

# Professional athlete trades hoops for hammer

Continued from page 1A  
program with the WNBA that assists players with finding jobs on the off-season.

## Breaking ground on M.L. King Memorial

Continued from page 2A

press and the government for his work. But that is not important now, he said.

"Dr. King spent his life fighting the wounds of the nation's original sin," he said. "This man gave his life to serving others."

The ceremony, conducted in an area off the Tidal Basin of the Potomac River and adjacent to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial, was presided over by journalist Soledad O'Brien and television and radio commentator and host Tavis Smiley. Thomas J. Hilfiger, principal designer of the Tommy Hilfiger Group; Gary L. Cowger, president, General Motors North America and Oprah Winfrey, president/CEO, HARPO Inc., was among the speakers from corporate America who donated millions of dollars to the building of the memorial.

Dr. King's oldest daughter, Yolanda, gave a stirring speech on the purpose of her father's life.

"If you notice the first three letters of the word 'King,' you will notice that the word is 'kin,'" she said. "My father was a king, but he labored at the feet of servants."

This was perfect for Darling because while in Cleveland, she was involved in various community services.

Although Darling is yet to actually build a house since her internship started, one project she is determined to excel within Habitat is raising money for its annual holiday card program. The festive holiday cards can be sent to friends, families and clients.

The donation cost is \$10 or more per card and the proceeds goes towards building homes for people. The cards are sent to everyone that you list, and all those receiving cards will know that you have made a donation in their honor to help build a home. The deadline for Habitat to receive mailing

lists for the Holiday Card program is December 15.

Darling says that some of the future homeowners with Habitat for Humanity volunteer and hand write labels and addresses for this project. Last year, Habitat raised \$27 thousand for the holiday card program; Darling wants to exceed that by at least \$10 thousand this year.

Although Darling admits to not having the construction skills to actually build a home, the folks at Habitat assured her that she would do just fine. And even though Darling had to refresh her computer skills, she was ready to jump into her new position with Habitat.

"I was truly excited. I was a little nervous," said Darling about her new role. However,

the folks at Habitat remedied her butterflies. She says she's surrounded by a good group of people at Habitat.

"They love and have joy in what they're doing," Darling said.

Although Darling has volunteered most of her life, working for Habitat has been different. "I get a better appreciation for (volunteering)," she said.

Bert Green, executive director of Habitat Charlotte stated on the WNBA website, "This unique partnership with the Charlotte Sting has been a true inspiration to our volunteers as well as homeowners."

Even though basketball is Darling's current career, it isn't the only one. "I don't want basketball to be my

whole life," she said. "I want to be established."

Established for Darling means completing her novel, staying involved in sports/marketing and working on her hair care line for active women.

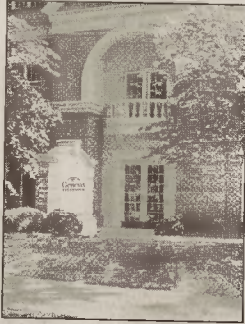
Darling is always thinking of all of her possibilities and talents outside of the court. She wants to be able to provide the best future for her

two sons and daughter: financial and otherwise.

"I want to be one of those women who can donate \$10 thousand dollars to organizations like Habitat for Humanity. If I could do that, I would be set; I'd feel great."

If you would like to donate to Habitat for Humanity's Holiday Heart Card program, please contact Helen Darling at hdarling@habitatcharlotte.org.

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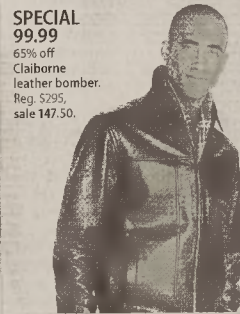
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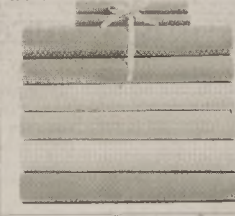
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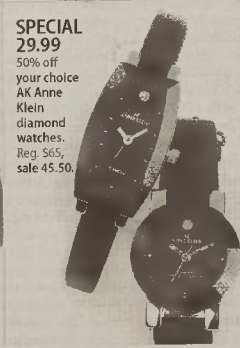
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