

SPORTS BRIEFS

RB Emmitt Smith released

Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith spent a night in Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, took a series of tests that proved negative and returned to Dallas this morning.

Smith was injured Monday night in a 22-6 loss to the Chicago Bears when he dove without the ball and landed awkwardly on his helmet and shoulder pads. He was immobilized, carted off the field and kept overnight at the hospital for tests.

Edberg advances at U.S. Open

Two-time champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden extended the final Grand Slam tournament appearance of his illustrious career today when he outduelled Tim Henman of Britain over four sets and advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships in New York.

Chavez reportedly a fugitive

Former two-time world champion Julio Cesar Chavez reportedly is a fugitive from justice after Mexico's Treasury Department charged the boxer and two of his associates with tax fraud.

Monday's editions of Esto, a Mexico City newspaper, reported that Chavez's whereabouts are unknown and cited an unidentified source close to the fighter who said Chavez is in the United States.

The source also said Chavez claims to be innocent and accuses his accountant, Daniel Viesca Monsivais, of lying to him.

BY RICHARD FINN

Tennis heavyweights Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster are ready to rock the U.S. Open with a quarter-final clash between two titanic hitters.

"It's going to be big tennis," the sixth-seeded Agassi said of his marquee showdown against the third-seeded Austrian.

"Big tennis is when you get two guys trying to establish their will out there on the court," Agassi said.

"We both are going to be beating

the ball pretty good from the baseline. You'll hear explosions off the racket four, five, six times a point. That's big tennis."

Neither player needed to raise the decibel level of his game on Monday. Muster, in fact, prevailed over 13th-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 7-6 6-2 4-6 6-1 despite being weakened by the effects of an upset stomach.

"The more pain I felt, the worse my opponent played," Muster told a reporter after receiving treatment.

There were no such concerns for Agassi after his 4-6 6-2 6-3 6-4 Stadium Court win over countryman David Wheaton.

Regardless of Muster's health, Agassi is expecting the gritty left-hander to give his usual all-out effort.

"I think he punches the clock every time he steps on the court," Agassi said of the 1995 French Open champion. "Every time he gets out there, he busts his ass to win. I don't expect him to do anything less."

Other story lines heightened the rivalry between the two players who split their eight previous encounters.

Muster was one of the most vocal critics of the Open's decision to elevate Agassi two spots in the seedings from his ATP ranking and drop the Austrian one spot.

Earlier in the year Agassi questioned Muster's legitimacy as the ranking number one since he had won only on clay.

But Agassi said he did not see the upcoming confrontation between the

two former Grand Slam champions in personal terms.

"I think if anyone makes this more than a tennis match, it's their own issue," said Agassi, winner of the 1994 Open as well as the 1995 Australian Open and 1992 Wimbledon.

"Come on, we're in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open. We both have won big events before. We both want to do it again. That's what we're both going out there and trying to do. To make it anything more than that is a waste of time."

HEAVYWEIGHTS AGASSI AND MUSTER ROCK OPEN

COMPUTER SAYS SF WINS SUPERBOWL

Call it a time rewind. The most advanced football computer simulation game ever devised has already determined the winner of Super Bowl XXXI, and the answer sounds like it came from the 1980s.

The San Francisco 49ers will regain their perennial powerhouse status this year by blowing past the Buffalo Bills to be named Super Bowl Champions!

That's the conclusion of more than 100 season-long computer simulations played out by APBA Pro Football for Windows CD Version 2.0, the most statistically advanced computer simulation football game ever created.

In fact, the game forecasted 68% of NFL winners in 1995 and predicted that the Indianapolis Colts would be in Super Bowl XXX. The Colts

fell one play short. It also holds the enviable record of picking nine of the 12 1995 playoff teams before the season began.

