

Sting optimistic going into opener

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last five points, putting them in the win column. Tye'sha Fluker did not attend Friday's game in San Antonio, as she was in Knoxville, TN participating in the graduation exercises at the University of Tennessee.

Bogues chose to rest veterans Tangela Smith and Sheri Sam in the Friday match up. In their preseason opener on May 3, in Houston, Bogues sat Sam, Smith, and veteran Tammy Sutton-Brown, to see what a rookie dominated squad could do. Though

rookie experiment ended in a 77-66 loss to the Comets, Leuchanka led the Sting with 22 points, and Currie added 10 points and five rebounds. At home on May 3, Currie continued her impressive preseason performance, adding 18 points in the Sting's 85-66

loss to the Indiana Fever. It hasn't just been the rookies leading the way during the preseason; Sutton-Brown pulled down eight boards, and tacked on 15 points on May 9, only her second game since returning from playing in Russia over the off season.

The Sting's 1-3 preseason put them in last place in the Eastern Conference, but still better than Los Angeles, which went 0-2.

This weekend the team's preseason preparation will be tested, as the players' suit up to face the Chicago Sky in their season home opener, 6pm Saturday at the Bobcats Arena.

"We have very talented rookies and our core group has played together long enough that we should be a better team this season," said veteran guard Allison Feaster. "We have confidence in each other and confidence in our younger players and it's very encouraging."

Prior to the game, The Sting will be retiring the number 32 jersey of three-time WNBA All-Star Andrea Stinson. Stinson, one of the best players in the Sting's 10 year history, and a graduate of North Mecklenburg High, is happy about the honor.

"I've always been treated as one of the family (in Charlotte)," said Stinson. "I've had a wondrous career and have enjoyed myself over the years. I just want to be known as a player who loved the game of basketball and loved playing in the WNBA."

Glenn serves notice in sprints

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level for the past couple of years now," says sprint coach Trent Guy, who works with Glenn. "She is a more seasoned runner which makes for a better race. Gabby Glenn does not know what competition is because around here she runs according to who she is running

against. Unfortunately, in her 100 she might suffer a little because her competition in the region wasn't up to par. However, the 200 training and the combo attacks that we did got her prepared to drop (to) at least 53 (seconds) in states this year."

Glenn says Guy has helped her success by making her a

more technical sprinter. "Trent has been an excellent asset, he has taught me so much."

Outside of track, Glenn also plays basketball and tennis. She is interested in attending Hampton or Howard to study pre-med.

FIGHT TO THE FINISH



PHOTO/WAIDE NASH

Vance High's Rico Bell, West Charlotte's Edward Alexander and Archie Barrow of Reynolds sprint to the finish of the boys' 800 meter relay at the N.C. 4A West regional track and field meet last week at North Mecklenburg. West Charlotte won the event.

Former Grambling star impresses Saints coaches

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Eugene smiled when he heard about Payton comparing his body to that of an offensive lineman. "That's coach Payton," Eugene said.

Eugene's weight didn't prevent him from being involved in practice. He got as many repetitions as any quarterback at camp and uncorked numerous strong throws.

"You can see his arm strength throwing the ball. He's just got to work a little

bit on his accuracy and his location," Payton said. "But he does have a strong arm. We'll see."

Eugene, a New Orleans native, put up stunning passing numbers at Grambling, once throwing for 618 yards and seven touchdowns in a 50-7 blowout of Prairie View A&M last season. He threw for 4,408 yards and 56 touchdowns in the Southwestern Athletic Conference last season.

He was not drafted but was

among the first to agree to a rookie free-agent contract with New Orleans within hours after the draft had ended.

"It's an honor to play for the hometown team. This is a dream come true for me. I'm going to do what I have to do to make the team," said Eugene, who grew up in the St. Thomas housing projects, which no longer exist. "I just love the Saints. I always did and when I got the chance, I just jumped on it."

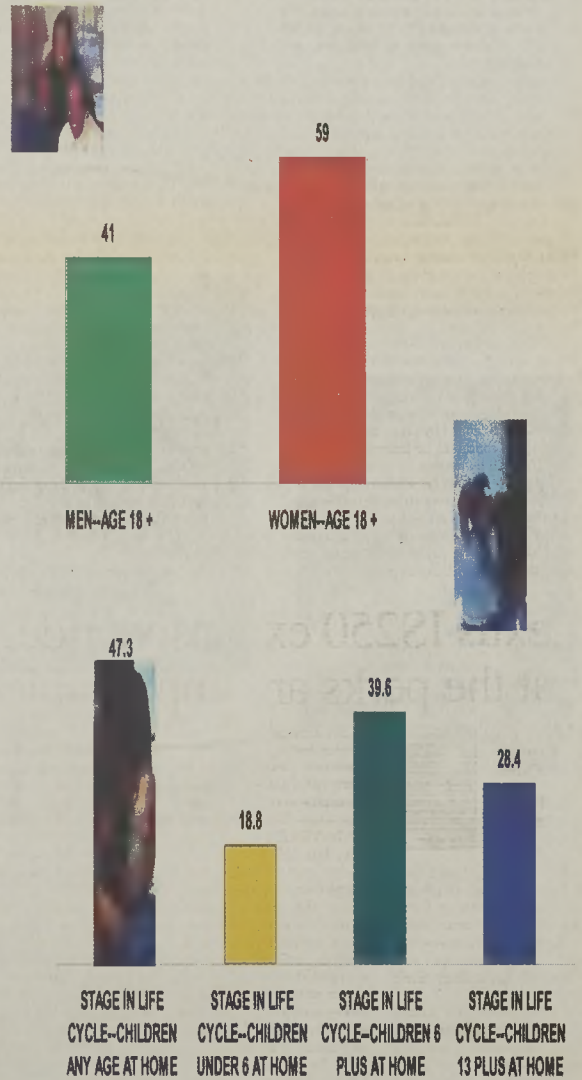


Former Grambling quarterback Bruce Eugene impressed New Orleans Saints coaches at minicamp, but his weight - 255 pounds - is too heavy.

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