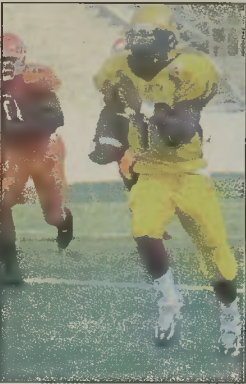


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Section

SPORTS



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Johnson C. Smith quarterback Carlton Richardson sprints downfield for a 67-yard touchdown run against Edward Waters.

Savor the flavor of winning

Losing streak over, J.C. Smith's focus turns to Glenville St.

By Herbert L. White

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After 24 weeks in the valley of defeat, Johnson C. Smith's Golden Bulls are eager to climb a winning streak.

"That's the goal," Bulls coach Daryl McNeill said after Saturday's 19-14 win over Edward Waters (Fla.) in the HBCU Classic in Greenville, S.C. "It's just so grand to know that these kids believe in themselves. We've been fighting alone for a long time and I'm just so happy for them, you just don't know."

After more than two years of frustration, the entire team was swept up in the thrill of victory, with hugs and tears handed out equally. Forget about the offense going scoreless in the second half or the Kevin Allen fumble that gave Edward Waters a chance to steal a win late. Smith held

Please see **FINALLY/2C**

Prep PATs

PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Ryan Houston, Butler. Senior tailback roared North Mecklenburg for 113 yards and a pair of scores on 22 carries in a 36-13 win. If he's not the best high school back in the county, who is?

BREAKOUT GAME: Victory Christian. Sanquan Davis scores a pair of touchdowns, including a 66-yard reception from Reg Robinson in an 18-13 victory over Providence Day.

HAPPY RETURNS: Quentero Long, West Charlotte. Receiver/cornerback is pretty good at returning kicks as well. Scored on a 48-yard strike and set up a pair of touchdowns with long punt returns in 34-0 win against Waddell.

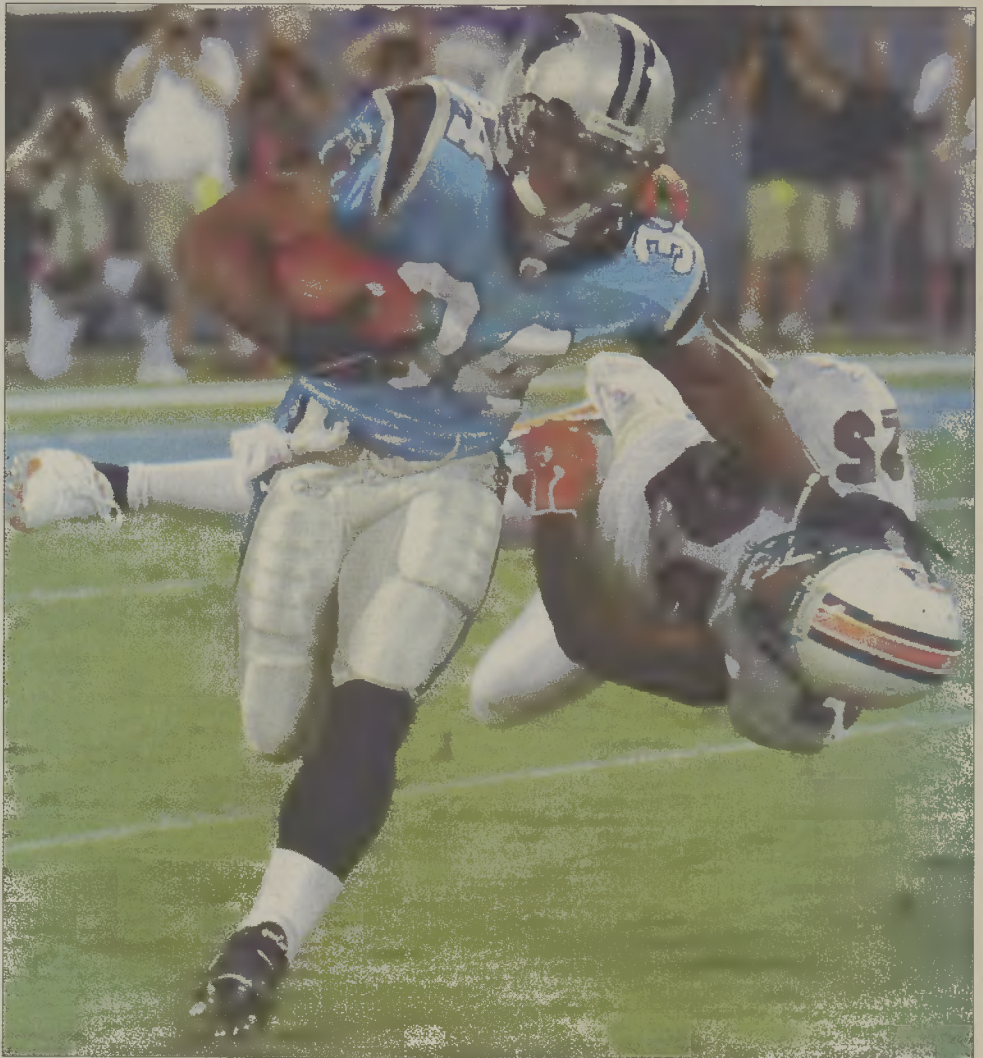
MUST-SEE GAME: Olympic (2-0) at Independence (2-0). Light 'em up offensive philosophies collide. Independence looks to run nation's longest win streak to 95 games. Trojans have scored 85 points in two easy wins.

