



Sports



Ms. Sandra Staton Is NCCU's Reigning Pool Shark

By Hayes Thompson

Sandra Staton beats men at their own game, which is not that unusual in itself, because women have been doing that for years. But Ms. Staton, 20, a NCCU business education major from Charlotte, beats men on the pool table.

Now that's unusual. This attractively petite young woman, with her coffee and cream complexion, laughing brown eyes and a carefully coiffed hairstyle, is Central's recognized pool champion. She has represented the school at a regional billiards tournament for the past three years.

She plays with a quiet intensity and determination that makes her hard to beat, even when she's playing below par. A recent game with one of the better men players on campus is a good case in point.

In this game, called Eight Ball, because the objective is to roll seven multi-colored balls off the table into one of six pockets before trying to hit the solid black eight ball, Ms. Staton struggled during the game's early stages. Her opponent always left her a bad shot, but in pool, concentration and determination often pay off, especially late in the game as the pressure mounts.

Late in the game, Ms. Staton had three balls left on the table after her opponent had played all of his. He lined up his shot on the eight ball and missed.

Quickly, she rolled two of her balls off the table, but wound up with a bad shot on the last ball and missed it. The game appeared to be over, because her opponent had a relatively easy shot on the eight ball.

But again he missed. This time, the young woman who has been playing pool since she was in the eighth grade, carefully lined up her last shot, and knocked it in the pocket. She banked the eight ball into the pocket to win the game.

For the uninitiated, pool is an old game that nobody knows really where or when it started, but most authorities concede that the formal name for pool — billiards — is of French origin. The word means "curved stick".

In this game, two or more players "rack" or organize 15 different colored balls into a triangle, or a smaller shape, depending on the specific game being played. The balls are "racked" on a rectangular table that usually has six pockets.

To start the game, one of the players "breaks" the balls by hitting the white cue ball with the "long stick", called the cue stick. Hopefully, one of the 15 racked balls will roll into a pocket. Each time a player knocks a ball in a pocket, that player gets to shoot again.

The balls, numbered one to fifteen, are color coded. The solid colors are numbered one through seven, while the multi-colored balls are numbered nine through fifteen. The eight ball, the game's only black ball, is the game-winning ball in the game called Eight Ball.

The overall object is to knock all of your seven balls off the table, hopefully, before your opponent does. Once you do that, you try to play the eight ball to win the game.

"I started fooling around with pool when I was in the eighth grade," explained Ms. Staton later during an interview. "I had a cousin who had a pool table, and he taught me to play. After a while, I could beat him about as often as he beat me."

Looking back on her six years of playing this game that requires exceptional hand and eye coordination, steady nerves and icy concentration, Ms. Staton recalled that pool became a challenge for her for two reasons.

"One, it gave me an opportunity to do something men say women can't do," she said, "and since I couldn't play basketball as well as my sister Beverly could, but had a knack for pool, I stuck with it."

She was still playing when she came to college three years ago, and discovered that, for the most part, women on campus just didn't use the pool tables in the student union.

"I tried to get them into it," she said, "and a few would play a couple of games, but after I beat them they would lose interest. One finally told me that she didn't think it looked very lady-like to be bending over a pool table."

None of that stopped Ms. Staton though, who stays involved in a variety of other campus activities, including the Student Government Association, the French Club and the Student Congress, among others. Shooting pool is how she relaxes.

"Sometimes I would go down to the union and shoot there for hours by myself," she said, "because I find pool to be very refreshing."

Apparently viewed as an invader of their domain, a sort of upstart, she was soon challenged to a game of pool by one of the men who frequents the union.

That was a mistake. Kermit Rose, a freshman computer science major from Washington, D.C., remembers it well.

"The first time I played her," he said, "I was sure I would win. I couldn't image a woman beating me at pool."

Imagination or not, she beat him, and changed Rose's entire outlook on women pool players.

"I admit it hurts a little being beat by a woman," he said, "especially if there are a lot of people watching. But Sandra's not conceited about her playing. She's a classy winner."

What that really means is that Ms. Staton doesn't rub it in when she beats the men — which is most of the time. She savors her victories privately, leaving the vanquished fellows to salvage their egos.

