

Bowman keeps West Charlotte roaring

By Eric James Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Reginald Bowman has never seen a shot he doesn't like. And he's met a few.

"Most people say he's in range with his jump shot when he gets off the bus," said West Charlotte basketball coach Gosnell White. "But I like his calmness. We've been in a situation where we have had leads, and we lose concentration, and Reggie settles us with a three."

The Lions guard has the ability to do major damage to any defense he runs up against. Averaging 17.8 points per game,

Senior is one reason why the Lions are 16-0

4.3 assists, and 2.3 steals, the senior keeps opponents honest.

"Reggie is the type of player that it depends on how you defend him, he finds ways to score," White said. "He shoots the ball from so deep, and he has a very quick first step. He makes it tough on your defense, when he is hitting that outside shot, because you can't rest because he will make you pay."

For the 16-0 Lions, Bowman is a valuable clog in the West Charlotte offense. He sets a scoring tempo for the rest of his

teammates by not only scoring but breaking down defenses.

"It makes it difficult to pack it in on the inside with his outside shooting ability and his ability to penetrate," White said. "He's extremely mature for his age, and basketball wise some people may question his shot selection, but I have to let him get away with some of those."

Bowman contends that though he is labeled as a shooter, he knows the importance of working as a unit.

"One person can't be on, every-

body has to be together," Bowman said.

"People say, 'That's the only thing Reggie can do is shoot.' It's a team thing. It's not all about scoring."

"When I was younger that's all I worried about, but as I got older I saw other things being more important. I try to

penetrate or pass... and try to get the other players into it."

White isn't as concerned with Bowman being labeled as selfish. What concerns him is Bowman's improvement in learning the Lions offense and improving defensively.

"He's still learning, his offense has been so uncanny that he hasn't had to play defense, but for me he has to play defense," White said.

"A lot of times he is playing defense when you don't think he is, and a lot of people question his ability to play defense, but Reggie is willing to do whatever it takes to win."



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Reginald Bowman.

Charlotte Stinson's home court

By Karl Petraroja
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

When the NBA season wraps up sometime in mid-June, basketball fans won't have to wait until November to get their roundball fix.

The Women's NBA is coming to town, promising an exciting, up-tempo and competitive game. The new eight-team league, sponsored by the NBA, will showcase some of the top women players in the world. Charlotte is one of the cities given franchises and owner George Shinn couldn't be happier.

"Anybody that followed the Olympics this past summer knows that the women's basketball team was one of the most exciting events and people also began to realize that these women are great athletes and play an exciting brand of basketball," he said.

There's a distinct ACC flavor to the Charlotte franchise after the WNBA allocated its first 16 signed players. Charlotte, which will have its nickname and logo unveiled in mid-February, acquired 5-10 guard Andrea Stinson from N.C. State and 6-3 center Vicky Bullett from Maryland.

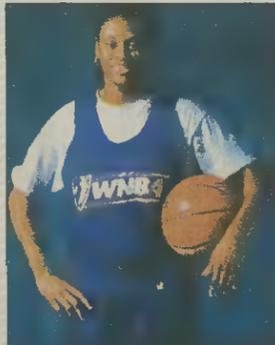
Charlotte fans know Stinson well as a graduate of North Mecklenburg High School and a two-time All-ACC performer with the Wolfpack. She's played professional basketball in Italy and France the past five seasons but can't wait to showcase her game again in the Carolinas.

"I'm so excited about coming back home to play professional basketball," she said.

"When the sites for the WNBA franchises were announced, I told everyone right then, I wanted to play for Charlotte. It's been over five years since I've had the opportunity to play in front of family and friends."

