

# SPORTS BRIEFS

## Dallas Cowboy players to retire

Dallas Cowboys defensive end Charles Haley and tight end Jay Novacek, both of whom have been hampered by back injuries, reportedly will announce their retirements. CNN/SI reported Monday that Haley and Novacek — starters on Dallas' Super Bowl champions in 1993, 1994 and 1996 — will retire after missing large chunks of last season with back woes.

## Williams out with hamstring injury

New York Yankees All-Star center fielder Bernie Williams, who missed two weeks with a strained left hamstring in June, was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday, retroactive to July 14th, after re-aggravated the injury. Williams felt a twinge in his left hamstring in Sunday's 3-1 loss to Detroit. The most Valuable Player of the 1996 American League Championship Series, Williams is hitting .301 with 10 homers and 53 RBI in 75 games.

## Reporter sues New Jersey Nets coach

Newark (New Jersey) Star Ledger reporter Dan Garcia has filed suit against New Jersey Nets coach John Calipari for offensive remarks made by the coach earlier this year. Calipari, in his first season as the coach, called Garcia, who is a Mexican-American, a "(bleeping) Mexican idiot," after a team practice on March 20th. Calipari later apologized for the remark, but was fined \$25,000 by the National Basketball Association.

## Agassi competes in tennis classic

Andre Agassi, who has been relatively inactive throughout this season, returns to action this week at the \$675,000 Legg Mason Tennis Classic in Washington, D.C., which opens the North American hardcourt season leading up to the U.S. Open. Agassi, the third seed, has played just 12 matches in 1997 and has not participated in any of this year's Grand Slam tournaments. He missed the Australian Open while taking a two-month sabbatical from tennis and withdrew from the French Open and Wimbledon, citing a wrist ailment.

## Muster is top seed at Mercedes Cup

Austrian Thomas Muster looks to make a successful return from injury as the top seed at this week's \$1.04 million Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart, Germany. Muster had to miss Wimbledon for the second straight year when he re-aggravated a thigh injury.

The two-time defending champion had been the master of clay before this year but is just 8-7 on the dirt this season.

## Tour de France heads to 10th stage

Frenchman Cedric Vasseur was the leader Tuesday heading into the 10th stage of the Tour de France, cycling's most prestigious race.

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# SPORTS

## Woods is British Open favorite

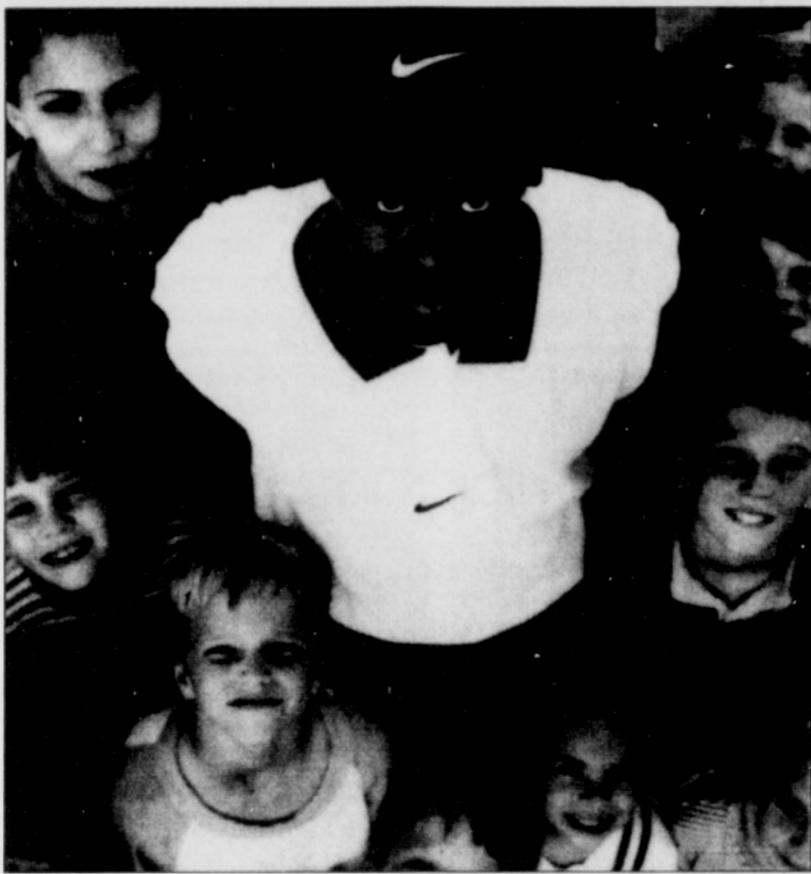
### Golfer says he expects death threats to be part of everyday life

Tiger Woods expects death threats and hate mail to be part of his everyday life for the rest of his golfing career — and possibly beyond.

