

So-so's good enough for young Golden Bulls

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season all-CIAA selection. Hooper has been solid, leading JCSU in scoring at 15 points per game, but he's getting help from the supporting cast, especially forward



Hollis
Edmund Rainey (13.6 per game) and Jerry Hollis (12.3) along with center David Sanders (10 ppg).

"In Edmund's case, we're after him to be more consistent," Joyner said. "Not just

from half to half, but from game to game."

Help's on the way, too. Guard Ryan Scott, who sat out the first semester, joined the Bulls in Elizabeth City and tossed in 13 points off the bench in his first game.

Smith's holiday break which was extended when the Los Angeles Classic was cancelled, leaving the Bulls and CIAA rivals Bowie State and Virginia Union without a couple of games. Joyner wants to fill the void, but there's no need to rush.

"We're still looking, but it's not a high priority for us," he said.

There'll be plenty of games to play starting Jan. 5 against three-time league champion Virginia Union. Joyner isn't predicting a championship for the Bulls, but with some consistency they can be one of the CIAA's better teams.

"We think we have a chance to be a middle of the road CIAA team with a chance to move into the top three or four," he said. "The more we get consistent, the more we get into a rhythm of what Smith basketball is, the more likely we are to go from a middle of the road team to a top two or three."



FILE PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON
Johnson C. Smith center Jerome Davis is one of six freshmen on the roster.

Woods haunted by tears, failure in '06

By Doug Ferguson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THOUSAND OAKS, California - Tiger Woods' year can be summed up in a series of snapshots on the 18th green at Royal Liverpool. One minute he thrust both arms in the air after winning the British Open, the next he sobbed on the shoulder of his caddie.

Even now, Woods has a hard time watching his most meaningful tournament of 2006, his first victory since his father died of cancer. He has seen replays, but only until he taps in for par on the final hole.

Right before the tears start to flow, Woods shuts off the tape. "I skip past it," he said in an interview over the weekend. "I refuse to watch it."

Woods can find success in the record books - eight U.S. PGA Tour victories, including six in a row, two of them majors. He found loss at his father's gravesite in May.

If there was ever a case where someone could get Player of the Year and Comeback Player of the Year, this might be it.

The first half was a blur. Despite winning his first two starts, Woods relied on others' failures, whether it was Jose Maria Olazabal missing a 4-foot putt in a playoff at Torrey Pines or Ernie Els hitting into the water in a playoff at Dubai.

At Doral, Woods won the day Earl Woods turned 74. Even though he collected two more majors to run his career total to 12, it's the final round of the Masters, where he finished three shots behind Phil Mickelson, that sticks with him.

"That's something I still continue to think about, even to this day," Woods said. "It was my last round that my Dad ever watched me play. Knowing that going into it, if I could have given him one last shot, some positive memories before he goes, it would have been huge."

It was the first time Earl Woods did not make the trip to Augusta, and Woods believed then it would be the last time his father would watch him on TV in a major.

"It was the only time I saw him try too hard," caddie Steve Williams later said.

Woods three-putted the 11th to fall five shots behind. As he tried to make a late charge, he had a 6-foot eagle putt on the 13th that he missed, a 12-foot eagle putt on the 15th that he missed and a three-putt on the 17th - he had six three-putts for the week - that ended whatever hope he had left.

Teammates happy Bonds back in San Francisco

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The 42-year-old Bonds still wasn't officially back with the Giants, with the process taking longer than general manager Brian Sabean initially thought. Sabean hoped to have the \$16 million, one-year contract finalized by week's end, but Bonds hadn't even scheduled his mandatory physical.

"Same old, same old," Sabean said. "It's been slower than I expected."

Aurilia signed an \$8 million, two-year deal to return to the Giants. San Francisco

also introduced new center fielder Dave Roberts and catcher Bengie Molina on Thursday at the ballpark. Roberts received an \$18 million, three-year contract, while Molina is getting a \$16 million, three-year contract.

Could star left-hander Barry Zito be next?

Sabean wouldn't say what he believes the Giants' chances are to land the 2002 AL Cy Young award winner, saying, "We're going to find out, I guess."

Zito is expected to command a six-year deal - or

maybe even seven - probably worth more than \$100 million. The New York Mets are considered a front-runner to sign him.

"We're in the free agent derby," Sabean said.

The Giants intended to get younger this offseason, but largely because of the market this winter have added several familiar veteran players around Bonds - with plans to give significant playing time to youngsters Todd Linden in the outfield and Kevin Frandsen in a utility infield role.

Bonds batting cleanup should give Roberts plenty of scoring chances. He will be the leadoff hitter under new manager Bruce Bochy, who worked with Roberts in San Diego the past two seasons.

Bonds has hit 85 of his homers against the Padres, his most against any club.

"It's hard to hold back a smile, really," Roberts said. "I had an opportunity to compete against him for so many years and dread him and Richie hitting behind him. ... I think it makes everybody better."



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