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SPORTS

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IN BUSINESS
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Section



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte center Tammy Sutton-Brown pulls down a rebound in a loss to Detroit last week. At 3-11 after Tuesday's 73-67 win at New York, Charlotte has the second-worst record in the WNBA.

Not fun in summertime

Sting doesn't have much time to figure what's going wrong

By Eric Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Muggsy Bogues was at wit's end last week.

With a losing streak that extended to seven games, the Charlotte Sting head coach showed his frustration by issuing an ultimatum for the team last week.

"I'm looking for five people who want to play," said Bogues. "Five people who want to compete with some heart, who want to play good basketball."

Even if their time on the floor wasn't being questioned, attendance has dwindled to where even the players can't ignore it.

And while the players have heard the Bogues make the same statement, it'll take more than words to make a difference.



Sam

"It's about accountability," forward Sheri Sam said. "He's been easy on us, thinking that we are professionals, and we're going to do our jobs, but we're not getting it done. So you have to cut the reins and you have to do what you have to do."

Sam is one of the few players that comes to play every night,

something Bogues is looking for in everyone on the roster.

"It's not about scoring," said Sam.

"It's about boxing your man out, playing defense, making the rotation, knowing your plays, being in the right spots. You know those are the little things between winning and losing, and we are not quite getting them right now."

"It's disappointing that we continue to lose," said rookie Ty'isha Fluker, who is struggling to adjust to the WNBA. "We just need to find out what the team needs to do to make a turnaround, because we can't continue

Please see STING/2C

Power failures

The Sting is near the bottom of the 14-team WNBA in points and rebounds allowed.

Team	Points allowed	Rebounds allowed
Seattle	75.38	29.00
Chicago	77.29	36.43
Sting	80.64	37.57
Phoenix	87.58	39.42

Jordan faces major early decisions with Bobcats

By Tim Whitmore
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Jordan won six NBA titles and wide acclaim as the greatest player in NBA history. In joining the Charlotte Bobcats, he finds himself with a franchise struggling to build itself from the ground up.

And there are questions about whether Jordan — whose tenure in management was

hardly a success in Washington — is the right man to oversee the basketball operations of the 2-year-old NBA franchise.

Brought in last week by owner Bob Johnson to be his largest minority partner, His Airness already faces a momentous decision: Who to take with the No. 3 pick in the upcoming NBA draft. After that, the question becomes whether Jordan can help Johnson overcome several early blunders and sell the Bobcats to a city that so far has shown scant interest in the team.

The Bobcats sold out just seven of 41 home games last season, the first at their new downtown arena, and ranked 22nd in the NBA in attendance. They still haven't sold naming rights to the building and are locked in a long-term television contract that hides most games on a cable-only news channel instead of a sports network or an over-the-air station.

"There have been a number of missteps and false stops and starts," said sports marketer Marc Ganis, who heads Chicago's SportsCorp Ltd. "They needed to

do something, and this (bringing in Jordan) was the biggest splash they could have made."

When Johnson announced June 15 that Jordan had bought a stake in the team, he was emphatic that Jordan would not be involved in daily operations.

"Michael is not a day-to-day employee. He's not an employee at all. He is an owner who I have given the authority to oversee all of the basketball player-personnel decisions," Johnson said.

But that has raised concerns

Please see JORDAN/2C

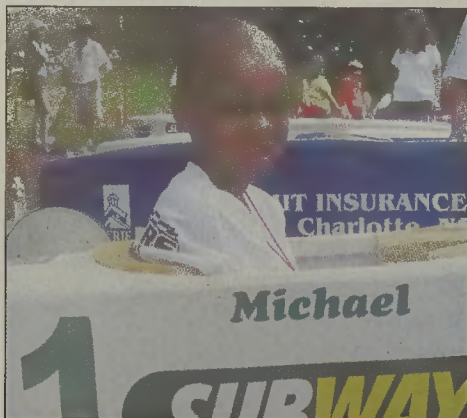
Derby opens door for newcomer

By David Dawson
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Anganette Byrd searched for summer camps that would be suitable for her son Michael, 8. While searching, she came across the All-American Soap Box Derby, a youth initiative of NASCAR.

The Huntersville Soap Box Derby chapter conducted a week long camp that allowed participants a chance to build gravity powered cars and train for the local championship race for a qualifying spot in the 69th All-American Soap Box Derby Championship on July 22.

"Our family enjoyed this new experience of soap box derby racing," Byrd said. "We had an opportunity to meet other families, members of the board personally took the time to help us with our son's car, and we all had so much



PHOTO/ALAN TAYLOR COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Byrd Jr. of Charlotte raced in his first Soap Box Derby last week in Huntersville.

fun, said Byrd. Although Michael did not advance to the world championship to compete for the \$5,000 college scholarship, he and his family are considering racing next

year. "After the (Huntersville) race was over and all the awards had been presented, many parents encouraged us to come back in September for the fall race," said Byrd.

Top soccer official slams referees, too

By John Pye
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — The record stream of yellow and red cards in the World Cup has soccer's highest official issuing his own caution — to the referees.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter criticized Valentin Ivanov's handling of Portugal's 1-0 second-round win over the Netherlands, when the Russian referee handed out a record-tying 16 yellow cards and an unprecedented four reds.

In a frank assessment to a Portuguese TV station, Blatter said Ivanov was not up to the level of the players.

"I think there could have been a yellow card for the referee," Blatter said.

There were 23 red and 291 yellow cards handed out in the first 52 matches at Germany 2006, surpassing

See TOP SOCCER/3C

Title shot still Brock's goal

Heavyweight aims to prove 'lackluster' win an aberration

By Herbert L. White
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Calvin Brock won the fight but may have lost ground in his quest for the world heavyweight boxing championship.

Brock ran his record to 29-0 with a unanimous decision over Timur Ibragimov Saturday in Las Vegas. But there was little action and Brock wonders if taking on the previously unbeaten Ibragimov damaged his chances at landing a title shot.

"I really don't know," Brock said. "In boxing it's important to win but it's more important to make a statement with a win. I don't think I made a statement against this opponent."

Brock, who is ranked in the top five in the three major sanctioning bodies, hopes he'll land a title shot by year's end. He's hoping for a match against International Boxing Federation champion Vitaly Klitschko if a deal

See BROCK/3C



AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG

Calvin Brock (right) and Timur Ibragimov exchange punches in their bout Saturday in Las Vegas. Brock won a unanimous decision.

BACK FROM NBA DRAFT Jackson State coach happy star returns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Miss. — Tevester Anderson is grateful that his leading scorer is returning to Jackson State for his senior season.

Trey Johnson flirted with entering this week's NBA draft before withdrawing his name by last week's deadline for underclassmen.

"It makes us a more complete team," Anderson told The Sun Herald of Gulfport. "He's a leader and exceptional player who represents Jackson State well. I'm delighted to have him back and it will add to our program."

Johnson, who ranked 10th nationally last season by averaging 23 points, didn't sign with an agent and now hopes next year to become the 14th player in school history to make an NBA roster.

Detroit Pistons guard Lindsey Hunter, who is considering retirement, is the only ex-Tiger playing in the league.

"Everything went well and there was interest from teams, but I thought it would be best to come back for my senior year," Johnson said.

See JACKSON/3C