

# SPORTS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### NFL Owners Decide Against Voting On Cross-Ownership

National Football League owners decided against voting on the issue of cross-ownership during spring meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina. The NFL may revise a policy that prohibits League owners from owning other pro franchises. Wayne Huizenga, who owns the Miami Dolphins as well as the Florida Marlins baseball team and hockey's Florida Panthers, is exempt from the rule until June 1997. The policy needs to be addressed since Paul Allen, owner of basketball's Portland Trail Blazers, recently purchased an option to buy the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

### Van Gundy Reportedly To Return As Knicks Coach

Jeff Van Gundy reportedly will be back as head coach of the New York Knicks next season. The New York Post reported today that the Knicks will pick up a guaranteed two-year contract option on Van Gundy sometime next week. Previous reports claimed that the contract option on Van Gundy was worth \$1 million per season. The 34-year-old Van Gundy was promoted to head coach March 8th after Don Nelson was fired. The Knicks were 13-10 under Van Gundy and finished with the fifth best record in the Eastern Conference at 47-35. The Knicks swept a three-game series from the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs before losing a best-of-seven series to the Chicago Bulls in five games. The Knicks won an overtime game from the Bulls, who won a record 72 games during the regular season, and played close in three other games in the series.

### Muster And Graf Advance At French Open

Second seed Thomas Muster of Austria overcame the first two obstacles in his way as he tries to defend his title at the French Open Tennis Championships in Paris. Muster had a relatively easy time with Denmark's Frederik Fetterlein in his opening-round match, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. Muster, the top claycourt player among the men, did not appear to be bothered by a sprained ankle which forced him to withdraw from last week's tournament in St. Polten, Austria. He broke Fetterlein's serve seven times and moved effectively throughout the match. Women's co-number one seed Steffi Graf of Germany also had an easy go of it in her opening round match with Latvia's Larissa Neiland. Graf, a four-time French Open champion, needed just 53 minutes to defeat Neiland, 6-3, 6-2.

### Hornets Name Cowens New Coach

The Charlotte Hornets are expected to name San Antonio Spurs assistant Dave Cowens as their new head coach. Cowens, a Hall of Fame center with the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks, confirmed he had been offered the job in last Friday's edition of the Charlotte Observer. The 47-year-old Cowens would replace Allan Bristow, who was fired April 23rd after five seasons in Charlotte. The Hornets were a disappointing 41-41, one game out of the final Eastern Conference playoff spot. Charlotte has advanced to the post-season twice in the last four years.

### Saberhagen To Undergo Surgery

Colorado Rockies pitcher Bret Saberhagen, who continued to experience pain in his right shoulder after arthroscopic surgery in October, will undergo season-ending reconstructive surgery on the ailing shoulder. The surgery will be performed by Doctor David Altchek, the staff surgeon of the New York Mets. Saberhagen, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, is expected to be sidelined 12 to 18 months. Saberhagen underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair a labrum tear in the shoulder in October. But Saberhagen continued to experience pain in the shoulder and was placed on the 60-day disabled list by the Rockies in late March.

## BULLS SWEEP MAGIC IN EASTERN FINAL

Orlando Magic owner Rich DeVos acknowledged what none of his players would.

Although he wasn't happy about being swept by Chicago in the Eastern Conference finals, his disappointment was tempered by the reality that the Bulls simply were the better team.

Injuries were a factor, as was Michael Jordan's determination to atone for an Orlando playoff loss last year's.

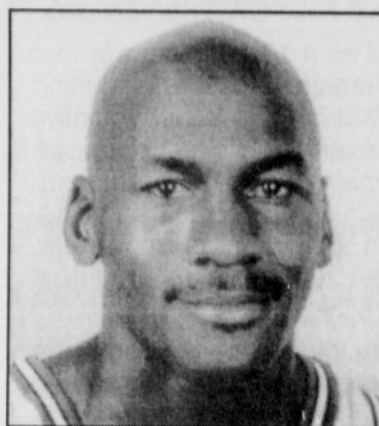
"The danger at this time is everybody wants to point fingers. You go into what I call the blaming stage," DeVos said Monday. "Maybe nobody's at fault. Maybe Chicago is too good for anybody this year."

