

Sports

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SECTION C



BUSINESS OF GROWTH/6C

What's the climate for African American-owned businesses in Charlotte? Entrepreneurs like John Easton reveal their thoughts.

CIAA rolling without Raleigh

A word of warning to the city of Raleigh: This column might cause heart palpitations and high blood pressure. Read at your own peril or, for the sake of your health, stop now for what



BONITA BEST

I'm about to write: The CIAA just had its best year in conference history.

Yep. Commissioner Leon Kerry said at last Tuesday's spring meeting that the accolades go across the board: football (three teams in postseason play - two in D-2 playoffs and one in the Pioneer Bowl); basketball (more on that later); automatic bids in volleyball, softball and baseball; a track coach who has won more CIAA, national and international titles than you have revenue from the MEAC basketball tournament; and a two-time PGA Minority Collegiate Golf champion in Fayetteville State.

But the cherry on the icing is - and you really need to stop reading now - is your former girlfriend, the CIAA tournament, took in 115,000 fans last season at your hated rival's house in Charlotte. That's not even counting the extra 50,000 that never even went inside Charlotte Bobcats Arena.

How much did your former sweetie make? \$27.7 million. Told you not to look.

And to make matters worse, Charlotte just snagged your former girlfriend's sister - the football championship game.

You've been putting up a brave front since the CIAA dumped you two years ago. You've held your head high and acted like you didn't care.

But it's OK to let it out. Go home, call a few of your buddies over, rent "The Way We Were" and have a good cry.

Other spring meeting news:

- Hello. Kerry said four schools have been invited to join the conference. He declined to name three but one is old news by now, Lincoln (Pa.) University, a founding member of the CIAA. LU participated on the Division III level last season, and will bring football and baseball to the conference. Kerry said the league wants to control TV markets in seven areas. I'm guessing North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,

Please see CIAA/2C



PHOTOWADE NASH

St. Augustine's Andre Tillman takes off during the men's triple jump Saturday at the NCAA Division II national track and field championship at Johnson C. Smith. St. Augustine's men finished second in the team standings to Abilene Christian (Texas).

On the right track

Division II championships a boon to JCSU, Charlotte

By Herber L. White

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Don't be surprised if Johnson C. Smith earns another chance to host the NCAA Division II track and field championship. Or an Olympic qualifying meet.

Last week's Division II meet at Irwin Belk Complex drew rave reviews among athletes and administrators for facilities and amenities.

"I don't see why we won't come back," said Craig McPhail, chairman of the Division II Track Committee and track coach at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk. "The city has opened their arms to us, we



Joyner

got hotel rooms with the NASCAR race going on, the kids have had stuff to do every night. It's been a fun, city-wide atmosphere for us, so I don't see why we shouldn't come back."

"We've had nothing but good reports from the coaches, from the NCAA committee, visiting parents," said JCSU Athletics

Please see NCAA/2C

New coach, team get to work

Vincent jumps into preparation for NBA draft, player evaluation

By Mike Cranston

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Vincent likes to brag that he doesn't take time off - and he didn't while toiling in basketball's minor leagues.

"When my D-League season has been over, I coached international ball," Vincent said. "I'm from the school that you continue to get better for 12 months."

That work ethic will come in handy as the Charlotte Bobcats' rookie coach prepares for a busy first month that will culminate with the June 28 draft.

Vincent on Tuesday will join executive vice president Bernie Bickerstaff and team scouts in Orlando for the pre-draft camp. Then the Bobcats will work out as many as 22 players to prepare for the draft, where Charlotte holds the eighth and 22nd picks.

Vincent also has to hire his assistant coaches - and figure out how his first team will play.

"We know what the team has looked like the first three years. But are we going to continue being a running team? Are we going to focus more on half-court offense?" Vincent said. "We need to discuss the architectural things of how we want to design the situation. And from there, that's going to lead us into what kind of players we pick in the draft."

Vincent expects to have "some input" in the draft, but the final call rests with

Please see VINCENT/2C

Cleveland bearing witness with Cavs

Long-suffering fans believe in their team

By Joe Millicia

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND - While Cavaliers fan Kyle Stock partied outside Quicken Loans Arena, inside LeBron James took some extra pregame practice shots for the first time this season.

For both, it was the biggest Cavaliers game they'd ever experienced.

The Cavaliers, who have never won an NBA title, entered Game 4 needing to win three of their next four games to reach their first finals. They got what they needed - an 88-82 victory over the Detroit Pistons to pull within 2-1 in the Eastern Conference finals.

"You've got to hope," said 59-year-old

Please see JAMES/2C

Livingstone signs 21 for football

By Herber L. White

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Livingstone football coach Lamonte Massie's rebuilding program has its first recruits.

The Blue Bears have signed 21 players to national letters of intent, with 11 recruits from Florida. Seven are from the Carolinas.

"We got started a little late, but it has been fun getting to know the new areas we were recruiting," Massie said in a statement. "Part of the challenge was letting coaches know we are here and

Please see BLUE/2C

Super Bowl could set ticket sales record of \$93M

By Paul J. Webeber

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS - It appears the \$1 billion the Dallas Cowboys spent on their new stadium was the key number among many that swayed NFL owners to award North Texas the 2011 Super Bowl.

From hotel rooms to golf courses, plenty of figures were included in the winning bid made public last week.

The sleek, state-of-the-art facility promises to seat at least 93,221 fans for the Super Bowl

and provide the chance for a record \$93 million in ticket sales, according to the lengthy bid submitted by the North Texas Super Bowl Committee.

The proposal was earlier distributed to NFL owners, who selected Arlington, Texas, last week to host the Super Bowl in 2011, two years after the Cowboys open their stadium nestled between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Indianapolis and Glendale, Ariz., were the other finalists.

The bid, hundreds of pages long, is mostly a checklist of amenities and fixtures the NFL demands for a Super Bowl host city.

Required are first-class golf courses nearby; 10,000 available rental cars; and permission for surrounding bars and restaurants to serve alcohol until 4 a.m. after the game - the NFL will have to petition the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

But Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' vision of hosting a Super Bowl

with more than 100,000 fans might have been the clincher.

In addition to more than 93,000 guaranteed seats, the Cowboys believe they can fit more than 14,000 additional fans in other parts of the 2.3-million-square-foot facility.

Only four of 41 Super Bowls - none since 1987 - had six-figure attendance, all at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

The stadium is scheduled to open in time for the 2009-10 NFL season.

