

# Golden Bulls set sights on Division II regional

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turnovers into 16 points. For all but 3 minutes and 30 seconds, we gave them all we had," Smith coach Steve Joyner said. "At about that time, we fell apart a little bit

with a series of turnovers and missed shots and free throws and that was the difference in the game."

Without the CIAA crown, the Bulls will change focus

on the regional, where Smith and VUU are the lone CIAA teams in a field of eight. Joyner admonished his players to look forward to continuing a winning season.

"It's been an emotional rollercoaster but I told the guys to point to the many positive accomplishments this year - 23-7 is an outstanding record, finishing

first in the division is outstanding, so they've done some outstanding things."

Including beating VUU, which Smith managed on Jan. 7 in an 87-77 win at

Brayboy Gym. The Bulls are already thinking about a fourth meeting in Richmond.

"I think without a doubt we could see them again," Joyner said.

## MEAC tournament pits Delaware State against the field

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The Hornets aren't going to dazzle anyone with offense, but find ways to win. DSU is 10th out of 11 teams in scoring offense (57.5 points per game), yet have wrapped up first place in the regular season. How? DSU is tough on defense, topping the MEAC at 57.6 points per game, something coach Grig

Jackson has built the program on. That's why it's difficult to go against the Hornets and top scorer Jahsha Bluntt (14.7 points per game).

• Bethune-Cookman (15-13, 11-6)

The Wildcats are the only other MEAC program with a winning overall record. If there's going to be a serious

challenge to Delaware State's drive to the title, it'll come out of Daytona. Antonio Webb leads the league in scoring at 16.6 points per game and Michael Williams is ninth at 14.5.

• Coppin State (11-17, 11-6) The Eagles went 0-for-the season in nonconference games, but don't feel sorry for CSU. Coach Ron Mitchell

put his Eagles through a treacherous non-MEAC schedule for two reasons: income and this tournament. If those early season beat-downs result in a championship, it's worth it.

• S.C. State (12-15, 10-7) The Bulldogs have been up and down, and as a result, may be the hardest dark-horse to figure out. S.C.

State has been solid on defense (65.1 ppg), but need to get more scoring balance in order to contend.

• Hampton (12-15, 10-8)

It wasn't that long ago the Pirates were the toast of all black-college basketball. This year, their role is to get a good showing at tournament time. With an offense that averages 67.3 points per

outing and defense that allows 65.1, Hampton could string together enough firepower to surprise.

• Norfolk State (11-17, 10-8) The Spartans are good defensively at 64.5 points per game, but outside of Tony Murphy (16 points per game) NSU needs more offensive contributions in order to be a force.

## JCSU makes tourney field

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ular season, Smith lost by eight points. Taylor said the Bulls played lethargically in Raleigh, but were a different team in the championship game.

"You know that Shaw is going to come hard," Taylor said. "We came to meet fire with fire and give ourselves a chance."

Sophomore Shemika Jones led the Bulls with 16 points and after the game she said she's looking ahead so that next year's tournament will have a different outcome.

"Personally I think I need to work on my ball handling," Jones said. "I shot 7 for 14 and to me that's not good."

The Bulls only lose one senior, and Jones said she hopes the women will stay in Charlotte over the offseason and practice together.

"If we could all stay here that would be great, basically since we're losing one senior we're still the same team and we can build more chemistry," Jones said.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Johnson C. Smith guard Ashley Chase (center) is consoled after the Golden Bulls lost to Shaw 53-50 in the CIAA women's championship game. The Golden Bulls still advanced to the Division II tournament for the first time since the 1992-93 season.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Virginia Union guard Quincy Smith swoops in for a layup in the Panthers' win over Elizabeth City State in the CIAA men's tournament last week in Charlotte. The Panthers try to duplicate last year's national title starting this weekend at the South Atlantic Regional in Richmond.

## Korea trip more than goodwill

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Friday he hopes to find a land that may be more receptive to others of mixed blood than it might have been not long ago.

"I'm proud of my mom and proud of our Korean her-

itage," said Ward, whose name is tattooed in Korean on his right arm. "It's something I should have done a long time ago — and it's going to be very emotional. And I hope they accept me for who I am."

The 29-year-old Ward, a four-time Pro Bowl receiver and the Steelers' career receiving leader, was born in Seoul but left with his mother and father at age 1 and settled in the United States, where Ward's mom hoped society would be more accepting of the multiracial family.

Ward's parents did not stay together long but, even after they split up, his mother remained in America to be with her son. Despite knowing no English before arriving, she worked as many as three jobs at a time — among them, at an airport, a convenience store and in a school cafeteria — to support her son and give him some of the things his wealthier classmates enjoyed.

At times, he felt embarrassed by their background, but he soon came to appreciate what his mother was doing for him. Now, Ward thinks some of the traits that made him into one of the NFL's top receivers, including a willingness to block with the passion of a lineman while playing a skill position, came from his mother's commitment to hard work.

Even after Ward began making millions in the NFL, his mother returned to her school cafeteria job in Forest Park, Ga., after quitting for a couple of months, saying she felt bored and depressed while not working.

"I want to see where she grew up. I want to see where I was born. I want to see where she played hooky and hung out — I want to learn

more about my heritage," said Ward, who has never returned to Korea since leaving as a toddler, though his mother has gone back 3-4 times. "I want to learn everything."

Ward and his mother planned the weeklong trip before the Super Bowl, where Ward made five catches for 123 yards and a touchdown in a 21-10 Steelers victory over Seattle. But what was supposed to be a "private" trip for Ward devoted to sightseeing, shopping, meeting relatives and eating Korean food has since become a media event.

Ward is expected to meet Korean dignitaries during a trip that begins April 1. He also wants to spend time with some of the children being helped by Pearl S. Buck International, an organization that aids biracial children in Korea.

"When I was there, it wasn't cool to be a mixed kid. There probably was some hatred there," Ward said. "Some of the kids are treated badly and, sadly, it happens, but it's not the kids' fault."

Ward is encouraged

because his success has led to considerable media attention in Korea of how society treats those of multiracial backgrounds. A recent editorial in the JoongAng Daily, the country's largest newspaper with a circulation of more than 2 million, cited the praise being heaped on Ward and urged the end to the "embarrassing habit of discrimination against mixed-blood people."

The editorial concluded, "We should open our minds and hold their hands to raise the second and third Hines Ward in Korea."

Ward plans to help fund a scholarship in his mother's name for Korean-American children. He was chosen for a similar scholarship while attending the University of Georgia, even though he was also on an athletic scholarship.

"It's like my mother still tells me, 'Always be humble, never forget where you came from,'" Ward said. "My story is kind of a perfect story, of how I was able to overcome all that. Maybe some other kids can use that as motivation."

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