000

Continued from page 1C experience with the Panthers Playing behind starter DeShaum Foster, Williams has been practicing with the third, fourth and even fifth teams as he adjusts to the speed of the NFL. "The holes open and close up fast and everybody is fast," "The holes open and close up fast and everybody is fast," Williams said. "I knew in the Senior Bowl and in college everyone could run, but these are the best players in the world, on one field."

Fox isn't concerned with Williams' learning curve because the plan has always been to bring him along slowly. "There are a lot of skills to the receiving it for not institute."

ly.

"There are a lot of skills to the position it's not just running the ball," Fox said. "You have to understand protections, you have to block when called upon. There is a lot of coaching going on."

Still, Williams has shown flashes of why the Panthers expect him to eventually compete for the top running back job. He was given a five-year contract—it could earn him up to \$9 million—and the time to grow into the position. "Even though it's only been a few day, you can see he knows how to run the football," quarterback Jake Delhonime said. "He sets up blocks and he goes downhill." As part of the rookie hazing process, Williams twice had to carry Foster's helmet and shoulder pads inside after practice. Still, he's soaking in Foster's insight.

"Tester's insight.
"DeShaun has helped me read defenses and read certain lanes and how to pick up if defenses are blitzing or bluffing," he said "In minicamp, guys were flying around, but we didn't have

pads and there wasn't much banging I know I'll get used to it in a couple of days, I don't have a choice."

Since Williams will be battling for playing time, he wants to get on the field any way he can and has been bugging special teams coach Danny Crossman to let him return kickoffs.

"Every time I pass the special teams coach I say, When are we doing kickoff returns, coach?" I bet he's probably tired of hearing that," Williams said.

Having failed to master his sill-placed dorm TV, Williams is looking for other ways to

is looking for other ways to fill the time between prac-

"I gave up. I got an iPod and a radio," Williams said. "I don't even bother trying to watch that TV. You need a pair of binoculars to see it."

Krzyewski dislikes 'Dream Team'

THE PAR-BUSTERS GOLF GROUP

Presents the 2006 Par - Busters Open Crystal Creek Golf Club

Highway 51 at Miller Road • Pineville, NC 28134 • (704)588-2640

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG - U.S. national basketball team coach Mike Krzyzewski doesn't like his squad being labeled a "dream team"

The term "dream team" surfaced when a first-ever U.S. basketball squad with NBA players, including standouts like Michael Jordan and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, dominated the competition at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

Krzyzewski's team, which will be playing in the world championships in Japan that start Saturday, has been dubbed "Dream Team VII" - the seventh incarnation of an U.S. basketball team with an NBA lineup.

Asked how the current squad stacks up against the original "dream team," Krzyzewski said, "We don't call this a 'dream team." Krzyzewski and star player LeBron James were attending a pronotional event in Hong

Kong after playing warmup games against China and Brazil in the neighboring Chinese city of Guangzhou. "The first 'dream team' was a collection of all-stars from different ages. This is really a national team that has young gus," Krzyzewski said, adding that there are role players who aren't necessarily big stars on the

roster.

"It's a different concept from a 'dream team.' It's a developing team," he said.

Other than James, the U.S. lineup also includes Carmelo Anthony, Dwight Howard, Dwayne Wade, Gilbert Arenas, Brad Miller and Elton Brand.

U.S. domination in international basketbal has waned since its convincing gold medal performance in Barcelona. Most recently, the Americans only collected bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Saturday and Sunday,

August 19th & 20th, 2006

Will take the first 125 players e (%) of proceeds to benefit Sickle Cell Regional Network and the Junior Golf Program \$5,900.00 Amateur Golf Tournament 36 HOLE MEDAL PLAY Tee Times: 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM on Saturday Sunday Shotgun: 8:00 AM No Exception!!!!! Spikeless Shoes Must Be Worn Championship Flight • Senior Flight • Ladies Flight First Flight • Second Flight • Third Flight • Fourth Flight

Entry Fee: \$135 per person (includes green fees & carts)

For Additional Information Contact John W. Love, Sr., Tournament Chairman (980)253-1176 cell; (704)392-1036 home Par-Busters Club House (704)334-4237

MEAC out for redemption

Continued from page 1C

Continued from page 1C wild card. The Rattlers were just over 500 at 6-5, but went 5-8 in league play under first-year coach Rubin Carter. With a year's seasoning and the opportunity to recruit, FAMU may be ready to reclaim its spot as one of the conference's best programs.

Bethune-Cookman may have as much talent as anyone in the MEAC, but haven't been able to harness enough to make a run at the title. The Wildcats, like the rest of the league, have to figure out the Hampton-SC. State axis to really go anywhere.

After several years of futility, Norfolk State can finally see some light, at least to the mid-

dle of the pack. The Spartans improved to 4-7 last year and are primed to do better with tight end Jonathan Allen and cornerback. Daniel Hammett leading the offense and defense, respectively.

Even bottom-feeders have to chase something N.C. A&T, once a marquee program, is regrouping under first-year coach Lee Fobbs. The former Grambling State star and Texas A&M running backs coach has overhauled everything with the departure of 21 seniors, so the Aggies aren't expected to be world-beaters. Morgan State slipped badly last year, and needs to rebound, as does Howard. Their incentive is avoiding the basement.

