

Campus abuzz with prospect of winning

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campus where basketball is king of the athletic hill. The men's and women's teams played for the league championship in March — a first for the school. The men's tennis team has won six of eight CIAA championships. The football team last had winning season was 1998 when it went 6-4. The school's only CIAA championship was earned in 1969. McNeill — the oldest coach on the football staff — was 9 years old.



Williams

"Because our football team was on a losing streak, there was no one on campus who remembers the glory days."

A win against Bowie, the

preseason favorite to win the CIAA East Division, would go a long way in legitimizing Golden Bulls football. Williams, a junior who leads the team in tackles, said the Bulls, who were picked by league coaches to finish last in the West, are playing with a sense of urgency.

"It's just the third game of the season and right now we're afraid to lose," he said. "We've got a lot of hype behind us, fans are starting to jump on the bandwagon, and that's a great thing, but all in all, we're just afraid to lose right now."

If the Bulls continue to play well, excitement will continue to build, said Mitchell, a senior from Gainesville, Fla. As word of Smith's success spreads, alumni and students are expected to see for themselves at Irwin Belk Complex, a 4,500-seat stadium where the Bulls are 0-11 since it opened in 2003. There's also the long-term bounce from winning football.

"One of the things people are looking hard at is home-

coming," Mitchell said. "When the team gets off to a winning start, it changes the dynamic of the campus and the beautiful thing is the players haven't gotten big heads."

Mitchell is so confident in JCSU, she's made a friendly wager with Bowie State student body president Prince Daniels on Saturday's game. She wouldn't reveal the stakes.

"Somebody's going to have to shame himself at homecoming, I'll put it that way," she said.

Smith won't be able to sneak up on Bowie, said McNeill, who went 0-10 last year with the Bulls, his first season back on campus after going 10-10 from 1995-96. "We know it's an important game because it's a conference game (for JCSU) and it's not one for them," he said. "We don't know how they're going to prepare for us. I know being 2-0 they're going to prepare a little differently than they would have if we were 0-2."

Digital divide still separates students

By Ben Feller

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Many more white children use the Internet than do Hispanic and black students, a reminder that going online is hardly a way of life for everyone.

Two of every three white students - 67 percent - use the Internet, but less than half of blacks and Hispanics do, according to federal data released Tuesday. For Hispanics the figure is 44 percent; for blacks, it's 47 percent.

"This creates incredible barriers for minorities," said Mark Lloyd, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and an expert on how communications influence civil rights.

Not using the Internet "narrows their ability to even think about the kind of work they can be doing," Lloyd said. "It doesn't prepare them for a world in which they're going to be expected to know how to do these things."

The new data come from the National Center for Education Statistics, an arm of the Education Department. It is based on a national representative survey of households in 2003.

Overall, 91 percent of students in nursery school through 12th grade use computers; 59 percent use the Internet.

Yet within those numbers, the digital divide between groups is a national concern.

Studies have shown that access and ability to use the Internet help improve people's learning, job prospects and daily living.

Schools have taken big steps to close the gaps.

Virtually all U.S. schools are connected to the Internet. The gaps in Internet usage between whites and minorities, though sizable, are smaller during the school day.

That's not the case at home.

A total of 54 percent of white students use the Internet at home, compared with 26 percent of Hispanic and 27 percent of black youngsters. Limited access can erode a student's ability to research assignments, explore college scholarships or just get comfortable going online.

Kids use the Internet most often for completing school assignments, the new study says. But they also count on it for e-mail, sending instant messages and playing games.

The racial divide in computer usage is tied to broader problems, including poverty in black and Latino communities and even a cultural

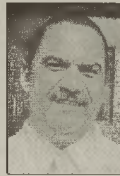
reluctance to use the Internet, Lloyd said.

Among other students, 58 percent of Asian children and

47 percent of American Indian students use the Internet.

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