

Beat: Sports

Carolina Panthers Rumors

Trade talk about Smith and Williams

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USPA NEWS - The trade rumors involving wide receiver Steve Smith and running back DeAngelo Williams are just that "" rumors.

And Panthers head coach Ron Rivera once again insisted on Wednesday that there are no plans to trade either player before Thursday's 4 p.m. deadline. I guess we will see after 4 p.m. Thurs

"They (rumors) are erroneous, because we haven't contacted anybody and we didn't field any phone calls," Rivera said. "That was one of the disappointing things "" nobody asked us to confirm anything."

"You never know," he added, "but we are not looking to trade anybody. We're really not. We need everybody we've got. We'll see what happens when we get to Thursday."

Smith "" the franchise's all-time leading receiver, reiterated his desire to finish where he started.

"I have the opportunity to finish my career here, and that's what I plan on doing," Smith said. "

Williams "" the franchise's all-time leading rusher "" has been replaced in the starting lineup by Jonathan Stewart. "I never really thought about leaving," Williams said.
Stay tuned

Cam Newton and the fumble

How does Cam Newton get away with being such a "me"? Louis Murphy bails him out on the fumble, and Cam sulks away to the bench instead of running to embrace Murphy. "" James in Wilmington, N.C.

The FOX Network crew had a field day with this one.

"I don't get it," color commentator Daryl Johnston said after the play.

I don't get it either, and by "it," I mean the negative reaction to Newton's reaction.

In case you missed it, Newton lost a fumble at the goal line in the second quarter of Sunday's game at the Chicago Bears. Murphy recovered the ball in the back of the end zone for a touchdown that gave Carolina a 10-7 lead.

Newton can't win these days, unless he wins. And maybe not even then. If Panthers win this Sunday, will Newton be hero?

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