

Sports wives form own team

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Typically, pro sports wives are seen as silent partners who spend their husband's money, but they are often the backbone of the family.

"They hold it down for us," said Mike Pitts, who played 12 years in the NFL for the Atlanta Falcons, Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots.

The group is seeking members from among roughly 500,000 pro sports wives whose husbands are tied to 17 professional and minor leagues as well as auto racing.

In NASCAR, wives and

girlfriends usually are more involved with their partner's career compared to other sports leagues. They are allowed in the pits and recognized as part of the team, while other sports have stronger restrictions on spouses.

That can lead to problems. A few weeks ago, Greg Biffle's girlfriend angrily confronted Kurt Busch's fiancée in the pits after a wreck took out both drivers during a Nextel Cup race in Texas.

Joe Auer, a former pro football player and owner of Competitive Edge Motorsports, believes those

sorts of issues can be avoided in the future as wives build a better rapport through the association.

"Take that strong group and apply them with others who they can relate to from other sports," Auer said. "Gena's new group will grow quickly and be helpful for them and us."

The association puts out a quarterly magazine, which is mailed to members, team owners and executives, league officials, coaches and athletes.

Among those profiled in a recent issue: Alexis Mahay, the wife of Texas Rangers

reliever Ron Mahay, who has gone into business with three other major league wives to open a boutique shop of children's athletic apparel.

"It will show all the wives that they're not alone," Mahay said. "Having a magazine that shows our lifestyle gives a sense of family. This makes everyone look out for each other."

NFL wives Duwan Williams and Shelley Barrow recently became members.

"We really have our own society, since our husbands are athletes," said Barrow, wife of Dallas Cowboys line-backer Michael Barrow.

The Charlotte Post

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50 Cent campaign to prevent child obesity

By Erin Carlson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — 50 Cent has sold millions of records serving kids from the hood to the burbs a steady diet of gangsta rap.

Now, he's part of a new campaign to make his young fans healthier.

Fifty, who lives in Farmington, Conn., is a spokes-rapper and judge for a nationwide cooking competition aimed at preventing childhood obesity by improving high school students' eating habits. It is sponsored by Glaceau, the company partly owned by the rapper and that sells his grape-flavored Vitamin Water drink, Formula 50.

Student chefs in cities including New York, Chicago,

Los Angeles and Seattle will compete to create the most "nutrient-rich" cafeteria lunch recipe. Glaceau has announced. The winner will receive a \$100,000 college scholarship.

In an interview with The Associated Press earlier this week, 50 said he thinks "it's a lot more difficult for kids" to stick to a healthy diet.

50, who has bared his washboard abs on album covers, said he wasn't always so physically fit.

"I had all of the unhealthy habits," the 29-year-old rapper said. "Soda... a lot of fast food, all those things."

Today, he exercises regularly and - thanks to a personal chef - eats nutritious meals.

"I have someone that I can actually have prepare the food for me, so it's a huge dif-

ference than just getting McDonald's or Burger King," he said.

He said he tries to avoid sweets, sneaking soda when it's "available," but often substituting it, naturally, with Glaceau beverages. The savvy businessman, who has his own record label, G-Unit,

and a sneaker line with Reebok, said his refrigerator is stocked with "a lot" of the drinks.

"It's a better reflection of my lifestyle," he said. "I don't drink alcohol and I don't need an energy drink."

On the Net:
www.50cent.com/

Museum 'Courage' gift

SPECIAL TO THE POST

Levine Museum of the New South announced the creation of a permanent installation of the award-winning exhibition "Courage: The Carolina Story That Changed America" in Charlotte and a traveling version that will be displayed in four communities across the nation.

The permanent installation and traveling version of "Courage" is being underwritten by a \$500,000 gift from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. "Bank of America proudly supported Courage in 2004, and we are pleased to facilitate the continued exploration of and ongoing education regarding this important period in African-American history," said Graham Denton, Charlotte market president for Bank of America. "We are delighted to help Levine Museum of the New South capture this important aspect of our culture and heritage and, in turn, to share it with our

associates, customers, and community."

"Courage" was originally developed by and exhibited at Levine Museum of the New South in 2004. It traces the story of Rev. J.A. De Laine and other citizens of Clarendon County, S.C. who brought the first of the five lawsuits that would become the 1954 Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education declaring "separate but equal" unconstitutional. The exhibition was on display for eight months, and included a dialogue component called "Conversations on Courage" and extensive programming for the community.

When "Courage" ended in Charlotte, the exhibition traveled to McKissick Museum in Columbia, S.C. Since then portions have been combined with material from the Smithsonian Institution's Brown exhibition, and was on display at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa at the request of the U.S. Consulate.

SHE'S A WINNER



PHOTO:WADE NASH

Briel Robinson was crowned the 2006 Alpha Kappa Alpha Rho Psi Omega Chapter Miss Debutante on April 29. This was the chapter's first debutante ball.

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