



Golden Bulls return to softball prominence



Johnson C. Smith third baseman Brandi Young, sliding home against Fayetteville State, is one of the Golden Bulls' top hitters and co-captain.

Johnson C. Smith nearing 30-win season

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people from scoring, we can score runs." Said Robinson: "This team is a basic team. We're not real good at this and not real good at that. We try to be good on each side."

Good enough to grab the attention of regional coaches who voted Smith one of the Mid Atlantic's top teams. The Bulls are also attracting more campus support for home games, something Young said helps build momentum.

"I think it's very surprising for the simple fact that we haven't been on the map the last couple of years in softball," she said. "We're just trying to give them a show, trying to go out and win every game."

Smith has its goals: win 30 games and a

league championship for the first time in school history. The Bulls have the potential, but Robinson encourages them to keep building on their success.

"You were here when you were down, now that you're being a little successful, it should push you to work even harder," he said. "We can beat the teams we're supposed to beat, but the teams you're not supposed to beat, that's where the fundamentals come in, and that's where discipline comes in."

Said Young: "The sky's the limit. I'm not going to put any parameters on our season because we can win and we have the team to win. We've proven it and we're going to continue to prove it."

Marlins owner shopping for suitors

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from San Antonio would join him Monday when the Marlins open the season against the Houston Astros.

"I've invited them to join us to learn more about San Antonio," he said.

He remained evasive when asked whether he has any hope the Marlins can remain in South Florida, but said no negotiations are ongoing there.

"I really don't know how to answer that," he said. "I can only tell you at this moment that there's nothing going on in South Florida."

Charlotte has also been mentioned as a possible relocation site, but Mayor Pat McCrory said this week he won't go to bat for the idea, citing concerns that the market doesn't have the fan base to support three pro franchises. Charlotte already has the NFL Panthers and NBA Bobcats.

Loria doesn't think the relocation issue will be a distraction to his team this season.

"That will get settled one way or another," he said. Loria has repeatedly said that the Marlins would prefer to remain in South Florida, but he was less adamant about the issue Sunday. He has said they will not remain in Dolphins Stadium past 2010.

"We're going to look at all options there and we're also going to look at some other cities," he said.

The tax proposal that Bexar County, where San Antonio is located, has offered would ask voters to extend a hotel and car rental tax approved in 1999 by 20-30 years to fund the stadium.

The vote could come as early as the November elections.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

BEAR UP: Livingstone freshman quarterback Kyle Pettit looks for a receiver during a scrimmage in Salisbury. The Blue Bears finished 1-9 last season under first-year head coach Robert Massey, a Garinger High and N.C. Central graduate. Livingstone will cap spring drills with an intrasquad scrimmage Saturday at 6 p.m. at Alumni Stadium. The scrimmage will follow a track meet featuring Livingstone and J.C. Smith.

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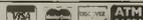
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