



Fight Night for Kids 2004



Our 5th Annual Fight Night for Kids will take place on Thursday, **January 22, 2004** at the Charlotte Convention Center. We are very excited about the scheduled appearances of Country Music Star **Shannon Brown**, Jake "Raging Bull" **LaMotta**, Boxing Announcer **Jimmy Lennon** and many local celebrities! Charlotte media personalities **Mark Packer** and **Larry Sprinkle** will again serve as Emcee and Guest Auctioneer, respectively. Fabulous

live and silent auction items will also be available, all in an effort to raise money for the **Victory Junction Gang Camp** and other local children's charities. Over the last four years, this great event has raised more than \$260,000!

Table sales are going fast! As of December 21, there were **less than ten tables left** for this fantastic spectacle! We'd like you to join us, so call Jeff Beaver at **704-332-7717** to reserve your table today!

Thanks to all who have already purchased their tables, and a spe-

cial thank you goes to our 2004 Fight Night sponsors: **Diamonds Direct**, **Beck Imports of the Carolinas**, **First American Title Company of the Carolinas**, **Residence Inn Charlotte Uptown**, and **Rose Limousine, LTD.**



Charlotte's own Calvin Brock at the 2003 Fight Night for Kids

Bulldogs Triumph in Military Classic *Presented by Bank of America*

The weather was great, the parade was inspiring and the B-1 flyover rocked Charlotte. Then we had a great football game! The annual meeting between the Citadel Bulldogs and VMI's Keydets was won by the Citadel 27 - 23, and the Silver Shako was passed back to the Citadel from VMI until their next meeting. The Military Classic of the South, presented by Bank of America, was a classic back-and-

forth game that was tied at 7-7, 14-14 and then 21-21. The



The Silver Shako is presented to The Citadel after the game.

game was decided with 18 seconds left, when senior Citadel quarterback Willie Simmons faked to fullback Porter Johnson rolled right and threw to Scooter Johnson in the end zone for the touchdown. This gave us an exciting ending to a very exciting day! Thanks to all our sponsors for making this a great success, especially our presenting sponsor, **Bank of America!**

Letter from Jeff Beaver, Executive Director

It seems like I was just putting my thoughts together to review 2002 when I realized it was time to do the same for this past year! Indeed, 2003 was a great year for all of the Charlotte Sports scene, and we are extremely fortunate to be a part of the many exciting events that took place.



New were the PGA's Wachovia Championship, held at The Quail Hollow Club; the Panthers Countdown to Kickoff

Luncheon, co-hosted with the Charlotte Touchdown Club; and the Big Country Foundation Back Home BBQ. All three of these events raised much needed funds for deserving charities and causes. The Charlotte Bobcats got a name, the USA Canoe and Kayak Governing Body got a new home, and the Charlotte region was awarded a new national event, the Citgo Bassmaster Classic, to be held in the

summer of 2004.

"Fight Night for Kids" and the Military Classic of the South, presented by Bank of America drew thousands of attendees, and our annual Birkdale Collegiate Golf Classic, High School Leadership Summit, and Crown Cup Junior Golf Invitational all met with a great deal of enthusiasm and success. Have a great 2004 and thanks again for your support!

The Charlotte Regional Sports Commission promotes the Charlotte Region by creating sporting events, recruiting and supporting sporting events and organizations, and encouraging community involvement. These efforts are intended to result in a positive economic impact on the region and to improve its quality of life.

2004 Legacy Basketball Classic

For four years Charlotte has hosted the best teams from America's Historically Black colleges. "More than a Game" is no mere motto for the LBC. Each year they help the Charlotte region celebrate the National Holiday that honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With events that bring civic leaders, educators, celebrities and the entire community together.

Each year, in conjunction with national and local sponsors, the LBC brings together four of the best teams in Black College Basketball. It's an all out battle for bragging rights and a true show of camaraderie and team spirit. Join us this



year for a 5-day weekend of the best in sports entertainment, celebrity parties and community building. **Be there for LEGACY 2004.**

Each year, thousands of people come to experience one of Charlotte's finest sports events. But the Classic also endeavors to increase community outreach and teen involvement. With your help, the LBC can continue to impact the lives of students in our neighborhoods and throughout the southeast

Legacy Basketball Classic Schedule
Charlotte Coliseum
Sunday, January 18, 2004

Game 1: 3:30pm
N.C. Central vs. Livingstone College

Game 2: 5:30pm
Winston-Salem State vs. Johnson C. Smith

with events like *Teen Summit* and College Fairs.

