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Section

SPORTS

Former J.C. Smith assistant off to NFL

Chicago Bears name West Charlotte grad Wilks DBs coach

By Herbert L. White
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Steve Wilks has graduated from college football assistant coach to the NFL's Chicago Bears.

Wilks, a Charlotte native and former West Charlotte High standout, was named the Bears' defensive backs coach, replacing Perry Fewell, who left to become the Buffalo Bills' defensive coordinator.

"It feels great," Wilks, 36, said. "It's a great opportunity going to the NFL. It's a great organization with an outstanding coach. Lovie Smith is one of the best in the business."



Wilks

Wilks, who got his coaching start at Johnson C. Smith as defensive coordinator in 1995-96, spent the last two seasons at the University of Washington as defensive backs coach. He followed head coach Tyrone Willingham to Seattle from Notre Dame, where he coached one season.

Chicago is Wilks' ninth coaching assignment, his first in the NFL.

"I'm very proud of Steve and what he's been able to accomplish in a short time," said JCSU coach Daryl McNeill, who gave Wilks his first coaching job. "Growing up in a coaching family, I saw a lot of intangibles in him from the first day I met him to know he's very special and first of all he's a person who can coach the game of football."

At JCSU, Wilks helped the Golden Bulls to a 7-3 record in 1996, Smith's best. Please see WILKS/2C

NATION'S FASTEST SCHOOLBOY AT 60 METERS



PHOTOS/CURTIS WILSON

West Charlotte High's Trenton Guy Jr. understands expectations will go up for him after winning the 60 meters at the Carolina Invitational earlier this month. "I think people will start looking at me differently now, because I don't normally win big meets like that," he says.

Lions' go-to Guy

West Charlotte's Trenton Guy Jr. on pace to run among elite U.S. sprinters

By Eric Bozeman
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Trenton Guy Jr. is the fastest high school sprinter indoors in 2006.

On Feb. 4, the West Charlotte High junior set the national track scene on its ear by posting a time of 6.76 seconds in the 60 meters at the Carolina Invitational for college and open competition. Guy also placed fifth in the 200 meters with a clocking of 22.19.

What happened after the win was as exciting as the national-best time he posted.

"My start was just perfect, I got out and I didn't look back," Guy said. "Afterwards everyone was going crazy and college coaches came up asking me what school I wanted to go to. I was kind of shocked. The grown men (he beat) gave me my props, they were shaking my hand. They didn't even know I was a kid."

Guy's time has also been posted on the Nike list of best performances this season, but his goal is to put West Charlotte on the track map. He doesn't want to get too carried away with individual success.

The comparison between Guy and world class sprinters such as Maurice Greene, who ran a world

best of 6.39 in the 60 meters in Madrid, Spain in 1998, aren't far off.

"I'm just continuing the legacy that we have at West Charlotte. I think people will start looking at me differently now, because I don't normally win big meets like that, but I don't want to sound too cocky," Guy said.

Performances like Guy's don't magically appear; they are harvested by years of grueling workouts, and a close knit group of people who care, like Guy's father and sprint coach Trenton Sr.

"He is finally at the point where he appreciates me training him, it's a special relationship, but it's

See GUY/2C



West Charlotte High's Trenton Guy Jr. is the nation's fastest schoolboy in the 60 meters.

Stopping Shaw's CIAA streak is Golden Bulls' Mission: Impossible



Taylor

Coach Vanessa Taylor's Golden Bulls lead the CIAA West.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Coming off an 86-58 rout of CIAA West Division foe St. Augustine's, Johnson C. Smith's women's basketball is about to lock horns with the three-time CIAA champion Shaw.

The Bears (21-4, 14-0 CIAA) are on a 70-game CIAA winning streak. Smith, the West leader at

(17-7, 11-1 CIAA, 8-0 division), is taking Saturday's game as just another contest, not worrying about the streak. They tip off at 5:30 p.m. at Spaulding Gym in Raleigh.

