

## Prince assumes place on court for Golden Bulls

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good one night and then played with a lack of passion the next night. I'm hoping that Prince will help us in

that second or third night of the tournament where we have the right kind of competitive spirit and competitive attitude," Joyner said.

The Golden Bulls (3-0) host Belmont Abby Saturday night at Brayboy Gymnasium with a 7:30 p.m. tip off.

## Bobcats rookie May confident

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a man caught between positions and roles.

"I don't know what a 'tweener' is," said May, only half-facetiously. "I'm a basketball player. I come out on the floor and try to make things happen."

Tweener or not, May has let his game do the talking. Through his first nine games with the Bobcats, May was averaging almost 10 points and five rebounds per game, fourth and sixth among rookies in those categories, respectively.

"I'm confident in my abilities," said May. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have left school early. I know that I can play at this level. By no means am I where I need to be - I still have a lot to learn about this game. That's part of being a rookie...getting up every day, making mistakes, and playing through those mistakes. But I'm definitely confident in my abilities and I know I

can play the game in this league."

The learning curve has been short for May, as it took him just eight games to register his first double-double, a 15 point, 10 rebound performance against the Orlando Magic. One game earlier, May established a career high in points (18) and steals (five) against the Miami Heat.

But while May enjoyed the personal achievements against the Magic and the Heat, the performances were bittersweet, both logged in losses. Thus, May appreciated his subsequent performance even more, a 15 point, 8 rebound effort in a home rout of the Indiana Pacers.

May registered just two points in the first quarter but poured in 13 over the final three quarters, shooting 7-of-11 from the field amid cheers from the Charlotte faithful.

"The feeling is better when you win," said May. "The atti-

tude and the way everybody feels is so much better when you win. But every night, especially being young in this league, I'm just going out and trying to establish myself, trying to prove that I belong on the floor and can do certain things."

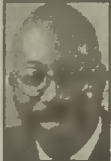
While he would love to shed the tweener label, May prefers to focus on that which he can control himself his own play. In the meantime, he turns to some past and current NBA greats for inspiration.

"Charles Barkley is a 'tweener," pointed out May. "Corlis Williamson has established himself in this league and he's a tweener. Elton Brand is one of the best players in this league, and he's no bigger than 6'8". If you're effective, you're effective. As soon as you come in this league, guys want to give you a label, and that's fine. Until I prove myself, I'll be a tweener."

## Avalon makes the jump to sleek

WINFRED B. CROSS

Test Drive



Remember the stodgy Toyota Avalon, the Buick Century of the Japanese world? Well, Buick updated the Century a few years ago, so the Avalon had to follow suit, right?

Right. Wow, what a difference styling makes. The new Avalon has new creases in new places. It actually looks fast and sleek. There's a hint of BMW's current styling in the rear end. It's a knockout considering the boxy look of the old car.

The interior is as stylish. The frumpy dash is now modern. The climate and audio controls are backlit and can also be hidden behind a panel. The gauge cluster is stylish

with crisp lettering blue back lighting. The gear shift is that complicated gate pattern but the lever itself nicely finished. I'm not crazy about the fake wood but carmakers are getting better at making such.

The front seats are big and comfortable, so long as you plan to use this as a family sedan. The rear has ample room for nearly every height. The rear seat on my XLS also reclined. Neat.

The engine got a big boost in the redesign. The 3.5-liter V6 makes 270 horsepower with nearly that amount in torque. It's potent, pressing back in your seat if you plant the accelerator to the floor. Traction control will step in before you get silly, but hey, it's a family sedan. The dual exhausts give the engine a very throaty sound.

Driving the Avalon is a good thing. It's by no means a sports sedan. There's a lot of float in the suspension and

the body leans in corners, but it's predictable. It hustles along quickly on the 17-inch tires and the ride is comfortable.

The XLS stickers at \$30,800. That includes leather seats (heated up front), four-wheel ABS, full size spare with alloy wheel, seven airbags, heated outside mirrors with auto dimming function, dual climate controls, cruise, leather wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, Homelink, and rear reclining seats. Extra equipment included voice activated navigation, upgraded JBL audio system packaged with traction control and heated front seats.

Add in the luxury stuff and the price tag jumps to \$35,259. Steep? Maybe, but it's as good as any other car in the price range. It's also a Toyota. Is there more to be said?

## A&T tackle invited to Hula Bowl

FROM STAFF REPORTS

GREENSBORO - Three seasons ago, Walter Stith began his collegiate career as a 265-pound tight end at Western Michigan. Now, he stands as a 6-foot-8, 320-pound NFL prospect at N.C. A&T State University.

Stith has been invited to play in the 60th annual Hula Bowl on Jan. 21.

The Hula Bowl, played at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii, is an environment that showcases talent in front of scouts from every NFL team. The head coaches for the two teams will be Tyrone Willingham of Washington and Tommy Tuberville of Auburn, two of the top coaches in NCAA Division I-A football.

The game will be televised on ESPN2 and broadcast worldwide on the Westwood One/CBS radio network.

Stith transferred from Western Michigan last spring and has had an immediate impact

this season on the offensive line at right tackle. He was honored as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference offensive lineman of the week after opening holes for a 252-yard rushing performance by the Aggies in a win over Norfolk State.

Stith also had outstanding performances against N.C. Central, where he recorded six pancake blocks while leading teammate Brandon Sweeney to 150 yards rushing on 32 carries. He also had a major role in Sweeney's 205-yard rushing day in a 40-33 overtime victory at FedEx Field. Stith has been consistent all season with an average grade of 87 percent on his blocking. Grades are determined by assignment and execution.

Stith becomes the third Aggie player in eight seasons to play in the Hula Bowl, joining All-Americans Chris McNeil (1997) and Curtis Deloatch (2002).



PHOTO/WADE NASH

**RUN FOR DAYLIGHT:** S.C. State running back DeShawn Baker looks for an opening in the Bulldogs' 43-27 win over N.C. A&T Saturday at Memorial Stadium. S.C. State, which finished 9-2 with both losses coming to ranked opponents, missed the Division I-AA playoffs

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