

# SPORTS

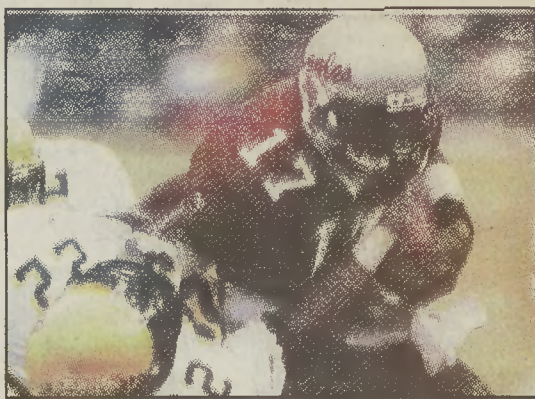
## Former Olympic standout takes over as NCCU QB

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Warren Bell era has started at N.C. Central. Bell, a former Olympic High standout, completed 13 of 22 passes for 130 yards in Central's Maroon-Gray intrasquad game. He's projected as the Eagles' starter next season after backing up CIAA offensive player of the year Brad McAdams as a freshman during Central's 8-3 campaign.

"Warren is the heir apparent to Brad McAdams," Central coach Larry Little said. "He possesses a good arm, is an outstanding scrambler with the ability to make the first tackler miss and is a very smart young man. I have a feeling he will be a great quarterback."

Bell had a solid freshman season, making the CIAA's all-rookie team after hitting 26 of 49 passes (53.1 percent) for 397 yards and a touch-



FILE PHOTO

Former Olympic High standout Warren Bell (17) finished N.C. Central spring drills as the starting quarterback. He was a CIAA all-rookie selection last season. He completed 13 of 22 passes in the Maroon-Gray scrimmage.

## Davis pleased with new team

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Johnson C. Smith lost its football coach and 10 senior starters since the 1996 season ended.

But Bill Davis isn't too worried. Davis, Smith's new coach, is pleased with what he's seen since taking over for Daryl McNeill two weeks ago. The Golden Bulls, who went 7-3 last season, have impressed him in spring drills leading up to today's 4 p.m. intrasquad game at the Bullpit. Admission is free.

"I would consider it a good practice session," Davis said. "The transition hasn't been difficult at

all."

It helps that McNeill, Davis' protégé, used his old boss' system in bringing the Bulls their first winning record in 14 years. Although there are major losses on both sides of the ball, the holdovers have worked hard to build on last year's success.

"I like our kids' attitude," Davis said. "They get out there and hustle. Even if they don't have the greatest talent, they give you everything they have."

Davis has some rebuilding to do, especially on defense. Six starters, including three defensive backs, are graduating from the unit that

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## Rematch? Forget it: De La Hoya

By Tim Dahlberg  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS - Oscar De La Hoya went down, he grew frustrated and impatient, and he lashed out with combinations that hit nothing but air.

But he still came out of the ring with some valuable experience and with Pernell Whitaker's WBC welterweight champion's belt.

The 24-year-old De La Hoya, in the toughest of his 24 pro bouts, took a unanimous decision over the 33-year-old Whitaker in their title bout Saturday night.

