

Carter grabs at chance to make a difference

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into practice and practice like you're going to be playing that weekend," said Carter. "I have a lot to prove to myself. I feel like I can compete, but I just have to go out there and show it every day in practice and on Sundays."

With two games left in the regular season and one win away from clinching the playoffs, Panthers head coach John Fox wanted to reevaluate the receiver corps. Carolina just signed rookie free agent wide receiver Eftrem Hill from the practice

squad to give him an opportunity.

"We had some people we wanted to look at, and Drew Carter was one of them. He came up with a big play early in the game," said Fox. He's a guy we've been trying to get out there for the whole season. He showed us a lot in training camp and in the pre-season. He's a big, tall target that can run fast."

"The opportunities (Carter) had, he took full advantage of it," receiver Steve Smith said. "He's been practicing, practicing, practicing. He gets in

there and is making plays. I think he's got a great opportunity. If he maintains the work ethic that he has, he'll progressively get better each and every week. Hopefully, if everything works itself out that we go to the playoffs, he can be a very good attribute to the team."

All Carter wants is a chance to stay in the rotation and contribute. Now that he has it, the rest is up to his talents — and health.

"You just have to be ready for your opportunities and run with them," he said.

Scoring worth celebrating

By Cheri F. Hodges

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After three weeks, the celebration was back. Against NFC south rival Atlanta, Steve Smith caught a pass from quarterback Jake Delhomme and dashed into the end zone.

Then he "wiped the baby's bottom."

"The baby had a dirty bottom," he said.

All season Smith has expressed himself in the end zone after a score and obviously everybody likes his dancing. He hasn't been fined by the league like Cincinnati receiver Chad Johnson, whose end zone antics have cost him thousands.

"It's just creativity a little bit," Smith said. "I'm just having fun and not trying to go over the top, just keep it in the middle where it's fun and in the frame work of the game."

Of course you would have to over look his "row boat" impression against the Minnesota Vikings after their cruise scandal.

Smith denies that the dirty bottom baby had anything to do with the fact that they were playing the "dirty birds."

"Getting in the end zone every time is fun. Every week it's a pleasure to be there," he said.

How does Smith's end zone celebrations rank with some other memorable "performances?"

Remember Joe Horn's cell phone call in 2003? After scoring against the New York Giants the New Orleans receiver was handed a phone by teammate Michael Lewis, who pulled it out from under the goal post padding. Horn punched in numbers, put the phone to the ear hole in his helmet and spoke into it for a few seconds.

The NFL fined him \$30,000.

Cincinnati Bengals running back Ickey

Woods performed a little dance whenever he scored. Following each touchdown Woods would turn to the crowd with arms outstretched, hop twice to the left, twice to the right, spike the ball and then twirl his right index finger over his head while swiveling his hips and howling, "Woo! Woo! Woo!" That is in the late 1980s, so it was cool and he wasn't fined.

But no one would be celebrating if it wasn't for the Houston Oilers' Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, known as the grandfather of the TD celebration. He may not have been the first, but his "Funky Chicken" of 1974 is the most memorable.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Panthers receiver Steve Smith has been at his most animated after scoring this season. He has 11 touchdowns.

JCSU heads West for growth

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Joyner

Joyner said, Fulton has to be more involved.

"Our best player is struggling," Joyner said. "It's going to be a hard night when Johnny's not scoring consistently for us."

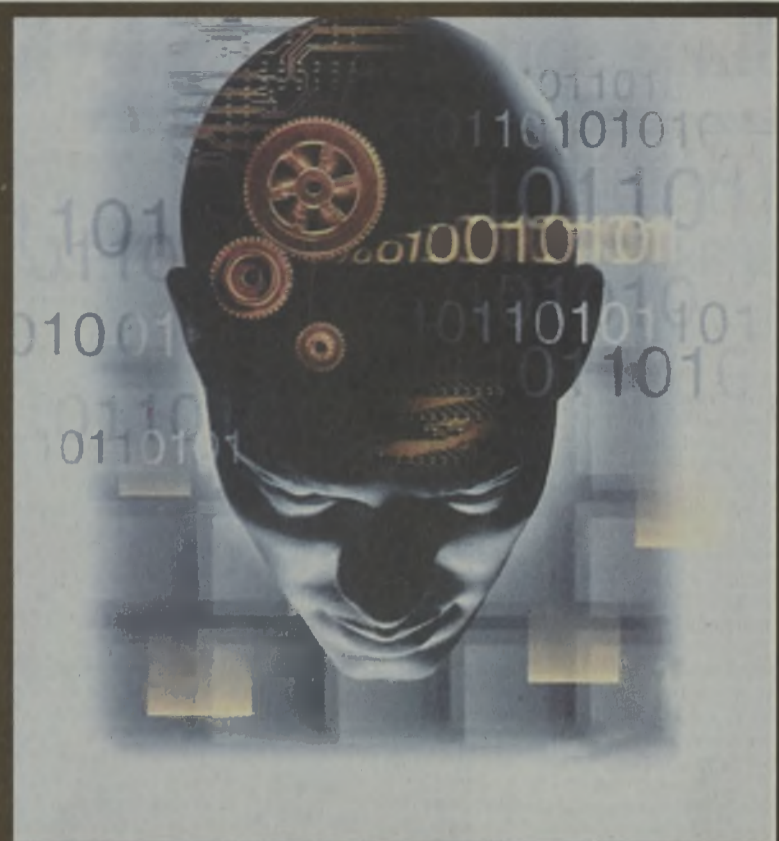
On the plus side, the Bulls are finding points with a three-guard offense of Hooper, Prince Parker and Jerome Givens and center Charles Clark, who averages 15.3 points a game. Even with Fulton's struggles, Smith has managed to stay afloat by spreading the ball.

"We have to find ways to manufacture points...but we're just not playing with that passion and attitude out there," Joyner said. "People are looking for (Fulton) to come through when in some cases they have to come through themselves. We

have to solve that."

Perhaps the answer is in Los Angeles, where the Bulls won't have to deal with academics or other distractions next week. Joyner hopes it'll bring everyone closer with the CIAA season opening Jan. 7 against No. 1 Virginia Union.

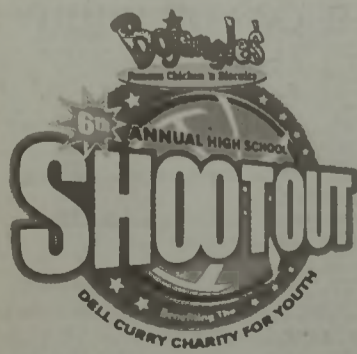
"Anytime we can get them away and they don't have to be concerned with anything but themselves, they kind of focus on team stuff," Joyner said. "We just really kind of need to lose ourselves within the team."



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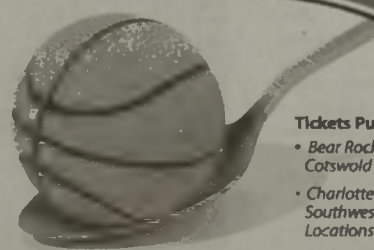
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