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NFL hopeful celebrates July 4 with a workout

Commentary by JOE BIDDLE

West Point graduate and now 2nd Lt. **Caleb Campbell** might be a longshot to stick with the Detroit Lions, but if he comes up short it will not be because of a lack of commitment.

While most of us were sleeping in late Friday, preparing for a leisurely Fourth of July weekend with cookouts, fireworks and get-togethers with friends, the Lions rookie was getting his sweat on at D1 Sports Training in Cool Springs.

Campbell completed organized team activities two weeks ago and has a month off before training camp. So what was he doing here? Training.

The Texas native said he did well in his first NFL experience, even though the Lions are moving him from safety (his college position) to outside linebacker.

"It's been difficult because I am changing positions and I have never played this position before," Campbell said. "There are a lot of little things that you have to pick up (with) that position and you don't have much time because of the lack of space (that you have at safety)."

The Lions' final draft selection (second of two seventh-round picks) might not stack up in measurables compared to those drafted higher than him, but he will be at the front of the line in determination.

- NBA Hall of Famer **Larry Bird** told sports talk show host **Dan Patrick** that he would give up one of his NBA championship rings in exchange for an NCAA championship ring.

Remember Bird was drafted after his junior season at Indiana State, but returned for another year in hopes of winning the Final Four. His team went undefeated through the season and into the title game against Michigan State and **Magic Johnson**.

They lost to the Spartans, a team Bird recognized early in the game was better than any team they had faced that season.

"They were better than us," Bird told Patrick. "I wanted it so bad because I had gone to IU, then to Indiana State and I knew a lot of people in Terre Haute and knew how much it meant to them."

- During vacation, I missed the death of **Len "Snuffy" Miller**. Miller was known as a drummer for **Whisperin' Bill Anderson** in the original Po' Boys band. He later played for **Dottie West** and **Nat Stuckey** and produced records for **Jerry Clower** and others.

I got to know Miller through the Nashville Sounds, where he drove the team bus for owner **Larry Schmittou**. He was always at Greer Stadium and the players loved him like a brother.

He was also a great Vanderbilt fan, particularly baseball. I saw him sitting in the stands late this season at an SEC game. I heard he had fallen at a previous game and I wanted to go say hello, but was running late and didn't. There's a lesson for us all.

- Timing is everything. Ask Titans defensive tackle **Tony Brown**. Brown was in his hometown of Chattanooga in April. After a charity event, Brown and a few friends went to Club 2301. Brown, who was sitting on the club's back deck waiting for some wings, left to put up the top of his Corvette convertible because of a passing rain shower.

While Brown was outside the club, two armed men held up two of his companions and took \$17,000 in cash, jewelry and a watch off former Memphis player **Boris PENCHION**. Police later charged two men, who admitted their guilt. One is also charged with a murder 10 days after the robbery.

Forgetting something?

- **Stoney Crouch** and his father, **Jack**, drove last month from their Mt. Juliet home to Tims Ford, where the 14-year-old Stoney was entered in the Tennessee Juniors tournament at the Bear Trace course.

When they arrived, they discovered they left Crouch's clubs behind. All he had was his golf shoes. He borrowed clubs from the pro shop and still won the tournament. The Mt. Juliet Middle School golfer also advanced to match play in *The Tennessean*/Metro Parks Schooldays tournament. I presume, with his own clubs.

- People such as **Carolyn Green** rarely get recognition they deserve. Green has been a longtime force behind a charity golf tournament that benefits Mur-Ci Homes Inc. in Antioch. Even after she retired from working there, she continued to ensure the tournament was a fun event for everyone. This year was her final tournament. This is a woman who never played golf but understood the enjoyment it brought others.

- Next Sunday from 2-4 p.m. is bring your daughter to the golf course day at King's Creek. It is sponsored by the **Nancy Quarcelino** School of Golf and is part of the Play Golf America campaign. There will be free clinics for parents and their daughters courtesy of Quarcelino and PGA teaching pro **Rita Reasons**.

- Oregon State basketball Coach **Craig Robinson's** brother-in-law is presidential candidate **Barack Obama**.

Robinson critiqued Obama's game on Fox Sports Net.

"He can only go to his left. ... He used to go to the basket a lot before he got to be a candidate. He comes out of there with a swollen lip and my sister will kill him."

Multi-sport star dies

- **Rolland Luplow** e-mails me to announce the death of **Keith Holloway**, a longtime friend of former *Tennessean* sports editor **John Bibb** and his *Banner* buddy **Waxo Green**.

Holloway died June 26. He was 89 years old.

Luplow said Holloway held the state record for holes in one with 18 over his career. He was undefeated in arm wrestling for 20 years in Nashville before being beaten by former Vandy football star and later NFL official **Art Demmas**. Holloway was a Marine who fought in WWII.

- Sports agent **Brian Parker** has relocated his agency from Memphis to Nashville. Parker was once called in a *Charlotte* (N.C.) *Observer* story as "a rarity in his business — a truly good guy."

Two of his clients are former Brentwood Academy and Tennessee center **Scott Wells** and former

Vanderbilt linebacker **Matt Stewart**. Wells is starting center for Green Bay and was an alternate for this year's Pro Bowl. Stewart is currently with Arizona.

- **Julius Erving** says grown men still get excited about meeting him.

"I can relate to it," Dr. J. said on Fox Sports Net. "I have a guy in my life, **Bill Russell**, who I met when I was 19. Every time I get around him, and I'm 58 years old, I get giddy."
