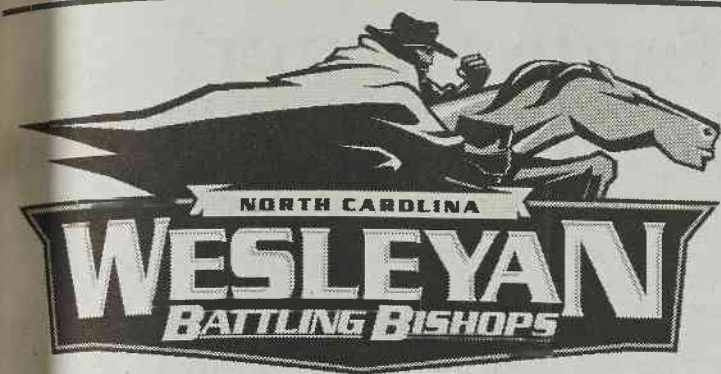


# SPORTS



## Bishops Football Team Mature, Confident

By Trevor Seibert  
Decree Sports Editor

The 2006 Battling Bishops football team is being led not by its captains, but by its captain's panel. The captain's panel, consisting of 25 Bishops football players, has been chosen to help lead this year's team to success, and so far, they seem to be doing their job.

The Bishops are 1-1, but lost in a nail-biter to a solid Newport News Apprentice squad by the score of 21-20. In the second game of the season the Bishops routed the University of Southern Virginia, 42-7.

This year's squad is being led by Junior Quarterback Cedric Townsend who has looked nothing short of spectacular in the first two games. Townsend leads the team with 452 yards passing, with four touchdowns and only one interception. He is also the second leading rusher on the team, amassing 113 yards on 15 carries. With the loss of Javon Williams, sophomore Bryan Haywood has taken over as the Bishops running back and he has rushed the ball 23 times for 125 yards and two touchdowns.

But the success of the Bishops seems to lie in the hands of what can be a dominant defense. Led by former Defensive Rookies of the Year Quinderra Spellman and Andrew Quigley, the Bishops have only given up three offensive touchdowns in the first two games of the season (the other touchdown coming on a punt block return by Newport News Apprentice).

The first game of the season looked like it was going to be a

dominant performance by the host Bishops. On the first drive of the day, Townsend led the team 75 yards and capped off the drive with a 5 yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Shelton Leverette. The Bishops held the lead the entire game and then with a 1:19 remaining, the Builders of Apprentice blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown. The Bishops got the ball back, but were unable to mount an offensive threat and lost 21-20, leaving many fans wondering if this would be another year of heartbreaks for the Bishops.

Those questions were answered rather quickly when the Bishops traveled to Southern Virginia University and demolished the Knights, 42-7. Townsend completed 12 of 16 passes for 241 yards and 3 touchdowns. Freshman Orlando Webb caught 3 passes for 108 yards and a touchdown which earned him Rookie of the Week honors. The Bishops led 35-7 at halftime and did the classy thing and played many backups en route to the victory.

The win showed that the Bishops are now a team that cannot only win games, but dominate them. In the past, NCWC has often led late in games, but has been unable to put away teams. Sometimes this had led to come-from-behind wins by Bishop opponents.

The Bishops will start conference play at home on September 23 against rival Methodist College. This should show the true colors of the Bishops squad and could be one of the best games on the East Coast in Division III football.

## 'Traveler' Taal Calls NC Wesleyan Home

By Shannon Williams  
Decree Contributor

(Editor's Note: This is the third article in a series on international students and staff at NCWC)

"I am a traveler," said Frankie Taal. "I enjoy going to new places and learning new things." Seeing as though he's been to six different countries, including England, Canada, Belgium, Senegal, The Ivory Coast and the United States, has visited thirty U.S. states and over a hundred American cities, speaks English, Woloff and Aku fluently and understands French and Mandinka, "a traveler" may not be an adequate term.

Born and raised in Gambia, a country in West Africa, Taal now resides in Rocky Mount. He moved here in August 2004 after accepting the position as Assistant Men's Soccer Coach for the NCWC athletic department. Taal is also a Resident Director.

Taal has lived in the United States for 18 years. He originally came in 1988 to pursue a college education, and attended Bethany College in West Virginia. After receiving his degree, he accepted a position at his alma mater and worked for six years as Assistant Men's Soccer Coach and two years as Women's Head Soccer Coach. He served as a residence life coordinator there as well.

Taal wasn't too surprised by what he experienced once he arrived in the United States. "My impressions of the United States weren't any different from what I saw once I got here," he said. "One thing I didn't realize was that not every city was like New York City and Los Angeles. I never pictured suburbia America." The diversity of the country is what he likes most. "It's the biggest melting pot in the universe," he said.

He did, however, have to adjust to the climate. "The weather was very different [from home], being that I arrived in New York in January," he said. In Gambia, there are only two seasons—a hot and rainy season and a cooler, dry season.

He noted a few of the cultural differences that he didn't necessarily agree with. "Younger people have more respect for their elders back home," he said. He also commented on U.S. foreign policy. "I don't agree with US foreign policy," he explained. "America is the sole super power and the world's police, but its foreign policy is very inconsistent. The U.S. administration's policy is solely based on national interest and not for the sake of humanity."

Taal comes from a larger family. Explaining that there are no terms in his country for half brother or half sister, Taal related that he has nine brothers and sisters, but that he's the only child of his mother. In the U.S., Taal has several cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces that reside in cities along the East Coast, including Atlanta, New York, D.C., Raleigh, and Philadelphia.

