

JCSU offense more productive

Scoring goes up, errors down for Golden Bulls

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"We believe in each other, we trust each other to take our steps and get where we need to go," said Bower, one of those sophomores. "We're more consistent than we were last year. We've bought in to what the coaches are telling us and the coaches are buying into what we can do."

"Everything starts up front," McNeill said. In turn, the skill players have found success. Sophomore quarterback Carlton Richardson has completed 59.1 percent of his passes without an interception. Marquis Belton, a former North Mecklenburg High star, is tied for third in the league in receptions (12) with a pair of touchdowns. Spreading the ball around has been key to the offensive balance.

"Right now they're doing pretty decent," McNeill said. "I think it's just having a better feel for each other and a couple of twinkles here and there where we're not so dependent on Belton."

Said Bower: "It makes our job a whole lot easier. We know who we have to block, we know what we're supposed to do and protect the quarterback, running backs the wide receivers."

Despite the absence of top tailbacks Marco Kirven (elig-

bility) and Kevin Allen (injury), the Bulls are fourth in the league in rushing at 117.7 yards per game. Sophomore Yannick Murray, a fifth-string tailback last year, has made the most of his opportunity to get more touches while senior Henry Willoughby provides a change of pace.

"(Depth) is a concern, but right now both kids are running pretty good, both kids are pretty healthy," McNeill said. "Willoughby is more of the guy who played a lot last year and knows it and Yannick is a kid who is trying to learn it."

The Bulls need to keep improving as the CIAA season gets underway. With a defense that's near the top in several categories, maintaining that offensive output will go a long way toward moving Smith back to respectability.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Bower said, adding "we're taking it one week at a time, one game at a time."

Twins making most of chances

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Minnesota Twins once again made the most of their chances. Twice as much, really.

Always good with their gloves, the Twins turned five double plays for the first time in more than a decade, winning at Cleveland 6-1 Sunday and edging closer in the AL Central race.

Down by 12 games right

after the All-Star break, the Twins have gone 41-21 to close within a game of the slumping Detroit Tigers.

Scott Baker pitched six strong innings and the Twins backed him with slick fielding.

"He made a lot of good pitches to get double plays," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said. "That's the one thing we've been preach-

ing to him. If you pitch to contact, we'll catch it. We're good at that. We made a lot of good plays in the infield."

The last time the Twins made five double plays in a game was June 3, 1995, against Texas.

While moving up on the Tigers, Minnesota moved four games ahead of Chicago in the wild-card race

Land Rover LR3 delivers as Discovery's replacement

Ford Motor Company has gotten a lot of press lately over its finances and plummeting sales, so much so, that all the good vehicles it makes are taking a back seat.

Such is Land Rover's LR3, the replacement for the ill-fated Discovery. It wasn't a bad vehicle - it just wasn't what people wanted from a Land Rover. The LR3 is all that and more.

This is the first vehicle delivered under Ford's guidance. The beautiful Range Rover was done while BMW briefly owned the company. So now we get a glimpse of what Ford and Land Rover can do.

It's a lot. The LR3's integrated hydroformed, boxed steel ladder frame is one of the strongest in the industry. So for those who love looking for places to tread lightly, the LR3 will not disappoint. The V8 HSE model has permanent four-wheel drive and a terrific air suspension with auto leveling. Yes, you can run through rough terrain, but the ride will be surprisingly smooth - at least on pavement. I don't do the Outback thing.

The style is boxy but handsome. It resembles

the high zoot Range Rover, only smaller. The interior is understated - typically British - but elegant. There's leather and some wood - proper for a British car - and controls that are ergonomically correct. But the radio and climate controls are a bit fussy. The HSE comes standard with a seven-seating package.

The six-speed transmission is coupled to a 300-horsepower V8 that's borrowed from Jaguar. The two work great together. The weight keeps the LR3 from being sprightly, but it's not what I'd call slow. It's got some giddyup.

The vehicle comes with a great deal of standard safety equipment including eight airbags, side impact beams, four-channel, all-terrain antilock brakes, front and rear park distance control, Bi-Xenon headlights and seat belt pretensioners. A 550-watt stereo, navigation, Bluetooth, touch screen, power everything and backlit controls are also standard.

My favorite feature is the British male voice in the navigation system. My least favorite was the radio: poor speakers and not enough tone control.

The LR3 gets high marks in everything else. Spend the \$55,850 for this puppy and you'll feel like part of the royal family.

The Charlotte Post

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If You Can Dream It

As many of you know, sharing the dreams that we may have for our lives is not always greeted with the same excitement and enthusiasm that we may have for them. The people closest to us are often the ones who try the hardest to discourage us from pursuing our dreams. They are often convinced that we are wasting our time. Some friends who feel that they know everything about us, will tell us that we do not have what it takes to make our dreams a reality. They may look at what we want and say to us that they are simply impossible. They may suggest that we spend our time doing something more realistic.

However, I am convinced that the very fact that we have dreams at all is a good enough reason to go after them. I believe that it is the Spirit of Life that puts such ideas in our hearts when it is something that no matter how hard we try to forget it, it just will not go away. We just cannot shake it.

Instead of fighting the dream, it would make more sense to pursue it. Dreams are given to us for a reason. They are given so that we can find a sense of fulfillment in our lives. Dreams are an opportunity for us to use the gifts and talents that are special and unique to each one of us. We know deep in our hearts that we will not be truly happy until we can make our dreams come true. It does not matter how ridiculous or impractical or unrealistic they may seem to others if they make sense to our hearts.

As the great writer Goethe once said, "Whatever you can do, or dream you can—begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."

If you can dream it, do it!

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