

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Early NFL Season Was As Expected

Despite all the quarterback injuries, things are more or less as they're supposed to be one month into the NFL season.

Green Bay, San Francisco and Denver are unbeaten, the Packers for the first time since 1966, when Vince Lombardi was in charge. So are Jacksonville, Miami, Minnesota and New Orleans.

### Welcome home, Chad!

By way of thanks for his successful seasons as linebacker for the Steelers, the Pittsburgh fans responded to every play by Chad Brown with loud boos.

"For the most part, when I came off (the field), the fans were pretty cool," he said. "But there's always going to be a few guys who have to give me the finger. How does love turn to hate? Does your \$45 dollars obligate you to cuss at me?"

### Sutton Wins Texas Open

His strategy worked as Sutton won the Texas Open by one stroke Sunday after Leonard blew his lead on the final two holes.

"I'm overwhelmed, to be honest with you. I knew this wasn't going to be easy to do," Sutton said of his first PGA Tour victory since 1995. "I held my patience real well."

### Oregon Football

Oregon (vs.) Arizona State 3-24  
U. of Oregon (vs.) Stanford 63-28  
PSU (vs.) Idaho State 41-43

### Cubs Beat Giants 5-3 To Win NL Wild-Card

Sammy Sosa got what he really wanted - a trip to the postseason.

"Tonight, I forgot about the home run. I just wanted to win."

The Cubs haven't been to a World Series since 1945 and haven't won one in 90 years, yet they're going to the postseason for the first time since 1989.

### Rockies Fire Manager Don Baylor

The first casualty of the Rockies' losing season was Don Baylor — the only manager the team has had in its six seasons.

"After a long, thorough and very difficult evaluation, we feel a change in chemistry is necessary on the field and in the clubhouse," Colorado owner Jerry McMorris said Monday after firing his manager.

### Steelers Waiting for Slash's Return

The season is one-quarter over and the Pittsburgh Steelers have glimpsed only flashes of the Kordell Stewart of 1997 — the quarterback equally adept at throwing or running 80 yards for a touchdown.

"I don't have to have a 200- or 300-yard passing game," Stewart said. "And even if get only two or three yards on a run, the defense still has to watch out for it and be alert to it."

### Sydor Signs 4-Year Deal With Stars

Darryl Sydor, a key member of the Dallas Stars' defensive corps, has signed a four-year contract to end his holdout.

### Rudd Captures NAPA AutoCare 500

Not long into the NAPA AutoCare 500, Ricky Rudd's seat was burning his backside and he figured there was no way he could go the distance in heat approaching 150 degrees inside his race car.

"It was like sitting on a hot iron and knowing you're getting burned, but mentally just blocking the pain out," Rudd said of Sunday's race.

## McGwire Ready To Hit the Beach

■ McGwire earned every bit of the dollar-a-head bonus the Cardinals gave him for every paying customer past 2.8 million, leading the team to a franchise attendance record of 3,195,021.

ST. LOUIS (Sept. 28) — Mark McGwire is tired of hitting baseballs. Now it's time to hit the beach.

On Monday, that was the destination of the 70-homer man, back in Southern California after carrying the burden of unreal expectations for six months and then achieving something few could have imagined.

"I'm like in awe of myself," McGwire said.

Why not? This year, everybody else in baseball played in his huge shadow.

And now he'll steal some time for himself. Don't look for McGwire to be hawking shaving cream or pickup trucks, or having a book ghost-written, or to be spending time on the banquet circuit.

"He's going to be real hard to

find," La Russa said.

Of the numerous endorsement offers he's already received, McGwire said, "Nothing's really turning my crank."

He's definitely against seeing a movie made about the season.

He scaled a Mount Everest of homers, with their distance this year alone totaling an estimated 29,598 feet. He was an equal-opportunity destroyer, hitting them off 65 pitchers.

His good-natured duel with Sammy Sosa enthralled fans down the stretch. McGwire ended his season four ahead of Sosa.

All this, despite McGwire's strict, almost religious adherence to the strike zone.

During one frustrating stretch, La Russa predicted McGwire would top Babe Ruth's 1923 record of 170 walks by Sept. 1. McGwire ended at 162 walks, one for every game of the season.

