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By David Kravetz

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Visit Aaron's website and journal @ www.aaronrboone.com

Following are some recent Aaron Boone notes from articles gleaned off of the internet. Some of the articles will be available in their entirety on Aaron's website.

LARRY VAUGHT: Boone's chances improved for NFL this year

By Larry Vaught

KentuckySportsReport.com

Date: Jul 2, 2005

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Aaron Boone went to Germany hoping to enhance his chances for making the Carolina Panthers with impressive special teams play during the NFL Europe season. He recently returned from Germany as the league's leading special teams tackler (14 solo stops, one assist), but also has one of the league's best receivers.

Now Boone can't help believing this is his year to finally earn a National Football League roster spot after preseason injuries the last two years derailed his chances for making the Dallas Cowboys or Chicago Bears. "It was a lot different when I came back to Charlotte than it was at Chicago last year," said Boone, the former UK wide receiver. "At Charlotte, players and coaches were congratulating me on the season I had. They knew who I was. It wasn't that way in Chicago."

Boone's name became more well known after his impressive season with the Berlin Thunder. He led the league with 51 receptions. His 665 receiving yards ranked second in the league.

"We fell one game short of my goal of winning the World Bowl, but I loved this season," Boone said. "The Carolina coaches told me I needed to do well on special teams to have a chance to make the roster. I did that.

"They have veteran receivers already on the roster, but if I can be a third down receiver and good special teams player, they can keep me a lot cheaper than an older, more experienced player. I feel comfortable if I just get the chance, I can put up good numbers.

"Obviously, my stats look good on my resume. But the big thing is that Carolina, as well as a lot of other teams, watch those games and have film of those games. They saw what I can do and what type of player I can develop into if given the chance. I am just hoping this will be my year."

So am I. No one deserves it more. He's truly one of the good guys in football. It's impossible not to like him and he'll never let success spoil him. While it is a big no-no in my profession to openly root for a player, this is an exception because I'll proudly admit I'm an [Aaron Boone](#) fan and always will be.



SHORT TAKES—portions of articles from the internet and other places

Boone, Hankton and Stubblefield fighting for Spot

By [Brad Thomas](#) PantherInsider.com

Date: Jun 24, 2005

The Carolina Panthers will have a fierce battle on their hands this summer, only it won't be for a starting position. It won't be a high-profile competition, taking place during the second halves of preseason games and on special teams. A former Panthers team captain, a NFL Europe Standout, and the All-Time NCAA Receptions Leader will be fighting for a roster spot this summer during Training Camp.

Despite the very different resumes, [Karl Hankton](#), [Aaron Boone](#) and [Taylor Stubblefield](#) each have a chance to show themselves and the world that they belong in the NFL.

Perhaps an amalgam of the two aforementioned players would be a valuable weapon for the Panthers? Look no further than Aaron Boone, the 2005 NFL Europe leader in receptions AND Special Teams tackles. Boone was a sure-handed target for NFL Europe Offensive MVP [Dave Ragone](#), amassing 582 yards on 43 receptions and five touchdowns for the Berlin Thunder this past season.

The extra playing time in Europe allowed Boone to mature, much like it did for Panthers QB [Jake Delhomme](#). "I feel like I'm so much better now than I was coming out of college," says Boone. "I really feel a comfort and confidence level that I'll try to carry back to Carolina."

However, it might be his Special Teams prowess that makes him more valuable, at least initially, to the Panthers. "I know I'm not going to come in and start," Boone told the Louisville Courier-Journal. "To someday start is a dream, but the thing I'm most proud of from Europe is leading the league in special-teams tackles. Most receivers are return guys, and I'm not, so playing special teams is something not many receivers do. That might give me a shot."

Boone stands to be the most attractive alternative for the roster spot at this point. "Aaron did very well in NFL Europe and we're looking forward to getting him in here and seeing what he can do," Panthers head coach John Fox said.

The competition starts July 30th. Keep your eyes on Boone, and rest assured you won't be the only one.

