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Section

SPORTS

CIAA TOURNAMENT



FILE PHOTO/WADE NASH

Ticket books for the CIAA basketball tournament are sold out, but limited single-game tickets are on sale starting Monday.

Hot tickets officially sold out

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

The CIAA basketball tournament is officially a sellout.

Conference officials announced Wednesday that all available ticket booklets have been sold for the Feb. 27-March 4 tournament at the Charlotte Bobcats arena.

The CIAA will make a limited number of single-day tickets available for games until the semifinal round starting Monday at the arena box office.

"We knew that Charlotte would be a great move for the CIAA and the fact that tickets are sold out this early really shows how the community has embraced the conference," CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said. "The CIAA fans are the greatest in the world and we expect this year's tournament and its peripheral events to be the best ever."

The men's tournament is expected to be
Please see CIAA/2C

ON CAMPUS

DT Daniel signs with Rhode Island

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Carl Daniel, a 6-2, 275-pound defensive tackle from Charlotte, has signed a football grant in aid at Rhode Island.

Daniel, who played at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy, was named Virginia Independent School Athletic Association all prep defensive lineman and Division I VISAA all-state. He also lettered in baseball and track at Fork Union and helped the Blue Devils win their 18th straight state outdoor track title last year.

- East Mecklenburg linebacker Nick

See EAST/3C



PHOTO/LINDA HEWETT

East Mecklenburg High guard Max Funderburke is congratulated by athletics director William Dulin after scoring his 1000th point.



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Johnson C. Smith center Charles Clark is undersized at 6-5, but at 250 pounds can create space. He leads the Golden Bulls in scoring at 17.6 points per game, and shoots 64.9 percent from the field.

The lane man

Bulls' Charles Clark toughest on offensive block

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Charles Clark is Johnson C. Smith's security blanket.

The senior center is the Golden Bulls' most consistent offensive option and perhaps the CIAA's best post player. When Smith needs a basket, the ball's

going inside, and the results are usually good. He leads the Bulls in scoring (17.6 points per game), shooting percentage (64.9) and is second in rebounding at 5.6 a game.

"I guess it's just confidence when I get the ball," he said. "I've got confidence in my moves and my ability."

Although listed at 6-6, the 250-pound Clark creates matchup problems for defenders. He's sure-handed which serves makes it easier for entry passes to find their mark. His girth and footwork keeps defenders pinned to his back, where he works best away from the basket. But

See JCSU/2C

"I guess it's just confidence when I get the ball."

JCSU center Charles Clark

\$300 MILLION ON BASEBALL

D.C. council votes to cap park spending

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - D.C. Council chair Linda W. Cropp planned to introduce legislation Tuesday to cap Washington's construction costs for a Nationals ballpark at \$300 million as a provision to ensure that a stadium lease is approved.

While the District of Columbia agreed in 2004 to spend \$535 million on construction and land acquisition for the stadium, the

13-member council failed to approve a lease by the Dec. 31 deadline, prompting major league baseball to file for mediation.

The city and baseball then reached a revised agreement, which includes a \$20 million contribution from baseball for stadium construction. Mayor Anthony A. Williams also negotiated a side deal with construction companies setting a "guaranteed maximum price" for the city at \$320 million.

Opponents of the lease said the consultants concluded that the side agreement did not constitute a firm cap on stadium costs.

"The bottom line is, eight votes still have not changed," council member Phil Mendelson said.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, was not concerned with the legislation.

"This doesn't change anything," he said through spokesman Rich Levin.

Bivens king of amateur courts

Country Day star tops N.C. tennis

By Aisha Lide
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Dejon Bivens is at the top of his game.

The Charlotte Country Day junior is the No. 1 tennis player in the state. Ranking-wise, he has not always been the best.

"I haven't been there very long, so it feels pretty good," he said. "It's obviously a very good achievement. I didn't get there by myself."

Bivens, 18, has not always been interested in tennis and admits he thought it was a dumb sport. His interest began one day when his father dropped him off at Park Road Park.

"It was an accident," said Bivens. He actually went to swim and got bored so he decided to join in on a tennis game. From that point he had to play the game.

Under the guidance of Charlotte Country Day head coach Calvin Davis things should fall in order as planned. This year coach Davis expects Bivens to be the Buccaneers' top player.

"He wants to be the best at whatever it is he's doing," said Davis.

Being the number one player on the team sometimes creates jealousy and envy, but Bivens teammates have a lot of respect for him. "I try to push team unity," says

See BIVENS/2C



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte Country Day junior Dejon Bivens is the top-ranked amateur tennis player in North Carolina.

Baseball at Tuckaseegee Rec Center

Registration is open now through Feb. 28 for co-ed youth baseball at Tuckaseegee Recreation Center, 4820 Tuckaseegee Road.

The leagues, sponsored by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, are open to children 4-12 in four divisions:

- Ages 4-6: tee-ball.
- Ages 7-8: coach pitch.
- Ages 9-10 and 11-12: player pitch.

Most games will be at Tuckaseegee. Schedules will be determined later. The season generally runs April 1-Aug. 1.

Joining costs \$55, which includes a trophy and uniform. Birth certificates are required at registration. Leagues are co-ed and have volunteer coaches. Anyone who is interested in being a coach, can call the recreation center.

For more information call Tuckaseegee Recreation Center at (704) 399-4492 or e-mail Stephanie Frisbee at frisbsm@co.mecklenburg.nc.us.

Herbert L. White