

SPORTS



PHOTO/HERBERT L. WHITE

Andrea Mangum goes up for a shot during Sunday's tryout.

Walk-ons move step closer to Sting

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Call them the Lucky 11. The Charlotte Sting decided on 11 players to join the original eight signees later this month for training camp, taking another step toward the June 22 opener against Phoenix. Of those 11, two will make the final roster and four will be moved to the practice squad.

Charlotte went for size, picking up three centers and seven players 6-0 or taller.

More than 300 players showed up at an open tryout last week at the Charlotte Hornets Training Center. Local colleges were represented, including UNC Charlotte and Johnson C. Smith, but most of the survivors came from schools outside the Carolinas.

The Sting added a point guard to the mix in Nicole Levesque of Wake Forest.

"Nicole is a true point guard and has the ability to see the entire court and get the ball to the person who is open," Charlotte coach Marynell

Meadors said. "She is an unselfish player who leads the team on the court and off. She can hit the three-point shot consistently."

Versatility was an important attribute Meadors looked for. Swing players Penny Moore, Dafne Lee and Susie Hopson Shelton, all play multiple positions. Moore was especially impressive, Meadors said.

"Penny is another versatile player who can play either the guard or forward spot," she said. "She is outstanding in the open court and can find the open play-

er. She is an athlete with leaping ability and a nice shooter's touch."

Small-college players also made an impression. Susie Hopson-Shelton, a 6-2 forward-center from Mars Hill, made the next round of cuts.

"Susie is another player who caught our eye during the first session on Saturday. She really came from nowhere to possibly take one of our final six roster spots," Meadors said. "She played at a small school and had to have been the best player in Division II. It's a tribute to her to

continue playing hard when she wasn't getting the national attention at Mars Hill. She played center or power forward in college and when we switched her to the small forward spot last weekend, she did quite well. She has good post moves and is very effective around the basket."

Players who made the cut during last week's Charlotte Sting open tryouts:

- Danlette Coleman, 6-2, forward, Miami-Dade Community

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A Dent on Senior PGA tour

By Karl Petraroja
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Jim Dent's victory at the Home Depot Invitational Sunday at Piper Glen was a popular one. Dent beat Senior and PGA tour great Lee Trevino, nailing a birdie on the second playoff hole to pick up his first tournament

win of the year and 11th of his career. He also extended his streak to four years with at least one tournament win.

Dent looked at his comeback win in Charlotte, where he

trailed by as many as six strokes in the final round, as a key to igniting his season. The best Dent had to show before playing at Piper Glen, was a tie for sixth at The Tradition in April. He now heads to the Cadillac NFL Golf Classic, hoping to add to his substantial winnings on the senior tour.

"The winner's circle is everything, that's your whole year," he said. "If you get in the winners circle they won't forget you so fast. If you don't get in that winners circle, I don't care how

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North Rowan ready to track championships

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SPENCER - North Rowan High continues to make its mark in track and field.

Going into the Yadkin Valley Conference 2A meet in Albemarle this week, four athletes - Greg Yeldell, Drew Caldwell, LaShannon Cowan, and Anne Lyerly - are favored to win their events

For the past three seasons, Yeldell has topped local, state, and national competition in the long and triple jump. His best efforts have been a jump of 23-8 in the long jump, and a triple jump of 51-6. The junior has a 200 meters clocking of 22.31 seconds. He also runs on two relay teams who have N.C.'s best time in the 800 and 1600 meters.

Caldwell is Rowan County's best long distance runner. The sophomore has paced all rivals with leading times in the 1600 and 3200. He has been clocked at 4:42.81 in the 1600 and 10:06.30 in the 3200.

Cowan has already been timed at 12.50 seconds for the 100 and 28.21 in the 200. In addition, the freshman is second in the county in the 400 behind West Rowan's Ebony Pharr.

Lyerly holds the county's best times in the 1800 and 1600.



A Bull session

Chicago sends NBA message

By Mike Nadel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - Playoff panic? It's more like another postseason picnic for the Chicago Bulls.

Just a few days after the defending NBA champions lost homecourt advantage to the Atlanta Hawks in the Eastern Conference semifinals, they advanced to the final for the fourth time in six seasons.