NFL Europe Stars: Ready For the Next Step

By [Seahawks.NET Staff](#)

Date: Jun 21, 2005

In the NFL Europe League, they were stars. Now, several players have returned to America with a notion to make the NFL their home. Hoping to follow the likes of Kurt Warner, Jake Delhomme

and Adam Vinatieri, players such as B.J. Tucker of the Seahawks get ready for the next step.

They proved themselves abroad, and soon it will be time to do it again at home. The NFL Europe League brought down the curtain on its 13th season in exciting fashion on Saturday, June 11 as the Amsterdam Admirals earned a 27-21 victory over the Berlin Thunder in World Bowl XIII before a crowd of 35,134 at the LTU Arena in Düsseldorf, Germany.

"The season in Europe ended with a thrilling World Bowl that featured terrific performances all over the field," NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** told NFL Network last week. "It was exactly what we had hoped to see at the conclusion of the season. We have so many young, talented players who get an opportunity to play in Europe, to mature and to develop. It's very important for people to see how they do in game conditions. There were many players in the World Bowl that will follow in the footsteps of the players who first achieved success in NFL Europe before accomplishing great things in the NFL."

The Europe League, which enjoyed record attendance in 2005 by averaging 18,965 fans per game, has provided players with valuable experience through the years that has been an integral factor in their development.

WIDE RECEIVER - AARON BOONE, Carolina/Berlin

Boone was a sure-handed option for the Thunder, leading NFL Europe with 43 receptions for 582 yards and five touchdowns. And in what might be a crucial factor in winning a roster spot with the Panthers, he led NFL Europe with 14 special teams tackles. "I feel like I'm so much better now than I was coming out of college," says Boone. "I really feel a comfort and confidence level that I'll try to carry back to Carolina." Adds Panthers head coach **JOHN FOX**: "Aaron did very well in NFL Europe and we're looking forward to getting him in here and seeing what he can do."

Next stop for well-traveled Boone is Carolina

(only portions of article used)

By Michael Smith

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The Courier-Journal

Monday, June 20, 2005

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- For a guy who has made the world his home for the better part of the past seven years, Aaron Boone can't wait to get home -- to his real home.

Boone, the globe-trotting former University of Kentucky wide receiver, intends to spend the next several weeks fishing and camping with his brothers in Utah before starting training camp with the Carolina Panthers in late July.

"I can't wait," Boone said this week from his hotel room in Charlotte, N.C., where he participated in the Panthers' mini-camp. If anybody deserves a vacation, it's Boone. He spent the past three months tearing up National Football League Europe for the Berlin Thunder, leading the league in receptions and special-teams tackles. The Thunder advanced to the World Bowl, NFL Europe's championship game, before falling to the Amsterdam Admirals 27-21 on June 11 despite Boone's 10-yard touchdown catch.

The end of one season signaled the beginning of another. Two days after the World Bowl, Boone arrived in Charlotte, underwent a physical, got fitted for equipment and went through a light practice with his new teammates.

"I'm still getting over the jet lag," he said Wednesday.

Boone, who just completed his second tour in NFL Europe, questioned a few months ago how much longer he wanted to pursue professional football. Stints with Dallas and Chicago failed to produce a roster spot, and at age 27 Boone had started to think more seriously about putting his degree in international business to work.

"It's hard to go to Europe and get back for the NFL season," Boone said. "It's hard on your body. I've got a lot of nicks and bruises, and to go right into practice for a new team that's a challenge. I know I don't have that explosiveness right now, but I hope I can get it back. What I've heard from a lot of guys who play in Europe and then come back to an NFL camp is that they play well for about a week and then they hit a wall. That's what I want to avoid."

Keary Colbert and Steve Smith are projected starters, while Ricky Proehl is expected to be the third receiver. Karl Hankton, who doesn't play a lot at receiver, likely will occupy a roster spot because he's the special-teams captain. Recent reports indicate the Panthers will pursue former Washington receiver Rod Gardner through free agency.

