

## NHL's Jets staying put in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — The Winnipeg Jets are staying put, but for how long and at what price is unknown.

The team will announce Tuesday details of a weekend deal that will keep the team where it is. The agreement, as yet unsigned, may include a \$94 million commitment of public money to build an arena.

Jets directors said an "overwhelming response" from the community convinced them to keep the NHL franchise in Winnipeg.

Their decision came after a Minneapolis group, headed by businessman Richard Burke, said it could not complete a deal to buy the team because of unresolved money questions.

The group wanted assurance from the Manitoba government it would not have to make up \$18 million in losses paid by the city and the province over the last two years.

Not everyone in Winnipeg is enthused by the turn of events. The group Thin Ice opposes public funding for the Jets and will meet Tuesday to decide its next move.

"I assume they will have their hands out for us to pay their (Jets) losses in addition to a... new arena," Thin Ice spokesman Jim Silver said.

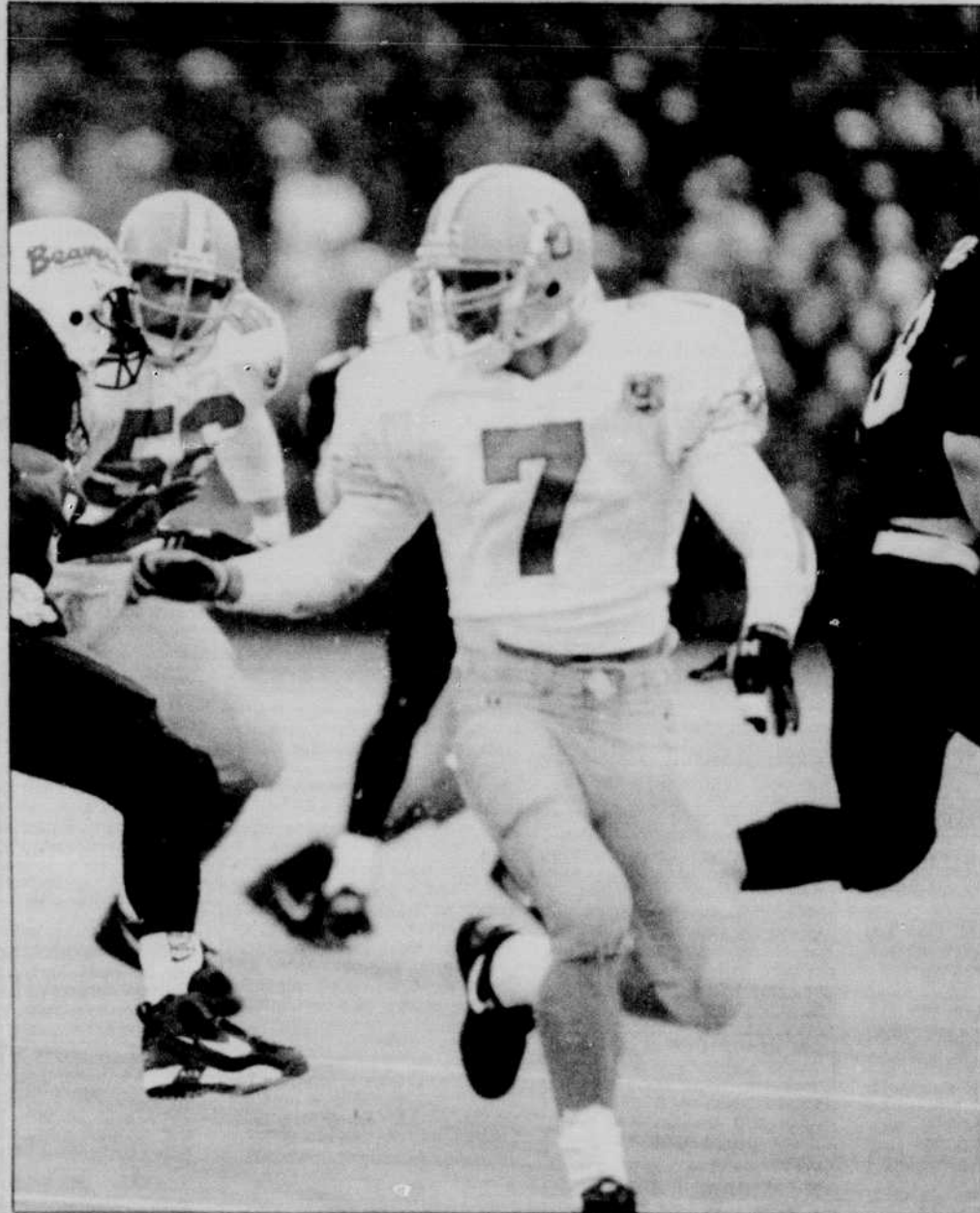
The public has covered the club's losses since 1991 under an agreement that kept the team in Winnipeg with help from the municipal and provincial governments.