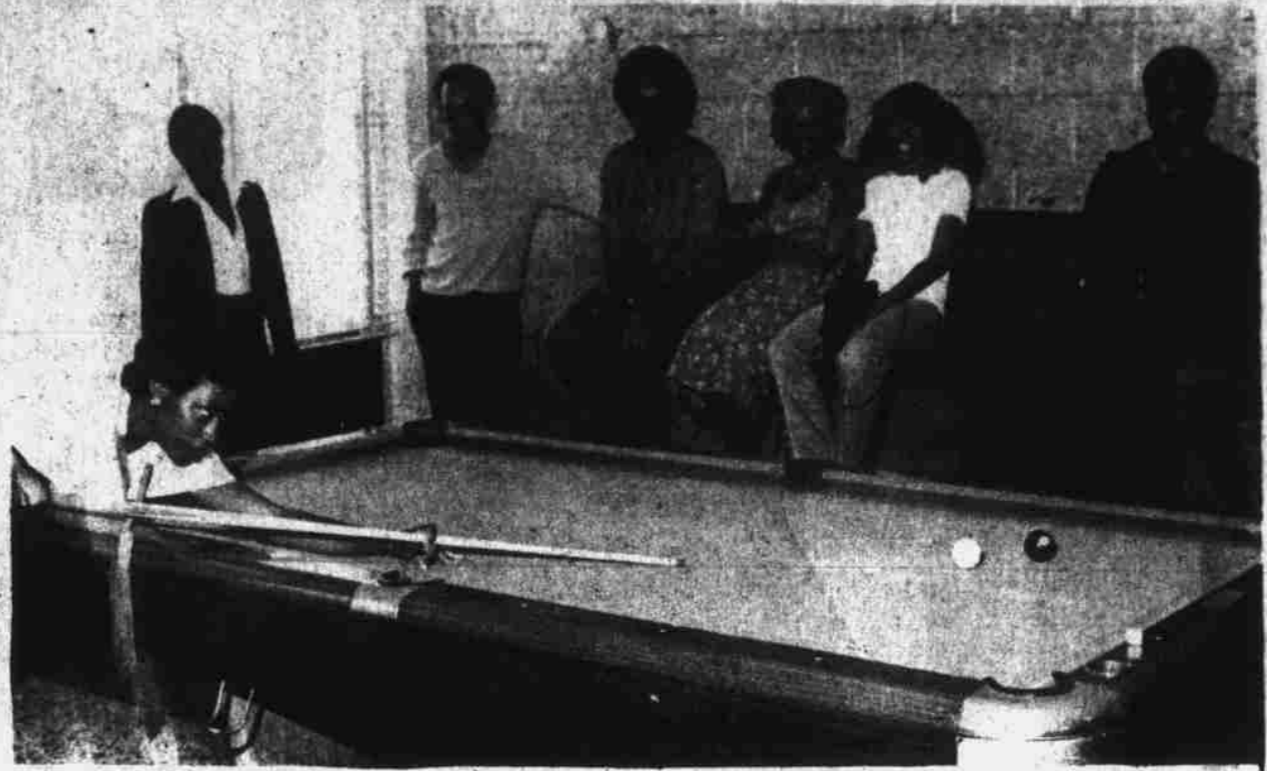
"I remember one guy I beat while a lot of his friends were watching, and it really shook him up. He kept saying, 'I know this girl didn't beat me. I know she didn't.' He cursed some, and then challenged me to another game in private. I beat him again. He finally admitted that I was good and had the potential to be a really great player."

So after that, Ms. Staton entered the campus-wide competition for the annual regional billiards tournament. She won the right to represent the school in the Region Five tournament sponsored by the Association of College Unions (ACU-I).

Her first year in the tournament, she finished in the top 20, and repeated that performance the next year, 1981. In the most recent tournament, this past February, Ms. Staton finished seventh in a field of 12 finalists.

The ACU-I, founded in 1914, helps college unions improve their programs, and helps colleges form new student unions. The organization's membership is about 950 universities, colleges and junior colleges in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and several other countries.

Looking to her future in pool, Ms. Staton says simply that she will continue playing, and chances are she'll continue beating men at their own game.



LINING UP THE WINNER — NCCU's reigning pool champion, Sandra Staton, lines up her winning shot on the eight ball in a demonstration game at the NCCU student union. With this shot, another man fell the Ms. Staton's prowess on the pool table.

Photo by Silas Mayfield

New A&T Coach To Meet Local Alumni

The Durham Chapter of the N.C. A&T State University extends an invitation to all area "Aggies" to come out to meet A&T's new Head Football Coach Mo Forte. He will be special guest at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., in the office of Alexander Realty, 511 Grant Street. Coach Forte is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and has had twelve years of coaching experience at major universities. He comes to A&T from Arizona State where he served as an assistant coach for the last two seasons.

For details on the coach's visit and regular alumni activities, contact Edgar Murphy at 682-6767.

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WASHING...
SHIDO RIDE

FSU Golfers Win 9th Straight Golf Crown And Softball Honors

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for May 10:
Ladies high game: 243
11-Nancy Rowland, 199-Roslyn Leslie and Flo Roberson.
92-Erma Reid.
Ladies high series: 592-Nancy Rowland, 576-Roslyn Leslie, 51-Flo Roberson.
Men's high game: 216
11-T-Bird Roberson, 212-Charles Parker and Joseph Parker.
08-Jim Dyer.
Men's high series: 618-T-Bird Roberson, 571-Charles Parker, 67-George Thorne.
Others: 513-Erma Reid, 65-Jim Dyer, 551-Joseph Parker, 34-Adolphus Caviness, 27-Jamin Peddy, 506-James Harrington.
High Team Game: 846-Odds & Ends.
High Team Series: 2418-Odds & Ends.
Four game winners: Gutterettes, Lioness, Screwballs, Jive Five.

