



SPORTS BRIEFS

Reid heads back to Hive, signs deal with Charlotte

Former North Carolina basketball standout J.R. Reid agreed to a two-year deal with the Charlotte Hornets on July 16.

Ironically, Reid was Charlotte's fifth overall pick in the 1989 NBA Draft after choosing to forego his senior year at North Carolina. Reid earned some respectable numbers as a Hornet during his rookie season, averaging over 11 points and eight boards per game.

But Reid's output continued to decline through December 1992, when the Hornets traded him to the San Antonio Spurs.

Reid spent last year overseas, playing for PSG-Racing in Paris. His 18 points per outing helped the team to the French national title.

As a Tar Heel, Reid earned ACC Rookie-of-the-Year honors in 1987, was a consensus All-American as a sophomore and made the U.S. Olympic squad in 1988.

8 women's soccer stars to compete in Denmark

The North Carolina women's soccer team, which captured its 14th national championship last December, will send eight players to compete as part of the U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team in the Nordic Cup tournament, to be held Aug. 4-8 in Denmark.

Tar Heel standouts Lorrie Fair, Tiffany Roberts, Robin Confer, Laurie Schwoy, Cindy Parlow, Rebekah McDowell, Siri Mullinix and signee Meredith Florance will take part in the event.

The team is coached by Virginia's Lauren Gregg and will compete in four matches in five days in the tournament, which is considered the world's under-20 women's championship.

Ex-UNC women's cager signs on at Wake Forest

Stephanie Lawrence, who started on North Carolina's 1994 women's basketball national championship squad, has been named an assistant coach for the Wake Forest women's basketball team next season.

Lawrence is the top 3-point shooter in Tar Heel women's basketball history and has served as a student-assistant coach at North Carolina, a professional player in New Zealand and last season was an assistant head coach at Wingate College.

She, along with Fred Applin and Stacy Cox, will serve as assistant coaches to first-year Demon Deacon skipper Charlene Curtis.

Applin once was an assistant for North Carolina head coach Sylvia Hatchell. Last season, the Tar Heels claimed three victories over the Demon Deacons.

North Carolina beat Wake Forest at Carmichael Auditorium and at Reynolds Gymnasium in Winston-Salem during the regular season, and UNC won the teams' matchup in the first round of the ACC Tournament.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NFL needs minimum of free-agent trades

Teams in the National Football League started training camp last week to prepare for the 1997-98 football season.

The preseason will kickoff this weekend with three exhibition games on Saturday and one on Sunday.

Owners, general managers and coaches have a lot of work ahead of them. Negotiations of contracts for unsigned veterans and rookies need to be wrapped up, and rosters must begin to be trimmed.

But an integral part of the NFL's off-season ended July 15. That day marked the end of the five-month free agency period.

The idea behind free agency in sports is to allow players to have a firm control over the future of their careers.

In the past, organizations had too

much power over their players, and athletes fought long and hard for a system in which they had some power. Free agency was, in itself, the cause of the tremendous increase in athletes' salaries over the past 25 years.

Recently, professional sports like football have suffered from the system's effects. Players began skipping around the league like stones, which decreased team continuity and brought down the



HARRISON RAND
HOP ON THE GUS BUS

level of play despite the increase in overall talent.

The free-agency period prior to this season, however, saw fewer veteran free agents signing with new teams since the implementation of the current free-agency system, including the Collective Bargaining Agreement, in 1993.

Only 89 veteran free agents left their old organizations behind this season. That number represents only five percent of the NFL's entire player pool.

Hopefully, this will be a continuing trend, since GMs are coming to realize the importance of teamwork and camaraderie over talent alone.

Just two years ago, 179 free agents signed contracts with different organizations from those they had played for one season prior.

That was the highest number of free

agents switching teams in league history. Last year, that number dropped to 105, and this year, to 89.

An obvious example of a free agent taking advantage of the system for his own good is Deion Sanders.

"Prime Time" signed a one-year deal with San Francisco for the 1994-95 season in which the 49ers won the Super Bowl. He then signed a seven-year deal with the Cowboys, who won the Super Bowl the very next season.

If all of the athletes in the NFL had the natural ability of a Deion Sanders, constant trading would not impact the level of play. But, of course, that is not the case.

For the good of the NFL, players should try to start and finish their careers in the same city when possible. Lions running back Barry Sanders is

doing just that. He signed a six-year deal Monday with Detroit. Sanders is easily one of the best backs in league history. The 29-year-old is already seventh in all-time rushing yardage.

Certainly, he would like to have a Super Bowl ring, and other teams would love to have him in their backfield, but he is sticking with a team that went 5-11 last season.

Moreover, Sanders will also be working under a new coaching staff, as Bobby Ross filled Wayne Fontes' old position.

The free-agency system was developed for good reason. The system must be kept intact to ensure that organizations are not able to take advantage of their athletes.

But minimizing free-agent trades is clearly in the best interest of the league and its fans.

Women's crew coach eager to hop on board UNC ship

BY HARRISON RAND
SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina is respected throughout the country because of the success of its athletics programs.

Since the inception of the Sears Directors' Cup in 1993-94, UNC has placed lower than second only once.

With such success comes pressure for all coaches to field the best teams they can in order to better Tar Heel athletics.

Joel Furtek is ready for such a challenge.

