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SPORTS

Section

Brock game, Klitschko reigns

By Barry Winer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Wladimir Klitschko seemed intent on defending his title with one hand, the left. He jabbed and jabbed and occasionally hooked Calvin Brock.

Then the IBF champion was

cut by an inadvertent head butt, and the blood trickling down the left side of his face told him it was time to throw the right.

When that hand entered the fight, it was time for Brock to leave it.

Klitschko stunned Brock

with a sharp left, then finished him off with a thunderous right late in the seventh round Saturday night.

"I should have tried that earlier, but it took me time to get my distance and rhythm," Klitschko said. "He was a good defensive fighter."

Klitschko kept the right in reserve as he piled up points with his jab. But he found the range with the right midway in the bout, and Brock had no chance when Klitschko opened up the challenger's defense with another quick

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Johnson C. Smith running back Henry Willoughby (18) looks for daylight in the Golden Bulls' 40-37 win over Virginia Union Sept. 23 in Richmond. Smith will play Tuskegee in Pioneer Bowl IX Dec. 2 in Charlotte.

Bulls get to bowl at home

Pioneer bid another first in JCSU's turnaround season

By Herbert L. White

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There'll be one more game in Johnson C. Smith's football season after all.

The Golden Bulls have accepted a bid to play SIAC power Tuskegee in Pioneer Bowl IX Dec. 2 at Memorial Stadium, capping a season in which Smith finished second in the CIAA West and above .500 for the first time since 1998. The Bulls' 7-3 record is the program's best in 10 seasons.

"It means the world to the players," second-year Smith coach Daryl McNeill said. "It's something they didn't believe could happen when the season started, but when you believe, it can happen. And you can't imagine what it means to the Smith family and (President Dorothy Cowser) Yancy because the program had been down for so long."

Smith, which snapped a 24-game losing streak in the season opener, earned its first postseason appearance since the 1970 CIAA championship game. The Pioneer Bowl, which started in 1997, is the only Division II bowl game sanctioned by the NCAA.

"I guess it's the worst-kept secret in the CIAA," said Jeffrey McLeod, the league's assistant commissioner. "Everybody was speculating it would be Johnson C. Smith and Tuskegee, but we weren't saying."

Although five CIAA teams were bowl-eligible with .500 records or better, league champion N.C. Central

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PLAYOFF PUSH IS ON

Eight is enough
Second half of season to decide Panthers' fate

By Chellie Hodges
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The Carolina Panthers have been here before — backed against the wall, play-off hopes dangling. And what do they do? Come out fighting. Monday night against NFC South foe Tampa Bay, the Panthers did something they hadn't done in four losses — score in the second half. In fact, Carolina scored every point in its 24-10 win after the break.

"We had to come in and get

Carolina safety Matt Miller celebrates during the Panthers' 24-10 win over Tampa Bay Monday. Carolina is 5-4 going into Sunday's game against St. Louis.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

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Mets break ground on 45,000-seat stadium

By Karen Matthews
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The New York Mets held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday for a new 45,000-seat ballpark that will replace Shea Stadium in 2009 and is supposed to evoke historic parks like Brooklyn's Ebbets Field.

"The 21st-century New York Mets deserve a home befitting an emerging baseball dynasty, and they will have that in this new field," said state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who joined Mets officials at a news conference.

The new \$800 million stadium, to be built next to the current stadium in Queens, will be called Citi Field, part of a 20-year sponsorship deal between the Mets and banking giant Citigroup Inc. that is reportedly worth an aver-

age of more than \$20 million annually.

The playing field will be smaller than Shea down the lines, but larger in the gaps: 395 feet to left field, 408 to center, 330 to right. Shea is 398 to left, 410 to center, 338 to right.

Shea Stadium opened in 1964 and is the sixth-oldest major league ballpark in use. The new park will have old-timey features like brick and limestone arches intended to evoke baseball's storied past.

The link with Ebbets Field, home to the Dodgers until they left Brooklyn for Los Angeles, will be made explicit with a Jackie Robinson Rotunda at the entrance. The rotunda will pay tribute to the former Dodger who broke major league baseball's color barrier in 1947, and will include a statue of him.



FILE PHOTO

Point guard Jerome Givens leads Johnson C. Smith into the Wendy's Tip-Off Classic Friday.

Inexperience a concern when Bulls tip off against Bluefield State

By Herbert L. White
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Johnson C. Smith basketball starts on-the-job training Friday.

The Golden Bulls open the season at the Wendy's Tip-Off Classic at Brayboy Gym against Bluefield State at 8 p.m. St. Paul's takes on West Virginia State at 4 p.m. as part of a quadrupleheader with the women's Queen City Classic.

Smith, which has five freshmen and a sophomore, on the roster, is one of the CIAA's least-experienced team. But coach Steve Joyner, who is in his 20th season at JCSU, is excited about the Bulls' potential.

"We have a very young basketball team that we have to

nurture," he said. "We can't wait to get going so we can mark our progress."

The Bulls, who went 23-8 and advanced to the Division II tournament last year, aren't expected to duplicate that success this season with three new starters. Joyner, however, is focused on getting the new players acclimated as quickly as possible.

"In any contest, you are going to face some liabilities," Joyner said. "Since we've been here, we've never been particularly tall or particularly big, we've been pretty much even-keel. Certainly, there's a lot of uncertainty that can be addressed best by playing games."

One freshman — former

See JCSU/2C



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Sean May and the struggling Charlotte Bobcats will try for their second win of the season Saturday at Orlando.

North Carolina passed on a gem in Tar Heels' backyard

Butch Davis is North Carolina's new head football coach. Current coach John Bunting was fired but is being allowed to coach out the season.



BONITTA BEST

Must be nice, eh? Rumors abounded that Davis, a former Miami (Fla.) and Cleveland Browns coach was the front-runner. If Davis had declined, there was a list of candidates ready to take his place.

Conspicuously absent from that list was a coach who just guided his team to a record-breaking undefeated season. A coach who has the only winning record among ANY Triangle team. A coach who has extensive

experience on the Division I level and one who is quite familiar with UNC.

A coach named Roderick Broadway. Broadway and North Carolina Central have electrified the campus and the Bull City — something Duke football probably will never do again — yet he can't get so much as a sniff from his alma mater.

And he won't. The undeniable fact is that Broadway coaches at a Division II historically black college. He could go undefeated for 10 years and not get a blink from an ACC athletic director.

Why? It's not what you think. The ACC, like most D-I power conferences, are deluded enough to believe that the world revolves around them. If it ain't

See BROADWAY'S/2C