

Charlotte women look to build on growing success

By Eric Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte 49ers women's basketball team took some steps in the right direction this season.

With a new head coach, Amanda Butler, and playing in a new conference, the Atlantic 10, the 49ers managed to achieve a lot. Butler was named coach of the year, and Charlotte went 21-9 making it to the Women's National Invitational Tournament. Even though the 49ers lost in the second round to Western Kentucky 81-68, Charlotte captured its first tournament win at home beating James Madison 70-62.

Senior guard Sakellie Daniels, who scored 21 points in her final game for Charlotte, said the seniors' legacy was making the post-season an annual event.

"We've made history this year," Daniels said. "All four of our years, the seniors have made history."

Daniels averaged 14.9 points per game, and 5.6 rebounds, in her final season of play as she paced the 49ers to a 13-2 record at home, while going 8-0 in conference games in 2006.

Still Daniels had the help of senior center Pam Brown who averaged 12.9 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.



PHOTO: CURTIS MARTIN

Charlotte senior Sakellie Daniels helped lead the school to four straight postseason appearances.

Brown has been thrilled with the four years she has spent playing with Daniels, Andrea Davidson, and Krystion Obie.

"I couldn't have asked for better teammates or a better coaching staff," Brown said. "That's what we have had here and I've enjoyed it."

Obie, a 6'2 center who has had a career mired by four knee surgeries, relished every moment of the post season this year.

"Of course we wanted to go to the NCAA tournament, but we got our first tournament win at home and that

has never been done in Charlotte basketball history," she said. "I gave it my all knowing that this could be the last time I ever pick up a basketball."

Andrea Davidson, a forward from Gainesboro, Tenn, said the post season was an opportunity to elevate the 49ers.

"The post season is more competitive, and for the seniors it meant a lot more to us to take Charlotte to the next level that we are trying to get the program to," Davidson said.

Amateurs put on Golden Gloves

North Carolina's top amateur boxers will square off in Charlotte this weekend.

The 73rd annual N.C. Golden Gloves tournament will be held Friday and Saturday at Sugaw Creek Recreation Center. Boxers from Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg will compete, as will Charlotte Boxing Academy, one of the state's top programs.

Novices over age 18 with less than 10 bouts will compete for individual and team trophies. Two women and Junior Olympic (ages 10-16) bouts will be contested. Bouts will start at 6:30 p.m. both days. Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Herbert L. White

COMMENTARY

Shock, awe: T.O.'s a changed man

By Tim Dahlberg
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And they say politics makes strange bedfellows.

Football does too, and it doesn't get any stranger than the marriage of a desperate football player and an even more desperate team in Dallas.

Terrell Owens playing for Bill Parcells, Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys? What's next, Jerry Rice competing in ballroom dancing on national television?

Oh, wait, that already happened, and it wasn't always pretty.

This could get a whole lot uglier.

"Get your popcorn ready because it's going to be a show," Owens promised Saturday.

There's little doubt about that. But don't expect this show to be long running, unless you're taken in by the

new public persona Owens dragged out for the press conference with Jones announcing his signing.

In case you didn't tune in, it turns out the new TO is a team player only interested in winning. The new TO has learned from his mistakes and become a better man.

The new TO loves his new team, and apparently he really loves his new owner.

"These guys have fallen in love already," agent Drew Rosenhaus gushed. "On the jet here the bond they established was moving ... moving."

The new TO hasn't yet found a cure for cancer, but he's got three years and \$25 million to work on it. That's the contract the Cowboys signed him to, beating out, if you believe Rosenhaus, six other teams for his services.

Assuming Owens can last three years, that is. He spent less than two in

Philadelphia, playing in just 21 games and acting like such a moron that he was finally kicked off the team.

Among other things, Owens called his last quarterback a quitter, and implied the one before that was gay.

Forgive Drew Bledsoe if he's busy this week looking for a therapist.

"I've always been a good teammate," Owens insisted. "You can't believe what you hear all the time."

Not when it comes from Owens you can't. Just two years ago almost to the day he was talking about how excited he was to be playing with Donovan McNabb and how he thought he would fit in real nice with the Eagles.

On Saturday he sat next to Jones and talked about how excited he was to be playing with Bledsoe and how he thought he would fit in real nice with the Cowboys.

4Runner sprints to the front

WINFRED B. CROSS

Test Drive



Toyota's 4Runner may not immediately pop to mind for some looking for a top-notch SUV, but it should.

There are sexier vehicles with gaudy grills and lavish appointments, but few of them are actually built to go off road. Most have morphed into kinder, gentler things that look good on the road but are merely serviceable in the woods.

Despite having a smooth ride on pavement, the 4Runner is still truckish. The body-on-frame design and boxed ladder frame make it rough and tumble. I, of course, didn't take it in the woods because there's nothing there for me to see. But

there's comfort in knowing this thing will crush earth if need be.

Most will use the 4Runner for a daily commuter, which it performs nicely. My test vehicle was a Limited with a gutsy, but thirsty 4.7-liter V8 engine. The 260 horsepower is enough to launch the vehicle with near sports car thrust. The 306 pounds-feet of torque allows you to yank a lot of stumps or tow 7,300 pounds.

The interior will accommodate five people. An optional third row of seats is available, but cuts down on cargo space and is suited best for children. As a five-seater, you can achieve 75 cubic feet of storage by folding the second row of seats. That's under competitors like Explorer or Durango, but good enough.

The Limited was equipped with four wheel drive and a truckload (pun intended) of

standard stuff. Four-wheel disc brakes with antilock, 18-inch wheels, front air bags, Hill Start, skid plates, stability control with traction control, dual zone climate control, remote keyless entry, leather seats, leather wrapped steering wheel and a premium stereo with CD changer. Options included front side air bags, front and rear roll-sensing curtain air bags, and a premium JBL stereo packaged with a DVD-based, voice activated navigation system equipped with a rear backup camera.

Those options take the \$38,885 base price to \$42,230. That puts the vehicle right in the same league with tricked Explorers, Trailblazers and Durangos. None of those vehicles have the 4Runner's pedigree for trouble-free service, so that makes this vehicle a no-brainer.

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