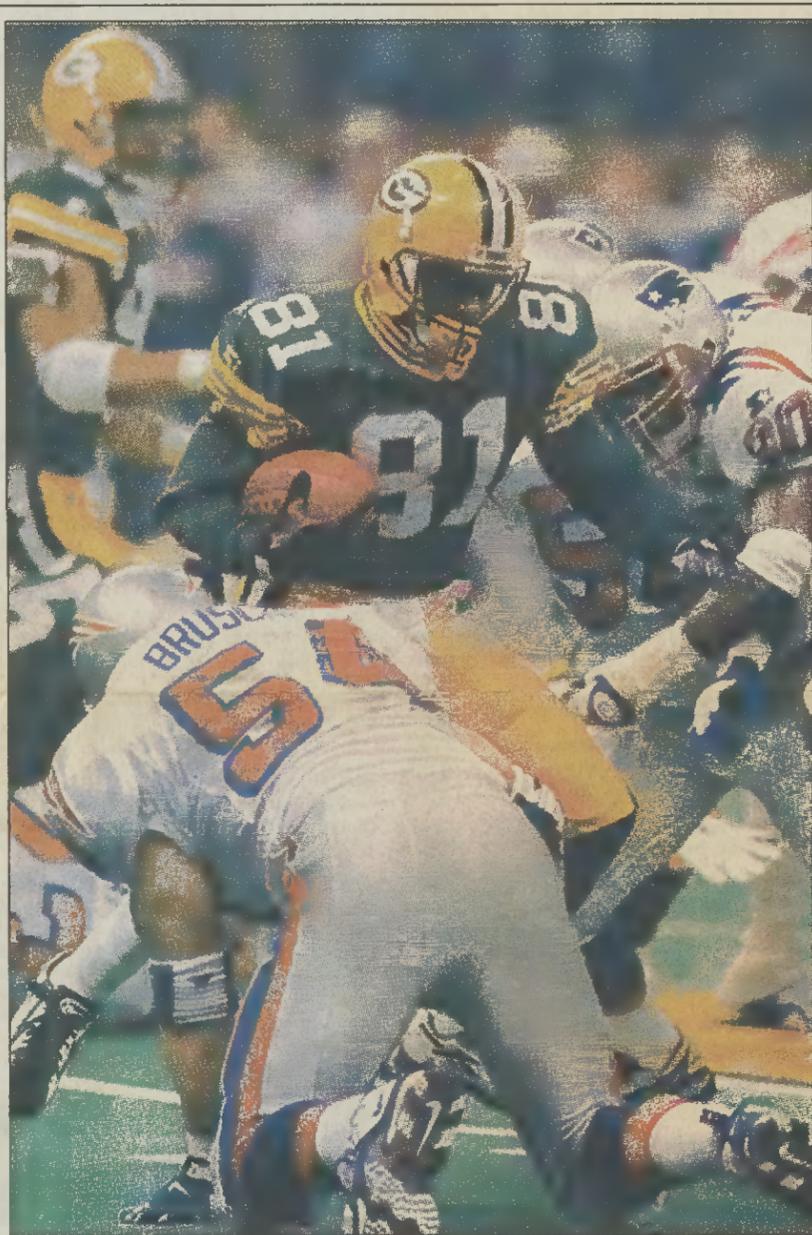
Stinson is currently lighting up the Italian league at Thiene, averaging 23 points per game. Last season, Stinson played for Cesena, where she averaged

See WNBA on page 3B



PHOTO/WNBA

Andrea Stinson starred at North Mecklenburg High and N.C. State.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Green Bay's Desmond Howard, returning a kick past New England defenders in Super Bowl XXXI, figures to cash in on his Most Valuable Player award next season.

Big cheese

Super Bowl hero thinks about getting paid in '97

By Dave Goldberg
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — It's the norm for the modern NFL.

On Sunday, the Green Bay Packers win the Super Bowl and Desmond Howard wins the MVP.

On Monday, everyone's thoughts turned to money.

Howard said he'd like to be back with the Packers, particularly if he can get more time at wide receiver.

And coach Mike Mike Holmgren said he'd love to have back the man whose 99-yard kickoff returned the momentum to Green Bay in its 35-21 victory over the New England Patriots.

In the middle of this steps agent Leigh Steinberg, who found Howard a job in Green Bay last summer for \$275,000 after his client failed in Washington and Jacksonville. Steinberg now suggests seven figures would be a nice starting point for a Super Bowl MVP.

This is Steinberg's specialty. In the past five Super Bowls, he's had either the MVP or the winning quarterback or both, as in Steve Young two years ago and Troy Aikman in 1992.