Dix's challenge: Score on defense

Continued from page 1C

Continued from page 10 interceptions."
Dix's growth as a defender also benefits the offense, Richardson said. His work against receivers forces them to run precise routes and quarterbacks to get the ball to them quickly because of Dix's recovery speed.
"He's made me better just

by the way he plays," Richardson said. "He's just a good coverage corner You can just sit him out on an island all by himself."

Dix isn't taking anything for granted. With the defense switching to a 3-4 scheme, responsibilities and roles are changing. There's also more depth, which

forces everyone to compete.

"I work hard every day because I know the people behind me are just as talented as I am, so that motivates me to work hard and wer push each other to work hard," he said. "If I go down, I know the person behind me can get the job done, too."

Case of mistaken identity costly to former basketball star's reputation

THE ASSCCIATED PRESS
Eddie Johnson is still getting over what he calls the worst day of his life.
He scratched his way out of the Cabrini-Green housing project in Chicago, fashioned a long and successful NBA career, turned that into an opportunity on TV and built a reputation as an all-around good guy who loves to work with kids.
His worst scrape with the law involved a couple of traffic tickets. Now he's dealing with a case of mistaken identity that shocked him and his friends and, he fears, may have permanently sullied his reputation.

a case of mistaken identity that shocked him and his friends and, he fears, may have permanently sullied his reputation.

"Devastating. Hard to explain," Johnson said Thursday.

Eddie Johnson was mistaken in some media reports for another Eddie Johnson – a retired 10-year NBA player from Florida who was arrested last week and charged with sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl.

The Eddie Johnson who had nothing to do with that hideous accusation is a former Illinois star who went on to a 17-year career with the Kings, Suns, Rockets and other teams. But when some media reports about the alleged crime included his bio information and file photo linked on the Internet, his phone started ringing

"The thing that disappointed me the most is some people were overzealous enough to

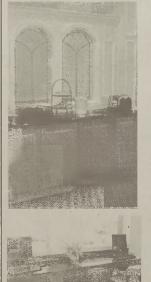
think it was me and attack me with a ferocity I can't comprehend," Johnson said in a telephone interview from his home in Phoenix. "That's the part that didn't allow me to sleep last night. That's the part that forced me to reach out to as many people as I could and say "Shame on you, that's not me" Edward Arnet Johnson is 6-foot-8, does color commentary on Suns telecasts during the season, gives motivational speeches and runs basketball clinics for youngsters. He has a DVD that teaches kids how to shoot the jumper He retired from the NBA in 1999 and is 47

is 47
"He called me really upset about it," said
Charles Barkley, a former teammate of
Johnson's, who wanted to help him set the
record straight. "It's a tough situation. He was
on vacation in Hawaii. He gets back and the
first thing he knows, he's dealing with this.
And he's such a good dude. It's an unfortunate
situation."

And he's such a good dude. It's an unfortunate situation." Edward "Fast Eddie" Johnson, Jr — the one being held in a Florida jail on sexual battery and burglary charges — is a 6-foot-2, two-time NBA All-Star who played most of his career in Atlanta. An Auburn alum, he retired in 1987 and is 51. "Theel bad for Eddie Johnson of Phoenix and I feel really badly for Eddie Johnson of Auburn, because he never got his life together," Barkley said.







Crown Park Hotel

600 Willard St. Durham, NC 27701 Phone: (919)956-9444 Fax: (919)956-5553

Is Pleased to Offer **Special Rates**

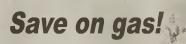
Just Call Us!

Featuring

Data Ports Business Center Interior corridors 25" Color Television
Spacious Guest Rooms
Near Durham Bulls Athletic Park
Free Shuttle to Duke, VA Hospitals
Free Secured and Wireless Internet
Complementary Continental Breakfast
All grooms include coffee makers

All rooms include coffee makers, iron & ironing board, hair dryers Stay close to the action at a price you can afford at the Crown Park Hotel of Durham. This month save with Special rate at this convenient hotel located near downtown Durham, and only minutes from Duke, NCCU, UNC and the RDU Airport. Take a campus tour, visit Durham Bulls Athletic Park, home of the AAA Durham bulls, or go to the Museum of Life & Science, rated in the top four familyfriendly museums in the Southeast by Family Fun magazine. Located in the historic tobacco district, enjoy the newly con-structed American tobacco building with abundant eateries and sports bars. Play a challenging round of golf, or shop at an abundance of unique stores. The courteous staff at the Crown Park Hotel of Durham provides a warm and inviting atmosphere and loads of amenities to make your stay most enjoyable. The Crown Park Hotel of Durham has spacious, clean rooms, and excellent service - everything you need for

We shall make every effort to meet and exceed your expectations.



Vacation "at home" in North Carolina

From Manteo to Murphy, from Calabash to High Hampton, scores of fascinating places to go, things to study, do and see...all within an easy one-day drive, or less.

For free information about specific resorts, attractions or destinations contact the N.C. Department of Tourism

1-800-VISIT NC