

SPORTS LOOK

Baseball

■ **COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Rich Gossage, one of baseball's premier relievers whose fastball intimidated hitters for 22 seasons, retired despite feeling he could still help some major league teams.

Gossage, 43, released by Seattle in October, was 124-107 in 1,002 games with 310 saves, 1,502 strikeouts and a 3.01 ERA. He also pitched for the Chicago White Sox, Pittsburgh, New York Yankees, San Diego, Chicago Cubs and San Francisco.

■ **SEATTLE** — The Seattle Mariners signed catcher Jason Varitek, selected 14th overall in the June draft, to a one-year deal believed to be worth \$650,000 to \$700,000.

The former Georgia Tech star, the Golden Spikes winner last year as the top college player, will be assigned to Class AA in Wilmington, N.C.

■ **MESA, Ariz.** — Brian McRae, traded earlier this month from the Kansas City Royals to the Chicago Cubs, agreed to a one-year contract for \$2.65 million. He had been eligible for salary arbitration.

■ **PEORIA, Ariz.** — The San Diego Padres signed second baseman Jody Reed to a one-year contract for \$200,000 with another \$300,000 in performance bonuses. Reed, 32, spent last season with Milwaukee.

NFL

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Joe Montana said goodbye again, this time to teammates and fans during a news conference at Arrowhead Stadium.

Montana, 38, who announced his retirement Tuesday in San Francisco, spent the last two seasons with Kansas City after 14 years with the 49ers.

Meanwhile, The Kansas City Star said the Chiefs signed safety Ronnie Lott as a free agent. Lott, 35, spent the past two seasons with the New York Jets after 10 years with San Francisco and two with the Los Angeles Raiders.

■ **CINCINNATI** — Cincinnati general manager Mike Brown continued his threats to move the team, giving the city until the end of the year to guarantee construction of a stadium. Brown said he met once with Maryland officials about moving the Bengals to Baltimore, and that more meetings are planned.

NHL

■ **DENVER** — The Quebec Nordiques have reportedly struck a deal to move to Denver if they are unable to resolve their financial problems.

The Rocky Mountain News, citing unidentified sources, said Comsat Video Enterprises Inc., owner of the NBA's Denver Nuggets, has completed an agreement to buy the club for \$75 million if it leaves Quebec. The newspaper said the deal had

been completed "in principle" pending the outcome of talks between the team and the Quebec government. The Nordiques said the report is premature.

■ **CHICAGO** — Chicago Blackhawks star Jeremy Roenick won't need reconstructive knee surgery, but his status for the playoffs remains uncertain.

Team physician Louis Kolb said Roenick could be back in time for the playoffs, while Roenick's agent, Neil Abbott, said that is out of the question.

■ **MONTREAL** — Defenseman Vladimir Malakhov, obtained by the Montreal Canadiens two weeks ago from the New York Islanders, signed a four-year contract worth a reported \$5.6 million.

NCAA Basketball

■ **WACO, Texas** — A federal judge upheld the conspiracy and fraud convictions of three former Baylor assistant coaches.

U.S. District Judge Walter Smith Jr. said the jury's verdict will stand against Kevin Gray, Gary Thomas and Troy Drummond. The counts carry maximum five-year prison terms and fines up to \$250,000.

A federal jury acquitted former head coach Darrel Johnson April 5 of seven felony counts relating to academic fraud in the recruitment of five junior college players in 1993.

■ **LEXINGTON, Ky.** — Ron Mercer, the Naismith award winner as the nation's top prep player, signed a national letter of intent to play at Kentucky.

Mercer left Goodpasture High in Nashville, Tenn., to spend his senior year at Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Va., where he averaged 26.3 points.

Yacht Racing

■ **SAN DIEGO** — Young America beat Mighty Mary by 2 minutes, 46 seconds to take the lead in the America's Cup defender finals.

