



Kashemi Henry



Shannon Kirby



Nancy Horn



Members of the Carolina Angels softball team show off their game at last week's tournament held in Rupert Bell Park.



Rachel Hodges

Angels

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Goodrich.
The Angels pulled themselves together in the fifth inning and went ahead 7-5. Roxanna Hayes drew a walk and then scored on Nikki Hines' triple. Kandis Miller's sacrifice fly then scored Hines.
But that lead didn't hold up for long. In the bottom half of the inning, Goodrich walked five batters and hit two more as the Diamond Storm took an 8-7 lead.
Coach Jonne Hayes stuck with Goodrich, and she finally worked out of the inning.
"I stuck with her because she needed the experience," Hayes said. "I thought we would come back and hit the ball well which we did."
In the next inning, the Angels used walks to Goodrich and Jenny Hodges to mount a rally. Tenisha Gist then laid down a perfectly executed bunt to advance both runners. Goodrich scored on the over-throw to first, Hodges advanced to

third and Gist moved to second.
The Angels then pulled off a squeeze play, with Rachel Hodges bunting and Jenny Hodges scoring from third. The Angels pulled the play off again when the next batter, Jennifer Harrell, bunted to score Gist. That gave the Angels a 10-7 lead.
The Diamond Storm answered with a rally of their own in the bottom half of the inning to take an 11-10 lead. The Angels looked like they would get out of the inning when Miller made an acrobatic stop from her shortstop position, making a 360 degree turn on a hard hit to shortstop and throwing out the runner at first. But reliever Megan Southern couldn't silence the Diamond Storm bats, and they rallied for the win.
The most important thing that came out of the tournament was the level of competition. Hayes said that should help the team when it travels to Salem, Va., on Aug. 14 for the NSA National Tournament.
"This team is made up of veterans now," Hayes said. "Last year we

had to rely on only one pitcher and we made it to the second round of the tournament. This year we have six pitchers. The veterans have really stepped up to lead this team."
This weekend's tournament will include teams from as far west as Colorado. Most of the teams entered are from Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.
The team is still soliciting funds for its trip. It is hosting one final game Aug. 12, and donations can be made at that time.
"We've put collection buckets in stores and restaurants across the city," Hayes said. "There's no donation too small. We'll accept anything that anyone wants to give these young ladies to help them make the trip."
Mary Carmichael, an assistant coach, said the team is poised and ready for its trip.
"These young ladies have the opportunity to travel somewhere that some of them may never see again," she said. "They've worked hard. They've paid their dues."

players were involved in a campus incident last season and suspended from the team. The others, including quarterback Tory Woodbury, have been reinstated. Brock started two games for the Rams last season.
Blount said the return of local product J.D. Williamson should offset the loss of Brock. Williamson started eight games at tight end last year.
"Losing him (Brock) is just one of those unfortunate situations that you have to deal with," Blount said. "We have to make the best decision and move on."

Overall, Blount said he is pleased with what he has to work with this season.
"We'll find out quickly where we stand," Blount said, referring to the start of the Rams' season, which will begin Sept. 4 with a home battle against Catawba.
The Rams began conditioning drills on Tuesday and continued through Wednesday. Their first full-scale practice session began on Aug. 12. The Rams will conduct two-a-day sessions for the first week of practice.

WSSU

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the U.S. Naval Academy came through with an offer. Rucker attended the Naval Academy Prep School in Rhode Island last season and was the team's starting fullback and leading rusher. Rucker, a 5-8, 200-pounder will get a look at both fullback and tailback with the Rams.
One player the Rams will be without is tight end Dietrick Brock, who has been dismissed from the team. Brock and several other Ram

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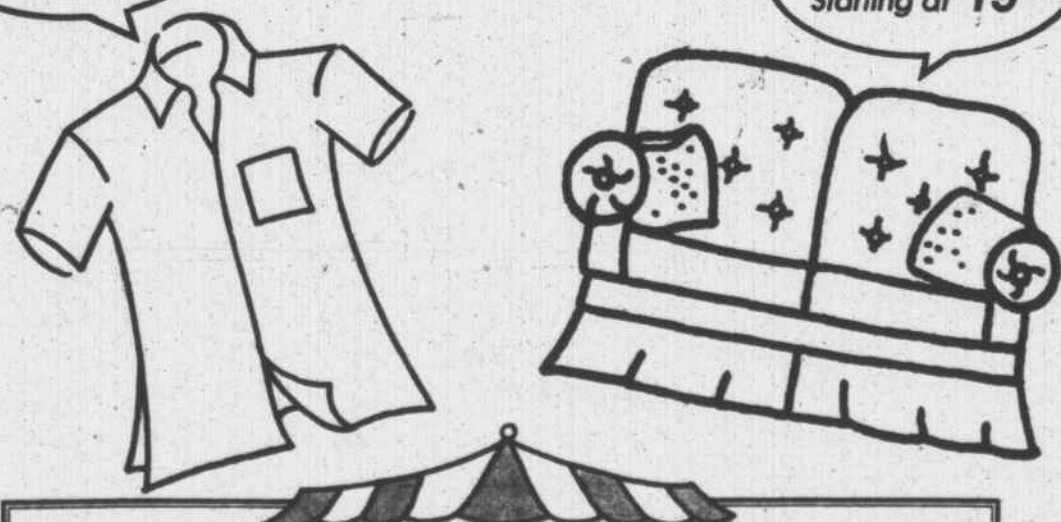
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