

Face it: We've gone cat-crazy

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Personal seat license owner Michael Hicks said he has been with the Panthers through the lean times, when the team was 1 and 15 to now when the entire city seems to be a fan of the blue and black. Hicks said he remember going to games where there were only 30,000 fans at home game. He smiled at the scene in front of him at the stadium.

"I didn't know this would happen so soon," he said. "No one gave us a chance to go this far, but look at us now."

Roars erupted from the crowd as a Charlotte firefighter jumped up on the top of a fire engine and waved a black and blue Panthers flag.

"This is great," said Antonie Archie as he walked past the stadium's gate to wait for the players and coaches to return. "I went to the first game they had here and I've never seen anything like this. Charlotte needed this excitement."

Excitement poured from ever corner of uptown. A sea of humanity poured from bars, restaurants, spilling over the sidewalks and into the streets. Many waved their hands, Panthers flags and T-shirts. Cameras flashed as fans snapped pictures of the crazy things they did, like jumping on the front of a fire engine that was stuck in traffic and dancing as if it was New Year's Eve.

"ESPN has to respect Charlotte!" one fan yelled as she ran through the crowd.

And Laverne Blue wanted to make sure her friends and family up north had a little added respect for Charlotte as well.

"I called everyone and rode through town with my cell phone to let them hear the city," she said.

The sound of the fans welcoming the NFC champions home.

Edwards looks to convert Iowa boost and regional ties into S. Carolina win

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Edwards has staked his candidacy, the push is on yet again for the coveted endorsement of South Carolina's only black congressman.

Such an endorsement could sway blacks, who are expected to make up as much as half of the electorate on Feb. 3.

Of the seven candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, Edwards, who finished a strong second in Iowa, has lavished the most attention on South Carolina, his native state.

He has made 18 visits in the past year and has stops scheduled Wednesday in Greenville and Friday in Columbia. He was the first to go on television with campaign commercials, in August, and has ads on black radio stations.

By contrast, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the Iowa winner, has not visited since Sept. 12 and does not expect to return

until after Tuesday's New Hampshire primary. He also has run no campaign commercials here.



Sharpton

to build support.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark and Sen. Joe Lieberman all have had TV ads up for weeks. In addition, these three candidates and Al Sharpton have campaigned often in the state.

"Skipping South Carolina has never been a consideration," DiMartino said. "Just because John Kerry is not there doesn't mean he's not campaigning there."

Clark and Sharpton cam-

paigned separately here on Monday, each calling for the Confederate flag to be removed from the Statehouse grounds.

Dean has stepped up his efforts in the state in the past two months, opening five campaign offices, hiring 50 full-time field workers and running radio and newspaper ads.

Clark and Lieberman, both of whom passed up Iowa to concentrate on other contests, have their sights set on South Carolina as well.

Edwards, who was born in Seneca, S.C., and was a boy when his family moved to North Carolina, is counting on winning the primary. And his finish in Iowa on Monday should help, political consul-

tants say.

"We had always thought South Carolina had to be his springboard. He went up and took a pretty big hop (Monday) night," said John Moylan, state chairman of Edwards' campaign. "The spring is already there."

Edwards is not taking the early momentum for granted, though, and is splitting the next seven days between South Carolina and New Hampshire.

"The people of South Carolina absolutely expect that their candidate will pay attention to them and not take them for granted," Moylan said. "I think candidates ignore South Carolinians at their own risk."

Exhibit chronicles 1954 school lawsuit

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the education and how they started a process that tore away part of American apartheid.

"This exhibit presents a special opportunity for everyone to learn how people in the Carolinas played a key role in one of the greatest struggles in American history," said Emily Zimmern, Executive Director of Levine Museum. "Visitors will experience how it was then, and what a powerful story came out of Summerton."

"Courage" was created by Darcie Fohrman and muse-

um historian Tom Hanchett. Fohrman designed "Daniel's Story" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Hanchett, who writes and lectures about the New South, developed Levine Museum's permanent exhibit, "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers."

Hanchett worked extensively with De Laine's children to make "Courage" a reality. DeLaine's daughter Ophelia, now a retired college professor in New Jersey, was 11 at the time of the lawsuit. Two sons live in Charlotte. The younger, B.B.

was 12 and is now a retired educator. Joe was 16 and is a retired chemist.

Exhibit visitors will witness the harsh realities of the segregated South. As they try to open the front doors, they will be faced with questions of separateness, and inequality. Once inside the exhibit, visitors will be transported back to "The Way It Was" in Clarendon County in the late 1940s, and then join Rev. De Laine and his neighbors as they fight for better schools.

The exhibit also tells the story of Judge Waties

Waring, a white South Carolinian who provided counsel and assistance, and Thurgood Marshall, the first black Supreme Court justice who organized much of the work that become Brown v. Board of Education. Marshall was the first legal counsel of what is now the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Exhibit admission is \$4 each in groups of 10 or more to \$6 for adults. For information or to make reservations for groups, call (704) 333-1887 or log on to www.museumofthenewsouth.org.



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