His family and friends are what Taal misses the most about home. He usually visits at least once every two years and calls at least twice a month. "Families are very tight and look out for each other," he said about family life in Gambia. "It goes beyond the extended family," he said, pointing out that neighbors are considered part of your extended family. "You can literally knock on anyone's door and be fed," he said.

Taal enjoys eating a variety of foods. At home, his favorite dish is Dumoda, a type of peanut butter stew. "It's the best!" he said. As for American dishes, "That's a tough

one," he said. "Well, I don't eat meat, so [my favorite] would have to be a tuna steak or a red snapper dish with rice and veggies."

Although Taal enjoys being here, he misses home, and often speaks highly of his country. "The people in Gambia are very caring and hospitable," he said. "I consider myself very fortunate to be who I am, and I'm very proud of my nation, my culture, and being an African." He also commented, "Gambia is a very friendly nation and loves to welcome people from other cultures and countries." That's comforting news for any future travelers, especially coming from a pro.



Freshman Brittany Insley has paced volleyball team in the early going.

## Bishops Volleyball Improves After Early Struggles

By Trevor Seibert  
Decree Sports Editor

The 2006 Battling Bishops Volleyball team started this season with five straight losses and then turned up the heat over the September 9-10 weekend to win three straight at the Roanoke College Tournament before losing in the championship game to the host team.

Despite the early losses, the Bishops have looked impressive in the early going. Led by middle killer Brittany Insley, who has stacked up 101 kills in the first nine matches, the Bishops look to improve steadily throughout the season. Insley also leads the team in digs and service points, showing that this young team will have some strong talent in the next few years.

With Insley, who received All-Conference Rookie of the Week honors, the Bishops feel confident about their upcoming conference schedule. The Bishops were picked fifth in the pre-season poll and should be able to compete with the likes of conference rival Methodist (finished to pick fourth by only two points.) Conference play begins September 15 and the Conference tournament will be played on October 31-November 1 at a site to be named.

## SYM: The Final Word on 2006 NFL Contenders

By Trevor Seibert and Anthony DeGregorio  
Decree Sports Columnists

AD: Welcome to the second year of Speak Your Mind. This first issue we'll go in depth on the NFL.

TS: Yes, sir, it is very good to be back at school this year. Even though my friend has departed to go to UMass-Amherst, we'll continue to bring you the BEST sports analysis of the year. This season the NFL is going to be better than ever. With storylines for every team, how do you see the NFC going this year?

AD: I think the East once again will be the strongest division in the NFC with two teams getting into the playoffs. The Cowboys look great on paper; it's just a matter of how well the "Big Tuna" Bill Parcells and TO can co-exist and run a productive offense. The Giants and Philly will battle it out for the wild card spot, but I don't think Eli Manning can lead his team as well as McNabb will lead the Eagles who have so many weapons on offense with LJ Smith, Westbrook and Brown. The addition of Stallworth definitely added much needed depth at the WR position.

TS: Most definitely, but I think you have overlooked the fact that Terrell Owens has already started his crap with the Cowboys and that will ruin the team. I see them finishing 8-8 and not making the playoffs this year. With that, the Giants look solid this year

and Eli Manning just keeps getting better. The Giants will win the division easily with the Eagles grabbing a wild card spot. From the strongest to the weakest: the NFC North is the laughing stock of the NFL this season. I see the Vikings taking this division with an 8-8 record and being the only team to represent the North in the playoffs.

AD: And the weak keep getting weaker. How about the Lions cutting Charles Rogers the #2 pick in the 2003 draft? I guess they see something in a player who only has a little over 3,000 yards in his 9 years in the NFL. I think Chicago can take the only playoff spot. Their defense should keep them in a lot of games and get them 10 wins.

TS: The Lions are a joke. Matt Millen being the team president is a joke, and this is coming from a Penn State fan. He just needs to throw away his pride and walk away because he's embarrassing himself. The South should give us some interesting games this season. The Saints fell into one of the greatest running backs in college football history and he has shown that he can play in the NFL during the preseason. The Panthers should take this conference again with the Bucs taking a wild card spot.

AD: I wonder how the Texans feel now about not drafting Bush now

that Dominick Davis has been put on IR and will be out for the season. Now they'll be stuck with rookie Wali Lundy and will most likely sign the 1999 Heisman trophy winner Ron Dayne. I agree that the division will go to the Panthers who have looked sensational in the preseason but I think the other two playoff teams will be Arizona and Seattle from the West.

TS: I'm looking at Arizona winning that division this season and Seattle not going. I know that sounds crazy, but I have two reasons for this. One is the Madden jinx. I won't pick up Shaun Alexander on any of my fantasy teams because everyone knows he is going to get hurt, and he's the team. Arizona will take advantage of this and make the playoffs. The second reason is that the losers of the last four Super Bowls have not made the playoffs the next season. With that said, the chips are stacked against the Seahawks.

AD: I know about the Madden curse but I still think that Alexander can stay healthy and the Seahawks will be a playoff team. They have one of the best linebacking crews in the NFL and an experienced QB in my Boston College boy Matt Hasselbeck who seems to be getting better with age. I would have to say that, out of all of my playoff picks, Carolina will make it to the Super Bowl, and Steve Smith will have another career year.

TS: Carolina will be good, but