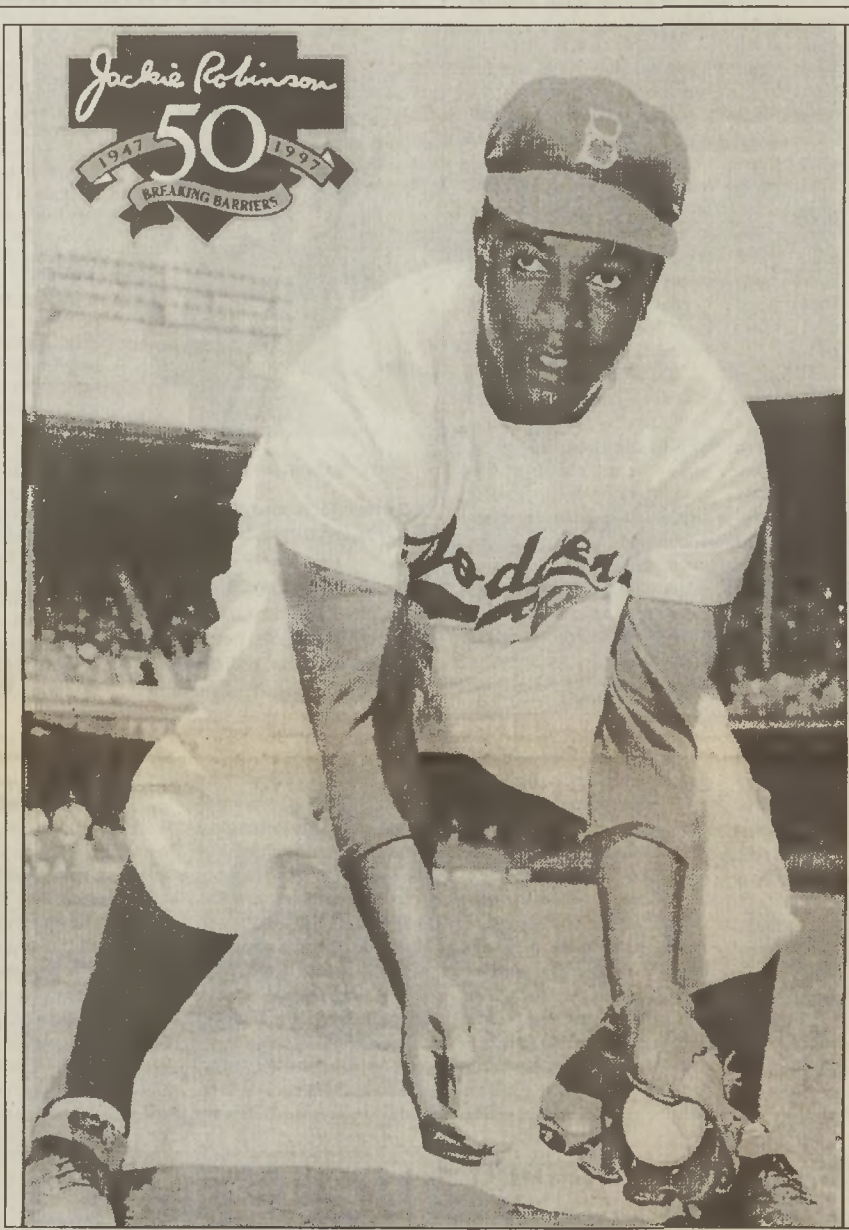
De La Hoya didn't look particularly good, but he looked good enough to be favored by somewhat surprisingly large margins by the judges, winning by four points on one card and by six points each on the other two.

"You can never look good against Pernell Whitaker," De La Hoya said. "A southpaw fighter like him will make any fighter look bad any day."

Whitaker, who was able to duck and weave away from any dangerous De La Hoya punches, also showed him some tricks of the trade.

"This guy was smart, very smart. He used his gloves to sort of rub my eyes when he had the chance," said De La Hoya, who took a standing eight-count in the ninth round after Whitaker hit him with a

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Jackie Robinson's No. 42 jersey is on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

## Museum exhibits Robinson

By Paul Shepard  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The timing was uncanny, the irony almost too delicious to be true.

But when Smithsonian officials unveiled an exhibit Monday honoring baseball trailblazer Jackie Robinson at the National Museum of American History just one day after Tiger Woods won the Masters golf tournament, they offered a simple explanation for their good fortune.

"We planned it that way," deadpanned exhibit curator Ellen Roney Hughes to chuckles from the audience.

Though the exhibition had been planned for months, the victory Sunday of Woods, the first black person to win a major golf tournament, provided a perfect backdrop of the Robinson tribute.

"I couldn't help but think to myself that I was watching another Jackie when I was watching golf yesterday," said Tom Johnson, who pitched for the Philadelphia Stars in 1940 and was one of five Negro League players who attended the tribute.

"It was absolutely fabulous and showed that black people moving forward is a continuing process," Johnson said. "It goes step by step, and Tiger is the latest big step we've taken."

The first big step, however, came 50 years ago, when on

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## Iverson makes his move

By Ken Berger  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND - He was a blur, as usual. Allen Iverson was running here and there, flipping in no-look shots high off the glass, turning around and heaving a jumper, measuring and releasing another 3-pointer.

The treat to the eyes kept changing, but the message was the same each time: Mine. The Rookie of the Year Award is mine.

"Everybody's talking about the Rookie of the Year Award going to somebody else," Iverson said, after his remarkable 50-point performance in Philadelphia's 125-118 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers Saturday night. "I feel it's mine. Even before these last four games, I felt that way."

A whirlwind week of dominant scoring started with 44 points in Michael Jordan's building and ended with 50 in Cleveland, the city where Jordan once scored his career high of 69.

