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SPORTS

Section



IN BUSINESS

Design student learns lessons about fashion marketing.7C



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte Sting guard Helen Darling (above from left) Tammy Sutton-Brown and Tangela Smith celebrate during Charlotte's 70-59 win over Indiana last week. Below, Smith recorded the Sting's first double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds against Indiana. The 2-5 Sting will try to creep a game closer to the .500 mark today against Washington at Bobcats Arena.

All hands on deck

Sting success predicated on limiting turnovers, improving inside presence



By Herbert L. White
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The Sting is only as good as its core.

After dropping to the bottom of the WNBA in rebounding and defense, Charlotte figured how to put both together in a 70-59 win over Indiana. That lesson didn't help against Washington Tuesday, however, in an 87-70 loss.

The Sting (2-5) dominated Indiana on the boards 41-28 and got season-best games from center Tammy Sutton-Brown (18 points, five blocks) and power forward

Tangela Smith (16 points, 11 rebounds).

"We struggled as a whole early this season with scoring and all that," said point guard Helen Darling, who had her best game of the season - seven points, seven assists and just three turnovers - against the Fever. "I think we're still working on being consistent and playing 40 minutes."

"I think our rebounding said something for us after getting outrebounded by our opponents (so often)," Smith said. "That's what we worked on all (last) week,

trying to get the offensive rebound or any rebound and just go and fast break. If we continue to do that, we'll be OK."

"If they're scoring on the outside, it opens things up for me and Tammy to have a lot of space on the inside," Sutton-Brown said. "If we're scoring on the inside, that opens it for them on the outside, so we have to keep that inside-outside. If we have that, we'll win a lot of games."

"The first few games, we were getting outrebounded. See STING/2C

Americans still strangers in land of soccer

By Ronald Blum
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany - They're surrounded by the tightest security, quizzed about lukewarm support back home and constantly questioned over whether they can reprise a surprisingly successful run in the last World Cup.

Must be the Americans, still strangers in the land of soccer and

hoping to prove that Yanks can hang in the world's No. 1 sport.

"Everyone is anxious," U.S. captain Claudio Reyna said Sunday after arriving in the city where they'll finally play Monday. "It's that time, really. It's what everyone has been waiting for for the last four years."

The United States made it to the quarterfinals at the 2002 tournament in South Korea

before losing 1-0 to Germany, its most successful World Cup since 1930.

Since then, midfielder Landon Donovan's hair has thinned and winger Eddie Lewis speaks with a decidedly British accent now that he's played for English clubs the past six years.

There is one constant, though. Security

When the Americans leave their

hotel in Essen to travel to their opener against the Czech Republic, an ever-present convoy of police, State Department officials and private guards will encircle them. The U.S. bus is the only among the 32 teams that doesn't display the country's name.

Reyna said security isn't on players' minds.

Please see UNITED/2C

Out-of-shape Shaq, out-of-answers Riles headed for fall



O'Neal

By Jim Litke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two guys with their legacies awaiting only a final chapter did little and said even less about the outcome.

The Heat's Shaquille O'Neal, who already owns three NBA championship rings but desperately wants another with

out Kobe Bryant as his sidekick, was outscored and outrebounded Sunday night in Game 2 by Erick Dampier - the first time that happened in 25 head-to-head meetings.

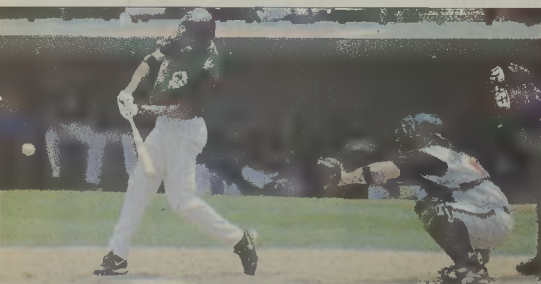
Pat Riley, who has four rings from coaching the Lakers' "Showtime" teams but none since, was similarly outfoxed by

Mavericks counterpart Avery Johnson - for the second time in as many games.

But before anybody jumped to the logical conclusion, namely that Dallas should've packed a broom as the finals headed east to Miami for three games, Riles reminded everyone his team has stumbled down this

Please see OUT/3C

DIALING LONG DISTANCE



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte Knights outfielder Jerry Owens connects for a home run in the 9th inning of the Knights' 9-6 win over Buffalo Monday. Charlotte is 46-18, the International League's best record.

HBCU basketball comes to Madison Square Garden

By Joey Matthews
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

RICHMOND, Va. - Kenneth S. Johnson has gone big-time 6 in the Big Apple. He just signed a multi-year deal with Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Under the deal, Richmond-based Johnson Inc. marketing and communications firm will lease the Garden to stage an annual basketball extravaganza called the Big Apple Classic.

Steve Mills, president and chief operating officer of the 20,000-seat arena in the heart of Manhattan, expressed enthusiasm for the event.

Please see CIAA RIVALS/3C

'Backer Diggs Panthers potential

Ex-Packer out of cold for chance at the Super Bowl

By Herbert L. White
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Na'il Diggs' warm reception by the Carolina Panthers wasn't the only one he looked forward to.

The linebacker left the bone-chilling cold of Green Bay for a chance at getting to the Super Bowl. The Panthers, who played in the NFC championship game last season, are expected to be one of the league's best teams again. It also has a climate Diggs, a Los Angeles native, can appreciate inside and outside the locker room.



Diggs

"I'm loving the weather for one, and just have a fresh start somewhere with a great team, great organization and great coaches," he said. "It's really inspiring to me and that's the kind of team I wanted to go to. These guys have a great chance at winning some games. I really wanted to go somewhere where I could help a team win. Hopefully, I've found a home."

Diggs (6-4, 240 pounds) was limited to nine games in Green Bay last year because of knee injuries, starting six. His addition at outside linebacker upgrades a Carolina corps that returns Pro Bowler Dan Morgan in

See DIGGS/2C



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Panthers receiver Daniel Smith shares a chat with Jeff Hendricks, 13, after practice Monday at Bank of America Stadium.

Livingstone to induct nine in athletic hall of fame

By Herbert L. White
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Livingstone will induct nine former athletes into its fifth annual athletic hall of fame this weekend.

The event, "Celebrity Sports Scholarship Weekend" will consist of a black-tie induction ceremony on Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the University Hilton in Charlotte at 8 p.m. A celebrity golf tournament will be held Saturday morning with a 9 a.m. shotgun start at the Rocky River Golf Course in Concord.

Inductees include former women's basketball standout Dr. Lavilla Mshatt Watson (Class of 1956) of Nassau County, N.Y., the Rev. John Robert Edward Kinard (Class of '60) of Washington, D.C., a former football and basketball standout Robert N. Wiley ('63) of Spencer, N.C., former football standout Probus Scott Perkins ('70) of Lexington, N.C.; former football player and long-time supporter Dorsey T. Montgomery Sr. ('70) of Goldsboro, track and field standouts Shannon Chinnis Cherry ('93) of Charleston, S.C., and Kellee Dillard See LIVINGSTONE/3C