"Without a doubt, everybody plays this game to get a team to the playoffs and World Series," McGwire said. "Maybe next year."

## SEATTLE SEAHAWKS ?

■ "We got a taste of our own medicine." — Seahawk defensive end Michael Sinclair

September 28, 1998

Look, if you'd told the Seattle Seahawks' staff before the season that you'd grant them a 3-1 start, no questions asked, they'd have leaped at it.

But after the 13-10 loss at Pittsburgh, the Seahawks have some bothersome issues with which they must deal.

Their defense has been spectacular. Perhaps even better than they could have reasonably hoped.

But the offense has gone limp. And this is exactly not what they expected after leading the league in passing last year and adding the likes of Ricky Watters, Kevin Glover and Brian Habib through free agency.

As they discovered at Pittsburgh, they can't continue to simply rely on an outstanding defense to win every game for them.

The problems come in several areas.

While receiver Joey Galloway has stepped up his game, recording two 100-plus-yard games this season, the Hawks are getting little from anybody else.

Mike Pritchard has just eight catches in four games, and James McKnight has six catches with nearly as many drops.

McKnight's drop of a wide-open deep ball against Washington didn't hurt the Hawks. But at Pittsburgh, Moon fired a good ball to him in the end zone only to see him turn the

wrong way, and then fail to pull in what would have been the game-winning score.

Seattle, remember, was one of those teams that passed on drafting Randy Moss, saying that wide receiver was not a position that needed serious upgrading. Well, had Moss been in that end zone for the Hawks in Pittsburgh, they'd be sitting on a 4-0 record right now.

"We've got to have somebody come up with those plays," Coach Dennis Erickson said. He has not publicly indicted McKnight, but it's clear he can't be happy.

Pritchard, normally a bankable receiver, has also had some uncharacteristic drops.

Veteran Brian Blades is hardly even playing, and the tight ends have not been a consistent part of the passing game, being heavily relied upon to pass protect.

That leaves Galloway as the prime target. And though he's been exceptional, it's not enough diversity to keep this offense fresh.

The other problem against Pittsburgh was the fumbling of fullback Mack Strong. Strong touched the ball four times and lost two fumbles. A good blocker and normally a decent receiver, Strong contributed greatly to this defeat.

Erickson, who rose to prominence on the efficiency of his short-passing game, is seeing his offense wither in the first month of the season.

With the passing game going sour, the Hawks' rushing attack becomes very defensible. The Steelers put pressure in the gaps and held the Hawks to 61 yards on the ground.

## Starless U.S. Team Stumped

■ The Americans felt like outsiders in their own back yard.

Playing without Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Jim Courier, the starless but still favored U.S. team had to make do with two 21-year-old Davis Cup rookies and Todd Martin, who played like one.

The American didn't even get the fast court they were counting on as they lost 4-1 to the Italians, who dropped just three sets all weekend before Jan-Michael Gambill salvaged a victory over Davide Sanguinetti (4-

6, 6-3, 6-3) in the second dead rubber match Sunday.

Agassi, Sampras and Chang all decided against coming to Milwaukee, and Courier was withheld by team captain Tom Gullikson because of an arm injury.

That left Gambill and Gimelstob to make their Davis Cup debuts, and Martin, who was dumped in both singles and doubles.

"Even if we didn't beat the best USA team, for us it is still a very good result," said dual winner Andre Agassi. "We know that the USA with Sampras and Agassi is a different story. But ... it is not our fault if they didn't come."

## NBA Offer Shows Movement

■ Your move, Billy Hunter.

The director of the players union today began considering his next move in the NBA lockout, which will enter its fourth month later this week.

Hunter has now had four days to review the latest offer from the owners, which showed some movement on their proposals for maximum and minimum salaries but also included several pages of new issues not previously discussed between the sides during collective bargaining talks.

With each passing day increas-

ing the likelihood that the regular season will not start on time Nov. 3, the union must decide whether it would be productive to schedule another formal bargaining session.

If the union decides to present a counterproposal, it could lead to a resumption of face-to-face talks that would give the sides about two weeks to agree on a deal allowing for a full 82-game schedule to be played.

The NBA has never lost a regular-season game because of a labor impasse.

