

Football is the best bet in pro sports this year

With professional baseball still spitting in the face of authority (literally) and the fans (figuratively) and the glitz and glamour of professional basketball blinding everyone with its overwhelming salaries, the National Football League is left with the role of salvaging the integrity of professional sports and, frankly, it's doing a pretty good job so far.

It's no big secret that every professional sport experiences periods of great popularity that have a tendency to die out with a lack of excitement in competition or because of a strike or some other cataclysmic event.

OPINION



Ryan Halvorsen

Major League Baseball was riding high around 1988 after one of the most exciting World Series in recent history, when a banged up Los Angeles Dodgers team beat a heavily-favored Oakland squad. Everyone remembers what Kirk Gibson did in that series, but everyone also remembers what happened to baseball in 1994.

Disastrous to say the least. Baseball is still recovering from the strike and will be for quite a while. Baseball needs to minimize its setbacks by starting with the players and end with the owners and governing bodies. Especially when it is heading into the playoffs and a regrettable, overblown incident like the one involving Baltimore second baseman Roberto Alomar occurs.

My point is that there is a void in professional sports that is not rapidly being filled by baseball and I don't think that the NBA is heading in the right direction to fill that void either.

The NBA's major problem that will lead to its downfall is a salary cap accompanied by the gargantuan salaries of premium players and the rather high price of role players. This is the first season that these enormous contracts have been dealt out so it may take a couple of years before the NBA feels any repercussions from them.

Eventually teams will not be successful with just one star player and when a team tries to build around that star with free

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Steelers oust Chiefs with offensive show

■ **NFL:** Pittsburgh winning streak pushed to four games with 17-7 victory

By Dave Goldberg
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Pittsburgh Steelers keep changing the names and the numbers. The victories, however, keep coming.

With Mike Tomczak, the replacement for \$25 million man Neil O'Donnell, throwing for 338 yards and Jerome Bettis, another newcomer, gaining 100 yards for the fourth straight game, the Steelers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 17-7 Monday night.

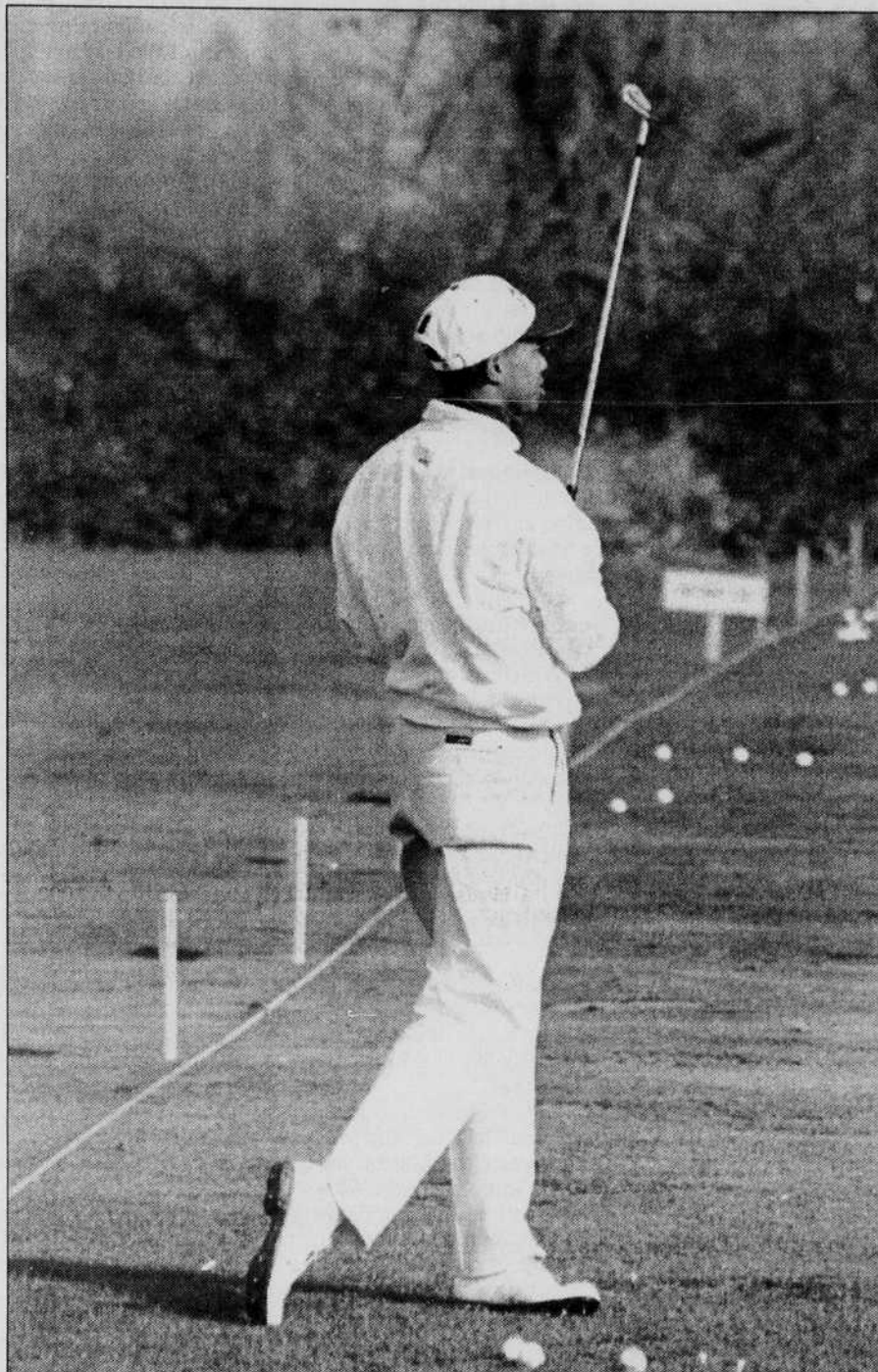
"I guess," Tomczak quipped, "that the temperature was right tonight for the ball to fly down the field. The offensive line gave me tremendous time to throw the ball."

