

SPORTS/The Charlotte Post

s adds to Panthers' linehac

Continued from page 1C the middle and second-year player Thomas Davis into a full-time role gives Carolina speed and flexibility.

2C

"The good thing is there are so many good young players," said Diggs, who is in his seventh year That's going to help us all the way down the road, hopefully throughout the playoffs There's depth and youth and freshness and it's going to be huge." Diggs' thoughts aren't far from the playoffs After five

successful years in Green Bay, the Packers fell apart in 2005, dropping to 4-12 and all but conceding to rebuilding. "That's what it became up in Green Bay and that's defi-nitely not the situation I wanted to be in," he said.

"Your NFL career is so short, if you can help it or somewhat control it, you really don't want to be in that situation because this season, mentally they're already saying they're rebuilding, so they're proba-bly not going to do that well.

They've accepted rebuilding and it's an excuse why they're not going to do that well as opposed to a team with high expectations before snap one of converge " of any camp." Most important, Diggs likes the organization's commit-

ment to winning now. "It's kind of like buying a new house," he said. "You can tell almost immediately when you walk in the front door if you're going to buyit. It was a matter of walking in and feel-ing comfortable." ing comfortable

United States still a stranger on soccer s grandest stage

Continued from page 1C "We're here to get results and do well," he said "The World Cup is an experience you want to enjoy. The guys are having a great time, there's no tension or anxiety within the team because of the security issues." Not so the opening game. U.S. players know well that years of work could be wiped out by just a few seconds of lapses against the Czechs, Italy and Ghana, all part of the United States' tough croup E. Continued from page 1C

Group E

very difficult to lose the

"It's very difficult to lose the first game and expect to get through," Donovan said. Their battle for respect extends beyond the famous soccer grounds of Europe. In America, many sports fans remain unconvinced that soc-cer is worth their time. cer is worth their time.

Former congressman Jack Kemp, once an NFL quarter-back, proclaimed on the floor of the House of Representatives: "Football is democratic, capitalism, whereas soccer is a European socialist sport" Twelve of the 23 U.S. play-ers are based in Europe, sev-eral with big clubs, but many descension from continental types skeptical of their new-world pedigree. Tufil we've really proven burselves on kind of the European stage, I think it will still be there," said goalkeeper Kasey Keller, who plays here and lives in a German castle. Towth has been slow, but steady. Major League Soccer, lauended in 1996, has 12 earns, with more planned

ABC and ESPN bought U.S. English-language television rights for the 2010 and 2014 World Cups for \$100 million, and Univision purchased U.S. English Language tights for Spanish-language rights for the next two tournaments for \$325 million.

\$325 million Corporate sponsors have amped up their support, with Nike erecting giant billboards in New York and San Francisco featuring Donovan, Clint Dempsey, Eddie Johnson and DaMarcus Beasley and the warning "BEWARE." It's far different than 1990, when the Americans returned to the World Cup for the first time since 1950 – and were manhandled 5-1 by Czechoslovakia in their open-er

Current coach Bruce Arena sat in the stands at Stadio

Comunale in Florence, Italy, that day to root on players he coached at the University of Virginia. In a sense it was emba

Virginia. "In a sense it was embar-rassing how far behind we were," he said. "We didn't belong on the field" As host of the 1994 World Cup, the United States made it to the second round before losing to eventual champion Brazil. At the 1998 tourna-ment in France, the Americans finished last, lead-ing to Arena's hiring. He is now the longest-tenured of the 32 World Cup coaches. Arena has plenty of lineup options, but won't divulge them. His defense appeared set, with Keller in goal. Lewis at left back, 6-foot-4 Oguchi Onyewu and Eddie Pope in the center, and Steve

its newfound commitment rebounding as a springboard to the remainder of the sea-

son "It (is) frustrating, but the one thing you can always do is rebound, and we weren't being successful in that area," Sutton-Brown said. "You see that we can do it and when you do it we are successful, so we know it has to be done for us to be successful."

Cherundolo on the right. Reyna anchors the midfield, where Beasley could flank him on either side, with Bobby Convey and Dempsey possible starters. Donovan and Brian McBride, who each scored two goals in 2002, are starters barring unforescen injuries, and forward Josh Wolff or defensive midfielder Pablo

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Mastroeni could get selected. Four years ago, the United States upset highly favored Portugal 3-2 in the opener, so the Czechs say they expect the Americans to play them touch

"They play fast soccer," mid-fielder Tomas Rosicky said. "We've seen what they're capable of."

