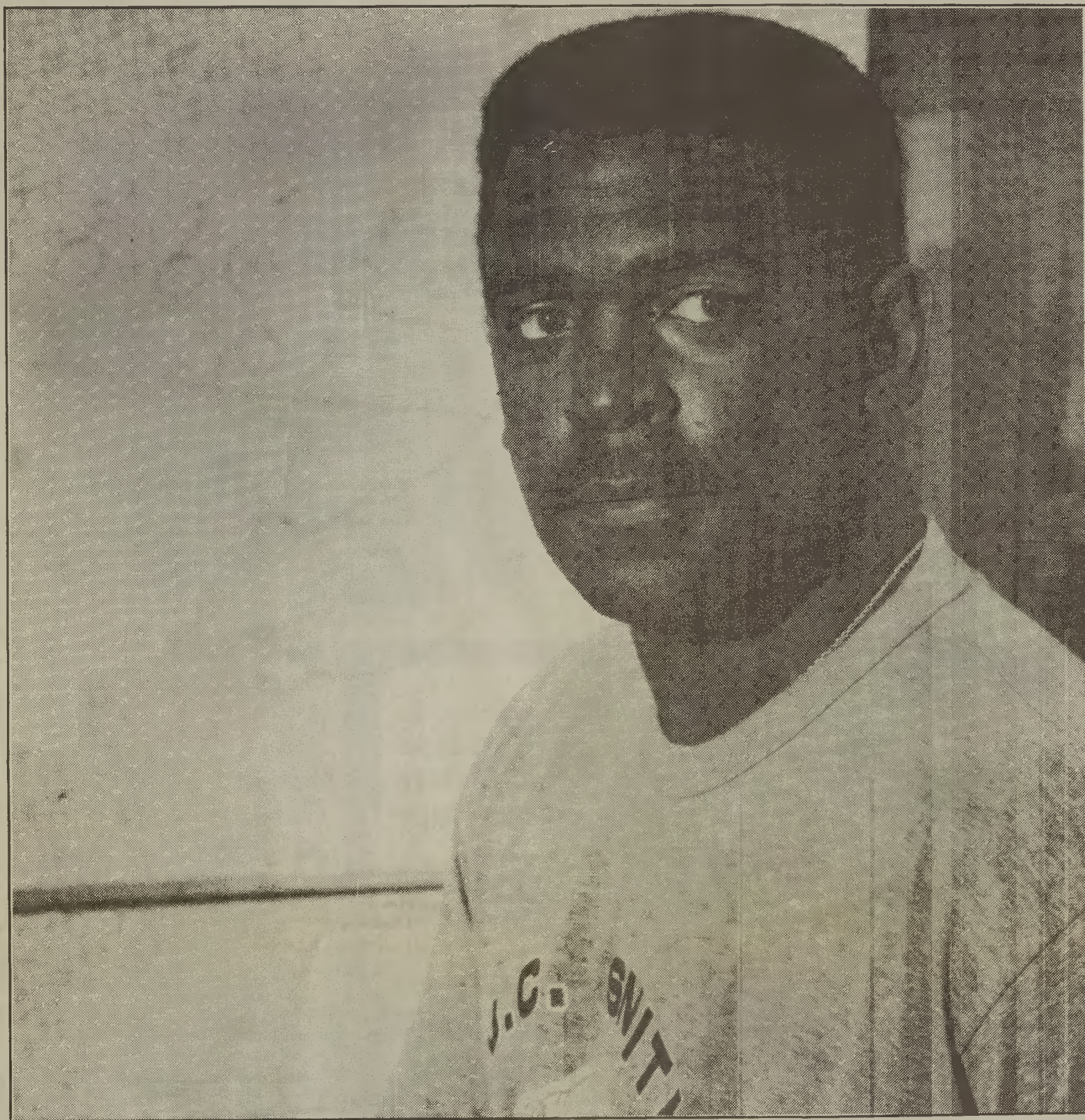


Poised For The Season Of Expectations



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Johnson C. Smith coach Ray Lee surprised CIAA football observers by going 5-5. Now he wants to go over the .500 mark in 1993.