With over 12,000 in attendance in 2003, you can expect big things for Legacy 2004. For more information and a complete schedule of weekend activities, click on the Legacy Basketball Classic website (www.legacybasketballclassic.com). You can purchase tickets for the Legacy Basketball Classic at the Charlotte Coliseum and Cricket Arena box offices, or by contacting Ticketmaster (704/522-6500 or www.ticketmaster.com).

Dell Curry-Bank of America Basketball Shootout

Last year's 3rd Annual Dell Curry-Bank of America High School Basketball Shootout was an overwhelming "sellout" success. Reports show that approximately 14,000 spectators attended the event over the course of the 3-day tournament. Additionally, the event attracted over eighty college scouts, as well as some of the most respected high school basketball evaluators in the country.



This year's 4th Annual Dell Curry-Bank of America

High School Basketball Shootout will not only feature some of Charlotte's most highly acclaimed male and female players, but will also feature several players that are currently ranked among the nation's best.

Many of tomorrow's stars will suit up for the tournament to showcase their talents and lay claim to all the hype that they are truly some of the best prep players in the nation.

The 2004 Dell Curry-Bank of America

<p><i>Some of the Local Tournament Participants</i></p> <p><i>Charlotte Christian (B/G)</i> <i>Garringer (B)</i> <i>Vance (B/G)</i> <i>Victory Christian (B/G)</i> <i>Waddell (B)</i> <i>West Charlotte (B/G)</i> <i>South Meck (G)</i></p>	<p><i>National Tournament Participants</i></p> <p><i>Charlotte Latin</i> <i>Eastern Commerce</i> <i>Landmark Christian</i> <i>Laurinburg Institute</i> <i>Mount Zion Christian</i> <i>North Mecklenburg</i> <i>Our Savior New American</i> <i>Seagoville</i></p>
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Shootout will be held **January 1-3, 2004**, at the Beck Student Activities Center on the campus of **Charlotte Latin School**. Be sure to get your tickets early, as several hundred did not get to see the action last year.

You can purchase tickets at any Krispy Kreme location, the Arboretum Chick-fil-A, or by calling **704/332-KIDS**. For the complete tournament schedule, please visit www.dellcurryfoundation.com.

Corporate Member of the Quarter:

Charlotte Checkers

The Charlotte Checkers are members of the East Coast Hockey League and provide exciting family entertainment in Charlotte at Cricket Arena at incredibly reasonable prices! The Checkers are affiliated with the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League and the Hartford Wolfpack of the American Hockey League. This year's squad struggled early in the season; however, they have rebounded to win eight out of the last nine games to bring their record to 13-10-3 (as of 12/21).

A special thanks goes out to **Felix Sabates, Carl Scheer, Bob Scheer** and **Jeff Longo** for their continued support of sports in Charlotte and the Charlotte Sports Commission. For up-to-date Checkers information log on to www.gocheckers.com.

U.S. Diving 2004 World Cup Trials to be held in Huntersville

January 15-18, 2004

World-class diving will come to the town of Huntersville this January as it plays host to the 2004 World Cup Diving Trials. America's best divers and top 2004 Olympic hopefuls will compete for spots on USA Diving's World Cup Team. It will be the first major diving event ever to be held at the **Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatics facility**. The 2004 World Cup Diving Trials is a competition to select the USA Diving Team that will compete at the 14th FINA Diving World Cup taking place in Athens, Greece, from February 18-22. It is also



considered a preview of the U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Diving that will take place next June in St. Louis. Competition will be held in the men's and women's 3-meter springboard, 10-meter platform, synchronized 3-meter springboard and synchronized 10-meter platform. Don't miss this chance to see the best divers in the U.S. in heated, exciting competition. Competition begins on **Thursday, January 15** and continues through **Sunday, January 18th**. For more information, please call **704-766-2222**.

Cobras Begin 2nd Season in Charlotte

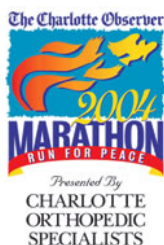
The Cobras kick off the 2004 season on Sunday, February 8 on the road against the Dallas Desperados. Carolina will open their home schedule on Saturday, **February 21** versus the Arizona Rattlers. Join head coach Eddie Khayat as he gets the Cobras off to a fast start! Season tickets are on sale now and start as low as \$64 per seat. For more information, call **877-4-COBRAS** or visit their website at www.cobrasfootball.com.



