

Eagles take pitch to support children in war-torn Uganda

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proved educational. As soccer players, the Charlotte delegation was welcome to share the sport in a region that loves it.

"We went to some places where no American team has ever played," Krum said.

Besides collecting necessities, the Eagles — led by play-

er Sam Casey — are raising money to build the Good News Community Center, a refuge for kids to eat, sleep, learn and play. The center, Krum said, will provide children a symbol that someone cares enough to help.

"You've got kids walking around with no clothes on and they're smiling," he said.

"Seeing what they're happy with makes you realize what you have and what we've been provided."

For information, call Casey at (704) 841-8644, extension 27.

On the Net:
Charlotte Eagles
www.charlotteeagles.com

Jaguar's convertible XK8 one superior cat

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Jaguars garner lots of attention as hardtops but add a convertible top and the gawk meter hits 10.

Such is the life for the new XK8. Necks don't just crane—they snap for a second look.

There's plenty of reason for that. This is a car that has few peers in the beauty department. It's elegantly graceful, yet looks as muscular as LL Cool J. The car's surfaces are taught and firm, giving you the impression it's lightning fast.

More on that in a sec.

The interior is gorgeous. There is so much wood, metal and leather your senses can barely take it in a glance. You must study each detail because there is so much detail. Supplied with the Luxury Package, this test car was equipped with a heated leather and wood steering wheel, stitched leather on the dash and console and a slate/ivory interior that covered the most comfortable

seats I've ever encountered.

The instrument panel is clean and uncluttered. The gauges are simple but there are lots of gizmos. A touchscreen operates the climate, stereo, navigation and Bluetooth phone functions. If you have such a phone, you can pair it with the Jag and its operation is integrated with the car. Calls are diverted through the stereo. It works well, as does everything else in this car.

The engine is a 4.2-liter V8 that pumps 300 horsepower and 310 pounds/feet of torque. The six-speed transmission is flawless in execution. Paddle switches are mounted to the steering wheel. Touch either up or down and you are in control. It won't allow you to over-rev the engine and will shift back to automatic if you don't continue to make inputs.

At 300 hp, the engine's output seems small in these days of 500 and more. It will take the car to 60 mph in 6.0 seconds. That's not blazingly fast, but it sure ain't slow.

The car's ride is an extraordinary balance between sport and comfort. You feel the road, but there's enough

cushion to make this a pleasure to drive every day. It can be slung around curves with abandon, but I found driving slowly while onlookers drooled a much more rewarding experience.

The convertible top's operation is easy, lowering in about 18 seconds. The car's aluminum body is lighter than the 10-year-old design it replaces, but feels as if it were carved out of a single piece of granite. There's little to no cowl shake or flexing, even over a good size bump.

The car comes standard with a lot at \$81,000. A luxury package adds more leather and wood. The advanced technology package brings adaptive headlights and cruise control, 19-inch wheels and 16-way power driver's seat.

The as-tested price of \$85,200 is easily justified if you get the chance to drive this car. More power would be good and the back seat isn't really a back seat, but everything else is what you'd expect. The muscular body, controlled ride and easy to operate controls should make this someone's dream car. It certainly comes close to mine.

Everett buys into Bobcats

By Herbert L. White
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The Charlotte Bobcats added another piece to rebuilding the business side of the franchise.

Mac Everett agreed to serve as a member of the executive committee and buy a minority stake in the club Tuesday.

"Mac Everett is one of the most influential and well-respected people in the Charlotte community and we are excited to have him take an expanded role in our organization," Bobcats majority owner Bob Johnson said. "As we grow, Mac's expertise in business and developing strategies for broader, stronger relations with the Charlotte community will be invaluable."

Everett has been an advisor to the Bobcats and helped lobby for the NBA's return to Charlotte as part of a local group that worked with the league office to replace the departed Hornets.

"The Charlotte community invited the NBA back and I welcome the opportunity to

help engage and connect our community with the Bobcats. I look forward to the progress of the organization into a championship franchise on and off the court," Everett said. "We have a solid foundation to continue building on and this is a team that will be exciting for the people of the Carolinas to support."

Everett will serve on the Bobcats' newly-formed executive board, which will provide guidance for business activities and help grow the organization's presence in the

community.

Everett was a key player in bringing the Wachovia Championship to Charlotte in 2003 and has served as chairman since its launch. Everett was an executive at Wachovia Corporation for 25 years before retiring in 2004 and served in many capacities, including senior executive vice president for corporate and community affairs and leading the banking operations for the Mid-Atlantic region.

Sports reporting
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9th Annual Titus L. Ivory, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament

August 4, 2006

Birkdale Golf Course, Huntersville, NC



H.L. McCrorey
Family YMCA

Tournament Information

- Registration: 8:00 a.m.
- Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.
- Format: Captain's Choice
- Register as an individual or as a team
- Captains are responsible for registering teams and submitting fees and applications
- Teams consist of (1) Captain and (3) other players
- Mulligans available for \$5 each

Registration includes:

- 18 holes of golf
- Range balls
- Golf Cart rental for the team
- Signature event golf shirt
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch delivered to you during the tournament
- Awards dinner in air conditioned Pavilion following the tournament
- Contests

- Hole in one
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Goodie Bag
- Program Booklet
- Door Prizes and Giveaways

Location:

Birkdale Golf Club
16500 Birkdale Commons Parkway
Huntersville, NC 28078
www.birkdale.com

In Memory of Titus L. Ivory, Sr.

