

## Sun, sand and golf: A Florida road trip

Results from Charlotte golf get-away in Tampa, Fla., with courses played

### Pebble Creek Country Club (gross scores):

Charlie Barnett 84; Reggie Sellers 85; Otis Worthy 86; Price Cathy; Voyd Neal 86; Robert Sifford 87; John Love 87; Jerry McCain 89; Thurman Suggs 90; Frank Liston 90.

### Callaway (net scores):

Otis Worthy 72; Price Cathy 73; Voyd Neal 73; Richard Reid 74; John Love 74; Fred Neal 75; Ed Newland 75; Salem Worth 75; Robert Sifford 75; Charlie Barnette 75.

### The Eagles Lakes (gross

### scores):

Robert Evans 74; Otis Worthy 78; James Brown 82; Fred Neal 82; John Shadd 84; Aquil Shamsid-deen 85; Frank Liston 86; Salem Worth 86; John Love 87; Jack Richard 87.

### Callaway (net scores):

Robert Evans 71; Salem Worth 71; Fred Neal 71; Otis Worthy 72; James Brown 72; Paul Coutourier; Robert Sifford 73; Jack Richard 73; Delano Rankin 73; Johnny Frazier 74. Skins winners (\$170) - Salem Worth (10); Harold Gamble (15); Otis Worthy (16); Charlie Barnette (17). Best ball team - Salem



Worth, Jerry McCain, Harry Benton, Amos McDowell.

### Rogers Park Golf Course (gross score)

James Brown 76; Robert Evans 78; Jack 78; Jerry

McCann 79; Frank Liston 79; Richard Reid 81; Reggie Sellers 82; Otis Worthy 84; John Shadd 84; Aquil Shamsid-deen 85.

### Callaway (net scores):

James Brown 70; Richard Reid 71; Robert Evans 72; Jack Richard 72; Jerry McCain 72; Aquil Shamsid-deen 72; Harry Benton 72; Fred Neal 72; Frank Liston 73; Otis Worthy 73. Skins winners - Jerry McCain (3), Reggie Sellers (14), Aquil Shamsid-deen (18). Best ball team - Frank Liston, Robert Sifford, Tommy Hudson, Jimmy Lee, Robert Brown.

## CIAA tourney could be another coronation for Va. Union

### Continued From 8B

as this group takes them, but everyone in the CIAA has good guards.

The Southern Division's surprise team is Livingstone, which has made a dramatic

turnaround under second-year coach Charles McCullough. The Bears are assured of the division's second seed and can finish 8-4 with wins over Winston-Salem State and Smith. The Bears are small,

but quick, relying on a furious defense that pressures the ball. Livingstone might be the team no one wants to play, especially if they get out of the first round.

• Charlotte's Lakeisha

Phifer was selected CIAA women's newcomer of the week.

The St. Paul's freshman set a new NCAA season record for blocked shots last week, and totaled 11 in two games.

## Bonds, already testy, wants to be measured by statistics

### Continued From 8B

Griffey, who missed much of the 1995 season with a broken wrist, hit .258 with 17 homers, 42 RBIs and 52 runs. He stole four bases and had a .379 on-base percentage.

Bonds had plenty of other complaints about reporters, saying they turned fans against baseball last season and are "destructive" in general.

"I'm not going to let you guys get under my skin any more," he said in the middle of a combative session with reporters.

Bonds led plenty of things get under his skin last season.

He was mentally exhausted by a publicly humiliating divorce case that dragged

through the season. He jostled with fans after getting booed at Candlestick Park for standing still as a fly ball went over his head for a two-run double.

And, in a strike-scarred season that turned many baseball fans into cynics, Bonds and his \$43.75 million contract became targets for those who claimed greed was destroying baseball.

It left Bonds with constant headaches, and led him to hint he would consider retirement after the season.

"I was in a lot of pain," he says, referring specifically to the wrist injury but in a sense to the 1995 season in general. "I just wanted to get to the finish line."

After surviving that season

of pain and anguish, Bonds says he's in the best shape of his life - thanks to a new workout regimen and the end of the divorce case.

He spent much of the offseason doing intense workouts with former San Francisco 49ers running back Roger Craig, and they were joined by 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice in recent weeks.

The workouts began in October, and took place five days a week.

"We all do it because of pride, fear of failure," he says. "I just didn't think I was going to get through it. They tried to break me. There were a lot of days I didn't want to go back."

Much of their work was done

on the track, where Bonds - who has always prided himself on having enough natural ability to overcome a lack of dedication to conditioning - challenged himself to keep pace.

"I'm in the best shape I feel I've ever been. I just want to tell Jerry: 'Man, I made it,'" Bonds says. "I'm a lot stronger than I ever was. I can bench press 315."

The result is that Bonds feels more confident entering spring training than he's been since winning his third MVP award in 1993.

"I'm happy now. I'm free of a lot of things and I'm content," he says. "I'm not as tired. I don't have to be in court as much."

## After years of frustration, Bears winning

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - These are heady days for Livingstone basketball.

The Bears, who have been perennial doormats in the rugged CIAA, have been the league's surprise team this season. Livingstone, 6-4 in the Southern Division and 10-14 overall, can clinch second place behind N.C. Central with wins over Winston-Salem State and Johnson C. Smith. Even if Livingstone loses both games, the Bears win a tie-breaker with St. Augustine's for second.