Sports Commission Congratulations to...

- PAL South Raiders...Pop Warner Pee Wee Division National Champions!
- Plaza Rams ...Pop Warner Midget Division finalist!
- Freedom Drive Broncos...Pop Warner Jr. Pee Wee Division National Champions!
- The Charlotte Checkers' Dave Inman ...named to the ECHL All-Star team!
- Providence High School...4A State Women's Cross Country Champions!
- Independence High School...4AA State Football Champions!
- Trudi Lacey...added General Manager position to her Head Coaching duties for the Sting.
- Panthers Stephen Davis, Todd Sauerbrun and Kris Jenkins...Named to the NFL's Pro Bowl.

Charlotte Observer Run for Peace Marathon



The 2004 Charlotte Observer Run for Peace Marathon, presented by Charlotte Orthopedic Specialists, will wind through Charlotte for 26.2 miles again this year on **Saturday, January 10th**! Proceeds from the race benefit The Family Center and United Family Services Shelter for Battered Women both of which provide counseling and assistance to those in

need. There will be marathons, a 5K walk and a 10K as well.

"Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time."
President Lyndon B. Johnson

For more information, or to register online, simply click on their website (www.runforpeace.active.com)! You can also receive a brochure and register by emailing runforpeace@cs.com.

N.C. retains 2003 Crown Cup

The 6th annual Crown Cup Junior Golf Tournament was held again this year at **Skybrook Golf Club** in Huntersville. This event is played in a modified Ryder Cup format between forty selected junior golfers from North Carolina and forty from South Carolina. North Carolina won for the second straight year, 50-1/2 to 45-1/2, making the series closer at 4-2 in favor of South Carolina. Harris Teeter, Nabisco, Coca-Cola and Bluegrass Promotional Marketing were supporting sponsors of these fine junior golfers from the Carolinas!

Charlotte Latin named High School Football Team of the Year

At the end of the past six years, the Charlotte Regional Sports Commission has honored an area prep football program as the region's "Team of the Year". This year's recipient **Charlotte Latin School** was definitely the Cinderella Story of 2003!

Last year the Hawks struggled to a disappointing 3-7 record, ending with a 43-point loss to archrival Charlotte Country Day School. This year, Head Coach Larry McNulty's Eleven resoundingly turned things

around. Led by 1,000 yard rusher Mark Paschal, Latin stormed to an 11-2 record and culminated their season with an NCISAA 3A State Title with a 26-14 victory over Country Day.

A qualified team may be a public or private school and must compete in the nine-county Charlotte Metro area.

Previous Team of the Year Winners

- 1997—**A.L. Brown**
- 1998—**Vance**
- 1999—**Butler**
- 2000—**Independence**
- 2001—**Piedmont**
- 2002—**Independence**

We do not **Award Banquet.**

necessarily look for the "best" team in the region; rather we especially look for that team which best exemplifies and positively represents the spirit of high school football in the Charlotte region. The "Team of the Year" Trophy was presented on December 8 at the annual **Bronko Nagurski**

"Team Players"

Names in **Bold** are new members. For information about becoming a "Team Player," call **704/332-7717**.

Weston Andress
Jerry Barron
Josh Beaver
Windsor Beaver
Scott Benson
Howard Bissell III
Tom Blake
Chris Brady
Mike Burnett
Don Burton
Brian Carney
Bobby Chesney
George Climer
Patrick Connor
Dan Cottingham
Clayton Curry, Jr.
Justin Dillashaw

Jim Doyle
Jimmy Ely
Ralph Falls
Rip Farris
Doug Foster
Steve Gallagher
Jim Grainger
Chad Grier
Andy Hall
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Donny Harrison
Charles Hodges
Chuck Hood
Rick Hopkins
Jay Howard
Larry Huelsman
Bill Hyder
David Jackson, Jr.

Nevio Jerlomic
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Jeff Kane
James Kelligrew
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John Mallory
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Rich Martin
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Bob Miller
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Cary Mitchell
Thomas Mooney

Stacey Moore
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Bill Plyler
Walker Poole
Allen Prichard
Jimmy Proffitt
Craighill Redwine, Jr.
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John Rocco
Russell Sutton
Bill Segarra
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Dick Stoeber
Andrew Tate
Bill Thompson
Rixey Todd
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Dennis Williams
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Executive Director
jbeaverCRSC@carolina.rr.com

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Director of Operations
mmistlerCRSC@carolina.rr.com

Bill McMillan
Director of Marketing & Business
Development
bmcmillanCRSC@carolina.rr.com