The 21-year-old American Masters champion and world number one contender, the pivotal figure at this week's British Open, said on Tuesday that he expected his life to be full of bad times as well as good times.

Woods, who is of mixed race, has already been the subject of racial harassment.

Asked whether he thought the hate mail and death threats would ever stop, Woods said: "No. When you are playing a sport in which you are not the majority, you're the minority. Of course there is going to be animosity. That's the way it goes. "It was like that for Arthur Ashe



Golfer Tiger Woods is surrounded by kids of all ages. The first year professional, is one of the most recognized athletes in the world.

and Jackie Robinson — numerous other professional athletes," he said in reference to the two late U.S. tennis and baseball stars.

"Until we understand and respect everyone for the kind of person they are — not just by looking at their pigmentation — of course they are going to be there."

Woods is finding the fans in Britain more friendly than those in the United States. He admitted he was scared for his safety at a U.S. tournament this year.

"I remember in Phoenix, one of the rowdier crowds, I came off the pro-am round and there had to be 50,000 people there and it was only Wednesday.

"I came off the green and security had broken down completely and they just absolutely mobbed me and knocked me down.

"I was trying to sign autographs as I was going along. Unfortunately people have pins, little sharp pins, and one of them cut me under the eye.

"So yes, it can get hairy at times.

But on our tour that has been rectified. Security is much better and people are learning."

Woods has four marshals shadowing him but he believes the British crowds are showing respect.

"People here have been very respectful and that helps because you are able to concentrate and play," he said.

"They understand you are not just here to sign autographs and take pictures. You are here to play a golf tournament. That helps...And they don't cheer for shots that don't get airborne," he said.

Woods, who played at September's Ryder Cup venue of Valderrama at the weekend, admitted he was trying to cure a swing fault in the run-up to Thursday's start.

He is aware that his tendency to hit a high ball could be a disadvantage at Troon, especially if the wind blows off the south west of Scotland coast.

"I'm working at hitting the ball lower," he said.

## Oregon backdrop for golf drama

In the end, Alison Nicholas finally got the applause she deserved. And all it took was defeating one of the legends of women's golf.

In one of the great head-to-head duels in U.S. Women's Open history, Nicholas withstood a late charge from Nancy Lopez to win the tournament by a stroke.

Lopez's run at the tournament championship she wanted most, the only major she has never won, came to an end on No. 18 when her 15-foot birdie putt went right by an inch.

Nicholas, a 5-foot Englishwoman who had just two LPGA tour victories to Lopez's 48, smiled through the shouts of encouragement and wild applause that greeted Lopez at every turn Sunday.

"It's understandable," Nicholas said. "I tried to enjoy it, really, by

thinking that maybe a little of that applause was for me."

When it was over, Lopez smiled through tears, and the two hugged. Along the green, several of the top women's pros had gathered to watch. Most of them were rooting for Lopez, who has brought her game back to the top after four years of struggle.

"She is a legend," Nicholas said. "It was a pleasure to play against her."

At 40, Lopez insisted that this was the beginning of a new era for her at the U.S. Open. After four second-place finishes in 21 tries, she vowed to be a contender again.

"It's a tough thing, because I've always wanted to win the U.S. Open, and this was really, I felt, my time to do it," Lopez said. "But I think this is the beginning of many more good

U.S. Opens for me.... I think I finally realized what it takes to win a U.S. Open."

Nicholas, 35, shot an even-par 71 for a 72-hole total of 10-under 274, the furthest under par of any competitor in the 52-year history of the premier event of women's golf.

Lopez, with a final-round 2-under 69, became the first golfer to shoot in the 60s in all four rounds. Her rounds of 69-68-69-69 for 275 would have been good enough to win every U.S. Open except the last two.

Lopez could think of the what ifs: What if she hadn't been so confident as to go straight for the pin on the par-3 15th, leaving the ball to the right of the green instead of playing it safe, and taking a bogey that put her two shots back?

## Second chance for Tyson?

If Mike Tyson has a calendar on his refrigerator door, he might circle July 11, 1998 with a red marker.

That's the first day Tyson will be allowed to reapply for the boxing license that Nevada boxing regulators revoked last week.

Tyson actually learned his punishment on July 9, but it was not until last Friday that Dr. Elias Ghanem, head of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, signed the official order revoking his license.

Though Tyson will be eligible to reapply next July 11, that is a Saturday and he would likely have to wait until at least the next Monday to seek getting his license back.

Even then there's no guarantee the commission will vote to re-license the former heavyweight champion, whose license was revoked for biting Evander Holyfield's ears.

If the 31-year-old Tyson is denied next year, he will have to wait at least another year before reapplying.

Tyson has already paid a \$3 million fine.

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