Indiana swept Orlando in the first round of the playoffs two years ago,

and Houston won four straight over the Magic in the 1995 NBA Finals.

"It's real sickening because we're a better team than we displayed," said Anfernee Hardaway, who had 28 points in Game 4. "We had a great regular season and played well in the first two (playoff) rounds. We picked a bad time to come up with some injuries."

"I think to a man if you asked our team, we would have liked to beat the Orlando Magic with their best players on the floor," said Chicago coach Phil Jackson. "We beat the Orlando Magic, but it wasn't the Orlando Magic with their starters and Brian Shaw off the bench. It doesn't diminish what we did, but it wasn't revenge. We didn't get them in a payback situation. This is



Michael Jordan

a different team that we beat today."

Shaquille O'Neal will become a free agent on July 1 and several teams with room to work under the salary

cap, including the Los Angeles Lakers, are certain to try to lure him.

Although NBA rules will permit Orlando to go as far above the cap as necessary to retain O'Neal, there's speculation he would prefer to be on the West Coast, where it would be easier to pursue his interests in music and movies.

The team's performance against the Bulls, who won two games decisively and two by overcoming double-digit deficits, also raised questions about whether Brian Hill will return as coach.

"The name of the game is we didn't do well, so everybody wants to fire the coach. That's not the way to go. The bottom line is nobody in management has even talked about replacing him."

## STATE AND SENIOR GAMES OFFER NEW SPORTS

The 1996 State Games of Oregon and Oregon Senior Games, for Oregonians over 50, are offering a record 41 different sports in this year's amateur sports festival.

Oregon, with some 16,000 participants last year, has become the largest State Games program in the western United States.

World, national, and state records has been established in various age group categories, last year a world record in the mile run was broken by John Keston age 70 of McMinnville. John ran a 5:34 mile and lowered the

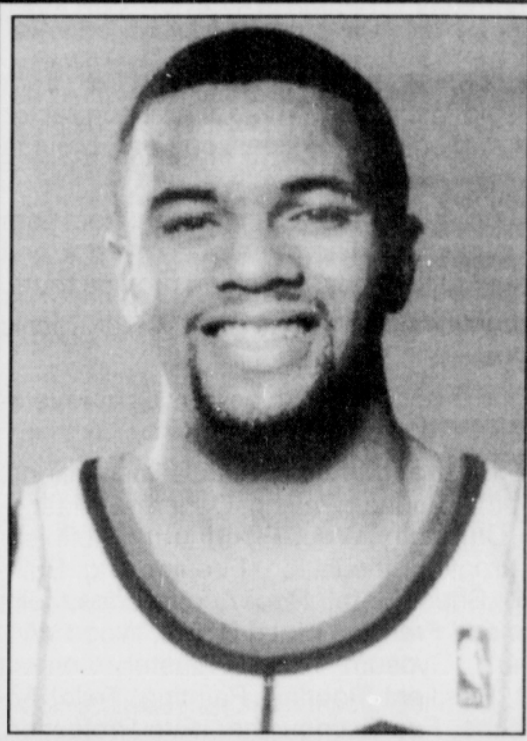
record by 8 seconds.

New sports added this year include golf, canoeing, caching, women's, wheelchair basketball and martial arts.

Opening ceremonies will be held July 12 at Mt Hood Community College.