Laurie Certo
Office Manager/Asst. Event Coordinator
lcertoCRSC@carolina.rr.com

Tim Morgan
Administrative Intern
CRSC@carolina.rr.com

Two Wachovia Center, Suite 1590
Charlotte, NC 28282

Phone: 704/332-7717

Fax: 704/332-1252

2004 Birkdale Collegiate Golf Classic

The field has been set for the 2004 Birkdale Collegiate Golf Classic to be held on **March 12-14, 2004**. The 6th annual event, hosted by the Charlotte Sports Commission, will again be held at the **Birkdale Golf Club** in Huntersville. Team competing are:

- Akron
- Belmont Abbey
- Central Florida
- Charlotte
- Davidson
- East Carolina
- James Madison
- Maryland
- Miami (Ohio)
- Northern Illinois
- Old Dominion
- UNC Greensboro
- UNC Wilmington
- Virginia Commonwealth
- Wofford

Previous Birkdale Champions

- 1998—Columbus State
- 1999—North Carolina
- 2000—Virginia Commonwealth
- 2001—East Tennessee State
- 2002—Wake Forest
- 2003—North Carolina

All Girls Allowed

49ers versus TCU, 2/15/03

The Charlotte 49ers Women's Basketball Team will present the "All Girls Allowed" celebration on Sunday, February 15, 2004, as they host the TCU Horned Frogs in a 3:00 matinee at Dale F. Halton Arena. The game will also be televised on **ESPN2**. "All Girls Allowed" is an annual presentation to recognize National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which emphasizes the importance of parental involvement and athletics in the lives of young girls and women of all ages.

The event will include free admission for all youth (girls AND boys) 17 and under, with adult tickets priced at only \$5.00. The first 1,000 fans entering the arena will receive a limited edition **Katie Meier Bobblehead Doll**. In addition, goody bags will be given to the first 250 youth to register. All the kids will be invited to join the 49er Players and Coaches for an autograph and question/answer session after the game.

For more information, please call the Charlotte 49er Ticket Office at **704/687-4949**. Thanks for all the sponsors of this terrific event: Charlotte 49ers Athletic Department and the 49ers Women's Basketball Team, Nabisco, Wendy's, Chick-fil-A, Charlotte Sting, Charlotte Sports Commission, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Sports Commission Welcomes "Rufus"

The Charlotte Bobcats selected **Rufus** as the name for the team's new mascot! The Bobcats continued their great tradition of soliciting input from the community by establishing a voter's poll in their website and Rufus was the runaway favorite.

"We look forward to Rufus becoming as much a fixture in the Charlotte community as our players and coaches," said Ed Tapscott, Bobcats Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "From school visits to special events to entertaining performances on the court, Rufus will surely become a fan favorite for Bobcats supporters of all ages. Organizations wishing to schedule Rufus for a special event or function should call the Bobcats at **704/424-4131**."



The Charlotte Bobcats, who select fourth in the 2004 NBA Draft following an expansion draft of players from other NBA teams, will play their inaugural season in 2004-05 at the Charlotte Coliseum before moving to Charlotte's new Uptown Arena beginning with the 2005-06 NBA season. Make sure to visit the Bobcat's new marketing center located in the Hearst Tower and visit them online at www.nba.com/bobcats or **704-BOBCATS**.

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Piedmont Natural Gas

CHARLOTTE SPORTS CALENDAR

(* - Read more about these events in this issue of Insider Staff)