Another Steinberg specialty is luck. Howard, whom he signed when he was the Heisman Trophy winner and fourth pick in the 1992 draft, happens to be the only Packer he represents.

His third specialty is accommodation.

"Desmond wants to go back to the Packers and I think we can work something out," says Steinberg, who has helped Dallas and San Francisco with salary cap problems by renegotiating and extending deals for his players on those teams.

"People said the Cowboys would have no room for Darren Woodson last year and we got it done," he said.

The Patriots, to no one's surprise, seemed ready to lose their coach.

Bill Parcells didn't fly back to Boston with the team. And commissioner Paul Tagliabue is to resolve the dispute between Pats owner Robert Kraft and Parcells, beginning with a conference call Tuesday.

See HOWARD on page 3B

Promoter wants to lift local boxers

By Eric James Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Reggie Isaac is positioning himself to be a friend to Charlotte boxers. "I am a firm believer that when you tell children to say no, you have to give them positive things to focus on," Isaac says. "There are other aspects of boxing other than fighting that young black kids can get into such as coaching, refereeing, and promoting."

Isaac, president of Charlotte-based Sports One, is a former boxer and trainer who lists former world champion Kelvin Seabrooks as one of his clients. Through his work with Seabrooks, Isaac realized Charlotte had virtually no functioning boxing body.

"What had happened was that North Carolina had no sanctions in boxing, so when I got down to the gym to train Kelvin, others wanted me to train them as well," he said. "It then occurred to me that the pros had horrible records. I investigated more and found out there was no boxing in Charlotte."

Isaac also discovered that boxers he came in contact with were talented, but because of a lack of professional representation, they weren't getting the best opportunities to make the most of their careers.

"Fortunately I'm finding out that a lot of young black kids are naturally talented," he said. "I look for coachability and a semblance of some sort of talent, like speed. I also look for personality. There are some that don't have personality or good records and will allow them to work out at the gym, but that doesn't mean I'm going to sign them to a contract."

Isaac knows everyone doesn't have what it takes to be a world champion, and he is trying to make room in a poor man's sport for those who don't have the God-given ability to fight.

"I offer the line of Sports One promotions, where we promote fights.. as well as spread out into other sports," he said. "We can teach these kids how to manage boxers. I've put together a flow chart to list everything that could go wrong in boxing."

See ISSAC on page 3B

Garinger's Vanderhorst overcomes setbacks

By Eric James Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

When an athlete overcomes adversity, he or she is labeled courageous. Jervay Vanderhorst has exceeded the definition.

In 1995, Vanderhorst was a backup point guard at Independence High. It was then that Vanderhorst was diagnosed with a liver disease. That December, he had life-threatening surgery and managed to return to the team for its stretch run in February. Although Vanderhorst had fully recovered, he became frustrated by a lack of playing time.

"When I was there, they didn't let me show my talents," he said. "While I was gone they were trying to boost my head up. But when I came back it was a different story."

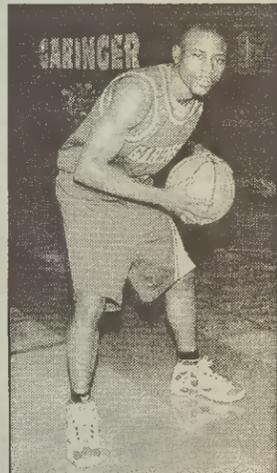
Feeling he needed a change of scenery, Vanderhorst transferred to Garinger (10-3, 4-2 Southwestern 4A), where he backs up point guard T.C. Futrell.

"I did remember him from last year. He was a defensive-type kid, and he gave our guards fits," Garinger coach Rick Lewis said. "Usually when someone comes in like that, you're leery, but Jervay is the typical point guard,

very quick, high intensity. He had liver disease and had surgery in the middle of the year, and he has made a remarkable turnaround."

A turnaround wasn't the only goal the 5-8 Vanderhorst had set for himself. He wanted to prove to his old team that he was capable of being an impact player. In a critical conference showdown,

See VANDERHORST on 3B



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Jervay Vanderhorst is a major contributor at Garinger.