The fund-raising led by media mogul Izzy Asper and the Manitoba Entertainment Complex was aimed at buying the team, making it community-owned and setting up an endowment fund to cover future losses. The group raised \$60 million of its \$110 million target.

The other part of the deal has governments committing money to a new arena and entertainment complex.



## YEAR OF THE DUCK CHAD COTA



As the backbone of the superb Oregon secondary, Cota picked up the Hoffman Award as the team's MVP in his final season with the Ducks. Cota was an irreplaceable component in the Ducks' incredible run for the Roses that paid off with a Jan. 2 trip to Pasadena, their first such venture in 37 years.

The Ashland native recorded a career-

high 91 tackles this past season to log 329 in his career, good for eighth place on the all-time tackles list at Oregon. Cota also picked off eight balls in his four years as a regular in the Ducks' defensive backfield.

Cota's collegiate efforts were rewarded as the 6-foot-1 safety was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the 7th round of the 1995 NFL Draft.

## TUESDAY

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### Ailing Mitchell's fate undecided

TOKYO (AP) — The Daiei Hawks will decide as soon as possible whether to release Kevin Mitchell, who has been sitting out games complaining of pain in his knee.

"The club is studying the case cautiously. We believe we should not be emotional because it isn't only for our club," team spokesman Ken-go Nonoyama said Monday. "We fear the case might develop into disputes between the United States and Japan over baseball relations."

Mitchell, 33, who left the Cincinnati Reds as a free agent to play for the Hawks for an estimated \$4.5 million, wants to return to the United States for medical treatment.

Dr. Koichi Ogata of Fukuoka Medical College hospital examined Mitchell's knee on May 15 and concluded that the injury wasn't serious enough to sideline him.

### NFL considering 'skullcap' ban

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Deion Sanders may have to do without his do-rag next season.

The NFL is considering a ban on bandanas, saying the unconventional headgear often is associated with street gangs and violence. The issue is expected to be addressed this week, when league officials discuss uniform issues during the NFL meetings in Jacksonville.

"Why should we, the National Football League, foster something that can have an impact on people in real-life situations when kids in gangs get arrested and they've got bandanas on?" Gene Washington, the NFL's director of football development, asked the *Oakland Tribune*.

### Foreman pushes for headgear

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Following the death of another boxer from brain injuries suffered in the ring, heavyweight champion George Foreman says headgear should be mandatory.

"I'd do it right now," he said of wearing a headgear in a fight. "When is the right time? Now. Oh, man, it's going to be the most revolutionary and the most important thing that's been done for boxing. The day has come. It's only going to be for the betterment of the sport."

"You can't really fix the past, but you can make it safer for the future. We only learn better when it's too late."

## Rodman benched for final play, Houston wins 94-93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Another day, another hero for the Houston Rockets.

After a night of misfiring, fouls and frustration in round one of the battle for Texas, Robert Horry made his only basket of the night Monday, and the Houston Rockets had a 94-93 victory over San Antonio.

The improbable Rockets, playing their 11th game in 20 days, took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-7 Western Conference finals and stole the home-court advantage from the Spurs, who had earned it throughout the playoffs with the best record in the NBA.

"Our battle cry right now is stay humble and stay hungry," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said.

The Rockets went more than two minutes without a field goal until Horry, who was 0-for-4 to that point, hit an open 18-footer with 6.5 seconds to play.

"We swung it to the open man, just like we have all season," Horry said. "I was sur-

prised I was so open. At that time, there was no time to doubt yourself. I've always had confidence in my ability to hit the big shot."

Sean Elliott, who led the Spurs with 24 points, missed two free throws with 26.6 seconds to go and his shot from the lane with two seconds remaining bounced off the rim.

Houston got the rebound and the defending champions continued their surprising march through the playoffs after winding up the fifth seed in the West.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 27 despite late foul trouble. Clyde Drexler added 25 and 12 rebounds.

San Antonio's Dennis Rodman had another strong game off the boards with 20 rebounds, but again proved how temperamental he can be. Several times he removed himself from San Antonio huddles, including the last two.

When the Spurs took the floor for their

final shot with 6.5 seconds left, Rodman and his tequilla sunrise colored head were not on the court. Coach Bob Hill said it was strategy, not discipline, that sent Rodman to the bench.

"Dennis was not a distraction tonight in any way, shape or form, and please print that," Hill said. "Dennis stands or sits on the outskirts all year long. If you've watched, you've seen that."

"I don't know," Rodman said when asked why Hill took him out of the lineup. "It could have been a situation where I could've gotten a rebound."

Hill said it was just a bad performance all around.

"We played with enormous complacency, not aggressive," Hill said. "That's the worst performance we've had in I don't know how long."