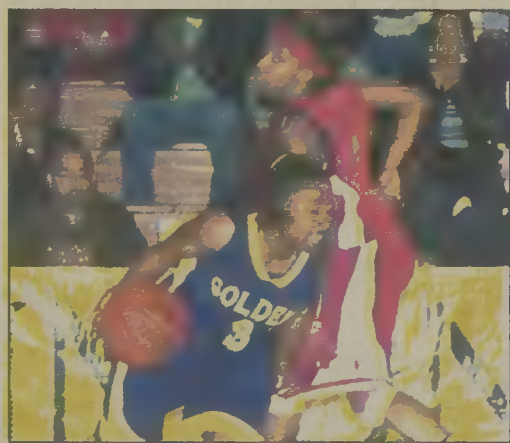
"I'm not looking at Shaw as any different than any other team," said junior guard Brittany Sumpter, who averages 15 points per game. "I'll give them their credit, they're good but we have to

continue playing our game."

Smith's game includes at least four different players that score in double figures each game.

"We have more speed and more people in each position that can contribute," said junior guard Tiana Pope, who had another 25 point out pouring against St. Aug's.

Statically, Shaw and JCSU Please see JCSU/2C



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Johnson C. Smith guard Judene Wright (3) and the Golden Bulls will try to snap Shaw's 70-game conference winning streak Saturday.



Charlotte Bobcats guard Raymond Felton isn't fazed by being passed over for All-Star Weekend activities.

Felton won't sweat All-Star snub

The Charlotte Bobcats starting rookie point guard, Raymond Felton got the 2006 all-star weekend snub.

The fifth overall selection has to deal with the lack of respect given to players playing on a losing team. Felton is the only rookie in the top 10 of the four major rookie statistical categories, (points, assists, rebounds and blocks) per game.

After the Bobcats' loss to the Portland Trailblazers Monday, Charlotte guard Alan Anderson, who was standing nearby when

reporters asked Felton about the snub, yelled "He should have been selected."

Felton responded: "It's a situation where it didn't happen. So what, whatever, life goes on, so I'm going home (to Latta, S.C.) to relax."

The first half of the season has been a learning experience for Felton and the Bobcats. In retrospect, Felton said "I learned a lot, all I have to do is to continue to get better and continue to work harder."

Roland Hawkins

AN EYE ON PANTHERS

Alexander ready to play the NFL field if Seattle doesn't work out

By Jaymes Song
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — Shaun Alexander may have Carolina on his mind.

Alexander, who sat out the Pro Bowl on Sunday because of a sprained right foot, said contract negotiations with the Seattle Seahawks will continue Monday. But the NFL's Most Valuable Player said he's open to playing

elsewhere.

"I never really thought up until I got out here that I could be on another team, but it was really neat to see me with Carolina guys and having fun like that," he said following the NFC's 23-17 victory over the AFC. "It was different, but it was definitely neat."

Several NFC teammates spent the past few days, half jokingly

wooing Alexander. He will become one of the league's most coveted free agents if he doesn't re-sign with the Seahawks before March 3.

"Honestly, whatever happens, I'm going to be happy. I'm going to be satisfied," he said. "It is an exciting opportunity for me, having all these teams basically come at me and sign me. That's cool."

See ALEXANDER/2C

Cox unfazed by Braves' spring challenges

By Charles Odum
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — After winning 14 straight division championships, Bobby Cox is confident that spring training will provide solutions to the latest challenges facing his Atlanta Braves.

When pitchers and catchers report to spring training Thursday in Kissimmee, Fla., followed by the rest of the team next week, most of the roster will be set. But the few holes are significant. The Braves

need a new leadoff hitter and a closer, and they must adapt to new pitching coach Roger McDowell after having Leo Mazzone on the job for 15 years.

After losing shortstop Rafael Furcal to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Braves have no obvious candidate to hit leadoff.

No problem, says Cox.

"I've had all kinds of years with no speed there," Cox said. "Furcal was good, really good. He was ideal. But teams can win without speedy guys at the front, that's for

sure."

The possibilities for the spot include second baseman Marcus Giles, who has been the team's No. 2 hitter, and Ryan Langerhans, assuming Langerhans beats out Kelly Johnson for the starting job in left field.

If Giles is the leadoff hitter, new shortstop Edgar Renteria likely will hit second.

Kyle Farnsworth signed to be a set-up man for the New York Yankees, leaving the Braves with

Please see COX/2C