Columnist takes ice, finds hockey enthralling

Growing up in Charleston, ice was something I rarely saw and hockey was a game I never thought I’d play.

This game, which first enchanted me during the 1980 Winter Olympics, seemed strange and foreign, something played by big men with big sticks, no text and even echoed across their boards like interstate highways on a map.

But through some Time-Life mystery of the unknown, I became a fan. Through the magic of ESPN and Sunday Night NHL, I became a convert, diligently following the Philadelphia Flyers and Calgary Flames from October to June every year. The action was fast. The hitting was hard. This was something different. I could go to school the next day and talk about Steve Yzerman’s hat trick and people would look at me like I was crazy. But most of all, I wanted to try hockey. I longed to get on those few-leaf-on-the-ground in my slap shot, wrist shots, body checks and all the other things that the made hockey so attractive to this Southerner living in a football crazy world.

I got my chance last summer. John Benjamus, a “buddy of mine,” as he would say, from Raleigh, NC, worked part time at a local ice rink, a real rink in South Carolina. You can imagine my excitement when John asked me if I wanted to go with him to one of John’s summer hockey programs.

We woke up late in the morning, I finished helping my parents with the Potholes of Russia, and made the long drive to a nearby city. The car was filled with hockey gear and a picnic lunch.

Once we arrived, we were let into a large locker room. We were a couple of kids on Christmas morning.

Outlined in my parents’ time, their wide eyes and my own, I approached the ice with a bit of hesitation, I had good this once before, long ago, and had failed.

I made a little about 12 at the time. My family was watching in Stony Mountain, Ga., where a hand-squealing new ice rock had just been completed. At the time I thought I was invincible and could take on the world and win. This ice skating stuff would be a piece of cake.

Now no one had told me that ice skating was different from roller skating, so I assumed you did both the same way. So when I got out on the ice, I pushed out with my right foot where I should have pulled out. My first immediately fell on my shoulders and I fell, my head jging the ice with a sickening thud.

Three thoughts roiled through my head. I was still on the edge of the edge, the worst preparing to push off on the unknown. Tripod fell over me, a second, I stuck it off and shoved off onto the ice. Shaky, but upright. Fortunately I

See Pep talk page 9

David punish in USC victory

By Jeff Nichols

Sports Editor

Opportunity knocked again Monday night and this time Sherry David answered.

All year long, David, the Lady Gamecocks’ starting guard, had seen her defense leave her un

ited in front of conversations on All-American role. She is and a year to those final words in the Metro Conference at the University of South Carolina came into Frank McGuire Awards booth as making that strategy work for her.

It didn’t. USC defeated the Lady Golden Eagles 82-72 as David re

ound her team over double-double — scoring a career-high 16 points and diving in 11 assists.

Meanwhile, Hairs stopped the LSU duo and led all scores with 24 points while Mal
dine led the five 3-pointers to finish with 21 points.

The 113-year-old Lady Gamecocks assured themselves of a win as a tie for the regulari

an auem Gamecocks championship as they improved to 26-2 overall and 12-1 in the game with the regular-season game remaining.

USC head Coach Nancy Wilson said David’s performance keyed the win.

“I really thought the hero in

ight was Sherry David,” Wilson said. “She played excellent defense, she knocked in key buckets, and she made some big free throw attempts.”

David, whom Wilson regarded as the best defensive player she’s seen this year, is normally one to sit other handle the scoring chores.

“I never expect to score a 10, but tonight they just left, David said. “I just shot the ball with a lot of confidence and they fell for me.”

The outside shots couldn’t fall at a better time.

“They really can’t do anything wrong on our ball-side post the whole time, making it diff

icult for us at the post,” Wilson said. “Sherry did exactly what she had to do.”

“Sherry does a great job for us, because

is a team in which everyone is diffrer
da so definitely. We played as one, as we played in the other games, and we played tenacious as well.”

See Basketball page 9

Marketing Majors

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The American Marketing Association

Is holding election for their 90 - 91 officers: Thursday, March 1

Applications can be picked up from the 1st floor cubbyhole, BA or outside room 362 BA.

Please return applications to 362 by Wednesday, March 28 at 5:00pm.

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