

Sign 'em up
The Carolina Panthers were one of the NFL's best free agent shoppers. Story on page 2B.



Mike Tyson bites into the ear of Evander Holyfield in the third round of their WBA Heavyweight match Saturday in Las Vegas.

AP PHOTO/JACK SMITH

Boxing loses in bite to finish

By Ed Schuyler
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS - Evander Holyfield's right ear is in stitches, and Mike Tyson's boxing career is in tatters.

Iron Mike, the baddest man of the decade, went far beyond the bounds of even his violent sport and was disqualified after three rounds for biting Holyfield on both ears last Saturday.

"We don't know what's in store for Mike Tyson," said Jay Larkin, the man behind boxing for Showtime-SET, which still has a 1 1/2-year contract with Tyson. "We're waiting for a lot of answers."

Holyfield answered one question while he was at Valley Hospital having his ears repaired when he said that since he has beaten Tyson twice, there's no reason to fight him again.

Holyfield's attorney, Jim Thomas, said, "At this point in time we do not believe Mike Tyson deserves to be in the ring with somebody like Evander Holyfield."

As for suing Tyson for the bites, one of which took a one-inch hunk out of the right ear, Thomas said, "I believe the action of Mike Tyson was a tortious action. Whether Evander Holyfield wants to do anything

about that, we'll have to decide.

"Both of us feel for the good of this sport, which Evander has put a lot into over the years, there needs to be some consequences," Thomas said. "It's just been hours since somebody bit a piece out of my best friend. I should calm down before deciding what to do."

Tyson was contrite Monday, offering an apology to Holyfield, boxing fans and the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which held up Tyson's \$30 million purse pending an investigation. The commission met Tuesday to set a date for a hearing into the matter of fining and-or suspending

Tyson. "We could take 10 percent (of the purse) or \$250,000, whichever is greater," said Dr. Elias Ghanem, commission chairman. A suspension would be recognized by, at the least, major boxing states and organizations such as the British Boxing Board of Control.

Lt. Dennis Cobb of the Las Vegas Police Department indicated there would be no charges filed against Tyson for taking a swing at an officer during the post-fight melee in the ring. Don Turner, Holyfield's trainer, and Tim Hallmark, his strength coach, See BITES on page 3B

UNCC honors Moore

Named NCAA Woman of Year

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Sonya Moore has been selected UNC Charlotte's NCAA Woman of the Year, which recognizes academic achievement, athletic accomplishment and community service.

Moore, a track and field standout for the 49ers, will also be considered for North Carolina and national woman of the year awards.

A business administration major with a minor in African American and African studies, the former Bunker Hill High standout has been a dean's list student and member of the Metro Conference commissioner's list. She was the 1997 indoor track and field and 1997 outdoor most valuable performer.

Moore, a Claremont, N.C. native, holds UNCC records in the long jump (17.75 feet) and triple jump (37-10.5) and finished fourth in the Conference USA outdoor triple jump to become the first 49er to score in every conference championship meet of her four-year career.

Moore is president of Zeta Phi Beta sorority and served two years as publicity chair as well as parliamentarian. She participated in fundraising efforts for sickle cell anemia, March of Dimes and Make A Wish Foundation as well as voter registration and blood drives.