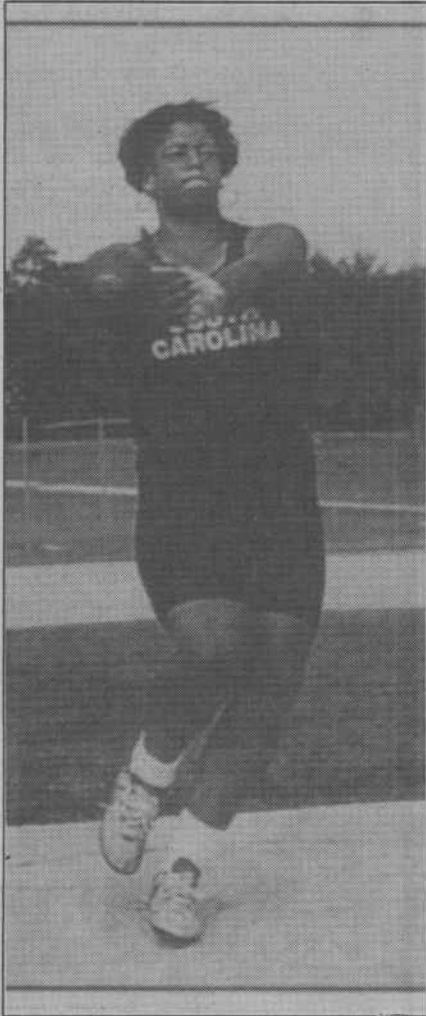
With five races remaining in the round-robin Citizen Cup finals, Young America has four points, and Mighty Mary and Stars & Stripes are tied with three. Young America was scheduled to face Stars & Stripes Thursday.

Challenger finalists oneAustralia and Team New Zealand's Black Magic 1 remained at the docks for the second straight day, this time because of rough seas. Black Magic 1 leads the best-of-9 series 4-1.

Tennis

■ **HONG KONG** — Fourth-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat David Prinosil of Germany 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-4 in the second round of the Hong Kong Salem Open.

Top-seeded Michael Chang's match against Germany's Alex Radulescu was postponed because of rain.



File Photo
Dawn Ellerbe has proven to be a leader on and off the field, and has become a top thrower in the SEC.

IRON WOMAN

Track star Ellerbe sets sights on being No. 1

ROBBIE MEEK Staff Writer

Although Carolina sophomore track star Dawn Ellerbe's talent has established her as one of the top throwers in the SEC, confidence might be her best asset.

"Next year, they're bringing the hammer weight into the NCAA," Ellerbe said, "so I plan to be All-American in all four events — shot put, discus, hammer and weight."

That confidence level and her throwing skills have led to Ellerbe being named captain of the 1995 Lady Gamecock outdoor track team.

"There is a lot of responsibility being a team captain," she said, "because you have to look out for everyone else. It makes me feel like the coach looks at me like a leader, so it makes me feel really good."

Ellerbe is having her best year this season after being redshirted the past outdoor season. She is the team leader in the hammer with a throw of 168-11 and the discus with a throw of 169-5 1/2. She is second on the team in the shot put.

"The hammer and weight are my best events," she said, "and I feel the most comfortable with the weight. But

it varies each meet, so I really don't have a favorite."

Ellerbe placed seventh in the SEC outdoor shot put her freshman year. Although she made a big improvement, she didn't think she improved as much as she should have.

"I wasn't doing very well my freshman year," she said, "and this year I have improved so much, it has really surprised me."

Ellerbe looks for the other women throwers to also have a good season.

"The women, as far as throwers, will probably be the top three in the SEC," she said.

Ellerbe cited academics as a big reason she attends Carolina.

"When I came here, they put academics first," she said, "and the academic enrichment center helped me a lot."

She also said the coaching situation was a determining factor.

"Coach (Greg) Kraft told me they were bringing in a throwers coach," Ellerbe said, "and USC is one of the only schools in the nation that has a throwers coach."

Ellerbe said her successes in school and track are the accomplishments she

is most proud of.

"I don't feel I've accomplished everything I've set out to do," she said, "but just staying in school and being an athlete and student and excelling in both is my biggest accomplishment."

Ellerbe had a strong athletics background coming from high school, where she lettered for four years in track and two years in basketball. She believes this background has helped her confidence.

"It gave me a boost," Ellerbe said, "but it also gave me a reality check. In New York state when I went to school, I threw 135 in the discus, and that was pretty good. Now, girls are just juniors and seniors in high school and throwing 160 and 170. So they're coming into school now as freshmen where I hope to be as a sophomore."

You can be assured that Ellerbe, with her confidence and quickly improving talents, will continue to become a bigger force for the Lady Gamecocks.