That could leave Boone battling Purdue receiver Taylor Stubblefield, the NCAA's all-time receptions leader, and a handful of others for one spot. "I know I'm not going to come in and start," Boone said. "To someday start is a dream, but the thing I'm most proud of from Europe is leading the league in special-teams tackles. Most receivers are return guys, and I'm not, so playing special teams is something not many receivers do. That might give me a shot."

On June 21, Aaron participated in an Internet Chat with Carolina Panthers fans. Following is some of the transcripts of that session:

From <http://www.nflfans.com/panthers/index.php>

9:19 PM [BK] Are you ready to get into camp?

9:19 PM [BK] Will you be more ready to play in camp because of NFLE, or will you be worn out?

9:20 PM [ABoone] I pride myself on my conditioning, so I should be in good shape for everything camp has to offer.

9:21 PM [ABoone] I do Pilates and stay in playing shape year round.

9:22 PM [magnus] Pilates, eh? Interesting to see you use an alternative training method like that.

9:22 PM [magnus] Don't see it that often.

9:30 PM [ABoone] My sister is a pilates instructor back in Utah. She got me started on it, and it's helped me.

9:16 PM [magnus] Must keep you flexible.

9:17 PM [ABoone] Yes, exactly.

9:39 PM [Catsnمبر1Fan] Hey Aaron, saw you at Spring Practice..You really looked like you were getting the hang of things at practice..:)

9:40 PM [ABoone] It felt great just to be out there, I absolutely love the organization. It blows away other places I have been.

9:40 PM [BK] thats nice to hear.

9:40 PM [ABoone] The offense also shouldn't be too hard to grasp its very similar to my O in Berlin.

9:40 PM [Catsnمبر1Fan] Mr Richardson is one of the Best..

9:40 PM [magnus] You handling all that Williamson throws at you? He's a bit of a treasure of ours. Make him tell some Bear Bryant stories.

9:41 PM [ABoone] I will have to do that. I only have heard good things about him.

9:41 PM [ABoone] I'm anxious to get out there in Training Camp and see what I can do.

9:42 PM [Catsnمبر1Fan] I liked the special gloves you used during practice,, Are they from a special store.??

9:42 PM [BK] we're all looking forward to it too. We're kinda thin at WR that can actually catch.

9:42 PM [ABoone] NO, its just that they don't have that model in stock yet. I got them over in Europe and just really liked them.

9:43 PM [magnus] yeah, BK's right. We're weird about our WR usage, but if they just picked from receiving skill, I think you'll make this team.

9:49 PM [ABoone] I'm not speedy but I'm not slow, I would say deceptive because of my long strides.

9:50 PM [magnus] Stick close to Proehl then - he's made a career out of not being fast.

9:50 PM [ABoone] I like MR Clutch too!

9:50 PM Wp28 has joined the chat.

9:50 PM [ABoone] I can definitely learn a lot from Proehl its great to learn from him.

9:51 PM [Catsnمبر1Fan] You remind me of a receiver we had here a few yrs ago, Patrick Jeffers..same type of running..he had over 900 yds and 12 TD's

9:51 PM [BK] move the chains and make catches in the red zone and we'll love you for life.

9:51 PM [ABoone] Ragone was a great QB. He is such a student of the game.

9:52 PM [ABoone] Thats what I try to do, I hate the label of a Possession WR but I love when I am put in a 3rd and must have or last play.

9:52 PM [ABoone] In college they came up with the saying Big Play Boone

9:53 PM [Catsnubr1Fan] Wesley Walls made a career of doing exactly that, move the chains, and score TD"s...

9:53 PM [BK] if you're open Jake will find you.

9:53 PM [ABoone] I was always the 3rd WR in college but I ended up tied for leading the SEC in receiving TDS my senior year.

9:54 PM [ABoone] I just love finding away to make a big play.

9:54 PM Just_a_guy has left the chat.

9:54 PM [ABoone] Jake is a great QB and he know where I am coming from trying to make it from Europe to here.

9:54 PM [ABoone] I was very impressed with him in camp.