

NBA's star starting to dim

Continued from 1B

Allen Iverson and Kobe Bryant, guys who haven't won anything and lack the extra something that can help them turn the corner in the pros. Sooner or later,

someone's got to step in.

The athletic talent in the NBA is probably the best its been in 50 years of existence, but there's more to the game than dunking and making commercials. The emphasis on gettin' paid as indi-

viduals is starting to overshadow excellence on the floor. And this can be said for the owners, because they seem to be caught up in the loot.

The clock's ticking on this party.

Moten is basketball's wise man

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Joyner, being his coach at one time, we followed each other," Moten said. "When he was at (Virginia) Union (as an assistant coach), we'd get together and talk about things other than basketball. When he got to Johnson C. Smith...he brought me in. It keeps me active and it keeps my mind young."

The Bulls have been one of the CIAA's top teams since Joyner and Moten arrived. With three Southern Division titles and three Division II playoff appearances in the last six seasons, Moten's protegee has given JCSU its best stretch of basketball in school history.



Joyner

"I feel as though he's done a wonderful job with the material he's had," Moten said. "I would say in four of the last six years, his record has been better than any coach who has been here. He's got a good rapport with the players and I enjoy working for him. I don't think I could find a better person to work with. He's a smart little coach. Very smart."

Before making his mark on

Smith basketball, Moten was one of the top high school coaches in the area, first at Mary Potter Academy, a black prep school in Oxford, N.C., then Charlotte's Second Ward, a state high power when North Carolina schools were segregated. He also helped scout players for the 1968 U.S. Olympic team, one of many highlights of his career. Moten left Second Ward in 1969 to become an administrator in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and retired in 1981. Basketball, however, has always been part of Moten's life.

"I've been around for a long time, and I've dedicated a lot of it to basketball," he said.

JCSU signs area football talent

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McNeill said. "What you've got to do is put your best athletes on the defensive side. I'd rather be able to stop people from scoring than to put a lot of points up."

Smith's recruiting class will have "no more than 10" players, McNeill said. Offensively, the Bulls will have to replace tailback Demetrius Campbell, receivers Reggie Lawrence and Brandon Armstrong and quarterback De'Trell Calloway, but the line returns all five starters.

"We're in pretty good shape there," McNeill said. "We have some experienced people."

• N.C. Central has signed 10 players, including Olympic offensive lineman Mahlik

Thomas.

The Eagles (7-3, 5-3 CIAA) are still waiting to commitments, but coach Larry Little said Central has "a good recruiting class" that emphasizes beefing up the offensive line.



Little

The Eagles signed receiver Brian Debnam of Raleigh; defensive back Kevin Mattocks of Cary; defensive linemen Bryan Gillie of Reidsville, Corey Roberson of Washington, N.C., and D.J. Edmonds of Sutherlin,

Va.; and offensive linemen Brandon Muffett of Fayetteville, Andre Joyner of Winston-Salem, Willie Hardy of Enfield and Barry Taylor of Henderson.

"Our top priority was the offensive line because we needed some more size," Little said. "We lost three offensive linemen from last year, and one of these young men coming into the program will have to start for us."

Central, which has one of the biggest offensive lines in the CIAA with an average of 6-2, 300 pounds, is expected to become larger with the incoming class.

"In the future, I feel we will have one of the biggest and best offensive lines in the CIAA once these young men grow and mature together," Little said.

Recruits happy with choices

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"Some people wait all their lives for something to happen, while all of my dreams have come true at such an early age, for that I'm thankful."

Shipp had narrowed his choices to Florida, Tennessee and Virginia with the offensive-minded Gators winning the 6-2 receiver. Winning the national championship last season, had nothing to do with his choice, Shipp said. Instead, it was the chance to play right away.

"You don't have to be an All-American as long as you can play, they run a three-man (receiver) rotation, so at least six guys are going to get in a game, so the chances of playing down there are better than say, Virginia, where they only run

two."

For 6-foot-7 Parade All-American linebacker, DeAngelo Lloyd of Independence, his choice wasn't as suspenseful. Last fall he chose Tennessee, then officially signed the letter last week. The Vols are also an SEC team, so Lloyd and Shipp will be rivals.

"I say we're enemies again," Lloyd said. "I wish he could have went with me but you know, people got to make their decisions so I wish him all the luck but they won't beat us next year."

Lloyd and Shipp have battled many times over the last four years, especially the last two seasons, when Independence challenged the Lions for Southwestern 4A conference superiority. Lloyd expects to

make an impact right away with the Vols.

"As far as me going in next year and playing, they were kind of slim last year at linebacker and they were kind of small," he said. "I'm a bigger size linebacker, so they told me I could just come in and fit in that position, just come in and work, gain a couple of pounds and I'll be fine."

If quarterback Payton Manning returns for his senior year, Lloyd says there's no stopping Tennessee.

"I guarantee you if Payton stays, there isn't any chance that we shouldn't get a national championship," Lloyd said. "Even if he doesn't, we still have a defense that will be real good next year."

Mason having all-star kind of season

Continued from 1B

team."

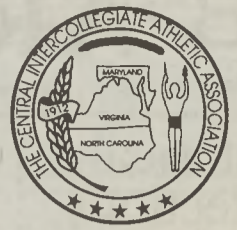
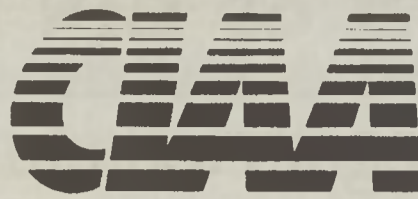
Rice would have liked nothing better than to be joined by Mason on the all-star team. It didn't happen but not because Mason wasn't worthy. His numbers and hard play should have

been enough, but the league's coaches who voted on the All-Star reserves chose to look elsewhere. Not every coach agreed with the snub, however.

"The guys that made the team are great but Anthony Mason deserves to be on the team I voted for him. Without question

he deserves it," Indiana Pacers coach Larry Brown said. "Some people are going to be left out, it doesn't mean there not all-stars in my mind."

Cowens wasn't allowed to vote for his own players but would have had the rules been different.



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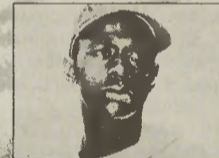
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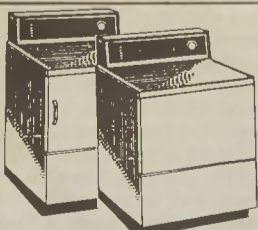


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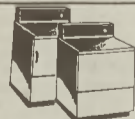


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