



# Family affair for coaches



PHOTO/WADE NASH

N.C. Central assistant Steve Joyner Jr. and J.C. Smith assistant Edward Joyner Jr. both played for JCSU head coach Steve Joyner Sr. Edward Sr., not pictured, is head coach at St. Paul's.

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Oh, oh, oh, CIAA basketball is the Joyner family show

Once upon a time Steve Joyner and his older brother

Edward kept count of who was beating who on the court. Then things got a little lopsided.

"(Steve) has taken total control of that situation," said

Edward, 56, head men's coach at St. Paul's.

Steve Joyner, 55, is the winningest basketball coach in Johnson C. Smith history, and by his side is his nephew

## Joyners make their mark at home, bench

Edward Joyner Jr., who also coaches on the women's staff. Up I-85 about 150 miles is Steve Joyner Jr., a women's assistant coach at rival North Carolina Central. He got his start with his Edward Sr. when he was the head coach at Livingstone.

And Edward Joyner Sr. is no slouch. He's won 10 games with St. Paul's this year. Last year the Tigers didn't win any. "I inherited that team and they weren't very talented," Edward the elder said.

So he reached out to his brother to motivate St. Paul's players.

"It didn't help," said Edward Sr.

But that's just how their relationship works. The Joyners talk five times a day, keeping the close relationship they developed as kids on the basketball court.

"Growing up in Winston-Salem, basketball was not only a community event, it was a family event," Steve Sr. said. "Winston-Salem has an outstanding recreational department."

Playing with his older brother in the parks and recreation centers of the Twin Cities instilled a passion for basketball in the Joyners. It must have seeped through to their DNA because the next generation of Joyner coaches are waiting in the wings.

The juniors played for their fathers and worked on the staffs of their uncles.

Steve Jr., 26 and a graduate of Smith like his dad and cousin, started his coaching career at Livingstone when the elder Edward was head coach there.

"I catch myself thinking and saying things that I

heard my dad and my uncle say," Steve Jr. said. "It's a weird moment in time for me."

Steve Jr. said he now understands what his cousin was talking about when he began coaching with the elder Steve when he played for the Golden Bulls.

"Steve does a wonderful job for us," said NCCU head women's coach Joli Robinson. "He's just like his father. I remember seeing him as a little boy growing up and I told him when the position became available, I'd look him up."

Robinson said because he knows the game so well when the time comes for Steve Jr. to be a head coach, he's going to make a great one.

Don't be surprised to see Edward Jr., 33, in a head

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## Bye works for Bulls

Extra day off gives JCSU time to prep for Va. State

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what we've done in our preparations will give us an advantage."

Smith, which beat Virginia State 108-98 on Feb. 7, is playing to secure a spot in the Division II national tournament as well. The Bulls are ranked sixth in the South Atlantic Region this week, their highest of the season despite rising as high as No. 15 in the country last month. The only other CIAA team in the top six — which advance to the postseason tournament — is last year's national champion Virginia Union, the country's No. 1 team.

"We've moved up to No. 6 this week and the final poll will come out on Monday," Joyner said. "You want to be in the top five to assure yourself a spot in the playoffs. We hope we're doing the right things to be there next week, but the only sure way to get in is to win. I think we'll have to win at least one game."

That's not a foregone conclusion at the CIAA, where the top four seeds have taken turns beating each other. Smith, for example is 2-1 against the East's top seeds, earning a split against defending CIAA champ Union and a 68-56 win against Bowie State on Jan. 17.

"I think there are a number of teams capable of winning," Joyner said. "You have to be concerned about your team, that they're emotionally comfortable to go out and play their best."

Especially this week.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Shaw guard Jenna Bradford drives around Shaw's LaConya Polk in the Bears' 69-47 win Tuesday. Shaw is looking to win a CIAA-record fourth straight women's tournament championship.

## Date with destiny

Shaw women going for record fourth straight title

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The smiles on the faces of the Shaw women's basketball team while they're beating CIAA opponents aren't arrogant taunts.

They're staying loose so that they can continue their winning ways. The Bears have a 74-game league winning streak. That translates into a three-year gap between the last time the Bears lost to a conference rival.

The Bears don't change their game when they play Raleigh rival Saint Augustine's or East Division foes, but those teams play harder against them, said guard Nastassia Boucicault.

"They play harder and we get

fouled harder," she said.

Still, Shaw wins. Even on a night of less than stellar shooting, a night head coach Jacques Curtis calls a bad one, Shaw is closer to a fourth CIAA championship.

Are the Bears arrogant?

Not at all.

"The girls play hard every night and that's what they did tonight, they kept plugging and plugging," Curtis said after Shaw's 67-49 victory over St. Augustine's in the tournament quarterfinals Tuesday.

Though Shaw shot only 40 percent, they forced the Falcons into 21 turnovers, which turned into 15 points for the Bears.

"We come out and we play

hard and we play together," said Boucicault. "I'm not going to say we're unstoppable because anything can happen on any night."

But in the last three years unstoppable, at least in conference play, describes Shaw perfectly.

Guard Leslee Anderson said the team has fun and keeps the goal of winning in the forefront of their minds when they're on the floor.

"We're a pretty silly team. We stay focused and we have fun at the same time," she said.

Elizabeth City State's Vikings are the only team this season that came close to beating the Bears.

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## CIAA analyst a fan first

ESPN's Lewter hooked on tourney from childhood

By Chris F. Hodges

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One of ESPN basketball analyst Stan Lewter's first CIAA memories came when he was barely out of diapers.

"My parents would take me to games and we would go to the tournament and get out of school and all of that," he said. "I got a program for the 25th anniversary. My dad was always big on history and he said they're going to ask you about that one day and you need to know that."

Lewter put his knowledge and love of the league to good use when he left coaching (he was head men's basketball coach at Livingstone for three years) for TV; the CIAA was just lining up its television deals. He's been the voice of the CIAA tournament for nearly a decade and he calls most of the regular season TV games.

"I was at the right place at the right time and we grew together," Lewter said.

Though he may have a smile plastered on his face and laughter in his voice, Lewter takes his job seriously.

"It's my job to entertain and inform people," he said.

Historically black college sports haven't gotten a lot of television time in the past. But that changed for the CIAA in 2005. Urban Sports and Entertainment Group, the league's longtime TV partner helped broker a deal with ESPN to broadcast the tournament's quarterfinal, semifinal and final games.

Urban Sports is also the company that puts on Lewter's show, "Inside the Game," a weekly, half-hour highlights

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Stan Lewter, right, talks basketball with Terry Peterson before the start of the CIAA tournament Monday. Lewter is an analyst for CIAA football and basketball games on ESPN.