"I'm doing well, but I'm not satisfied," she said, "and I won't start being satisfied until I'm No. 1. Until I'm No. 1 and recognized as a thrower in the nation, I'm not going to be satisfied."

Montana's retirement brings end to '80s legends

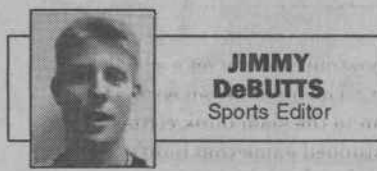
All my heroes are gone.

Now that Joe Montana has retired, the sports world has lost the last of the true '80s legends. In 1985, Rod Carew, my baseball hero, retired; in 1991, Magic Johnson, my basketball hero, retired; now, the greatest player ever to put on football pads has retired.

Rod Carew was my first idol as a kid. I saw my first professional baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., home of the California Angels. Carew played first base for the Angels, and in his illustrious career he won seven batting titles, one MVP and a few golden gloves to go in his trophy case.

Carew was the all-time leading vote getter in All-Star balloting when he was playing. He ensured his place in Cooperstown in 1985 when he got his 3,000th hit. The Angels let him go the next season to make room for Wally Joyner, and my first hero was gone.

Carew was considered a master craftsman in the baseball world. His dedication to hitting was legendary. He batted over .300 for 15 straight seasons and



JIMMY DeBUTTS
Sports Editor

made a run for 400 in '77, but fell short, finishing his MVP season at .388.

His name may not be familiar to many people because he was introverted. He did his job and let his talent speak for itself; baseball heard him, making him just the 16th player elected on first ballot to the Hall of Fame in 1990.

Magic was and continues to be my biggest hero. When I was in middle school and high school, all I wanted to be was Magic; sorry, Mike. I would wait up each night to watch "SportsCenter" to see if the Lakers won and how many points and assists Magic had.

Besides the five championships, three MVPs, an All-Star MVP and an Olympic gold medal, Magic was more special to me for what he did off the court. He used his fame to benefit others. He has held

his charity basketball game in the summer for more than a decade to help the United Negro College Fund and other charities.

His heart is as big as his smile. He was never content to bask in the glory. After his first MVP season in 1987, he worked to improve his game. His scoring increased, as did his free-throw shooting. Magic made everyone around him better; he did this in high school, college, in the pros and in life.

The day he announced he was HIV positive, I was shocked. How could someone like him have a fatal disease? But in hindsight, he took the obstacle on like everything else he's done in life. He became a spokesman to get the word out to the world. He didn't want anyone else to make the same mistake he made. My respect for him increased even more because he faced it head on; he never tried to hide or play it down.

Magic's career was cut short, but maybe it will be for a greater good. I heard he wants to play on the '96 USA basketball team. I hope they let him; it

would be great to see him make another no-look pass.

Joe Montana has many of the traits that Magic and Carew have. Big Joe made everyone around him better, and unlike Magic, he preferred to stay out of the spotlight off the field; he let the four Super Bowl rings do all the talking.

Montana was the king of the comeback. He provided the NFL with the greatest Super Bowl in history. His leadership and coolness in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XXIII displayed why he is the greatest player ever.

Joe may not have been as physically talented as Marino or Kelly, but he turned the 49ers into the team that all football franchises strive to be. He personifies class, and his attitude was always about winning, never showboating (take a lesson, Deion and Irvan).

All three of my heroes are gone from the games they dominated, but memories are forever, and thank God for videotape.

Give the gift of life,
Give blood!

American Red Cross
South Carolina Regional
Blood Services

Going top
shelf.

Gamecock Sports

The Department of Media Arts
Presents
A Master's Project

VIEW THE BAND

by
Jeff A. Breaux

Friday, April 21
10:00am - 10:30am

Russell House
Room 304
Reception at 10:30

Attention

All Seniors!

The Alumni Association Presents:
Welcome New Alumni Week
Monday, April 24 - Friday, April 28

- pick up your free gift at the Alumni House
- Attend the reception at the President's House on Tuesday, April 25 from 5-7pm
- Put your name on the Class of '95 Reunion Poster at the Alumni House
- Don't miss the senior party Thursday, April 27 from 8-11:30pm at the Alumni House for band, beer, food, and fun