January 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ECHL - East Coast Hockey League AF: - Arena Football League MB - Men's Basketball WB - Women's Basketball				1 DELL CURRY SHOOTOUT *	2 DELL CURRY SHOOTOUT * ECHL: Trenton @ CHECKERS	3 DELL CURRY SHOOTOUT* MB: Birm. So. @ WINTHROP MB: Iona @ DAVIDSON WB: Ga. Sou. @ DAVIDSON MB: Va. Union @ JC SMITH
4	5 MB: Radford @ WINTHROP	6 MB: Citadel @ DAVIDSON	7 ECHL: Florida @ CHECKERS	8 WB: College of Chas. @ WINTHROP MB/WB: St. Paul's @ JC SMITH	9 WB: South Florida @ 49ERS	10 ECHL: Augusta @ CHECKERS MB: East Carolina @ 49ERS MB: VMI @ WINTHROP WB: East Tenn. @ DAVIDSON
11 WB: UAB @ 49ERS	12 WB: Chattanooga @ DAVIDSON MB/WB: Anderson @ QUEENS	13 MB: Western Carolina @ DAVIDSON MB/WB: Bowie State @ JC SMITH	14 WB: Furman @ DAVIDSON	15 MB/WB: Livingstone @ JC SMITH MB/WB: Limestone @ QUEENS	16	17 WB: UNC-A @ WINTHROP MB/WB: Coker @ QUEENS
18 MB: LEGACY BASKETBALL CLASSIC * NC Central @ Livingstone Winston-Salem @ JC SMITH	19	20 MB: Marquette @ 49ERS	21 MB: Charleston Southern @ WINTHROP	22 FIGHT NIGHT FOR KIDS *	23 ECHL: Greensboro @ CHECKERS	24 MB: UAB @ 49ERS ECHL: Gr'nville @ CHECKERS WB: Coastal @ WINTHROP MB: Elon @ DAVIDSON WB: College of Chas. @ DAVIDSON WB: Winston-Salem @ JCSU
25 WB: Charleston Southern @ WINTHROP	26	27 ECHL: So. Car. @ CHECKERS MB/WB: NC Central @ JC SMITH	28 MB: Saint Louis @ 49ERS WB: Bethune-Cookman @ WINTHROP	29 MB: St. Andrews @ QUEENS	30 ECHL: Florence @ CHECKERS	31 ECHL: Columbia @ CHECKERS WB: DePaul @ 49ERS MB: UNC-G @ DAVIDSON

February 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 WB: Marquette @ 49ERS	3 ECHL: So. Car. @ CHECKERS WB: App. St. @ DAVIDSON MB/WB: Va. State @ JC SMITH	4 MB: Coastal @ WINTHROP	5 MB/WB: Lees-McRae @ QUEENS	6	7 ECHL: Roanoke @ CHECKERS WB: Radford @ WINTHROP MB: College of Charleston @ DAVIDSON
8 ECHL: Augusta @ CHECKERS	9	10 MB/WB: St. Augustine's @ JC SMITH	11 MB: High Point @ WINTHROP	12 MB: Louisville @ 49ERS	13 WB: Houston @ 49ERS	14 ECHL: So. Car. @ CHECKERS MB: Ga. Sou. @ DAVIDSON WB: Elon @ DAVIDSON MB/WB: Pfeiffer @ COKER
15 WB: ALL GIRLS ALLOWED* TCU @ 49ERS ECHL: Roanoke @ CHECKERS	16 WB: Birmingham So. @ WINTHROP	17 ECHL: Greenville @ CHECKERS WB: UNC-G @ DAVIDSON MB/WB: Fay St. @ JC SMITH MB/WB: Mt. Olive @ QUEENS	18 MB: South Florida @ 49ERS MB: Liberty @ WINTHROP MB: Wolford @ DAVIDSON	19	20	21 ECHL: Greensboro @ CHECKERS AFL: Arizona @ COBRAS
22	23 MB/WB: Barton @ QUEENS	24	25	26	27 WB: East Carolina @ 49ERS	28 AFL: Orlando @ COBRAS MB: Cincinnati @ 49ERS MB: UNC-A @ WINTHROP MB: Furman @ DAVIDSON WB: Belmont Abbey @ QUEENS
29						

March 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 WB: Liberty @ WINTHROP	4	5 ECHL: Dayton @ CHECKERS	6 ECHL: Tulane @ CHECKERS MB: Tulane @ 49ERS WB: High Point @ WINTHROP
7	8	9	10 ECHL: Louisiana @ CHECKERS	11	12 BIRKDALE COLLEGIATE* ECHL: Louisiana @ CHECKERS	13 BIRKDALE COLLEGIATE* ECHL: Roanoke @ CHECKERS
14 BIRKDALE COLLEGIATE* AFL: Dallas @ COBRAS	15	16	17	18	19	20 ECHL: Alaska @ CHECKERS
21 Tampa Bay @ COBRAS	22	23	24 ECHL: Florida @ CHECKERS	25	26 ECHL: Florence @ CHECKERS	27 ECHL: Columbia @ CHECKERS
28	29	30	31			



Charlotte Regional Sports Commission
 Two Wachovia Center, Suite 1590
 Charlotte, NC 28282

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Wachovia Corporation

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BRONZE LEVEL

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 Kannapolis Intimidators
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 Mecklenburg Co. Park & Recreation
 Nabisco
 Odell Associates, Inc.
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 Westin Charlotte
 YMCA of Greater Charlotte