Furtek will be the first coach of UNC's varsity women's rowing team. And now that he has finished work on his masters of education in exercise physiology at UVa., he is eager to get to Chapel Hill and get the ball rolling.

"We are going to be looking for anyone and everyone who is willing to train hard and wants to become a national champion," Furtek said. "Realistically,

we'd like to be competing for a national championship in four or five years. Ideally, three years. In any case, we will be competitive this year."

The first meeting for tryouts will be August 24, although a definite time and place have not yet been determined.

The new coach said he expects about 30 of the women who participated in club crew last year to step in with five incoming freshmen who have prior rowing experience.

One of the freshmen has been a member of the United States junior national team.

Furtek emphasized the fact that there are still plenty of spaces to be filled for the team, regardless of experience with the sport or not.

At UVa., Furtek served as the novice coach for four years. His task was to teach freshmen and any other students the basics of a sport in which they had never previously competed.

The Cavaliers came in fourth in the NCAA's this past season. And much of the team's success is due to Furtek's earlier instruction of its varsity team members at the novice level.

With the size of the student body and the current club program, Furtek said he was excited about the possibilities of pulling together a strong team at UNC.

"We want to keep as many women as we can without diluting our coaching," Furtek said.

He estimated that 60 total athletes would earn spots on the team.

"For the first year, the number one goal is to get the program running," Furtek said, adding that UNC was lacking in equipment due to the fact that this is the first year crew is a varsity sport.

Boats, oars and rowing machines are on the top of his list. The team will be training at University Lake, just off Jones Ferry Road.

"The main disadvantage is the

length," Furtek said.

There are only about 2,700 meters of rowable water on the lake, he said.

On the other hand, no motor boats are allowed on the lake, so the team won't have to worry about too much

wake during practice.

And because it won't freeze year-round, UNC boasts a small advantage over teams in the North who have to deal with colder temperatures throughout the year.

Slimmer Daly readies for comeback

John Daly, who won the 1991 PGA Championship, is fighting alcoholism.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROMWELL, Conn. — A trimmed-down John Daly is preparing for a return to PGA competition following a five-week absence that started with his abrupt withdrawal from the U.S. Open.

Accompanied by his familiar crushing drives is another commitment to sobriety, and a push to get back to having fun with the game that thrust him into the spotlight after winning the PGA Championship six years ago.

"Everybody for the last three years has been saying go out and have fun. It's easy to say that," Daly said Tuesday while practicing at the TPC at River Highlands, site of this week's Greater Hartford Open.

"The only fun I used to have is what got me suspended," he said.

His golf bag carries more than just his clubs this time, bearing the words

"God, Serenity, Courage, Wisdom." Daly said he has been attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as often as five days a week.

Daly, 30, was suspended in 1993 after quitting during the second round of the Kapalua International. After fighting with a 62-year-old man at the World Series of Golf in August 1994, he agreed to sit out the rest of the year.

He underwent alcohol rehabilitation for the second time in four years after a drinking binge at the Players Championship in March.

The rocky road continued at the U.S. Open last month when he quit at the turn in the second round. He said he withdrew because of shakes brought on by anti-depressant medication.

The once beefy Daly, slimmed down to 198 pounds and sober since March, said things will be different this time around.

"I feel good, and my game is solid," he said. "It'll be a little different because I haven't played in a month and a half, but I'm not going to worry about what I'm going to shoot. I'm just going to go

out and play and see how I feel. There's no goals these days, except sobriety."

Tennis, swimming and dieting have helped Daly shed more than 40 pounds in four months.

He and caddy Brian Alexander arrived in Connecticut on Monday after a nearly 19-hour drive from Tennessee. They spent the previous three weeks working on every aspect of Daly's game.

The Daly that will tee off during Thursday's first round is a more mellow man, Alexander said.

"It's all going to work out for the best," Alexander said.

There were no shakes Tuesday as a steady Daly, cigarette dangling from his mouth, drained 10-foot putts on the practice green.

"The mental thing really wears on all of us to an extent," Daly said. "It just kills your mind. Everyone thinks it's all glamorous. ... It takes a lot out of each individual here."

On Tuesday, Daly played in a nine-hole Skins Game — paired with Fuzzy Zoeller — and his walloping tee shots were once again crowd-pleasers.

Lang commits to UNC

STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina men's basketball team learned July 16 that it will be getting some help in the paint for the 1998-99 season.

That help will be center Kris Lang of Gastonia, who has made an oral commitment to attend UNC after his senior year at Hunter Huss High.

The rising senior is 6-foot-10 and weighs 230 pounds. He is currently the top prep player in the state and is regarded as one of the top 25 players in the nation by most publications. Lang averaged 16 points, nearly 10 rebounds and 4 blocks per game during his junior year.

He has been touted as the best player to come out of Gastonia since Tar Heel and Laker hoop star James Worthy.

The center chose Chapel Hill over N.C. State and Wake Forest. Lang made his decision while taking part in the ABCD basketball camp, an Adidas-sponsored instruction school in New Jersey. Lang fills the only scholarship slot left at UNC for the 1998-99 season. Spots might open up if Antawn Jamison or Vince Carter decide to leave early.

Basketball hopefuls can make an oral commitment before signing a national letter of intent. Such commitments are not binding. The signing period for letters of intent begins Nov. 11.

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