

Panthers mistakes too costly

Continued from 1B

in the NFC championship game. That's only part of the bad news, however. All-pro linebackers Sam Mills and Lamar Lathon were injured and are listed as questionable against Atlanta, forcing Carolina to re-sign inside linebacker Carlton Bailey Tuesday.

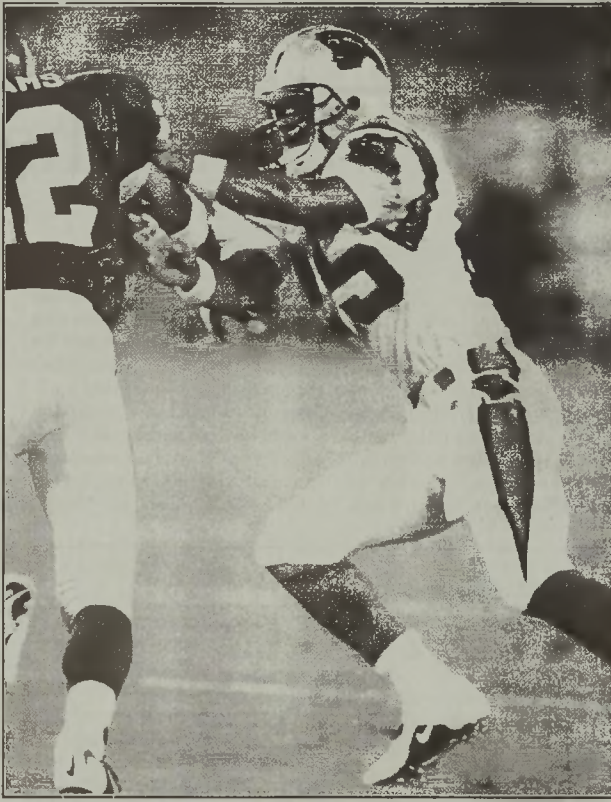
"They ran the ball up in there," Terrell said. "We had some spurts where we did a good job, but we had plays where we stepped on our foot too many times. A team like the Redskins will punish you for making mistakes."

The Panthers made too many mistakes Sunday, a pattern that carried over from the preseason and shows no signs of letting up without a major about-face.

"Guys went out and did some good things, but it all boils down to one guy where he's not supposed to be can hurt you," Davis said. "Collectively, we've got to find our way. Every guy has to take it upon himself to do exactly what they're supposed to do, and everything else will fall into place."

There's some solace. San Francisco, Carolina's division rival, had an equally bad opener with a loss to Tampa Bay. For the Panthers, there were some bright moments, such as tailback Anthony Johnson's team-record 131 rushing yards, but there weren't enough.

"There was some improvement," Davis said. "It's never as good as you think and it's never



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Carolina cornerback Eric Davis (25) says Carolina's loss to Washington isn't devastating. "It's never as good as you think and it's never as bad as you think once you watch the film."

as bad as you think once you watch the film. I'm sure there are some things we can learn from, and I'm sure there are some

things we can look at and say that's just wrong. Either way, we'll get it panned out and go from there."

Sting has needs to address for next year

Continued from 1B

If 6-1 Milica Vukadinovic recovers from a bad back and Suber and Levesque mature, that problem could be solved.

Center: Mapp overcame arthroscopic knee surgery to score an average of 11.6 points per game on 49.5 percent shooting and hauled in an average of 5.5 rebounds per game. Sharon Manning gave Charlotte some pep off the bench once she became

accustomed to the role.

Power forward: Vicky Bullett was a force for Charlotte, displaying a deadly shooting touch from the perimeter as well as in the paint. Bullett, who averaged 12.8 points and 6.4 rebounds per game, gave the Sting a physical presence on both ends of the floor at center as well. Again, finding more backup help would help.

Small forward: Andrea Congreaves didn't overwhelm anyone with her scoring (6.2

points a game), but came on strong in leadership and defense. She didn't start until the 12th game, but was instrumental in helping Charlotte during its playoff drive. Congreaves has some accuracy from three-point range, but her defense (4.8 rebounds a game) was a plus.