Griffey tops AL voting

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

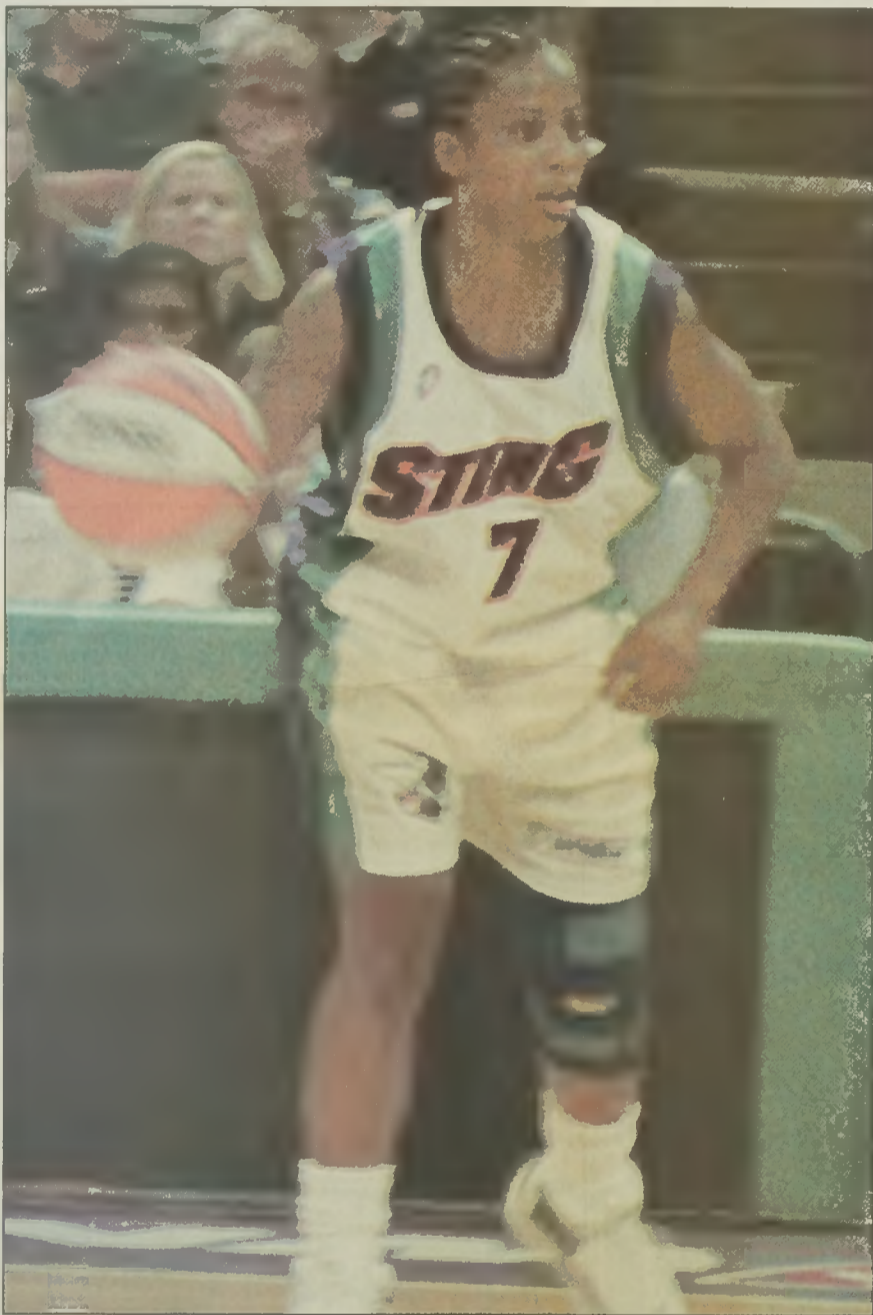
NEW YORK - Ken Griffey Jr. does not plan on missing the All-Star Game this year.

"I'm happy because this time I get to play," Griffey said Monday after he was elected to the American League All-Star team for the eighth consecutive year and topped the voting for the second straight time. "Oh, I shouldn't say that because I have seven more games left."



Griffey

The Seattle Mariners outfielder, who missed the last two All-Star games with injuries, got 3,514,340 votes in the final total released Monday - nearly a million more than any other A.L. player. He also was the leading vote-getter last year and in 1994. Once again, Griffey, who was See ALL-STARS on page 3B



PHOTO/HERBERT L. WHITE

Charlotte Sting guard Tora Suber, forced to play more due to an injury Milicia Vukadinovic, has improved in her first season as a professional. Suber had seven assists and just three turnovers in the Sting's 67-44 win over Cleveland Sunday.

Point taken

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Tora Suber's on-the-job training is starting to pay dividends. The Charlotte Sting point guard looked confused at times during the Sting's first three games, all losses. But Sunday, she played more confidently with seven assists, and six rebounds in Charlotte's 67-44 win over Cleveland. More important, she turned the ball over just three times in running the offense.

"I don't think you should get down on yourself because you're struggling," Suber said. "It's like everybody knows what you can do. It's just a matter of going out and getting the job done."

Suber's role has increased after Milicia Vukadinovic was placed on the injured list last week. Although the Sting struggled with poor shooting

Tora Suber's floor leadership a must for Sting

At a glance

What: Charlotte Sting vs.