Hidden Valley Optimist Club 10th Annual Golf Tournament

All festivities will be held at The tradition Golf Club on June 23, 2006 with a captians choice format. The golf tournament is one of the club's major fund raisers

Sting searches for consistency on boards, tempo are linked to its difficulties on the boards and conrolling tempo. With fewer second-chance opportunities or unable to stop opponents, the Sting fell three games below .500. The goal now is to use

Continued from page 1C by a lot, so that was a big focus throughout the week in practice," Sutton-Brown said. "I think we understand as a team that for us to be suc-cessful, we've got to go inside

and outside. When we get the ball inside and they start doubling, we can go back out-side and work the game that way and we're successful when we work together." Charlotte's early struggles

Pontiac's Solstice adds excitement

General Motors has always touted its Pontiac division as the performance division, despite keeping the Camaro and Corvette in the Chevy brand. Cars like the GTO, Gran Prix, Grand Am and other names conjure visions of great and not so great vehicles. Still, this company once proud-ly boasted "We build excitement" Maybe the com-pany needs to go

Iv boasted "We build excitement" WINFRED B. CROSS Test Drive Drive

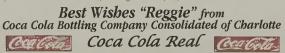
There's even less room in the trunk, which has enough space for the manually operated top but little else.

Ah, but who buys a convertible for practical top anough space for the manually operated top with the else. Ah, but who buys a convertible for practi-cality? No one. The Solstice is a weekend toy that can pass for a daily commuter if you don't meed the room The 177 horsepower four cyin-der certainly will give you nice fuel economy and even a little giddy up. Press the gas and the engine responds nicolly. There's a gurgling exhaust note that fits the car's sexy body I wished for a bit more torque on steep inclines but that will be taken care of with a tur-bocharged engine in a few months. The Solstice handles very well due in part to its rear wheel drive configuration. The steering is quick and feels nicely weighted. The 18-inch wheels have a lot of stick-em but don't give a harsh ride. The four-wheel independent sus-pension is tuned more for sport, but doesn't penalize with a harsh ride. The handling isn't as sharp as a Mazda Miata but the Miata has never looked so exy: If you want one of these you can get in with only \$20,490. If you want air conditioning power windows, door locks and mirrors, antilock brakes upgraded radio and automatic transmission, fork over an additional \$7,500. That's still a bargain for such a sexy convert-ible.

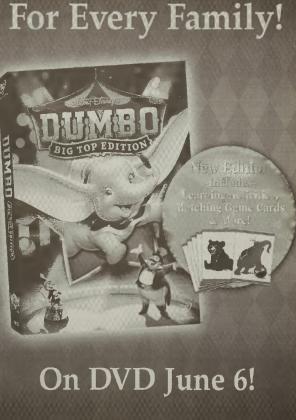
COCA-COLA "CITIZEN" OF THE MONTH "Reggie Mobley" Partner, Back to the Basics Con Cola S Company

Motto for Encouraging Children: "You "All" can succeed, just put in the work. Work with ethics and accountability, stay focused, and most of all apply yourself when doing bomework." - Reggie

Our "Citizen of the Month," Reggie Mobley, is a native Charlottean with a great designe to help improve our community by working to improve the lives of our differen. Reggie is on a mission and finds the best way to touch children is through what they like. Sports. If the basketball court is where to reach them, that's where Reggie is. As girls JV, coach at West Charlotte High School, he has the opportunity to give life instructions to help mold them for the future while charing plays on the court. In addition, as part of the West Charlotte security team, he gets yet another chance to be a role model while giving instruc-tion to following school rules. Taking his mission one step further, Reggie is a partner in the back to the Basics year round sports program, and directs the summer basketball camp at st. Pollege, bined the May in 1985, returned to the area to work as a Navy Reserve Officer and ended his tour of duty in 1996 as Petry Officer Third Class. His career path includes graphic and thas funce climbed the ladder of success. In addition, Reggie is employed part-time with eard and Rec in the Ray of Hope program at St. Paul Baptist Church. Reggie is married to Annette Covington Mobley. They have two children, 19-year old bonte is a sophomore at Morehouse College, and Hoyear old Devin attends Villa Heights felmentary School. The family are members of Mt. Zion A.M.F. Zion Church where Reggie is wer active on the Steward Board, and sings on the Hym, Mass and Men's choirs. **Best Wisbes "Reggie" from**



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