Herbert L. White



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

West Charlotte High cornerback-receiver Quentero Long (23) caught a touchdown pass and set up two scores on punt returns in last week's 34-0 win against Waddell.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams sheds Miami cornerback Will Allen to pick up yardage in the Panthers' 19-10 win last week at Bank of America Stadium. The Panthers close the preseason today against Pittsburgh.

Measuring potential

Preseason finale a last audition for youngest Panthers

By Herbert L. White

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One dress rehearsal separate the Carolina Panthers from reality.

Thursday's preseason finale against Pittsburgh gives coaches a final chance to evaluate players before cutting the roster down to the required 53. While the starting lineups are set, there are players with potential who'll merit some attention.

• **RB DeAngelo Williams.** The rookie made his best impression last week by scoring on a kick return against

Miami. He's a definite change of pace to DeShaun Foster, and coach John Fox is committed to working Williams at tailback and kick returner.

• **LB Thomas Davis.** He's growing into an NFL line-backer after splitting time at safety last year as a rookie. His development is key to making a deep unit elite.

• **WRs Drew Carter and**

Keary Colbert. While reporters wait for Keyshawn Johnson and Steve Smith to go off on each other, Colbert and Carter have emerged as more than capable backups.

Colbert is recovered from last year's injuries and Carter continues to evolve into a long-distance threat. There's little drop-off when these two are in the lineup.

• **CB Richard Marshall.**

The second-round draft pick is tough and athletic. If not for Williams, he'd be the steal of this year's rookie class.

Diggs on way back to lineup

By Mike Cranston

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For the second straight year, Nail Diggs was on the ground at Bank of America Stadium, clutching his knee.

But unlike last season, the Carolina Panthers linebacker insisted he knew it wasn't a serious injury.

Diggs said Sunday he suffered only a mild sprain of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee in

See **DIGGS/2C**



Receiver Drew Carter has excelled in pre-season.

PHOTO/WADE NASH

Wade's World: From Finals MVP to super sub

By Brian Mahoney

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAITAMA, Japan - Dwyane Wade sized up the U.S. roster and decided how he could best make a difference: on the bench.

That seemed like a strange place for a player just two months removed from winning the MVP award at the NBA finals. But it made perfect sense to Wade, who is just as comfortable fitting in as he is standing out.

"It's something that I wanted," he said. "This team is very deep, and of course Coach can start me at any time with these guys. But me coming off the bench gives us another dimension and I love it."

So did the rest of the Americans, who went 6-0 during pool play before moving on

advance to the round of eight.

Once Wade settled on his plan, he discussed it with fellow captains LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony and told them he was bringing it to U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski.



Wade

Krzyzewski quickly went along with the idea. He saw it as a way to separate Wade, James and Anthony - all needing plenty of shots - while giving him a bona fide scorer to lead his second unit.

Anthony wasn't as easily convinced, recalling his first thought when he was told of the plan.

"First? He ain't doing that,"

Anthony said. "That was my first impression."

"Then once I sat down and really thought about it, I said, 'How do you feel about that?' He was like, 'I think it will be better for everybody,' and it has been. Not that we don't want him out there with us in the first group, but him coming off the bench is like instant offense, especially with that group that he comes off the bench with."

Playing primarily with Kirk Hinrich, Elton Brand, Antawn Jamison and Joe Johnson, Wade averaged 21.4 points during pool play. That ranked fourth in the tournament behind fellow NBA All-Stars Yao Ming, Dirk Nowitzki and Pau Gasol.

The question is how long Wade would keep his super

See **WADE'S/3C**

Baker 'sometimes' feels he has future with Chicago Cubs

By R.B. Fallstrom

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS - Manager Dusty Baker said Sunday he "sometimes" feels he has a future with the Chicago Cubs, and made it clear that sometimes he does not.

Baker is in the final year of a four-year contract and general manager Jim Hendry has said only that his manager is secure for the rest of a disappointing season.

"You put yourself in my position, what would your answer be?" Baker asked reporters. "It's not only Jim, it's the whole picture. Just period."

"I'm not going to be the overwhelming favorite. You hear about who's available, who's going to take your



Baker

See **CUBS/3C**