Los Angeles Sparks.



When: Saturday, 2 p.m.

Where: Charlotte Coliseum.

How: Tickets

start at \$8 and can be purchased at all TicketMaster outlets or by calling 522-6500.

and lack of offensive rhythm, Suber wasn't ready to panic.

"I was kind of upset we took three losses, but there's always room to bounce back," she said. "I could see if that was the end of the road and we didn't have any other opportunity to come back, but there's a lot of kinks we needed to get out. We needed to find our chemistry, we needed to find our attitude."

Charlotte, which takes on the Los Angeles Sparks Saturday at 2 p.m. at Charlotte Coliseum, finally got its running game in gear against Cleveland. Part of the reason was defense, but Suber's improved play at the point was important.

"I thought she did a good job," Charlotte coach Marynell Meadors said. "One of the things that's been an achilles heel for us in the first two loss-

See SUBER on page 3B

West Charlotte point guard joins dad with Bulls

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Johnson C. Smith went for size and familiarity with three basketball signees.

The Golden Bulls signed forwards Antonio Wade and Benny Mars and point guard Steve Joyner Jr. to grants in aid, the first recruits for 97-98. Although Smith will have six returning players, including starting guards Chris Reese, Terrence Willoughby and Marquis Wright, Smith coach Steve Joyner Sr. said the Bulls are still looking to add more frontcourt size. The newcomers are expected to help create competition at Smith, which finished 9-17 last season.

"Our focus was on every position," Joyner Sr. said. "We expect to be at least three deep at every position this year."

Wade, a 6-7, 210-pounder from Stradford High in Charleston, S.C., was an all-state 3A selection. Mars is a 6-4, 280-pound junior college transfer and Steve

Joyner Jr., a point guard, led West Charlotte High to the N.C. 4A Western Region final, where the Lions lost to eventual state champion Independence.

"We think Steve is a very heady player and quite capable of running a team," the elder Joyner said. "Benny will come in and challenge heavily to start at the No. 4 position. He's a football-type body, but he's well-built and he gets up and down the court. He could start for us at that position."

Joyner's focus now will be on bringing in a center to give the Bulls a presence in the middle, something Smith has lacked in recent seasons. Noting that more CIAA teams are recruiting for size and defense, Joyner said getting a quality big man is always a priority.

"We're still looking to improve ourselves in depth and skill at the five position," he said. "We're always trying to get bigger because everybody in the conference is getting taller and bigger."



Joyner Sr.

Family troubles take sparkle out of Sanders

By Joe Kay
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI - Deion Sanders' personal life is affecting his play on the baseball field.

Sanders asked out of the Cincinnati Reds' lineup Sunday so he could have time to sit and reflect about his struggles at the plate, caused in part by his off-field problems. He got into the game late and made two outs in a 6-5 loss to St. Louis in 12 innings.

Sanders and his wife, Carolyn, filed for divorce in Texas last March. Sanders has asked the court for joint custody of their two children.

"My problems outside the game are affecting my game," Sanders said, after meeting with manager Ray Knight before the game.

The two-sport star made an impressive return to baseball last April after a one-year absence. Sanders hit .383 and stole 19 bases in April, his first baseball action since he left the game to play full-time for the Dallas Cowboys in 1996.

Since then, it's been basically downhill. He hit .252 in May and is batting .241 in June. He has only two hits in his last 31 at-bats, dropping his average to .294. He leads the National League with 35 steals but his on-base percentage - one of the best measures for a leadoff hitter - is an ordinary .344.

Perhaps the low point of his season came last Friday, when he went 0-for-4 and had a foul fly bounce off his head. Although Sanders laughed at the time, he has refused to talk about the misplay.

"I don't want to talk about no ball hitting me on the head," he said, after his closed-door meeting with Knight. "We just got done talking about life."

Sanders pinch hit and got two at-bats Sunday, when he struck out and flew out. He was back in the starting lineup Monday against Milwaukee.

"I asked (Knight) to take me out so I can sit back and relax and just watch," Sanders said. "I can't stand to think I'm not helping my team to win. That's the way I feel."

His main problem is that he's gone back to his old way of hitting - swinging at the first strike he gets. During his impressive April, Sanders was more patient at the plate and worked pitchers until he got something he could handle.

"I'm pressing right now," he said.