Despite Some Setbacks, Lee Looks Forward To A Good Year At Smith

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Ray Lee's second season as Johnson C. Smith football coach isn't going to be easy.

But what else is new? When the Golden Bulls travel to Morehouse Saturday, Smith will be undermanned, with four players declared ineligible Monday. But starting quarterback Wesley Tate, who threw for 13 touchdowns last year, was reinstated Wednesday.

"We started out with 81 people who thought they were football players. Now we've got 60 people who can play. There are no pretenders."

Combined with a summer camp that saw 21 players drop out of the program, one would expect Lee to sing the blues. That's not the case.

"We put them to a test and the ones who stuck it out, we can win with them," he said. "We started out with 81 people who thought they were football players. Now we've got 60 people who can play. There are no pretenders."

After a 5-5 rookie campaign, Lee expected to have an experienced team with an infusion of young talent. Instead, he learned something about commitment. Players who wanted to stick did. Those who didn't - and there was a bunch - dropped out of sight.

"I just think it was a rash of heartless people," he said. "Their heart wasn't in it to sweat and improve on what we did last year."

Still, Lee sees this season as a chance to improve on '92, to move Smith into rare territory: a winning season. The Bulls haven't been above .500 since 1981. CIAA coaches don't think that's likely, voting Smith to finish 10th in the 11-team league. Lee, who admits he's intense to a fault, yearns to turn the Bulls into a winner.

"I just don't see coming to work and going to practice, going to meetings and going to the weight room with the players to lose," he said. "I just don't see myself saying I'm going to roll over and play dead. We're going to show up every Saturday expecting to win."

Like most coaches, Lee isn't one to predict how the season will turn. At this point, consistent play is the goal. If the Bulls execute, the record will be solid.

"If we improve on what we did last year, then we're headed in the right direction," Lee said. "Last year we were nine points from being 8-2. If we play consistent the wins will come."

The first test is Saturday.

CIAA's Second Century Brings Change

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The CIAA kicks off its second century of football with some new faces and lots of possibilities.

Six programs, more than half the league, have new head coaches: Larry Little at N.C. Central, Archie Cooley at Norfolk State, Kermit Blount at Winston-Salem State, Henry Lattimore at Virginia Union, George Moody at Elizabeth City State and Sherman Wood at Bowie State. Most eyes will be on Cooley, the

father of wide-open offenses. Heard of the run-and-shoot and no-huddle attacks used in the NFL? Cooley refined them at Mississippi Valley State with some wide receiver named Jerry Rice. If the Spartans, who went 3-7 last year, can play some defense, Norfolk could challenge for a top spot.

All those coaching changes are likely to make for a wide-open race for the No. 2 spot behind prohibitive favorite Hampton. The Pirates, under second-year coach Joe Taylor, had the league's best team in 1992,



Cooley

The only other challenge could be winning a national playoff game, something no CIAA team has done since 1988.

Another pair of second-

winning the CIAA championship and a berth in the Division II playoffs. Hampton's loaded at every position and looks very capable of repeating.

year coaches hope to improve on their rookie campaigns. Fayetteville State's Jerome Harper and Johnson C. Smith's Ray Lee surprised CIAA followers by fashioning 5-4-1 and 5-5 seasons from teams that weren't projected to be that good. Now they're charged with keeping that momentum long enough to build solid contenders. Harper's Broncos were picked fifth in preseason voting by the league's coaches while the Golden Bulls were tabbed 10th, one spot from the bottom.

Smith took that poll as an

insult, using it in preseason drills as a rallying point for '93. If the Bulls are going to contend, they'll need a career year from the entire offense, which must replace 1,000-yard rusher Tyrone Corlew and speedy receiver Greg Clifton, who moved on to the NFL.

The offensive line, which has never been mistaken for deep, will need to stay healthy and keep the ball moving to have a shot at a winning season. The defense is solid, with linebackers Trevis Manigault and Kwame Shabazz leading the charge.

