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SPORTS

Section



FILE PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte Bobcats guard Raymond Felton sees a silver lining under the cloud of injuries that limited the Bobcats to a 26-56 record. "By these guys getting hurt, it kinda made me and Brevin (Knight) become one."

Forged under fire

Bobcats guards count benefits from last season's difficulties

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Bobcats had nothing but smiles on their faces as they headed to Wilmington for training camp, a noticeable difference from last season's frustrations.

Yet, with all their teammates back and healthy heading into the 2006-2007 season, point guards Raymond Felton and Brevin Knight aren't so quick to define last season as all bad.

"I think everything happens

for a reason," said Felton, who played in a team-high 80 games.

"By all those guys getting hurt last season, everybody made a fuss about me and Brevin (Knight) gonna be beefing," said Felton. "Me and Brevin this, me and Brevin that...but by those guys getting hurt, it kinda made me and Brevin become one."

Knight and Felton each averaged about 12 points per game and played over 2300 minutes

each, time well spent on the court together.

"We just started gelling," continued Felton. "We're playing great ball together, and we made it happen."

What didn't happen for the team was the playoffs, but by winning eight more games than the previous season, the

team was still able to improve.

"I think we did the best we could do with the hand we were dealt," said Brevin Knight. "We did well improving 8 wins from year one to year two."

Knight also believes what was a hardship for the team as a whole, was some what of a blessing in disguise for he and Felton.

"I think for the both of us, we wouldn't change it for the See BOBCATS/2C



Knight

"I think we did the best we could do with the hand we were dealt."

Charlotte Bobcats guard Brevin Knight



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers hits Cleveland quarterback Charlie Frye during the Panthers 20-12 win Sunday.

Panthers state their case on defense

After slow start, Carolina moving up NFL stat chart

By Herbert L. White
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The Carolina Panthers are starting to play up to preseason hype - at least on defense.

The Panthers' three-game win streak has coincided with improved defense. With Sunday's 20-12 win against Cleveland, Carolina is 11th in the league in points allowed at 18. The run defense, which was dead last after Week 2, is now 20th at 122 yards a game.

"With each win, with each performance when we go out and we're able to be productive...you build momentum and you build confidence," said defensive end Al Wallace, who had a sack against Cleveland. "Right now, with three straight wins, it feels good. You look at where we started off 0-2, it looked real bleak for us, but you know with the heart of this team, we're going to fight back and keep plugging away at it."

Everything starts up front. With defensive end Julius Peppers playing up to all-star caliber and tackles Kris Jenkins and Maake Kemoeatu plugging the middle, Carolina has been more consistent during the streak. Peppers has been dominant, with six sacks, which impresses Wallace.

"With the difference Kris Jenkins makes coming back, and Kemo and (backup defensive tackle) Damien Lewis, it always seems (Peppers is) around some plays. In the 10 years I've been in the league, I don't think I've seen a Please see PANTHERS/3C

POINT AFTER

Vereen shows he can carry rock

Mecklenburg County has its share of superior power backs: Butler's Ryan Houston, Charlotte Catholic's Ben Herlocker and Independence's

D a q u a n Leak come immediately to mind. But there are some pretty good slashers, too. T o p s among them is North Mecklenburg's Daryl Vereen. The Vikings back earned his keep last week against Vance with 159 yards rushing on 37 carries, the third-highest See NORTH/2C

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HERBERT L. WHITE

Giddyap: Delaware State launches first equestrian program

SPECIAL TO THE POST

DOVER, Del. - After almost a year of planning and preparation, the Delaware State women equestrian team will commence its first competitive season with seven meets.

Led by head coach Leigh Nichol, and assistant head coaches Amy Walls and Bill Brown, the Lady Hornets begin their first season with six team members: Kayleigh Karnbach, Kamerra Brown, Christina Smith, Kera Russum, Jenna

Warren and Morgan Scuse.

Nichol will have a nucleus for several years; Karnbach, Brown, Smith and Scuse are all freshmen riders. Warren is a sophomore and Russum is a junior.

The current home of the team is Magical Acres Farm, a horse stables and practice area located west of Cheswold, Del.

There the team maintains a stable of 14 horses, which it uses for training

See DELAWARE/3C



DELAWARE STATE PHOTO

Delaware State's women's equestrian team, from left: Coaches Amy Walls, Sheldon Powell, Leigh Nichol and Bill Brown. The riders are Kayleigh Karnbach, Kamerra Brown, Christina Smith, Kera Russum, Jenna Warren and Morgan Scuse.



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Johnson C. Smith quarterback Carlton Richardson scrambles upfield for a short gain in the Golden Bulls' 19-0 win against Livingstone last week in Salisbury. Richardson completed 6-of-13 passes for 97 yards and a touchdown.

Golden Bulls focused on next goal: St. Augustine's

By Herbert L. White
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Johnson C. Smith is one game away from clinching a winning season, but that wasn't on coach Daryl McNeill's mind Saturday.

"I really haven't thought about it," McNeill said after the Golden Bulls knocked off Livingstone 19-0 to improve to 5-1, 3-1 in the CIAA. "Of course, it's something that's there, but I'm just blessed for tomorrow. I

think that's the thing - just focusing in on one day."

This week, the Bulls are focusing on St. Augustine's, a program Smith hasn't beaten since the Falcons resurrected football in 2002. But in a season of firsts, Smith is in position to add another Saturday at Belk Complex, where the Bulls are 0-12.

Another first: Smith debuts at ninth in this week's Southeast Region poll, something that's never

Please see GOLDEN/2C