It was the fourth straight win for last

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OUTDOORS GOLF

Take to the Links



PGA tour professional Tiger Woods, a former Stanford Cardinal standout, attracted many golf fans to Emerald Valley Resort during his college days. Since then, the course has flourished to be one of the most popular in the Eugene vicinity.

The Eugene area offers a wide variety of golf courses for beginners to the experienced

By Alex Pond
Freelance Sports Reporter

With the arrival of the surprisingly beautiful weather in Eugene lately, you may be searching for an enjoyable outdoor activity to partake in. The choice is easy; hit the links.

That's right, golf. The sport gives a person a chance to experience nature first hand while relaxing and having fun all at the same time.

There are a number of great golf courses in the Eugene area that are also very affordable to students. In fact, many even offer student discounts with a University ID card.

These courses vary from relatively easy for newcomers to fairly difficult. Laurelwood Golf Course, located close to campus, is a good course for students. It is a 9-hole course that is very hilly and great for getting exercise.

Employee Kim Carlisle said Laurelwood is a "picturesque golf course with a double-tiered driving range and a real friendly atmosphere." The cost is \$8 during the week and \$9 on the weekend, but students receive a \$1 discount.

Another option is Oakway Golf Course. It is an 18-hole executive course, meaning it is shorter than a regulation course yet longer than a par-3 course. Oakway contains seven par-4 holes and 11 par-3 holes. The cost for students is \$7 for nine holes and \$12 for 18 Monday through Friday. Regular rates are \$9 for nine and \$16 for 18.

A course that is a bit easier than the previous two and great for beginners is

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COURSES

■ **EMERALD VALLEY RESORT:**
346-2174

■ **FIDDLER'S GREEN GOLF COURSE:**
689-3464

■ **LAURELWOOD GOLF COURSE:**
687-5321

■ **OAKWAY GOLF COURSE:**
484-1927

Blazers' backcourt overload not a problem

■ **BLAZERS:** Portland's abundance of guards leaves head coach P.J. Carlesimo to choose the best of a strong group

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

MCMINNVILLE — Nothing is more intense in the Portland Trail Blazers' training camp than the battles in the backcourt, where nine guards are fighting for five spots on the regular-season roster.

Point guard Kenny Anderson and shooting guards Isaiah Rider and Aaron McKie have roster spots sewn up. Just who gets the other two positions remains to be seen.

There's a three-way fight for backup point guard between Yugoslavian import Aleksandar Djordjevic, second-year player Randolph Childress and Continental Basketball Association transfer Reggie Jordan.

If the team is to keep three shooting guards, the battle for the third spot is between rookie Marcus Brown and three-year NBA veteran Mitchell Butler. The only guard in the training camp who seems out of the picture is Phil Handy, a free-agent rookie from Hawaii. But even

he is a good player, Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

"The cuts we've got to make in the backcourt are the biggest concern and one of the biggest challenges in training camp," Carlesimo said. "A normal roster would have seven up-front players and five guards. We're looking at nine guards right here in camp and every one of them is a good player. We're going to keep five on the roster. So that's a problem."

Djordjevic believes he will wind up with the backup point guard spot.

"I know what it's going to be and what it's going to be like," he said. "I have to improve my game in a couple of ways but I can do a good job for the Blazers."

Childress, a first-round draft pick last year who missed most of last season with a separated shoulder, has been rumored as possible trade material. Childress is known for his good outside shooting, but he has struggled in the few opportunities he's had in the NBA thus far.

Jordan could make the team as a third point guard because his strength is on defense, not a strong suit of any of the other three playmakers on the roster.

As for the other guard spot, Brown is an outstanding

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