"It's been a long time," Bears coach McCullough said of the team's new prominence in the division standings. "The worst we can do is tie for third."

Much of the credit goes to

McCullough, a legendary figure at West Charlotte High before moving to Livingstone last season. The Bears are taller than previous teams, but are still among the CIAA's smallest squad. They make up for the lack of height by playing a helter-skelter combination of defense and opportunistic offense.

"We have 6-4s and 6-5s (players)," McCullough said. "Six-four for us is good, because we're quick. We force teams to use their smaller teams, so they can have all the 6-10s, 6-11s and 6-8s they want. When they play us, they play their small team."

Livingstone's season has been a combination of near-miss losses and upset wins. As the Bears have gained confidence, McCullough anticipates making waves at next week's

CIAA tournament in Winston-Salem.



McCullough

"I feel like (when) we're shooting the ball well and playing defense like we know how, we're capable of beating anybody we face."

No one could've said that in McCullough's first season. The Bears were hit hard by graduation as well as a lack of height and depth. Yet the seeds were planted by McCullough, who kept the undermanned Bears competing against superior teams.

"Last year, we played extremely well," McCullough

said. "We were small, but we stayed in ball games. People were glad to see us leave."

"The team plays an exciting brand of basketball. We play full-court and we play from the time you toss the ball up until the final whistle. We haven't been out of but one or two games all year. All the other games, we've had a chance to win."

Livingstone has beaten St. Augustine's and Fayetteville State twice this season and split with division power Central. Those wins are testament to the Bears' improvement despite having a relatively inexperienced team.

"These were teams that beat us by solid margins last year," McCullough said. "Even though we stayed in the games, they pulled away from us because of our size."

Not anymore.

## Braves ready to repeat championship season

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - The Atlanta Braves were ready for their first full workout of the spring today at Municipal Stadium after position players reported to training camp.

Early arrivals worked out over the weekend with pitchers and catchers, who started spring drills Saturday.

Included were infielders Jeff Blauser, Chipper Jones and Mike Mordecai, and outfielders Jerome Walton and Damon Hollins.

Among the arrivals for workouts Monday morning were infielder Rafael Belliard and outfielders Marquis Grissom, Dwight Smith and Jermaine Dye.

All others on the 40-man roster as well as non-roster position players were expected by today.

Once everyone is in camp, contract negotiations are expected to accelerate with these unsigned players: pitch-

ers Pedro Borbon, Brad Clontz and Greg McMichael; catchers Javier Lopez, Eddie Perez and Tyler Houston; infielders Ed Giovannola, Robert Smith and Mordecai; and outfielder Ryan Klesko.

• Tyler Houston, the second overall choice in the 1989 draft, is back in camp in a do-or-die situation.

Houston is down to his last minor league option, and is likely to be waived if he doesn't make Atlanta's roster this season.

While Houston has struggled through some lackluster seasons in the minors, the top overall pick in 1990 - Chipper Jones - is a star.

The Braves feel Houston is ready to help the team off the bench.

"Everybody says so" said manager Bobby Cox. "(John) Schuerholz says so; minor league people say so."

"It's time," the 25-year-old Houston said. "It hasn't been easy being a top pick and not making it yet, and hearing

things said about you. Chipper breezed right through and he didn't give anyone time to say anything."

In 2,330 minor league at-bats, Houston has hit just .236 with 54 homers.

Although he played third and shortstop his last two years in high school, professionals saw Houston as a catcher. Last season, the Braves moved him to first, also using him at third, and Houston hit .255 with 12 homers and 46 RBIs at Class AAA Richmond.

The Braves think he can win the 25th roster spot, giving them left-handed power off the bench.

• Pete Skorput, spring training camp coordinator for the Braves since 1963, when they

were still in Milwaukee, will be among five inductees at the 20th annual Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame awards dinner March 10.

"I'll probably be here as long as the Braves are still at the Stadium," Skorput says. "When they move to Jupiter, it will probably be a good time to retire."

The move to a new spring training site, also to be shared with the Montreal Expos, will not be before 1998.

Also scheduled for induction is Tommy Hutton of Palm Beach Gardens, who has spent 32 years in professional baseball as a player and broadcaster, the last few years with the Toronto Blue Jays.

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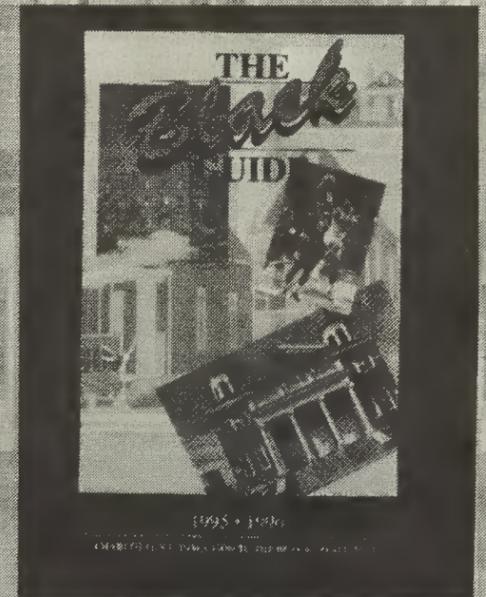
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