In becoming the only rookie to score at least 40 points in four straight games, Iverson made his case for Rookie of the Year, an honor that once appeared out of his reach. Why? Supposedly because Iverson talks too much, is not respectful, needs to be taught a lesson about humility in this league.

Iverson apparently decided to teach his doubters a lesson last week.

"There are other great rookies," he said. "But when you talk about the No. 1 rookie in the league, I think I'm that."

With 44 points against the Bulls, 40 against Atlanta, 44 against Milwaukee and 50 against Cleveland, Iverson broke Wilt Chamberlain's rookie record of three straight 40-point games. Chamberlain had three sets of 40-40-40 performances in the 1959-60 season.

Before this sensational week, it was thought that Iverson's reputation would cost him the rookie award. Perhaps someone nicer, like Kerry Kittles of New Jersey, or someone steadier, like Shareef Abdur-Rahim of Vancouver, would be more deserving.

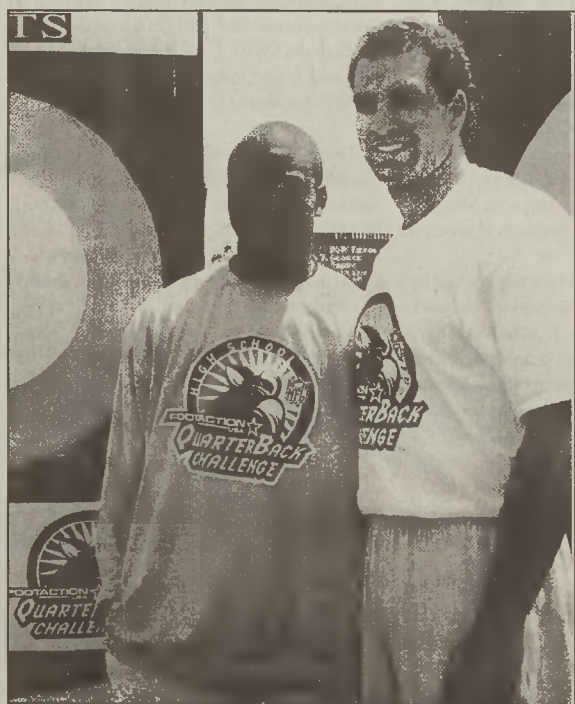
The Cavaliers, who almost had a 23-point lead and playoff hopes obliterated by this 21-year-old, did not sign on with that theory.

When Cleveland coach Mike Fratello yelled at Bob Sura for failing to stop Iverson, Sura fired back, "He's going right by me! What do you want me to do?"

In February at the NBA's 50th All-Star game in Cleveland, Iverson was cast as the cocky ringleader of the league's new band of trouble-

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## Challenge met



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Garinger High quarterback Eric Hamilton and Baltimore Ravens quarterback Vinny Testaverde won their respective divisions of the Quarterback Challenge last week in Florida. Hamilton bested some of the nation's top signal-callers in the national competition.

## With Masters win, Tiger Woods becomes more than an African American champion

By Paul Newberry  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Georgia - As Isaac Lee gazed out on the rolling, green hills of Augusta National Golf Club, he couldn't help but wonder if the old place will ever be the same again.

The Masters has a black champion - and the mostly black workers who occupy the lower end of the club's social hierarchy have a new hero, Tiger Woods.

"In the employee dining room, it was Tiger this and Tiger that," said Lee, a 25-year-old waiter at the exclusive club, which has a checkered racial history. "He is our black hope."

Augusta National had an all-white membership during most of its history, and no blacks played at the club until Lee Elder made the Masters field in 1975. The first black member joined after the furor a few years ago over racially exclusive clubs, and there reportedly are only two black members now.

Most blacks at Augusta National can be found in service jobs - caddies, waiters, trash collectors.

"It's not as bad as it used to be, but everybody around here knows their place," said Lee, bedecked in a gold jacket, black pants and bow tie. "It's a good job. As long as they don't show it (racism) too blatantly, it's OK."

Lee took a brief respite from his duties as a waiter Sunday, strolling out to a spot beneath the mammoth live oak that shades the veranda of the clubhouse. He wanted to watch a black man tee off as the leader in the final round of the Masters.

When Woods claimed the green jacket a few hours later, the first black champion of a major tournament, an entire group of black

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FILE

Tiger Woods' win in the Masters golf tournament propelled him onto the national sports conscience.