

Start of regular season brings a sense of reality

Continued from page 1C

Jenkins, running back DeShaun Foster, receiver Steve Smith and safety Colin Branch have been answered. Smith is listed as questionable for Sunday with a sore hamstring, but he'll likely play. Jenkins' health is very important because his presence in the middle gives the Panthers the best defensive line in football.

Carolina's offense wasn't very prolific during

the preseason, but that's to be expected. Very few teams tip their hand in games that don't count. Even practices are more intense. "I'm not going to kid myself," Fox said. "These guys know the difference between the preseason and regular season, and they do turn it up. Like I said before, if you are fortunate enough to get to the playoffs, it's a new tournament and it ratchets up a little bit more for that. This is for real now."

JOHNSON C. SMITH

Bulls focus on Bowie backs

Continued from page 1C

going to (have to) win as a team against him because he seems to be carrying the offense. If our defense does our job, then we'll shut down their whole offense, not just him. We'll get into their heads and we'll win the game."

Bowie, the preseason favorite to win the CIAA East, needed a field goal with 2 sec-

onds left last year to beat Smith 12-9. The Bulls are riding a wave of momentum with a fast start and can make a statement with a win against Bowie.

"We feel like we've got a little bit of confidence, but we know we're not all the way up the mountain yet," McNeill said. "We know we have a lot of work to do to get there and

a lot of work to even say we're the caliber of football team Bowie is now.

Williams and the Bulls are looking forward to the challenge - and meeting Redman.

"We're excited," he said. "Hopefully, it'll be an all-out game for four quarters. It'll be a great challenge."

Hospital founded by NBA star to open remedy neglect in Congo

By Beth Duff-Brown
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINSHASA, Congo - Two hospitals, each named for a beloved mother. One mired in the past, the other determined to make good on the future by overcoming a public health system devastated by decades of dictatorship and neglect.

The 2,000-bed Mama Yemo, named for the mother of Mobutu Sese Seko, the late strongman of what was called Zaire during his 32-year rule, is the largest hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The public facility - once the pride of Central Africa - is so beaten down that patients must bring their own medicine and are held hostage until they pay off their bills.

"It's hell here, everyone is just looking for a way out," said Dr. Mbwewe Kabamba, chief of emergency surgery at what was renamed Kinshasa General Hospital after Mobutu fell in 1997.

Across town, Dikembe Mutombo, once a child of Kinshasa and today a multimillionaire NBA basketball star, is helping fund a state-of-the-art facility - this one named for his mother, Biamba Marie.

Marie died at 64 when civil unrest prevented her from getting to a hospital. It was 1997, rebels were unseating Mobutu, and the city of 8 million people had erupted in violence.

"To do something of this caliber in the name of your beloved mom, it will mean a lot - not just to me but to the people of Congo," Mutombo recently told *The Associated Press* by telephone. He said he intends to inaugurate the 300-bed hospital in his native Kinshasa on Saturday.

He had been forced to postpone his visit due to violence that took 31 lives in the capital last week after rival factions loyal to President Joseph Kabila and Jean-Pierre Bemba were angered that neither won the first multiparty elections in four decades and must face a runoff.

"My mom played a big role, giving us all the tools to make us great human beings," Mutombo, a center with the Houston Rockets pro basketball team, said of his nine brothers and sisters. "She did what moms are supposed to do: raise a child with a good understanding of life."

Masosila Honorine, 28, is also a mother trying to do right by her children. She and her husband, a civil servant with the Finance Ministry, fled to the western capital from eastern Congo, worst hit by civil war from 1996 to 2002. The fighting is officially over, but lingering violence, hunger and disease have claimed some 4 million lives since Mobutu's downfall.

Her husband died three months ago at Mama Yemo after undergoing fibroid surgery. Unable to pay off the remainder of her bill - 19,200 Congolese francs, or about \$40 - she is locked inside the hospital gates. The average Congolese earns about \$100 a year.

Honorine sleeps on a rattan mat with her two girls, 12 and 5. They eat at the mercy of the Salvation Army and a widows' organization that feeds them on Sundays and Thursdays.

"Myself, I don't know what I'm going to do," said Honorine, her chalky lips dry from dehydration. "From now on, everything is in the hands of God."

About half of Congo's 58 million people are Christians in the country colonized by the Belgians, who built the hospital in 1926. Once a renowned tropical disease center, Mama Yemo became better known for horror stories after Congo gained independence in 1960.

