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Miller's moment of truth is close at hand



By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Chronicle Sports Editor

When it comes to world-class track & field, Lamonda Miller is a bird of a different feather.

Unlike many of her high stepping counterparts, she doesn't have a regular coach, physical trainer, dietitian, or agent. Yep, the Winston-based prison inmate counselor is a true soloist who has managed to maintain her status as one of America's top women sprinters at 100 meters.

Miller knows she's good. How good?

She'll know pretty soon when she competes in the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials starting next Friday at New Orleans. This meet in the Bayou is hardly a low key affair. Athletes will be gunning for spots on the American team that will hunt for the gold in the Barcelona Olympics later this summer.

Those who make the finals at the Trials in the sprints, are always viewed as serious candidates for America's 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams at the Summer Games. The top three finishers in the finals will compete for the U.S. in the individual events.

Landing a spot on America's squad in the 100 or 4 x 100 is a tough, tough task. The U.S. is traditionally very deep in the sprints and '92 is no different.

Gwen Torrence, Gail Devers, Michelle Finn, Dannette Young, Inger Miller and Chryste Gaines are just a few of the notables who will compete in Louisiana.

Translation? An athlete can be oh-so good and still not make

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Since graduating from Appalachian State in '89, Miller has competed against the best women sprinters on the planet. The one thing she hasn't accomplished as a track athlete is being a member of America's Olympic team.

Photo by T-Lee

SEMI-PRO BASEBALL

Pond Giants play season opener tomorrow

Special To The Chronicle

Ole' man time has a way of affecting everything and everyone. For the Winston-Salem

Pond Giants, time has clearly had an impact on its players. Years ago, the Pond Giants were among the elite teams in the world of semi-pro baseball.

During that bygone era, the semi-pros was one of the highest levels of baseball that a black player could reach. At the time, only white players were allowed

to play at the professional level. As a result, the Negro League and the semi-pro circuit was comprised of only black players.

While many semi-pro teams

have come and gone over the years, the Pond Giants have endured. Now entering their 78th year, the team is the oldest, continuously operated semi-pro team in the country.

In '92, the team features only five blacks on its roster of 30-plus players. Even so, this year's team has the makings of being among the best clubs in

All of its five black players played in the Twin City League. The other members honed their skills in programs at Walkertown, Kernersville, Mineral Springs and North Forsyth. Several team members play at the college level.

For them, playing semi-pro ball is a way of gaining added



Nelson Petree, Pond Giants president (center), feels that this year's club has the potential to be one of the best in the history of the team.

Chronicle Staff Photo

Upcoming Games
(All games played at Ernie Shore Field)

Tomorrow
Greensboro All-Stars vs. Pond Giants @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Greensboro Fisher Grill vs. Pond Giants @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
Mount Airy Shockers vs. Pond Giants @ 5 p.m.

the PG's storied history.

"We had about 35 players come out this year and that's the most we've ever had," said Nelson Petree, Pond Giants president. "Not only do we have the numbers, we also have a lot of talent."

The Pond Giants are scheduled to play 25 games at Ernie Shore Field this season. Most of the players on the team have come up through the ranks of the local little leagues.

and valuable experience during the summer months.

"I found out that most of these players had no place to play once they aged out of legion ball," said Petree. "Really, during the summer, there is no other place for them to go and keep their baseball skills sharp."

Nearly all of the PGs players who went off to college last year are back for another season.

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