



Sunday, August 14, 2005

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## Aaron scores TD in preseason game vs. the Washington Redskins!!!

Aaron Boone caught his first TD pass in the NFL yesterday in the Carolina Panther's first preseason game. It was a 26 yard reception with 4:01 remaining in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and was the last score of the game. The real irony is that Aaron caught a pass from Stefan LeFors, a graduate of the University of Louisville, thus continuing his tradition of catches from former Louisville quarterbacks after a season in the NFL Europe catching them from Dave Ragone, whom LeFors replaced at Louisville. Another fun irony....the game was played on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Aaron's last Touchdown catch was in the World Bowl...World Bowl XIII!!! The number 13 continues to be Aaron's number.



**Aaron Boone celebrates his touchdown catch as Redskins defender Pierson Prioleau walks nearby during the fourth quarter. (AP)**

I do need to make one personal editorial comment at this point: While Aaron was at the University of Kentucky, he was a Church leader for my boys, both of whom were playing High School football at the time. One of the boys was discouraged about his playing time and Aaron reminded him of the U of L game in which Aaron did not play. He told my son, "when you get on the field and have the opportunity to make a play, you need to play like it is your last opportunity and make the most of it. Play each and every play like it is your last play." My younger son, who is still playing high school ball as an OL/DL has taken that to heart. Indeed, he makes mistakes and has missed opportunities, but in his mind he fights for every chance. Aaron has fought for the chance to play in the NFL for three years now. Each opportunity he gets, he DOES play as though it is his last chance. And, once again, he has made the most of his opportunities by scoring a TD on the one and only pass play to him. My sons and I are very

proud of Aaron Boone for his great efforts and the success he has had and hopefully will continue to have.

With his 26 yard catch, Aaron tied Karl Hankton for the longest reception of the night for Carolina.

<b>PASS RECEIVING</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>LG</b>	<b>TD</b>
D.Carter	3	18	6.0	10	1
J.Tolver	2	33	16.5	18	0
R.Gardner	2	31	15.5	21	1
E.Shelton	2	23	11.5	12	0
S.Smith	2	18	9.0	9	0
K.Mangum	2	17	8.5	9	0
K.Hankton	1	26	26.0	26	0
<b>A.Boone</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>
R.Proehl	1	11	11.0	11	0
C.Mustard	1	6	6.0	6	0
M.Gaines	1	1	1.0	1	1
Total	18	210	11.7	26	4



Aaron listens to the coach during training camp

**GastonGazette.Com** from Aug. 13, 2005

### Six Players to Watch:

By: [Steve Reed](#)

RB Eric Shelton: The Panthers coaching staff is chomping at the bit to see Shelton perform against NFL competition. The team's second-round pick could be the team's power back this season if Stephen Davis is unable to make it back from a knee injury. Davis has yet to practice at camp.

WR Drew Carter: He's been a star at training camp, but how will Carter respond to his first live NFL action? Carter is coming off two knee injuries but remains fast. The big question will be if he gets a little nervous when he goes up against defensive players who are trying to take him out.

SS/LB Thomas Davis: The team's first-round draft pick, Davis probably won't get into the game until the second quarter, but all eyes will be on him when he does check into the lineup. Davis is currently working behind Colin Branch at strong safety, but it's only a matter of time before he becomes a starter. Davis will also see some action at linebacker.

WR Rod Gardner: With the Panthers likely to rest Keary Colbert, Gardner will likely get the start against his former team. He should have some added incentive after the Redskins essentially gave up on him and made it clear they weren't going to keep him around this season.

OT Travelle Wharton: This is the first start for Wharton at left tackle after moving over from left guard and the everyone is anxious to see how he'll hold up protecting Jake Delhomme's blindside. The Panthers are hoping their first-team offensive line, which has struggled at times during camp, begins to show some continuity.

WR Steve Smith: Everyone is anxious to see if Smith has recovered from the broken leg that kept him out of 15 games last season. Trust me, he looks as fast as ever in training camp. Like the rest of the first team, he will only play about a quarter before donning the traditional baseball cap for the rest of the game.

