

# JCSU center uses versatility in the lane

Continued from page 1C when necessary, he can step out and hit a jumper.

"Charles is an outstanding post player," Bulls coach Steve Joyner said. "He understands what to do with the basketball, he can pass if he needs to pass, he can negotiate a double-team, and certainly he can negotiate one-

on-one. He's just an outstanding offensive basketball player."

"When I get the ball on the block, I just believe in my abilities. I think it's a combination of working hard during the off-season and during the season, and having confidence in myself."

Clark, who was named all-

CIAA last year, will likely make it a second straight season. His more immediate goal, though, is winning black college basketball's biggest prize - the league championship. To get it, Clark has driven himself to improve on both ends of the floor.

"This is my last year and this might be the last time I

play organized ball in my life," he said. "Just looking at it like that, I think, gives me an extra edge. Throughout my career, I've never won a championship. That's just something I want to do. I guess that's the reason I want to elevate my game."

The work has paid off for Smith, which is No. 23 in the

country and riding a four-game winning streak going into tonight's game against Elizabeth City State (9 p.m., ESPNU; WJZY). A win will get the Bulls (17-4, 9-1) closer to 20 wins and a first-round bye in the CIAA tournament. It'll also help Smith's case for a spot in the Division II tournament.

"We're just looking to get better night in and night out," Clark said. "We want to win the Western Division and seeding is important. We'd much rather play three games than four because a lot of teams might be worn out by Friday. It'll help us to get that bye."

# CIAA basketball tournament officially reaches sellout status

Continued from page 1C

one of the most competitive in recent memory. Virginia Union and Johnson C. Smith have lived up to preseason billing as top teams in the East and West divisions, but

St. Augustine's, Winston-Salem State and Bowie State are contenders. Women's power Shaw is looking to win a league-record fourth straight crown, while JCSU leads the West Division and

has won 10 straight games.

In addition to basketball, the tournament will include a fan fest, Super Saturday event an Apollo talent competition and fashion show. Tournament organizers

expect 120,000 fans to visit Charlotte for the week, making the CIAA one of the largest non-racing events in the city's history.

"We had high expectations for Charlotte as a host for the

tournament, but selling out this far in advance exceeds even our expectations," said Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority CEO Tim Newman. "Charlotte and the CIAA are an excellent

match."

On the Net:  
CIAA tournament week events  
www.ciaatournament.org  
CIAA  
www.theciaa.com

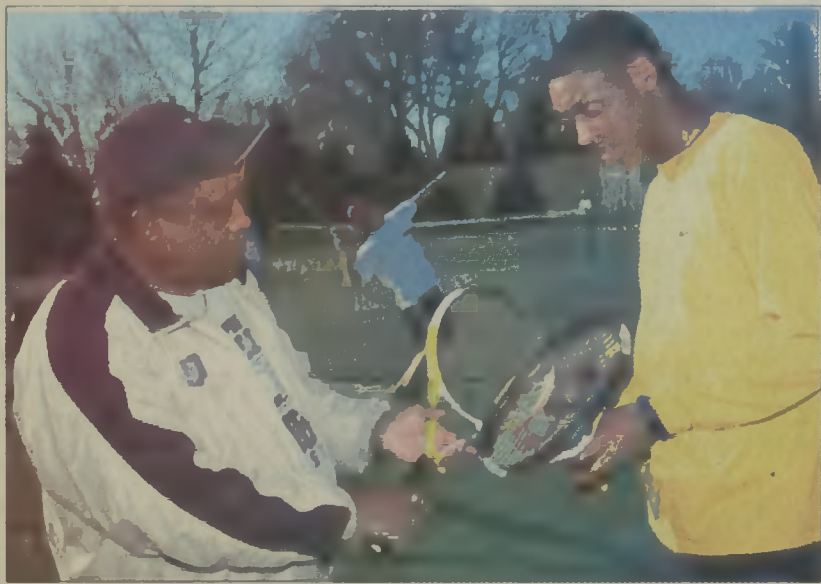


PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Dejon Bivens, the top-ranked tennis player in North Carolina, gets a few pointers from Charlotte Country Day coach Calvin Davis. Bivens is No. 1 in the state in the latest U.S. Tennis Association rankings of 18-year-old amateurs.

# Bevins king of N.C. courts

Continued from page 1C

Bivens In performance, Bivens motivates himself and wants to be the best at whatever he does. "The only thing that I cannot accept is not doing the best that I can do," said Bivens.

Bivens' mother, Debra, is his strongest support and motivator.

"My mom pushes me a lot but not to the point where it's overbearing," he said. "She is really pushing for me to do

the best."

Bivens is always thinking to finish No. 1, which is his goal this season. "Nobody's safe," said Bivens. "I want to beat the people I am supposed to beat, and then knock off a lot of the ones that are in front of me."

Bivens would love to play on the collegiate level - preferably in Division I - but competing on the professional level is up in the air. Right now he is taking things one season at a time.

"I want to go to college first," said Bivens. "School is very important."

Bivens' time is usually occupied with tennis, but he is quite busy off the court. Just to name a few of his activities, he is involved in the choir, Diversity Club, and the Men's and Women's Shelter. Other than that, Bivens is either at practice, or in competition.

"As far as a social life, I don't think I have one right now," he said.

## COCA-COLA "TEACHER" OF THE MONTH

### Jocelyn Pharr Thompson

Choral Music & Music Theory Teacher,  
West Charlotte High School

- Motto -  
"All children can succeed. Each child has a gift that needs nurturing. For many, that gift is music. Teachers must establish high standards and push for excellence in their classrooms to assure that each child reaches their potential."  
- Jocelyn Thompson

Our "Teacher of the Month," **Jocelyn Pharr Thompson**, has taught choral music and music theory at West Charlotte Senior High School since 1992, and has held the position of Fine Arts Department Chairperson since 1997. Under her leadership, West Charlotte choirs have consistently earned superior ratings at the West #1 NCMEA Large Choral Festival from 1995 - 2005, with the exception of 1997 and 2000. From 1996-2002 the choirs have traveled and performed on the campuses of UNC Charlotte, Livingstone, Winston-Salem State, Elizabeth City State, UNC Greensboro, North Carolina State University, Norfolk State, Winthrop, USC Columbia, Spelman, Morehouse, and Florida A&M University. The West Charlotte Chamber choirs have performed at the Kennedy Center, twice at Carnegie Hall, and once at Riverside Church in New York City. The students perform annually in the N.C. Music Educators Association High School Honors Choirs, All-State Choruses, and Mars Hill Choral Festival Choirs.

A native of Gastonia, Jocelyn graduated from Hunter Huss High School in 1974, received her Bachelor of Music degree in 1978, Master of Music in 1980 and Master of Education in 1986 from UNCG. She started the choral program at Providence Senior High School in 1989 and taught special education math and science.

Striving to excel civically and professionally, Jocelyn is a member of NCAE, Zeta Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Piedmont Chapter of Links, Inc., Music Educators National Conference, and the American Choral Directors Association.

Jocelyn is married to Minister Sherman Bradford Thompson, a ministerial staff member at Friendship Baptist Church Gastonia. Active in her church, Jocelyn is director of music/organist at Memorial Presbyterian Church. She is also assistant director/principal accompanist for the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, and a private voice and piano instructor. She and her twin sister, Jacqueline Pharr Robinson, are the daughters of the late Ernest Eugene and the late Johnnie Crawford Pharr.

Thankful for the many role models she had in her life that pushed her to excel in music and education, Jocelyn feels the responsibility of giving back is the motivating force at this point in her life.

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