Although they received almost no contribution from Dennis Rodman who, they say, has been treated unfairly by referees - the Bulls won Saturday and Sunday in Atlanta and eliminated the Hawks with a 107-92 win.

"I think we all got the message," said Scottie Pippen, who after last Thursday's loss ripped his teammates for their poor play. "We realize still that we're not at the top of our game. But we're in control of this series."

Bulls center Luc Longley said Atlanta's Game 2 victory "helped our team focus."

"We'd been playing just well enough to win - a little bit of luck, a little bit of 'just because we're the Bulls.' But that game brought us around," he said. "We've shed the shackles and started playing better. I think it will be a trend you'll see more of."

Will you see more of Rodman, though?

Bulls coach Phil Jackson said television replays showed that referees have been picking on Rodman, who has verbally berated officials for years and who was suspended for head-butting a ref last season. With Rodman getting called for what Jackson considered several phantom fouls, the six-time NBA rebounding leader played only 18 minutes in the two games at Atlanta.

"I think that the league looked bad. NBC made the league look bad on TV by drawing focus to it. I think they'll ease off. I think they know that they're overdoing it," Jackson said Monday.

"It's obvious. They're punishing the team for his presence on the floor."

In the series, Rodman has been called for 20 fouls and seven technicals. In eight playoff

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Chicago guard Michael Jordan goes around Atlanta defenders Eldredge Recasner (5) and Christian Laettner (32) for a layup in the Bulls' win Sunday in Atlanta.

Sonics take comfort in comeback capabilities

By Michael A. Lutz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON - The Seattle SuperSonics know it's not impossible to come back from a 3-1 deficit in the NBA play-

offs. After all, five other teams have done it.

The 1995 Houston Rockets were one of them, giving the SuperSonics a glimmer of hope as they go into Game 6 of their Western Conference

semifinal series trailing 3-2.

"I don't think they're that much better than us that we should count ourselves out," said Seattle forward Terry Cummings. "These games have all been close except the

first one."

The Rockets were the last team to dig out of a 3-1 hole. Two years ago, they fell behind Charles Barkley and the Phoenix Suns before over-

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Ethnic sports humor takes a major beating

By Hal Bock
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - So the rabbi and priest are teeing off for a round of golf and the priest says

... Stop right there.

Humor is one thing. Ethnic humor is quite another.

Injured pitcher Jason Isringhausen used a clubhouse slur when he called New York Mets public relations director Jay Horwitz "Jew boy." Horwitz, accustomed to playing foil for the players, shrugged it off. Others might not be so charitable.

"Ethnic humor is a well-developed genre in this country," said Jim Fisher, an anthropology professor at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., who has taught a course called Anthropology of Humor. "Slurs aren't jokes. They're derogatory.

"What counts as a joke depends on who is telling it and who the audience is. The same joke might be funny in one context and a slur in another."

The Isringhausen episode followed the Fuzzy Zoeller-Tiger Woods affair in which Zoeller made a remark about fried chicken and collard greens after Woods became the first black to win the Masters. That attempt at humor in a public setting created an outcry and wound up costing Zoeller a lucrative sponsorship by Kmart stores.

That incident followed New Jersey Nets coach John Calipari lashing out at a reporter by calling him a "Mexican idiot," an outburst that resulted in a \$25,000 fine by the NBA.

"And that followed Marge Schott, and that followed Jimmy the Greek, and that followed Al Campanis," said Ken Jacobson, assistant national director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, listing some of the more embarrassing attacks of loose lips in sports.

"We believe there is no place for prejudice, whether it's on the playing field, the locker room or the corporate board room. We see it at all of those levels. Words have impact. We think these are serious matters that should not be taken lightly."

Isringhausen used the slur following a conference call with reporters to discuss his recovery from a broken wrist and a suspected case of tuberculosis. He was stunned that his interplay with Horwitz might be interpreted negatively.

"We all talk to Jay like that," he said. "Jay's almost like my brother. He is to everybody. That's stupid to think anybody would think anything bad about Jay."

Horwitz was in a forgiving mood.

"I know it was said in terms of affection," he said. "Stuff is said in the locker room; people kid each other. That's the way I take it."

That was good enough for Fisher, but not for Jacobson.

"If the guy to whom it was

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