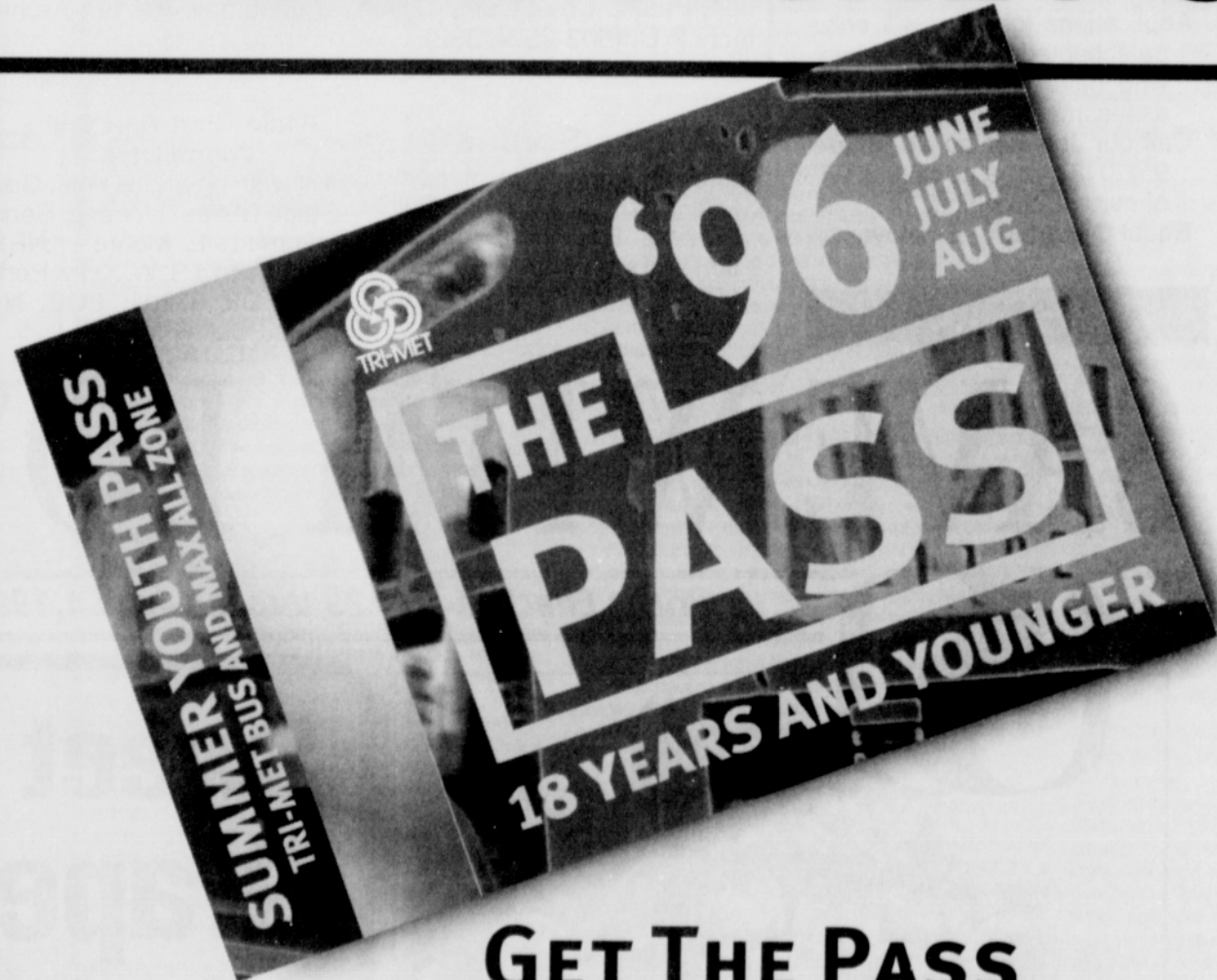
Finals competition is scheduled for July 13 and 14 at various sights throughout the state.

1996 State Games of Oregon/Oregon Senior Games athlete entry handbooks are in all Oregon Safeway Stores, NIKETOWN, sports clubs and stores and park and recreations departments. Call (503) 520-1319.



Portland's own Damon Stoudamire was named NBA Rookie of the Year. The Toronto Raptors star graduated from Wilson High School and plans to return to Arizona State University this summer to complete his degree. CONGRATULATIONS DAMON.

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