Last Shift Bowling Scores

The Last Shift Bowling League scores for May 6:
Ladies high game: 197-Clara Nichols, 189-Flo Roberson, 179-Ann Norwood.
Ladies high series: 506-Eva McKoy, 488-Flo Roberson, 479-Jo Wade, 479-Ann Norwood.
Men's high game: 245-Jimmie Cook, 221-Clifton Parker, 214-Kenneth Snipes, 213-Doug Yarbrough.
Men's high series: 598-Jimmie Cook, 596-Doug Yarbrough, 581-Ken Snipes, 522-Bo-Jim Parker.
High Team Game: 831-Die Hards, 824-Ace of Spades, 823-Looking Good, 811-Bad Habits.
High Team Series: 2382-Bad Habits, 2381-Looking Good, 2358-Ace of Spades, 2320-Jive Four.
Four Game Winner: Looking Good.

By John B. Henderson

Sports Information Director

FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville State University captured the golf and softball crowns in competition recently at the annual CIAA spring games held in Winston-Salem.

The Bronco golfers, coached by Moses Walker, annexed their ninth straight CIAA victory and the Walker-coached squad produced the CIAA individual golf champ for '82, second-time winner Ricordo Stevens, a junior business education major from Philadelphia, who shot a two-round total of 150 (72-78) to claim medalist honors. The Broncos also won the CIAA golf team crown with a two-day 623 score.

Stevens, by winning the 1982 individual CIAA title, became the first Bronco golfer to win back-to-back CIAA crowns. He won the individual honors in 1981 for the conference.

"We have a lot of talented golfers," said Moses Walker accessing his golf squad. "We have individuals with a great deal of potential and it's hard to single out any one player (FSU junior Toney Terry won the CIAA title his freshman year.)"

In addition to his present duo of Ricordo Stevens and Toney Terry of Aberdeen, Maryland,

Coach Walker has directed two other Bronco athletes to individual titles Vincent Reid, a native of Greensboro and Andre Springs from Charlotte nabbed the CIAA medalist crowns in 1975 and 1976, respectively.

The Lady Broncos of FSU captured their first CIAA slow-pitch softball behind the timely hitting senior All-CIAA and All-NAIA Dianthia

Bowling Team Finishes Season

The North Carolina Central University Intercollegiate Bowling Team finished the season with a 6-2 record for women and a 7-5 record for the men.

Some of the recorded events and competitions scheduled and placed in during the season were: N.C. State/Past Invitational Tournament, women-first place; men-seventh place.

Region V Tournament, Association of College Unions International, Blacksburg, Va., women-first place; men-third place.

Southern Intercollegiate Bowling Conference, Roll-Off and Championship, Spartanburg, S.C., men-fifth place, women-conference champions-first place team, all events.

National Bowling

Morris of Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Morris sparked the Lady Broncos, coached by first-year mentor George Williams, winning two out of three games with Norfolk State for the CIAA title.

Morris, an outstanding student athlete at FSU during her four years, starred in basketball garnering practically every conference honor (Continued on Page 7)

Conference Sectionals, Brunswick Lanes, High Point, women-third place, men-fourth place. National Women's Intercollegiate Bowling Championships, St. Louis, Mo., Jacqueline Lowery placed 12th of 24 participants.

600 Series Awards: Miriam Wade-601, Elaine Wade-609, Terry Singletary-655, Nikita Kirkland-605.

Bowling team coach is Ronald T. Harris. Men bowlers are: Terry Singletary, captain; Merle Freeman, Nikita Kirkland, Gregory Lewis, Kermit Rose, Frank Boyd, Jimmie Turner, David Alston.

Women bowlers are: Cynthia Brooks, captain; Elaine Wade, Miriam Wade, Jacqueline Lowery, Jessica Broadnax, Victoria Turner, Shohreh Rashid.

Meet C. Warren Massenburg

Director of Operations

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hometown Wake Forest, N.C.
 Birthday December 22
 Sign Capricorn
 Nickname "See Dub"
 Education Wake Forest-Rolesville Senior High School
 Shaw University, Raleigh
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Most Memorable Moments Meeting Alex Haley, Shirley Chisholm
 Muhammad Ali and Rosa Parks

Pet Peeves Rude and inconsiderate people

Most Admired Persons:
 Shirley Chisholm, Rosa Parks and Kathy Massenburg

Favorites:

Color Blue
 Artist(s) or Group(s) Lou Rawls, Shirley Caesar, Les McCann
 Actors Ed Asner, LeVar Burton
 Actress Betty Davis
 Food Domestic and International Cheeses
 Athlete Jackie Robinson
 TV Show 60 Minutes, Tony Brown's Journal
 Magazine Newsweek, Black Enterprise
 Hobbies Collecting drinking glasses and collecting art, photography

Last Movie Seen On Golden Pond
 Last Book Read White House Years, by Henry Kissinger

Professional Goal:
 To further develop C. Warren Massenburg and Associates
 (my public relations company)

Special Awards and Recognition: (Partial listing)
 Outstanding Young Men of America
 Who's Who Among Black America
 Duke Divinity School Outstanding Community Services Award