Penny Moore, who also subbed for Stinson at shooting guard, provides a change of pace; Katasha Artis didn't play much, but has plenty of potential.

JCSU needs improvement

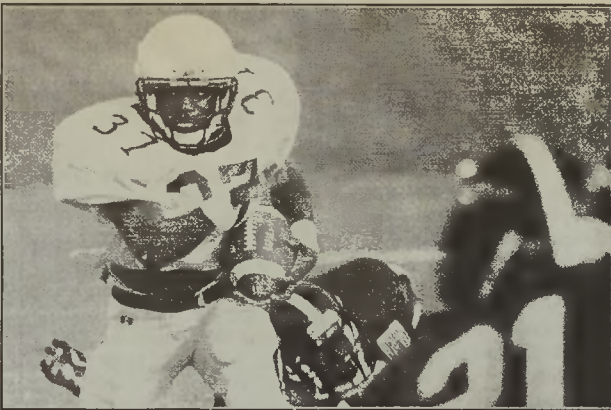
Continued from 1B

pulse, with 93 yards on 42 attempts, which forced Smith into obvious passing situations.

"The thing we've got to do offensively is start moving the ball and keep our defense off the field," Davis said. "We didn't move the ball as consistent as I thought we could have moved it."

Junior Keith Mack, who started in place of injured quarterback Chuck Young (concussion), had a solid debut, completing 6-of-12 passes for 93 yards and a touchdown before giving way to Desmond Brown with Smith behind 21-7 in the second half. Brown, a junior, was 1-for-13 for 32 yards in his first game as a Bull, but did manage to lead Smith to a fourth-quarter touchdown. They'll need to improve quickly against a Virginia State team that was picked in preseason polls to win the CIAA.

"We didn't take him out because he was doing bad," Davis said. "We wanted to get the other kid in to get his feet wet because we got



PHOTO/HERBERT L. WHITE

Johnson C. Smith running back Brad McClary looks for running room against Gardner-Webb in the Bulls' 38-13 loss in Boiling Springs. Smith travels to Virginia State Saturday.

kind of far out there."

Davis said he'd wait until later in the week to name a starter against Virginia State. Young is more familiar with the offense, but Mack's athletic ability and solid outing against Gardner-

Webb may have earned him the job.

"We're going to have to look at it and see how are quarterbacks played and grade film and see where we go on from there," Davis said.

Lewis goes out like champion in Berlin

Continued from 1B

"None of you will ever know who I really am," he has said. "There are certain things that every person has to keep sacred."

During the Los Angeles Games, Lewis alienated thousands of people by skipping his final four

attempts in the long jump.

Having already won the 100-meter gold and run two 200-meter heats on the same day, Lewis wanted to conserve his energy for the 200-meter final and the relay. So he decided to stop jumping after his opening - and ultimately unbeatable - leap.

The 80,000-plus fans in the Los Angeles Coliseum jeered each time it was announced that Lewis was passing on an attempt.

Lewis, who also had an ill-fated singing career, plans to work with kids and run exhibition track and field events, but has said he won't compete again.

Rice already talking about comeback

Continued from 1B

"I think everyone, when their time comes, in their own little way, has to step up and be accounted for, and that's the best way that I know of for us to get through this thing," Uwaezuoke said.

Added Woodson: "When you have someone go down, as a team you have to rally around each other. If you don't come closer together, then you'll be spread

apart. We're going to find out what we're made of."

The injury will end Rice's playing streak of 189 straight regular-season, nonstrike games. He has played 176 games in a row with at least one reception.

"It just seems surreal," said Steve Young, who suffered a concussion in the same game Sunday, but came back to play in the second half. "To see Jerry Rice on the field laying down and then to hear about the surgery, you just don't

expect to see Jerry hurt. I've talked to him and he said he'll be back. And of all the human beings that have said that, he's the one I believe the most. I'm excited he feels that way."

Rice was hurt on a running play, a reverse late in the second quarter. After taking a handoff from running back Garrison Hearst, Rice ran to his left but was hit by Tampa Bay defensive tackle Warren Sapp, who burst into the 49ers' backfield.

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