Overall, APBA Pro Football for Windows picks the following teams to make this season's playoffs:

- The Dallas Cowboys take the NFC East
- The Green Bay Packers win the

- NFC Central
- The San Francisco 49ers triumph in the NFC West
- The Philadelphia Eagles, the Chicago Bears and the Atlanta Falcons are the AFC wild cards
- The Miami Dolphins prevail in the AFC East
- The Cincinnati Bengals win in the AFC Central

- The Oakland Raiders take the AFC West
- The Buffalo Bills, the Kansas City Chiefs and the Pittsburgh Steelers are the AFC wild cards
- As for the Championship games, APBA Pro Football for Windows picks the 49ers over the Packers in the NFC, and the Bills surprise the Dolphins to win the AFC crown.

TIGER WOODS GOES PRO, BECOMES NIKE SPORTS STAR

NIKE officials today confirmed that the company has reached an agreement with Tiger Woods, fresh off an unprecedented third consecutive U.S. Amateur title.

The announcement was made today by Tiger Woods at a press conference at the Greater Milwaukee Open, at which he declared his decision to go pro.

The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"Tiger Woods will have a tremendous impact on the world of sports and will change the way people view

the game of golf," said NIKE Chairman and CEO Philip H. Knight.

"He is one of a handful of special athletes who transcend their sports, the way Jordan has done in basketball, and McEnroe did in tennis," Knight said.

"I have so much admiration for this kid. He is one of my idols," said Michael Jordan.

"I am in awe of what he's done. He certainly has the tools and work ethic to truly innovate the game," he added.

NIKE will also debut a television commercial and a three-page ad that will appear in Thursday's edition of the Wall Street Journal that heralds the much-anticipated arrival of the most exciting newcomer to the sport of golf. Titled, "Hello World," both the print and TV spots recount Tiger's many accomplishments.

The 30- and 60-second TV spots feature vintage and recent play footage of Tiger.

The ad copy reads:

"I shot in the 70s when I was

eight. I shot in the 60s when I was 12. I won the U.S. Junior Amateur when I was 14. I played in the Nissan Los Angeles Open when I was 16. I won the U.S. Amateur when I was 18. I played in the Masters when I was 19. I am the only man to win three consecutive U.S. Amateur titles." The ads conclude with the statement, "There are still golf courses in the United States that I cannot play because of the color of my skin. I'm told I'm not ready for you. Are you ready for me?"

An agreement in principle was reached in the days following Woods' historic third consecutive U.S. Amateur title at Pumpkin Ridge, located near NIKE's worldwide headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

"Like every sports company, we were interested in Tiger and had a plan in place that could be implemented once he made his decision to go pro," said Ralph Greene, NIKE's U.S. director of sports marketing.

"After he finished play in the U.S. Amateur and made his decision, the

agreement fell together quickly," he added.

"Tiger has a tremendous opportunity to be a role model and increase participation in the sport. We are anxious to work with Tiger as an ambassador of change for the game of golf," Greene said.

NIKE entered the golf category with footwear and apparel in 1984. Woods will work with NIKE designers to bring his own sense of fun and contemporary style to NIKE's product offerings.

"Anybody who questioned NIKE's commitment to the game of golf ought to think again," Knight said.

"NIKE has always been proud to be associated with the world's greatest athletes, and Tiger Woods will be a very important element in NIKE's continued growth," he added.

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BOXING AFTER DARK

The electrifying doubleheader, "HBO Boxing After Dark: Marco Antonio Barrera VS. Jesse Magana, and Mark Johnson VS. Alejandro Montiel" will be seen on Saturday, September 14th at 11:30pm (live E.T.).

In the first bout, Marco Antonio Barrera (42-0, 30 KOs), a fast-rising superstar and the world's best junior featherweight, takes on top contender Jesse Magana (18-4-2, 8 KOs), in a scheduled 12-round fight.

Barrera defeated Kennedy McKinney last February in a bout many observers consider the fight of the year.

Then, world flyweight champion Mark Johnson (29-1, 22 KOs) puts his title on the line against Mexico's Alejandro Montiel (32-2, 21 KOs) in a scheduled 12-round bout.

Johnson captured the crown in May with an impressive first-round knockout of Francisco Tejedor.

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