

Sports

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

SECTION C



HERO WORSHIP/6C

Comic books aren't just for kids today, and African American artists are making their way in the industry.

Move adds spice to CIAA

Pairing Shaw and St. Aug's in West renews intense rivalry

The CIAA conference office did some marketing job in announcing Shaw's move back to the Western Division.



BONITTA BEST

The last thing the media heard was a proposal by the volleyball coaches at last month's spring meeting requesting that the Bears replace the departing N.C. Central.

Next thing you know, St. Augustine's is sending out its football schedule announcing Shaw's relocation. As usual, we are the last to know anything.

But who cares, Shaw vs. St. Aug's is back!

Yes, there's always basketball but any true sports fan will tell you that football is what gets the juices flowing. Whomever wins that game sets the tone for basketball season. And let's face it, with the way Shaw women and St. Aug's men have dominated the series recently, basketball has lost some of its luster.

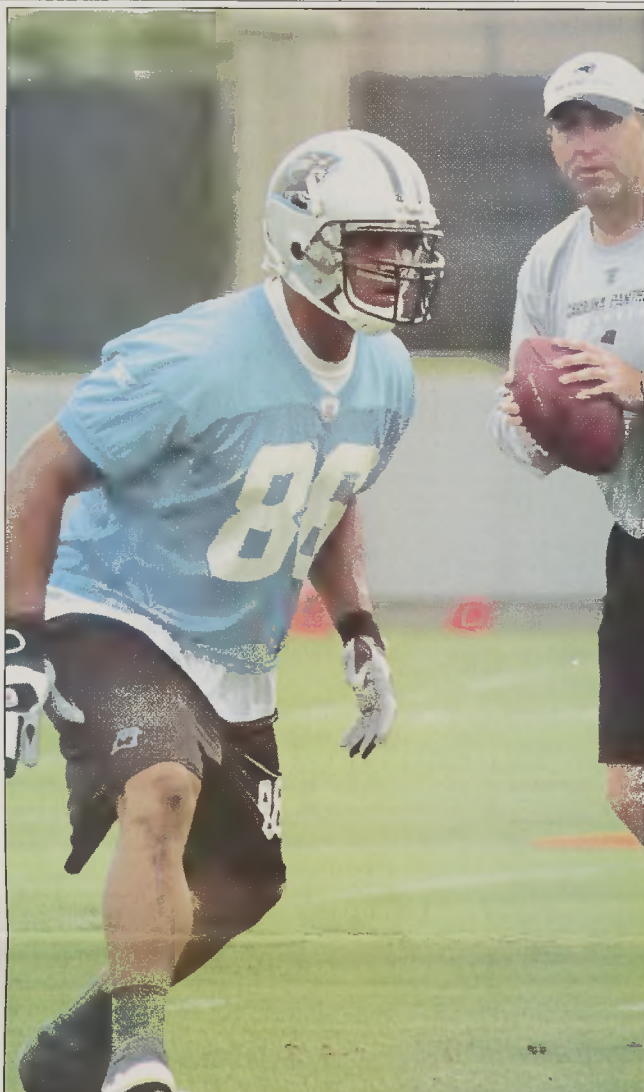
Football is different, however. Before the two schools went stupid and skipped each other in 2006 - their renewed football rivalry was a boon for both the campuses and the conference.

Let's take a trip down memory lane.

Both reinstated their football programs in 2002 after a 36-year hiatus by St. Aug's and 24 years by Shaw. The Bears decided to play a club season, while the Falcons jumped right into a tough conference schedule. That big leap cost them, with an 0-8 record, while Shaw went 7-3.

But the highlight of that first year was a last-second field goal by Shaw's Chester Charles that gave the Bears a 17-15 come-from-behind win. Then, depending on which athletic director you ask, the other player threw a

Please see MOVE/2C



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Carolina Panthers tight end Dante Rosario also played H-back, tailback and fullback at Oregon. He found his niche as a tight end, where he caught 42 passes as a senior - the most for a Ducks' tight end in school history.

Jack of many trades

Panthers rookie Rosario has range to play multiple positions

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Dante Rosario wasn't limited to being a good college tight end.

That could be his ticket to the Carolina Panthers, too.

Rosario, a 6-4, 240-pound rookie tight end from Oregon, is Carolina's latest attempt at plugging an athletic and versa-

tile tight end into the offense. In new offensive coordinator Jeff Davidson's scheme, the tight end is actually an option, something that was almost an afterthought in previous seasons.

"I know the more you can do out here at different positions, the more playing time you're probably going to see on the field," he said Monday as the

Panthers continued team workouts in Charlotte.

At Oregon, Rosario saw plenty of time at four positions: H-back, tight end, tailback and fullback. In 49 games - 27 as a starter - he caught 94 passes for 1,003 yards and 11 touchdowns. As a senior, Rosario caught 42 passes, the most for

Please see VERSATILITY/2C

One giant leap to U.S. goal

Hampton's Yvette Lewis eyes national long jump title after NCAA win

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Yvette Lewis didn't think much about winning the NCAA women's triple jump last week. She hadn't leaped far enough to imagine the possibility.

The Hampton senior hadn't put together the explosiveness she needed to get to the top after qualifying for the national championships in Sacramento, Calif. On her final leap, Lewis uncorked a season's best 45 feet, 1/2 inch to earn the gold and become the first Pirate to win two track and field national championships. She's also a six-time all-America, with honors in the 100 meter hurdles and long jump to go with four in the triple jump.

"I didn't think of winning because I hadn't been jumping that well in the triple jump," Lewis said. "I was third or fourth going into the finals and I thought I didn't want to finish fourth like I did last year, so I thought I'd put everything into the last jump."

It was more than enough, topping the 44 feet, 10.25 inch leap by Stanford's Erica McLain. The outdoor title is Lewis' second national championship. She won the indoor title in 2006.

"The outdoor (means more) because I'd been jumping 43 feet," said Lewis, who also earned all-America honors in the 100 meter hurdles in Sacramento. "To jump 45 feet is a surprise to me."

The key was finding the form that made her an indoor champion in

Please see LEAP/2C



PHOTO/MARK SUITON

Hampton's Yvette Lewis won the women's long jump at the NCAA Division I track and field championships in Sacramento, Calif.

Noah puts stock in skill, not prediction

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joachim Noah isn't putting much faith in the numerous NBA mock drafts, many of which have him going eighth overall to the Charlotte Bobcats.

"I think mock drafts are a complete joke," said Noah, one of six players to workout Saturday for the Bobcats. "I have no idea who makes them. ... I think to me it's all a situation of what a team needs. I'd rather listen to the general manager, the guy who makes the pick."

Along with Noah, Virginia State's Avis Wyatt, Winthrop's Craig Bradshaw, Nevada's Nick Fazekas, Alabama's Jermareo Davidson and Creighton's Anthony Tolliver also worked out for the Bobcats on Saturday.

By all accounts the 6-foot-11, 232-pound Noah appears to be a good fit for the Bobcats, who have struggled to keep their big men healthy the last couple of years.

Noah, a junior from Florida who entered the draft early, went through a

Please see NOAH/2C

CHOICE CUT



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Bryson Cooper takes a swing during a Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation league coach's pitch baseball game at Revolution Park last Saturday. Bryson, 8, plays for the MLK White Sox.



Noah