as rookie of the year Maurice Hooper, a guard. Even with the addition of Delaware State transfer Prince Parker (Butler High) at guard.

"It's very, very competitive," Joyner said. "I think just because you're chosen No. 1 or chosen No. 6, doesn't mean

you're going to be in those particular places at the end of the year. You're going to have to work for it."

Regardless of how the regular season winds up, the tournament is what makes the season. Robbins said Charlotte will help the league expand its fan base and reputation by hosting it.

"Wherever the tournament is it'll be a success because the CIAA does such a great job," he said. "I'm just very glad and proud that the people of Charlotte and the surrounding communities will see

what a good product all the schools in the CIAA are and put on a fine performance, I'm sure."

East Division
Virginia Union
Bowie State
Elizabeth City State
Virginia State
Shaw
St. Paul's
West Division
Johnson C. Smith
Winston-Salem State
St. Augustine's
Fayetteville State
N.C. Central
Livingstone

Panthers still have fantastic four on defensive front line

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defense with 2.9 yards per carry and 62 yards per game.

The defensive front has neutralized some of the league's premier backs dead in their tracks. New Orleans Saints' Duce McAllister rushed for 64 yards in the season opener, Corey Dillon was shut down with 36 yards and punished Ahman

Green of Green Bay with 36 yards in a Monday night show down.

Last week against Detroit, the Panthers had their best overall game, which included six sacks in a 21-20 win.

Observers initially figured the line would struggle after Jenkins left the Saints game with a knee injury that knocked

him out for the season.

But the defensive line has responded quite well. Leading the line is end Mike Rucker with 20 tackles and 3.5 sacks. His second sack of the season, which came in the 32-29 victory against Green Bay, broke Kevin Greene's Panthers career record with 42.

Also in the mix is end Julius

Peppers with 18 tackles, whom critics say should be ahead of his one sack and fumble recovery. Panthers coaches, however, defend Peppers, insisting offenses are scheming to get the ball out of quarterbacks' hands faster, which negates a pass rush.

The Panthers have a much needed bye week to recover from

injuries and the entire defensive unit can regroup.

"We had a two game win streak and we needed to get something rolling and we got something rolling. We have a couple of guys nicked up so this bye week came at a perfect time so that guys can heal up and we can get ready for the next game," said Rucker.



Rucker



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Berry Academy, which has won three straight games after going winless its first two seasons, takes on Harding High Friday in the inaugural Battle of Allegheny.

Allegheny rivals meet for bragging rights and trophy

By David D. Dawson
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The heated rivalry between the Phillip O. Berry Academy Cardinals and Harding University High's Rams will take center stage on the football field Friday.

The two teams will not only play for bragging rights, but also for the first annual cup of the "Battle of Allegheny"

Since the two schools are less than a mile away from each other, the rivalry has

taken off. Four Berry players — Christian Bethune, Brandon Brown, Walter Gallispie and Andrew Gallispie (no relation) — thought it would be fun for the two schools to play for a trophy.

The athletes brought the idea to Brown's father, Thomas Brown, who is Berry's Booster Club officer of football operations. Thomas ran the idea by school officials who accepted the idea with open arms.

The cup has a plaque at the side of the base with the schools' mascots that read the "Battle of Allegheny."

"This gives the kids some excitement to the rivalry. They can connect this to what they see with historically black schools and their rivalries such as the Aggie-Eagle Classic" between N.C. A&T and N.C. Central, said Thomas Brown.

If there's a favorite, Berry has won three straight, the first in school history.

NBA introduces new dress code

By Doug Feinberg
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - There will be no more dress down days in the NBA. The league announced on Monday that a minimum dress code will go into effect at the start of the regular season on Nov. 1.

Players will be expected to wear business casual attire whenever they participate in team or league activities, including arriving at games, leaving games, conducting interviews and making promotional or other appearances.

"If they're trying to change the image of the league, that's cool," Phoenix Suns forward Shawn Marion said.

Some teams already have their own dress code in place.

Portland Trail Blazers coach Nate McMillan is known for his strict rules, including bans on headbands and on cell phones on the team bus.

"It's important that the players understand they have to respect the game," McMillan said in August. "They have to respect the league. And they have to respect the fans. You must be a professional at all times."

Players will no longer be able to wear:

- Sleeveless shirts
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Chains, pendants, or medallions worn over the player's clothes.
- Sunglasses while indoors
- Headphones (other than on the team bus or plane, or in the team locker room).

