## Eyes On The NBA Prize, Byron Dinkins Presses Onward

Continued From Page 8B

he was reminded of something that would the was the smallest doubt in my kins became Mulling on the team. mind that I gave the went from between the went from the w

in high school was the most fun I've ever had playing basketball," Din-Byron Dinkins

kins said. "Our gym was full every Tuesday and Friday night. People wanted to see the little skinny kid at East Mecklenburg they were

reading about in the newspapers. It was fun."

Dinkins' performance was good enough to attract UNCC's inhaunt him through "I don't want any tract on Din-Then came his sen- myself every op- ing listed as 155 "My senior year portunity to play pounds ("I weighed 135 pounds but I guess they figured no one would be-lieve it," he says) to a Sun Belt Con-

ference championship as a 170-pound junior. After going undrafted in 1989, Dinkins stuck with the

Rockets as a free agent. The next year Houston cut him; after a short stint in San Antonio, the Spurs did the same. Pro basketball's business side took its toll.

"I was an emotional mess. I needed to be home with my family and gather my thoughts," he said.

Next came the Continental Basketball Association, the NBA's minor leagues. Dinkins bided his time between Rapid City and Columbus, Ohio. He also got a couple of calls from the Indiana Pacers and Charlotte Hornets. Again, he didn't make the final cut, undone by guaranteed contracts and the numbers game. But the traveling wasn't over.

Last year, Dinkins played in Germany for the Brandt-Hagen team, compiling good numbers and a huge phone bill. "I was very homesixk the first two or three months," he said. "I called home a lot."

Now Dinkins is back home in Charlotte, running a camp and working on his game. What he does most, though, is wait by the phone for an NBA team to call.

"Byron can play in the NBA, and if I can help him, I am," Mullins said. "He can

during the Eagles' 16-12 loss

now hold his own physically. He just needs an opportu-

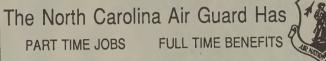
Dinkins is approaching a self-described "crossroards." He has to start thinking of financial security. His agent, Herbert Ruddy, is working on deals with the higher-paying leagues in Spain and Italy, although his German team wants him back. But playing in the European arena doesn't satisfy Dinkins' real

"I know I am an NBA

player," he said. " Regardless of what happens with these other opportunities, and whether it's this year, I am going to take another shot at an NBA roster. I don't want any doubt in my mind that I gave myself every opportunity to play in the NBA.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FAX YOUR CHURCH NEWS TO The Charlotte Post Dial

342-2160



FREE COLLEGE ACCREDITED TECHNICAL TRAINING

High School/Graduates and Seniors

WORLD TRAVEL

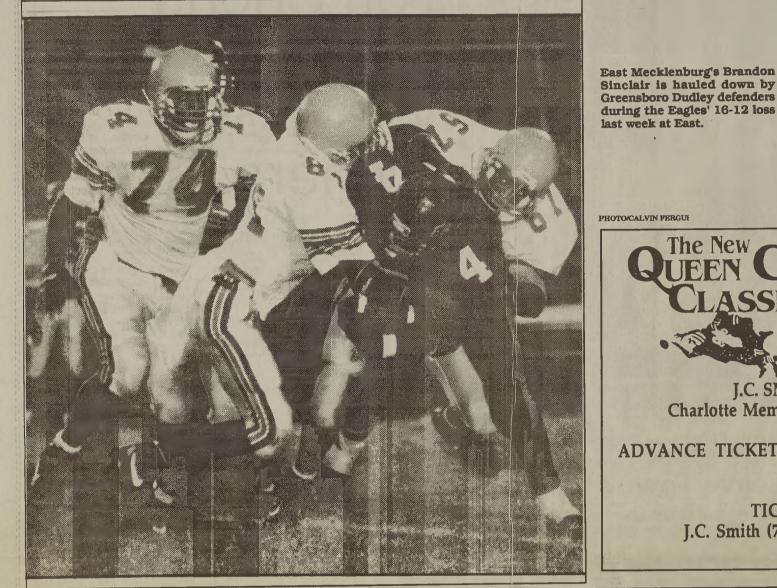
**EXCELLENT PAY** 

RETIREMENTS

POSSIBLE CASH BONUS

PAID EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES AND MUCH MORE CALL MSgt Ken Funderburke: 704/391-4204 "AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

last week at East.



Sponsored By:

Coldwell Banker • Crown Real Estate

Damon's Resturant "The Place For Ribs" **WPEG Power 98** Payless Car Rental • The Charlotte Post

J.C. SMITH • VS • N.C. CENTRAL Charlotte Memorial Stadium • Sept. 25, 1993 • 7:30 p.m.

ADVANCE TICKETS WITH CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES ONLY \$1200

> TICKET INFORMATION CALL J.C. Smith (704)378-1090 N.C. Central (919)560-5170 (704)561-2278

## **SPORTS** SHORTS

Baseball

• Charlotte Knights (Class AAA) vs. Norfolk Sept. 3-4 at Knights Castle. For ticket information, call 36-HOMER. Basketball

 Sugar Creek basketball competition, Sept. 4 at Sugaw Creek Recreation Center. Slam dunk, three-point and 3-on-3 competition for 10-18 and 19-over competitors. Registration fee \$10 and forms are available at recreation center. Deadline for registration is Sept. 2. For more information, call Era Coleman at 596-7579. Football

· New Queen City Classic, Johnson C. Smith vs. N.C. Central

Sept. 25 at Memorial Stadium. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are

\$12 in advance; \$15 at the gate. For ticket information, call (704) 561-2278, (704) 378-1090 or (919) 560-5170.

 Wilmington Sportsmen's Classic, Livingstone vs. Virginia Union Sept. 11 at Legion Stadium, Wilmington, N.C. For ticket information, call (704) 638-5667 Golf

• Birdie Binge, 8 a.m. Sept. 11 at Sunset Hills Golf Course. Eighteen-hole tournament selected by

blind draw. Entry fee is \$55 and

must be received by Sept. 8. Mail certified checks or money orders to

David Taylor, 8148 Dover-

dale Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28217. For more information, call 523-8498.

• NFL Alumni/Food Lion Charity Golf Tournament. Oct. 4 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. Individual entries is \$350 and \$1,400 for teams. Captain's choice format with 30 teams of four players and pro-player captain. Athletes scheduled to appear include Mike Siani (Raiders), Joe Bostic (Cardinals) and Bennie Cunningham (Steelers). For more information on entry information, call Kara Watson at (704) 568-2520.

Tennis U.S. vs.

Bahamas Sept. 24-26 at Olde Providence Racquet

Club. American team consists of MaliVai Washington and Andre Agas-

For more information, call Olde Providence. Overtime

LeRoy T. Walker, U.S. Olympic Committee president, will receive Charlotte World Affairs Council's 1993 World Citizen Award Sept. 14 at 12 p.m. during community luncheon at Government House Hotel, 201 S. McDowell St. Introduction will be made by Julius Chambers, N.C. Central University

chancellor. Luncheon sponsorship and table for 10 is \$200; individual reservation is \$15. Payment should be mailed to Council For International Visitors, 322, Hawthorne Ln. Charlotte, N.C. 28204. For more information, call Vivian Williams at 333-8099.

The Home Of Black College Sports The Charlotte Post