Titus L. Ivory, Sr. demonstrated the principles of character development promoted by the H.L. McCrorey Family YMCA. His illustration of caring, responsibility, faith, honesty, and respect was manifested in the life he led and the legacy that remains. Titus' commitment to God, family, career, community, brotherhood and the uplifting of his fellow man, is a true testimony of his character.

Thank you for taking the time to join us in fellowship and remembrance of our dear friend and staunch supporter.

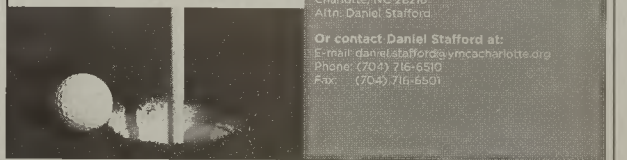
Mission

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Contact Information:

Please mail registration form and check payable to:
H.L. McCrorey Family YMCA
3901 Beatties Ford Road,
Charlotte, NC 28218
Attn: Daniel Stafford

Or contact Daniel Stafford at:
E-mail: danestafford@ymcacharlotte.org
Phone: (704) 716-6510
Fax: (704) 716-6501



SUMMER RELIEF IN CLEVELAND

Pleased with Cavs' progress, James agrees to extension

By Tom Withers
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — LeBron James likes it where he's at — close to home and closing in on an NBA title.

Cleveland's All-Star forward agreed Saturday to sign a contract extension of up to five years and worth as much as \$80 million with the Cavaliers, a huge relief for the rising team and its fretting fans who worried he might be planning an escape.

James, who in three NBA seasons has single-handedly resurrected Cleveland's franchise and brought the Cavs into championship contention, will sign the deal after the free agency moratorium ends Wednesday, said his agent Leon Rose.

"I am very excited and happy to be re-signing with the Cavaliers. Staying in Cleveland ... provides me with the unique opportunity to continue to play in front of my family, friends and fans," James said in a statement. "I look forward to working toward bringing a championship to our great fans and the city of Cleveland."

James didn't have to accept the deal. He could have chosen to wait until after next season when he would have been eligible for free agency. But he believes in the Cavaliers, who during this season's playoffs came within a late offensive rebound in Game 6 of eliminating Detroit and making the Eastern Conference finals.

Unlike some of his fellow 2003 draft classmates, James waited one week after the team made the offer before announcing he would sign. The delay since July 1 had Cleveland fans, who have been burned by broken promises before, fearing the worst.

But as he has always done, the 21-year-old from nearby Akron came through in the clutch. Ever the showman, James let the drama build before agreeing to a deal that will start after the 2007 season and run through 2012-13 — when he'll only be 27.

"We are very happy to hear LeBron's recent statements regarding his desire to help work toward bringing a Cavaliers championship to Cleveland and our fans," general manager Danny Ferry said. "We plan to sit down next week with Leon Rose to agree on terms of an extension."

James will make \$5.8 million next season, the final year on his rookie contract. The exact amount of James' extension won't be known until later this summer when the league determines the salary cap for next season.

But almost from the moment the Cavaliers won the 2003 draft lottery and selected him with the No. 1 overall pick, insecure Cleveland fans have worried about a day when James would bolt for a bigger paycheck and brighter spotlight in New York, Los Angeles or Chicago.

That fear was well founded since the beloved Browns moved, and big-name athletes like Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez and Carlos Boozer, all left Cleveland as free agents despite saying they would stay.

James, though, kept his word. And at least for now, says he plans to stay. He wants to bring the city its first championship since the Browns won an NFL title in 1964 — three years before there was even a Super Bowl and 20 years before James' birth.

James has scored more points, handed out more assists and grabbed more rebounds at a younger age than any player in history.

Last season, James became just the fourth player to average at least 31 points, 7 rebounds and 6 assists, joining Oscar Robertson, Jerry West and Michael Jordan. He was named the youngest All-Star game MVP in history, and finished runner-up to Phoenix's Steve Nash for league MVP honors.

Rose said he hopes to have the deal signed before James reports July 19 to training camp for the U.S. team playing in this summer's World Championships.

With James' extension looming, Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert did everything he could to keep the superstar.

Last summer, Cleveland spent millions on free agents Larry Hughes, Donyell Marshall and Damon Jones and re-signed center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, a player James personally campaigned to keep. Gilbert also renovated Quicken Loans Arena, upgrading the Cavs' locker room and remodeling a family area partly to accommodate the overflow of James supporters at every home game.

The club is also building a \$20 million training facility in Independence, a short drive from James' suburban home.

Now that James is on board, general manager Danny Ferry will try to re-sign restricted free agent forward Drew Gooden. The club has also been in contact with several other free agents during the league's July 1-12 signing period.

The Charlotte Post