Players will also now be required to wear a sport coat on the bench when they are not in uniform.

"I think it is appropriate, definitely, on the bench," Marion said. "I think you should be in a nice shirt and slacks."

Not all the players feel that the new dress code is in the best image of the league.

"I understand they're making it out to make us look better to corporate and big business. But we don't really sell to big business," Utah Jazz guard Raja Bell said. "We sell to kids and people who are into the NBA hip-hop world. They may be marketing to the wrong people with this."

Commissioner David Stern is expected to announce the penalty for dress code violations next week.

JCSU discovers some offense

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most productive day yet as a Bull, connecting on 11-of-28 passes for 226 yards and running for a score.

Junior receiver Marquis Belton, who had been all but a non-factor earlier in the season, had a breakout game with 189 yards receiving on nine receptions and running backs Andre Williams and Henry Willoughby combined for 119 yards and a couple of scores.

The Bulls will try to keep that momentum

going Saturday at Winston-Salem State in what will likely be the last meeting between the schools. The Rams, who are leaving Division II for the I-AA MEAC after this year, haven't lost to Smith since 1996, McNeill's second season with the Bulls. WSSU (4-4, 4-1 CIAA), which lost a chance to win the West Division outright with a 20-17 loss to N.C. Central last week, is still alive for a first-place tie if they win the next two games. Smith is trying to win its first game of the season.

Lady Bulls young but ready

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from the outside."

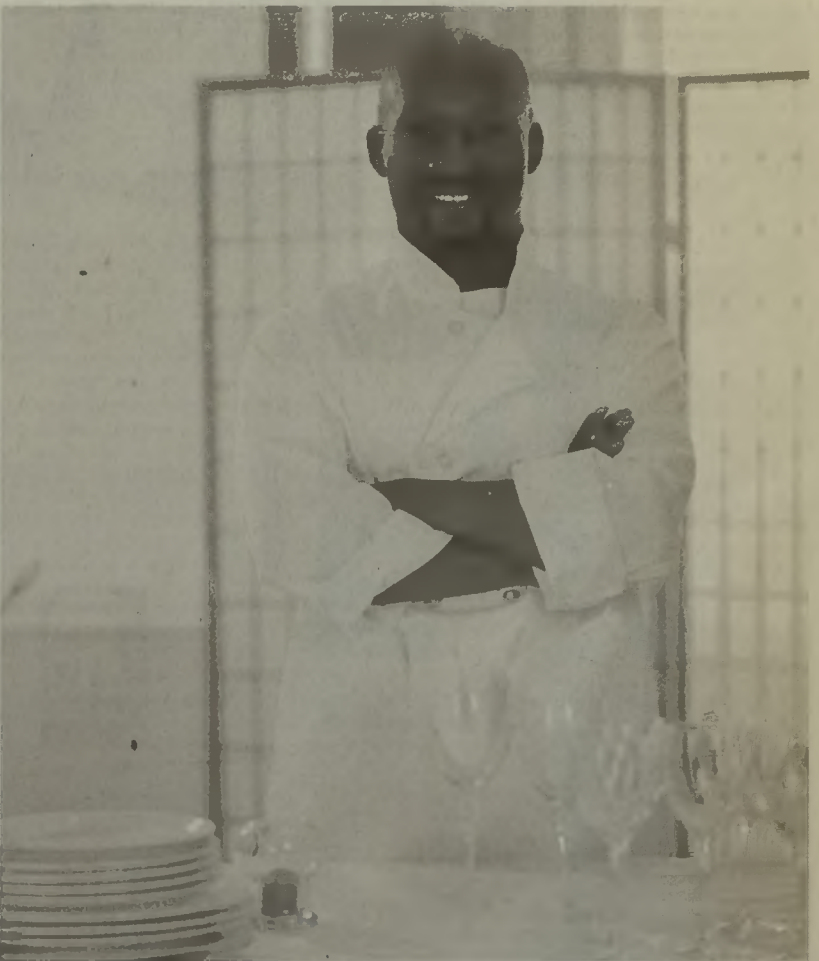
Among the Golden Bulls other returning players that should make an impact on the team are sophomore Rochelle Bodie, who aver-

aged 5.4 points and 6.0 rebounds per game.

Sophomore guard Shemika Jones is another weapon Smith plans to use this season. Jones was known as a shooter, but

improved defensively. She had a career-high four steals against Allen.

The Bulls open their season Nov. 18 in the Tusculum Tournament in Greenville, Tenn.



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