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SPORTS



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Receiver Terrence Metcalf hopes to catch on with the Carolina Panthers, where brother Eric played in 1999.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Football's all in the family

Former S.C. State star looks to follow father, brother into NFL

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Terrence Metcalf is not giving up on his dream of playing in the NFL.

The Carolina Panther hopeful has been close to catching on before. Last year Tampa Bay cut him on the last day of training camp.

"I got cut after the last preseason game, so I made it down to the wire," Metcalf said. "It's just a matter of

being in the right place at the right time."

The place is Carolina and the right time is now, at least in Metcalf's mind. If he makes the Panthers roster, he'd be following in the footsteps of his older brother Eric, who played for Carolina in 1999.

"I really want to play," he said. "It's been my dream since I was a little boy." As the son of former NFL stand-

out Terry Metcalf and having a brother in the league, football is in family's blood.

Metcalf was a standout wide receiver at South Carolina State, where he lettered for four years and as a senior led the Bulldogs with 30 receptions for 724 yards and seven touchdowns.

"Coming from a small school you learn that you have to work extra

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Senior running back Marco Kirven is one of 14 transfers recruited to Johnson C. Smith. Kirven, who averaged more than 100 yards per game at Division II Southwest Baptist (Neb.) in 2003 has already earned a starting job.

'Extreme makeover'

From players to schemes, J.C. Smith bears little resemblance to last year's team

By Herbert L. White
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Johnson C. Smith football was totally forgettable in 2005.

Ten games, 10 losses sums up a season of futility that stretched the school record to 24 straight, the longest streak in NCAA Division II. No wonder head coach Daryl McNeill is anxious to get that disaster behind him.

"It was very frustrating for me," he said. "Basically, I couldn't even tell you the score of all the games. That's how much I've forgotten about it and put it behind me and moved on."

It starts with a revamping of the entire program. As many as

95 players are expected to participate in preseason drills, the most in recent memory. Among them are 14 transfers from junior colleges, Division I-A and Division I-AA programs who'll push — and in some instances replace — the 14 returning starters.

"We've got a good group," McNeill said.

"We could top out at 90-95 kids, which is just the commitment the university made to the program with more scholarships. Hopefully, this

will transform into some good wins for us."

The newcomers will provide competition and depth, something long lacking at JCSU. What they also bring is a new attitude.

"Right now, we feel we've got some kids that are just better than the kids we had last year," McNeill said. "Now it's just a matter of getting them to learn the system."

Experience will be crucial for the Bulls, especially early in the season. With a year in McNeill's scheme, the holdovers are expected to find their stride quickly, McNeill said.

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Just 1 way to go

Johnson C. Smith ended the 2005 season near the bottom of the CIAA in almost every meaningful statistical category. Below is a sample of Golden Bulls futility in 2005 and where JCSU fit in the 12-team league.

Points average	Rank
Rush offense	78.2 (12th)
Rush defense	
Scoring defense	26.2 (9th)
Total offense	
Total defense	321.0 (8th)
First downs	
Sacks	20 (8th)

For Class of 2006, a look back and ahead

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Sting will end the season ahead of where they were last year, but short of where they could've been.

Yet, on Monday, the Sting practice court was filled with cheering and laughter rather than regret.

The team hosted a basketball clinic for 60 Special Olympic North Carolina athletes. Amidst all the bouncing balls and clapping for a job well done, three players remembered back to their own beginnings and looked back at their first season in the WNBA.

"It just reminds you of where you started," said center Tye'sha Fluker, who worked with athletes shooting inside the paint. "I wasn't always good at what I do. I started not being able to make a lay-up...not being able to make a free throw. It's good to be able to come in the gym and teach people the skills other people taught me."

Fluker, along with forward Monique Currie, and guard LaToya Bond were selected by the Sting in the 2006 WNBA Draft in April. Four months later, Fluker and teammates Monique Currie, LaToya Bond and Yelena Leuchanka are closing the book on their first season. Leuchanka was on the injured list most of the

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PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte Sting guard Monique Currie averages 10 points per game as a rookie.

2004 Olympians vow to do basketball right at Worlds

By Brian Mahoney
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dwayne Wade could have brought up his NBA championship ring or the MVP hardware he brought home from the finals. In this company, though, he knew those would do him no good.

At a recent gathering in Chicago, Wade found himself in the presence of Michael Jordan

and Gary Payton, a great champion and one of the league's renowned trash talkers. They had something to hold over Wade's head, and they were all too happy to make sure he knew it.

Jordan and Payton both own multiple gold medals Wade has none.

"I couldn't even say nothing," Wade said. "They're talking about

their gold medals and I just put my head down and listened, because I've got to get one first."

So instead of taking the summer to relax after leading the Miami Heat to their first NBA title, Wade will spend the next month in Asia, trying to help the United States win the world championship.

And, in what may have seemed shocking two years ago, so will

LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony, who shared the mostly miserable experience with Wade at the 2004 Olympics.

Amare Stoudemire, Shawn Marion and Lamar Odom were the other players who agreed to come back to join the national team, but none are available for the world championship in Japan. Stoudemire and Marion
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Hot Tigers attract sellout crowds and scalpers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Sellout crowds attracted by a Tigers team that keeps building upon this season's best record in baseball has brought booming business to ticket scalpers, vendors and online sellers.

"The atmosphere down here has been absolutely electric," Tigers spokesman Joel Scott told the Detroit Free Press. "We're packing the park with seniors or

kids. And it's important to get the message out there that we do have tickets available.

"Not four tickets two rows behind the dugout, but there isn't a bad seat in the ballpark."

Many fans who have tried to find top tickets or a few seats in a row have been forced to pay premium prices outside the stadium or online.

There has been a 354 percent surge in Tigers ticket sales since

the beginning of the season at StubHub.com, one of the largest ticket Web sites, spokesman Sean Pate said.

Pate said it's the second-largest increase on the Web site, behind only the Houston Astros, a team that went to the World Series last year.

"Everyone's a new fan suddenly," he said. "Sales have jumped through the roof."

Tickets are also going for high

prices at Craigslist.org and eBay and some sellers also attach small items with the tickets to skirt possible violations. It's illegal to sell tickets above face value in Michigan.

Both Detroit police and the Wayne County sheriff's department have stepped up enforcement outside the stadium and will continue to as the playoffs approach, sheriff's Sgt. Bruce Christmagel said

NBA: Hornets home games in New Orleans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHANGHAI, China — NBA Commissioner David Stern says he expects the Hornets will play all of their home games in New Orleans by the 2007-2008 season.

The team has scheduled just six of their home games for New Orleans in the upcoming season, with the other 35 in Oklahoma City, where they temporarily relocated after Hurricane Katrina.

Team owner George Shinn expects the team to return home permanently, but said last month he wouldn't rule out a move elsewhere.

However, Stern said a permanent return to New Orleans was the only option at present.

"It will happen," said Stern, speaking on Sunday in Guangzhou, China, where the U.S.
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