



PHOTO/JASON LAWS

Johnson C. Smith guard Terrence Willoughby tries to dribble past Millersville's Terry Howse in the Bulls' 64-63 win.

## Skill, not emotion test for Bulls

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The key to Johnson C. Smith's basketball success will be playing above the heart.

Smith opened its season with an 89-59 loss to Clafin last week, then came from behind to beat Millersville (Pa.) 64-63. With 11 freshmen and sophomores on the team, experience sometimes gives way to mistakes.

"We're playing such an emotional ball game right now," Smith coach Steve Joyner said. "A lot of that emotionality is due to inexperience. We're afraid to do certain things,

we're afraid to look at certain options. It's not clear to us what we're trying to do."

Joyner, who has one of the CIAA's youngest teams, said he didn't know what to expect until the Bulls starting playing more established opponents. Against Clafin, Smith looked lost on both ends of the floor.

"We came out selfish," said freshman guard Marcus Wright. "We were individuals."

A game later, Smith was a different team, especially in the Bulls' spirited comeback from a 16-point deficit.

"We haven't been able to

accomplish that in practice, so we had to go into a game situation and do it," Joyner said.



Joyner

was pleased to see the defense improve."

Smith expects productive seasons from Ahmed Evans, Wesley Tubbs and Alex

Thompson, heavy contributors from last season's squad. But some of the younger players improved their performance, notably Wright, who scored 11 points, including the winning free throws with no time left against Millersville.

"I knew I could drain them. I felt it the whole game. I looked at my coach and I was like yeah, yeah. I felt it."

Coming through in the clutch can not only boost the Bulls' confidence, but Wright's, Joyner said. Despite a toe injury and his inexperience, he made the most important

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## Orioles say adios to Bonilla and Murray

By Ed Schuyler  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Bobby Bonilla and Eddie Murray won't be offered salary arbitration by the Baltimore Orioles, making the two eligible for free agency.

Baltimore did offer arbitration to reliever Jesse Orosco, equivalent to signing the left-hander to a one-year contract.

Kevin Malone, the team's assistant general manager, also said catcher Mark Parent won't be offered arbitration.

"Right now, our focus is on pitching and we think we can upgrade our pitching and add a quality starter or two," Malone said.

With the collapse of the proposed labor deal, the four players were covered by the restriction against repeat free agency in a five-year span, and could file for free agency only if Baltimore failed to offer arbitration by Saturday's midnight deadline.

Malone said the club was interested in re-signing Murray and had offered Parent a minor league contract, which he rejected.

"We would like Eddie back and Mark, we would like to bring back in the minor leagues," Malone said. "Bobby Bo, in some ways we would like to have him back, and in other ways we would like to go in a different direction."

Malone said the San Francisco Giants, the Florida Marlins and the Chicago Cubs were interested in Bonilla.

"With our offense, it looks like Bobby might not be back," he said.

The Orioles wanted to pursue some marquee pitchers such as John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves, Roger Clemens of the Boston Red Sox and Jaime Navarro of the Chicago Cubs, Malone said.

"Two of those three have been with their respective clubs a long time, in all probability they will return to those clubs," Malone said. "But if they make a tough decision to leave, we would like to be in a strong position."

Bonilla batted .287 with 28 homers and 116 RBIs last season. Murray, acquired from Cleveland on July 21, hit .257 with 10 homers and 34 RBIs in 64 games with the Orioles.

Orosco was 3-1 with a 3.40 ERA in 66 games last season.

"We are very pleased to know that Jesse will once again be an integral part of our bullpen in 1997," general manager Pat Gillick said. "His durability coupled with his veteran leadership is a benefit to any club that plans on vying for a championship."

# TIGER IN WINTER



PHOTO/JASON LAWS

Grambling coach Eddie Robinson, college football's all-time leader in wins (center) is suffering through a 3-7 season, but he's upbeat about the future. He plans to return for a 57th season in 1997

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

GREENSBORO — College football has taken Eddie Robinson to a lot of places, but never has he gotten this kind of reception.

Robinson, the legendary Grambling State coach and all-time career wins leader, choked back tears of gratitude last week after his Tigers lost to N.C. A&T 17-12. As he nears the end of his 56th season as Tigers coach and what may be his last appearance in the Carolinas, Robinson was touched by the way fans here showered him

## Despite setbacks, Robinson upbeat about football future

with affection.

"I guess I've never been to a town and a school like this," he said. "I'm humbled. The people. I just never thought Eddie Robinson was that important to anybody."

In many respects, Robinson is black college football. He's the last link to the game's legendary past when black schools had the cream of the crop in terms of African American athletes. After 405 wins, 156 losses and 15 ties

them came by to say something," Robinson said. "From the man on the street to the kids, they extend their hands," his voice cracking.

"When you're ending 56 years, I've never had this happen. I've had some other honors, but today it was like the top of the mountain that Dr. King talked about. I guess every profession has a top, but I didn't expect to be received (like this)."

"This is something. I don't know how long I'm going to live, but I'll always remember this. I wish I could bundle it up and take it home

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## Charlotte academy prepares youth for boxing and life

By Clarence Thomas Jr.  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Boxing Academy is polishing gems in the gym.

Ned Pollock, executive director of the academy, is a long time boxing enthusiast. His desire to see amateur boxing revitalized in Charlotte prompted him and others to open the academy in 1993. They settled on a spot next to the Johnston Mill Apartments on 36th Street.

The academy serves as an

alternative outlet for mostly inner-city boys between the ages of 10 and 21. Pollock said that boxing can be an invaluable medium in teaching the young men.

"We want to teach them the sport and other things they'll need in life," he said. Respecting their parents, teachers and others, and carrying themselves in a respectable manner are all part of the academy's mission, according to Pollock. "They've found a sport that they like,

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PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Jason Campbell is one of the youngsters learning boxing at the academy.

## Oilers next for Panthers

By Joe Macenka  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now that they've demonstrated winning on the road isn't necessarily a fluke, the Carolina Panthers' next trick will be to try to do it against a winning team.

Sunday's 20-10 victory over the St. Louis Rams was just the Panthers' second triumph on the road this season. The other one came against the New Saints. The Rams and Saints have a combined record of 5-17.

Carolina (7-4) will likely find the going a little rougher when it plays two of its next three games on the road. First up is a game Sunday at Houston (6-5), and after the Panthers come home next week to play Tampa Bay (3-8), they go back on the road to face NFC West-leading San Francisco (8-3).

"Houston's the one right ahead, and it's going to be really important to us," linebacker Sam Mills said. "You'd be surprised how important it is to go one game at a time. It's just like the fighter who's preparing for the big fight next year, but he overlooks the fight at hand, and now he doesn't even get an opportunity at the big fight because he's no longer the champion."

Sunday's victory was just the Panthers' second in six road games this season, and it strengthened their bid to make the playoffs, something that's never been done by a second-year NFL expansion team.

"We kind of have to leave that up to you guys to write about and our fans to read about," Mills told reporters Monday at Ericsson Stadium. "But the people in this facility, if we get hung up on that, it can cost us. That's why we just talk about the game at hand."

But that doesn't mean the Panthers aren't keeping tabs on their competition. For example, coach Dom Capers

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