

C SPORTS

Section

Opportunity knocks for title contender



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO/MAE C. JONG

Heavyweight boxer Calvin Brock of Charlotte (right) lands a punch against Timur Ibragimov during a bout in June. Brock will take on Wladimir Klitschko of the Ukraine for the IBO and IBF world titles Nov. 11 at Madison Square Garden. Brock, the IBF's No. 3 contender, is 29-0 with 22 knockouts; Klitschko is 46-3 with 41 KOs.

Charlotte heavyweight to fight for world titles in November

By Herbert L. White
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Calvin Brock finally has his shot at a world boxing championship.

Brock, an unbeaten heavyweight from Charlotte, will fight Wladimir Klitschko of the Ukraine Nov. 11 for the International Boxing Federation and International Boxing Organization title.

Brock, who is 29-0 with 22 knockouts, is No. 3 in the IBF rankings. He earned first title shot after dispatching Timor Ibragimov in June in Las Vegas. The bout is Klitschko's first defense of the championship he won from Chris Byrd in Mannheim, Germany in April.

"I'm not taking his chin for granted," Brock said at a news

conference Tuesday in New York to announce the bout. "With my power and knockout ratio, if I hit him right, I'll knock him out."

Said Klitschko: "Calvin Brock is a top-three fighter in the world. He's undefeated, young and willing to win. He has a great basic style of boxing."

The bout, which will be tele-

cast by HBO, will also mark women's light heavyweight champ Laila Ali's Madison Square Garden debut. The daughter of three-time heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali will face a yet to be named opponent 35 years after her father lost an epic battle to Joe Frazier for the world title.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Despite losing its two top runners, backups like Yannick Murray have helped Johnson C. Smith improve its offensive output.

Golden Bulls go on offensive

Experience in system producing more points and fewer mistakes

By Herbert L. White
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Everyone can take credit for Johnson C. Smith's offensive resurgence.

Turnovers are down, yardage and scoring are up for the Golden Bulls, who are fourth in the CIAA at 18.7 points per game going into Saturday's game against Virginia Union. Still, there's room for improvement.

"We're OK with it," said left tackle Tre Bower, a former Waddell High standout. "We'd just like to be No. 1 in the conference, not fourth."

Smith's more efficient because the Bulls are better at the basics. The Bulls run well enough to keep opponents off balance, which opens the passing attack. And they finish drives, leading the CIAA in red zone efficiency at 87.5 percent (7-of-8) with six touchdowns and a field goal.

"We're doing some good things, but we're still not where we need to be timing wise," head coach Daryl McNeill said. "Hopefully with the week off we were able to work on some things, some new (wrinkles) into our offense."

Smith's offensive success starts up front. The line, which starts one senior and two sophomores, has helped the Bulls to an average of 298 yards total offense per game and allowed only three sacks - all to Bowie State in a 14-13 loss.



McNeill

Please see JCSU/3C

POINT AFTER

Is Independence ripe for the taking?

Patriots aren't usual dominant selves after close shave against Vance



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Vance High running back Ra'Shawn Moore and the Cougars put a scare into Independence in a 21-20 loss.

SMELL THE COFFEE TIME: Independence High has its 96-game win streak - and a wake-up call.

The Patriots have the state's top coaching staff and the best collection of players, but Independence hasn't put everything together yet. Last week's 21-20 win over Vance should convince the Patriots they're vulnerable, but taking the threat seriously is another matter.

GETTING THERE: South Mecklenburg is no pushover under first-year coach James Martin.

The wing-T offense has put a spark in the Sabres despite a 1-3 mark. Two losses were nail-biters to Charlotte Catholic and Olympic in which South led late. By the way, last week's 23-22 loss to Olympic was one of the best

games in the county thus far. The Sabres aren't dazzling, but they're determined.

TRENDY: Wing-T formation. Talk about old school. The wing-T's heyday was in the 1940s, but the offense has found new life in Mecklenburg, with South Meck and Vance joining longtime advocate Charlotte Catholic.

BEST GAMES: Olympic at Charlotte Catholic in a Queen City 3A/4A opener. **Providence at South Meck** in a Southwestern 4A game.

SURPRISING EAGLES: East Mecklenburg. The Eagles are 4-0 and are pushing to be a player in the Southwestern 4A. East doesn't have big stars, although do-it-all tailback Mike Mayhew comes close. At any rate, the Eagles are poised for a run at the playoffs.

Herbert L. White

FROM STAFF REPORTS

While Carolina Panthers' Pro Bowl wide receiver Steve Smith continues to nurse his hamstring injury, he remains focused on football.

During his weekly podcast, Smith discusses becoming an extra pair of eyes for younger receivers Keary Colbert and Drew Carter.

In the last two games, receiver Keary Colbert caught three passes for 32 yards while Drew Carter had nine receptions for 96 yards. In last week's 13-16 loss to the Minnesota Vikings, Carter had four receptions for 34 yards, while Colbert had none.

This is the third NFL season for both receivers. However, Carter has only played in five games and started two this season, due to season-ending injuries in 2004 and 2005.

"Unfortunately, when you're a young guy, sometimes you do not recognize some things. So, I really was just being their eyes and showing them what they are doing in certain situations and just being a team play-



Smith

See SMITH/2C