

Allen

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ally be the undoing of the franchise. Look at the Philadelphia Phillies, another franchise that was mired in decades of rot.

Through it all, it had passionate fans, and finally won a World Series in 1980, the first title in its checkered 97-year history.

The city went wild, people danced in the streets, but aside from a 1993 Series loss to the Blue Jays, nobody cared about the Phillies anymore. The team plays in a half-empty stadium every night, and except for its wacky mascot and manager, it has absolutely no buzz about them.

The same fate would await Boston, if the beloved Sox ever climbed baseball's Everest. For gen-

erations, fathers have taught sons to hate the Yankees, and viscerally hissing and booing their rivals is just as much a tradition as chowder and baked beans. The curse, real or imagined, is what fills Fenway Park each hopeful April, and pads the bar tabs and therapy bills each downtrodden October. It is what makes them great fans, but if they actually beat the Yankees, the Sox would just be another team.

No sport prides itself in tradition like baseball, and there is no greater baseball tradition than Red Sox fans hating the Yankees. Every now and then, they should thank a guy named Ruth for ensuring a lasting identity for a team he meant to curse.

Allen is a first-year history student.

Track

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the anchor leg. Signee Kenneth Ferguson ran the leadoff leg and another signee Bershawn Jackson ran the third leg in the semi-finals. The USA's time was 3:03.71.

"I saw Lashinda anchor her team to win a win, so I knew I had to win too," said Fortenberry. "All the gold medals the Gamecocks won tonight - it shows you how good the school really is. Coach Frye has done a wonderful job with both teams this year and with us at this meet. It's really incredible. I got the stick in first place, and I knew I had to finish first. I am thrilled."

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Jon Fortenberry and Lashinda Demus proudly display their gold medals. They won at the World Junior Track Championships in Kingston, Jamaica, this past weekend. In the outing, USC brought home a total of six medals. Two USC signees also brought in gold medals.

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Iverson case gagged

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA - A judge issued a gag order in Allen Iverson's assault case Monday, saying he wanted to "buffer" prosecutors and defense attorneys from intense media coverage.

Municipal Court Judge James DeLeon barred police, the district attorney's office and the lawyers involved from talking to reporters about Iverson's criminal case. He said he would revisit his decision after Iverson's preliminary hearing, scheduled for July 29.

"We are putting a bubble over the proceeding, so that between now and the time of the preliminary hearing, the commonwealth and the defense will have the opportunity to prepare their case without any type of problem, as far as publicity is concerned," DeLeon said.

A reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer protested, arguing the paper's lawyer should have a chance to appeal before the gag order was enforced. DeLeon denied the request.

"I have the case now, so I don't want to have any unnecessary information when I read the newspaper on a daily basis that might taint my decision-making," DeLeon later told WCAU-TV.

The preliminary hearing for Iverson was scheduled to determine whether prosecutors have enough evidence to try the Philadelphia 76ers' guard, who is accused of storming into a cousin's apartment with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife.

Iverson was not required to be in court Monday and did not attend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Iverson will plead innocent.

Iverson was arrested last week on 14 felony and misdemeanor charges, including assault, terroristic threats and weapons offenses. Iverson's uncle, who allegedly accompanied him, was also charged.

Iverson has been the subject of intense local media scrutiny since the allegations surfaced nearly three weeks ago. Hordes of reporters and photographers camped outside Iverson's suburban mansion in the days before he turned himself in to face the charges.

DeLeon told reporters he took it upon himself to issue the gag order; it was not requested by prosecutors or defense attorneys.

Most of the details of the prosecution's case against Iverson have already been released in court documents. Iverson's lawyers have consistently refused to comment, other than saying Iverson will plead innocent.

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BRIEFLY

American golf team gets win over Japan

The United States held on for a two-point win over an elite collection of golfers from Japan in the Fuji Xerox USA vs. Japan Collegiate Golf Championship at the Glen Club. The win marks the seventh-straight victory for the Americans, who lead the series 20-6.

Entering the final round trailing by four points, Japan tied the score at 29 with only one match to play. The Americans secured the victory when South Carolina's Kristy McPherson closed out a nine-stroke win over Chiharu Tsunekawa.

McPherson, along with Georgia Tech's Kris Mikkelsen, garnered MVP honors by posting the low 54-hole totals for the tournament. Mikkelsen shot 204 (-12), highlighted by his record performance today, while McPherson carded a score of 217 (+1).

Mikkelsen continued the trend of setting the course record during the competition. Mikkelsen posted a 10-under-par 62, bettering the record set yesterday by Brandt Snedeker by three strokes.

New position filled on volleyball team

The USC volleyball team recently added another player for the 2002 season: freshman Amy Benson, a 5-foot, 7-inch libero from Illinois. Benson is USC's fourth commitment for the 2002 season.

"Amy is a great addition to our team. She will play as a libero, which is a new position to the NCAA lineup this season," said head coach Kim Christopher. "Amy will be a tremendous asset in the classroom as well."

The libero is a designated back-row player who cannot serve, attack or set the inside attack line. The position is used in international play and is intended as a ball control specialist. The libero can replace any player in the back row without counting as a substitution.

The Crystal Lake, Ill. native was a four-year letterwinner for Prairie Ridge H.S. and was coached by Stefanie Otto. During her sophomore year, she helped lead her club team, Sky High, to a fifth place finish at nationals. In her junior year, they finished 11th. Benson chose USC over North Florida and North Alabama.

Swimmers, divers have winning GPAs

The College Swimming Coaches Association of America announced its 2001-2002 Academic All-American standings with both the USC men's and women's swimming and diving teams placing among the top ten schools in the nation.

Carolina's women's swimming and diving team had the second highest GPA in Division I with 3.498, and the men's squad finished with the seventh highest GPA in Division I men's swimming with a 3.258.

Eight Gamecock men and women swimmers and divers also earned Academic All-American honors. On the women's side, divers Holly Hodges (3.917) and Tracey Richardson (3.833) and swimmers Capi Adams (3.870), Kristen Butler (3.637) and Amy Vinson (3.560) all earned recognition. For the men's team, swimmers Javier Botello (3.742) and Chris McCrary (3.676) and diver Brandon Hulko (3.523) received Academic All-American honors.

38 DAYS 'TILL
FOOTBALL!