THE SHERIDAN POLL

1. Grambling
2. Alcorn State
3. Central State
4. S.C. State
5. N.C. A&T
6. Jackson State
7. Hampton
8. Florida A&M
9. Delaware State
10. Albany State

Dinkins Waits For Another Shot At NBA

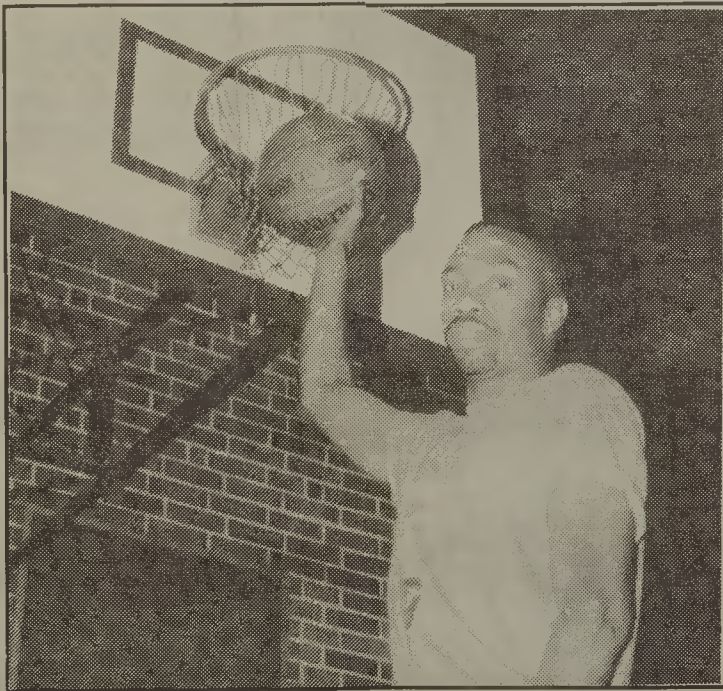
By Rick Zwicknagel
POST CORRESPONDENT

Byron Dinkins knows about overcoming circumstances beyond his control.

Now he wants to take control of his basketball destiny. The former East Mecklenburg and UNC Charlotte star keeps the dream alive, from the heat and humidity of Houston to the bitter cold of Rapid City, S.D. All this to exhibit basketball skills Jeff Mullins, Dinkins' college coach, says "you simply can't teach."

Dinkins takes to the road for one reason: To make sure he gives himself every chance to secure long-term NBA employment. It's a position Dinkins, and most observers, feels he's qualified for.

The Charlotte native remembers that he was the smallest player on his team at Randolph Junior High. Most people overlooked his great shooting touch. Dinkins went on to East Mecklenburg, where he played sparingly as a junior. Again,



PHOTO/JAMES BROWN

Byron Dinkins has gone from Charlotte to Rapid City, S.D. to Germany seeking a home on an NBA roster.

Sam Barnette Takes 1993 Par-Busters By A Shot

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sam Barnette won the championship A flight of the Budweiser/Par-Busters golf tournament at Pawtucket Golf Course with a two-day total of 139. Coley Jeter was one shot back and Jim Hawks was third with a total of 142.

In championship B, Charles Narciso was first at 147, taking a tie-breaker over Melvin Griffin Sr. Billy Johnson was third with a two-day tally of 161.

Georgie Harris won the women's draw at Revolution Golf Course with a one-day round of 75, six shots better than LeVerne Pinckney. Madeline Roseboro was third.

Results from the Budweiser/Par-Busters Golf Tournament at Pawtucket Golf Course:

Championship A: Sam Barnette 139; Coley Jeter 140; Jim Hawks 142.

Championship B: Charles Narciso 147; Melvin Griffin Sr. 147; Billy Johnson 161.

First Flight: John Inman 151; Billy Gardenheight 156; David Brice 156.

Second Flight: Charles Whitman 156; George Moore 157; James Ellison 157.

Third Flight: Kenneth Jackson 167; Pete Key 174; Robert L. Smith 174.

Fourth Flight: Don Cureton 185; Bernard Johnson 191; Alvin Mills 191.

Fifth Flight: Frank Johnson 201; John Young 205; Al Grier 206.

Ladies Flight (At Revolution): Georgie Harris 75; LeVerne Pinckney 81; Madeline Roseboro 101.