Dr. Kabamba has worked at the hospital for 23 years, yet only earns \$70 a month. He performs operations in upscale private clinics to feed his six children. He blasts both Kabila and Bemba for shrugging off public health, and says he has little hope for the future.

"These are people who came to power through their guns," says Kabamba, reviewing an X-ray of a broken limb that cost the patient \$10 up front.

Straddling the Equator, Congo has a hot, humid climate that is ripe for disease. Life expectancy is 51 years, and one in five children dies before age 5. This is the land of Ebola outbreaks, rabies, polio, sleeping sickness and cholera. Malaria and HIV/AIDS are endemic.

Public Health Minister Emile Bongeli insists Congo is making strides. Yet he would not allow a foreign journalist to take photographs at Mama Yemo, saying they are weary of outsiders harping on their ramshackle facilities.

"We don't want to paint a negative picture of our country," he said. "We can't lie; we have serious problems, but we're taking care of our problems. Help yourself and God will help you."

Bongeli said Kabila's government intends to renovate the pediatric wing of Mama Yemo and notes that private hospitals, including one built by the Chinese, now dot the city.

Dr. Kabamba counters that most Congolese cannot afford them. He praised the basketball star for his personal efforts to open Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, but said 300 beds is nothing in a city that is chronically ill.

"It gives a message of peace and social progress, but this is not the solution," Kabamba said. "It's a nice act, but it doesn't have public impact."

Mutombo, having put \$15 million of his own toward the \$29 million teaching hospital, hopes his foundation will raise enough to build pediatric and physical therapy wards. Copper coils were imported to suck static out of the surgery floors; local mahogany rails line the walls.

Dr. Joyce Hightower, a physician from California, is overseeing the hiring of the medical staff and believes the first 60 beds will be open by October.

Patients will pay on a sliding scale, she said, and the poorest can apply for a scheme that allows them to work for medical credit through a nongovernment agency.

"This hospital is right in a community where 90 percent of the people are not working," she said. "But if you give people something for free, they don't know the value of it."

On the Net:
Dikembe Mutombo Foundation: www.dmf.org

BASEBALL

A-Rod continues hitting tear

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Alex Rodriguez hit two more homers and drove in five runs, and Darrell Rasmus pitched six impressive innings for his first major league win to lead the New York Yankees past the Minnesota Twins 10-1 on Sunday.

Bobby Abreu doubled three times, and Jorge Posada and Robinson Cano added three hits apiece for the American League East-leading Yankees, who took two of three games from Minnesota in a possible playoff preview. New York leads Boston by a season-high nine games in the division.

Rodriguez hit a solo shot off Matt Garza (1-4) in the fifth and a three-run drive off Pat Neshek in the seventh, reaching 30 homers and 100 RBIs for the ninth straight season. Jimmie Foxx is the only player with a longer streak, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. He did it for 12 straight years from 1929-40.



CHARLOTTE CITY

Football Classic

Livingstone College

VS

Bowie State University

Saturday September 23, 2006

Memorial Stadium - Charlotte, NC

Game Time: 4:00 pm

Youth Rally 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Stay In School/Off Drugs/Peer Pressure/Academics

PRIZES ONE PER QUARTER PRIZES

Bobcat Tickets - Color TV
Gas (50 Gal) - Panthers Tickets

Gasoline donated by: Border Line Mini Mart; Hwy 321 North, Clover SC 803-222-9590

To qualify for prizes, tickets must be purchased by September 22, 2006

For More Information:

704-559-5959 or 803-684-9500

North Carolina South Carolina

Sponsors:



805 Gold Hill Road • Fort Mill, S.C. 29715
(803) 396-9000

The Charlotte Post



SOUTHERN WOMEN'S SHOW

September 21-24 • Charlotte Merchandise Mart

- Prizes
- Celebrities
- Fashion Shows
- Home Accents
- Cooking Classes
- Health Screenings
- Over 400 Boutiques
- Great Shopping and FUN!



Get wild and rowdy in the Kitchen with Ruby Ann Boxcar.

Dress for Success Preview Night Wednesday, September 20th 5:30-8:30

Thursday 10am-6pm • Friday 10am-8pm
Saturday 10am-5pm • Sunday 11am-6pm

Adults \$8.00 • Youth 6-12 \$4 • Under 6 FREE with Adult



For Information Visit: www.SouthernWomensShow.com • Or Call: 1-800-949-2248 • A Southern Shows, Inc. Production

Advance Discount Tickets available at Lowes Foods