### **They could surprise you:**

**WR Aaron Boone: Every year there are third-string players who come out of nowhere to have big preseasons. Don't be surprised if Boone, who led NFL Europe in receptions this past season, is one of them.**

RB Jamal Robertson: Primarily used as a kickoff return man last season, Robertson has flown under the radar this training camp in terms of media attention, but he is running like a man who wants a job.

CB Eddie Jackson is going to make the Panthers decision at cornerback very difficult this season. Jackson has plenty of talent, but finds himself battling for the No. 4 cornerback spot with Dante Wesley, Dwight Anderson and others.

### **Who won't play:**

CB Ken Lucas, the team's top-paid free agent pickup, will not play tonight while nursing a hamstring injury. Among the others who are expected to be held out of

practice include: RB Stephen Davis (knee), WR Keary Colbert (hamstring), FS Mike Minter (knee), CB Ken Lucas (hamstring), TE Mike Seidman (knee), OL Bill Ferrario (calf), Matt Hill (knee) and Tupe Peko (knee), and possibly LB Brandon Short (knee).  
8/13/2005

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## COMMENTS FROM THE FORUMS THIS WEEK

This past week the forums were pretty quiet. I had written Aaron's sister Tammy, who does Aaron's website, and complained as such. No sooner had I done that and there were some comments about Aaron on the charlotte.com forum and even a note about Aaron in a camp insider. Then, the article above and of course, now Aaron's TD!! Maybe I should complain a little more often!!

### From the Training Camp Notes in charlotte.com Aug. 12:

**Rookie Aaron Boone had the most spectacular play in the night session, making a leaping catch on a long pass from Stefan LeFors.**

### From charlotte.com Panthers Forum Aug. 12

[16733.1](#)

I went to the night panther practice on 8-11-05. at the end of practice i had a chance to talk to a couple players.....

**Aaron Boone is a really nice guy, a kid asked him if he could have his gloves, he said he was sorry that he was breaking them in for Saturday's game, then he gave the kid a towel. (He made several great catches in practice)**

[16733.3](#) in reply to [16733.1](#)

**I don't think its going to happen but I'm really rooting for Aaron Boone to make this team. Then again, there are 4 games to be played here and a lot can happen in 4 games.**

[16733.4](#) in reply to [16733.3](#)

**I think it will come down to Boone and Hankton. From what I've seen he is a younger version of Hankton with more receiver upside. Boone will have to play very well on special teams in these preseason games to make the team. I'd say Boone and Stubblefield would be good practice squad candidates if they can clear waivers.**

[16733.5](#) in reply to [16733.4](#)

Good posts. I have a couple of things...

1. I think it's great for the rookies to carry the vets pads and helmets. I've always liked that. It shows respect. Especially when I saw Thomas Davis carrying Minters pads a while back.

**2. Boone has a good chance to make this team. He hustles and shows that he is pretty tough. I have a feeling he could really help our special teams this year, even the WR's.**

[16733.9](#) in reply to [16733.4](#)

**As hideously conservative as Fox is Boone will have play lights out better than Hankton to make the team and the chances of him hanging on to go to the practice squad seem remote.**

**From charlotte.com Panthers Forum Aug. 13**

[16769.3](#) in reply to [16769.2](#)

I am really pulling for Boone. He reminds me of Jeffers.  
And I think Tolver played very well.

**The following were posted just after Aaron's TD**

[16764.63](#) in reply to [16764.62](#)

how was that td pass to boone?

[16764.64](#) in reply to [16764.55](#)

LEFORS!!!!!!!!!!!!.....great scrambling TD pass to Boone.



Aaron after a catch in training camp

## KEY DATES

- 8/15 - Training Camp continues in Spartanburg
- 8/20 - Panthers @ New York Giants pre-season game
- 8/24 - Training Camp Ends
- 8/26 - Panthers @ Cleveland Browns pre-season game
- 8/30 - Roster cut down to 65 players
- 9/1 - Panthers vs. Pittsburgh Steelers pre-season game
- 9/4 - Roster cut down to 53 players
- 9/11 - Regular Season begins

During training camp, the Panthers will normally practice twice a day at 9:10 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. with each practice session lasting between 90 minutes and two hours. A detailed practice schedule and other training camp info can be found here:

<http://www.panthers.com/news/trainingcamp.jsp>