

Group effort secured Charlotte as host

By C. Jemal Horton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Shoulder to shoulder, armed with a modest dauntlessness and a presentation for the ages, Charlotte's sports business dream team traipsed into Norfolk, Va., and dazzled the CIAA Board of Directors.

This was Nov. 15, 2004.



Cannon

A triumvirate of community leaders — Patrick Cannon, Tim Newman and Ed Tapscott — had been charged with making the trip and presenting a bid to bring the popular CIAA Tournament to the Queen City.

Tapscott, president of the Charlotte Bobcats, opened the presentation that day by informing the CIAA about the benefits of the new uptown arena, which wasn't set to open for several months but, Tapscott assured, would be the ideal venue for the tournament.

Newman, Chief Executive Officer of the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, served as "the banker," laying out the city's commitment to pro-

vide scholarship money — \$1 million per year — to the CIAA's General Scholarship Fund.

And Cannon, then mayor pro tem, sold the vision of Charlotte as a city, detailing how uptown would transform into a "CIAA Village" where everything was in walking distance — a first for the tournament — if the event came here.



Tapscott

The Norfolk dream team, backed by many others here in Charlotte, put together a scenario the CIAA could not refuse.

CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry came here on a "fact-finding mission" three days after the presentation. By mid-December, Charlotte had wrested the CIAA Tournament away from Raleigh and been awarded to play host to the nation's second-largest college basketball tournament in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

For the vital roles they played in landing the tournament, Cannon, Newman and Tapscott have been named The Charlotte Post's 2005 Newsmakers of the Year.

"The commissioner has said, 'Until you all came in and made your presentation, it was really a formality — we were going to stay with Raleigh, but you guys really opened our eyes in that presentation,'" Newman said without bragging.

Sell hard, stay humble

While Cannon, Newman and Tapscott were confident in what Charlotte had to offer the CIAA, neither man was cocky as he entered the presentation. Johnson C. Smith President Dorothy Yancy played a role in making certain that didn't happen.

"Dr. Yancy has been dying for this thing to come to Charlotte for her entire 10 years at Smith, and she was giving us her sense of it," Newman said. "She said, 'You've got to go put on a real convincing show. Don't leave anything on the table. You've got to really sell them on the vision of Charlotte.'

"So we had a little bit of an underdog feeling going in, which I think is always good. And I said all through

the process, 'We've got to sell like we're in first place, but work like we're in last place.' We couldn't take anything for granted. Be professional, be optimistic, but dig to make sure that we don't leave anything on the table."

Economic, social impact

The tournament begins Feb. 27 with the tip-off of the first women's game, and concludes on March 4, with the men's and women's finals.

The CIAA will be advantageous for Charlotte on many levels. For starters, when the tournament was in Raleigh, it typically had an economic impact of \$12 million on that city each year. Newman said Charlotte should expect to bring in that much — at a minimum.

But the social ramifications are just as critical as the economic impact.

"I certainly look at these studies that say, from a trust standpoint, from a tolerance standpoint, there are areas we need to work on," Newman said. "Well, we're going to have what I think is the biggest African-American event in the country, in many ways, here in town. That, I think, sends a positive message."

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CIAA inducts five into McLendon Hall of Fame

Class of 2006 includes NFL great, D.C. sports editor and women's volleyball pioneer

SPECIAL TO THE CHARLOTTE POST

HAMPTON, Va. — The CIAA has selected its 2006 CIAA McLendon Hall of Fame inductees who will be formally installed at the John B. McLendon Hall of Fame Luncheon March 3 at the Westin Hotel at 11 a.m.

- Hal Jackson, former sports editor of the Afro-American Newspaper (Washington, D.C.) is being honored for his service to the CIAA basketball tournament dating back to its inaugural year at Turner Arena in Washington, D.C. Jackson was the radio promoter for the first tournament and also served as announcer while it was in Washington.

- The former owner of the Washington Bears was one of the first advocates for broadcasting black college bowl games on major networks. Jackson has been on the radio since the late 30s and currently serves as host and executive producer of "Sunday Classics" on New York's 107.5.

- Winston-Salem State's William "Bill" English will join this class as the CIAA's single-game scoring record holder with 77 points against Fayetteville State.

- A member of the WSSU Hall of Fame and two-time All-America selection in 1968 and 1969 and all-CIAA and all-NAIA, this high scorer (2,113 points) ranks in WSSU's history books in scoring, free throws, field goals made and rebounding.

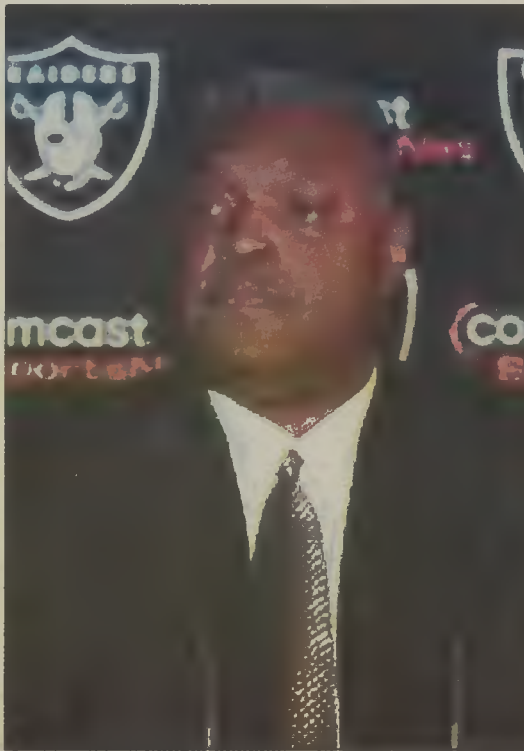
- Pro Football Hall of Famer Art Shell of Maryland Eastern Shore led the Oakland Raiders as head coach from 1989-94, making him the first African-American head coach in the NFL's modern era.

- Drafted from Maryland State-Eastern Shore, Shell had an outstanding career with the Raiders as an offensive tackle from 1968-82. After his playing career, Shell was the Raiders' offensive line coach from 1983-89.

- Earlier this month, Shell was again named Raiders head coach.

- Mike Davis, an elite basketball star from Virginia Union, spent three seasons with the Panthers.

- As VUU's all-time leading scorer with 2,758 points, Davis earned all-conference honors each of his three years and was named the 1969 CIAA Player of the Year. He is the second all-



Maryland Eastern Shore football standout Art Shell was inducted into the CIAA McLendon Hall of Fame. After his college days, Shell was a standout offensive tackle with the Oakland Raiders, then made history as the first African-American head coach in modern NFL history. Earlier this month, he was hired for a second stint as Raiders head coach.

PHOTO/OAKLAND RAIDERS

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