The pace of negotiations — and the quality of the proposals — could increase in the next couple of weeks after John Feerick, dean of Fordham

University Law School, rules on the union's grievance over whether players with guaranteed contracts for the upcoming season should be paid during the lockout. Feerick's decision could come at any time prior to Oct. 19.

Both systems would include a maximum salary rule, a lengthened rookie salary scale and small increases in the minimum salary for veterans.

Players have made two proposals, one in April and one in August, with each containing some new demands and some concessions.

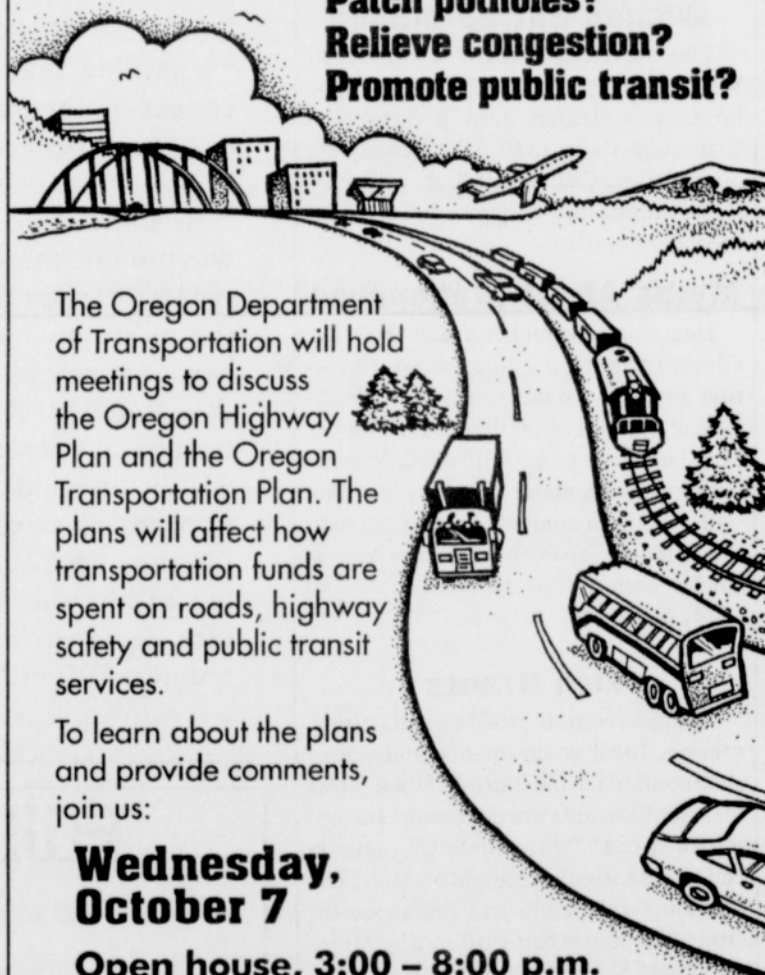
The league has said it will not accept any deal that does not include cost certainty or reasonable cost controls.

## The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll

| Record             | Pts   | Pv  |
|--------------------|-------|-----|
| 1. Ohio St. (58)   | 1,737 | 3-0 |
| 2. Nebraska (7)    | 1,660 | 4-0 |
| 3. Tennessee (2)   | 1,544 | 3-0 |
| 4. UCLA (1)        | 1,538 | 2-0 |
| 5. Kansas St. (2)  | 1,503 | 4-0 |
| 6. LSU             | 1,395 | 3-0 |
| 7. Penn St.        | 1,293 | 3-0 |
| 8. Florida         | 1,275 | 3-1 |
| 9. Florida St.     | 1,151 | 3-1 |
| 10. Virginia       | 1,069 | 4-0 |
| 11. Syracuse       | 1,050 | 2-1 |
| 12. Georgia        | 971   | 3-0 |
| 13. Wisconsin      | 885   | 4-0 |
| 14. Arizona        | 823   | 4-0 |
| 15. Colorado       | 701   | 4-0 |
| 16. West Virginia  | 626   | 2-1 |
| 17. Oregon         | 613   | 4-0 |
| 18. Texas A&M      | 570   | 3-1 |
| 19. Virginia Tech  | 531   | 4-0 |
| 20. Washington 2-1 | 492   | 9   |
| 21. Southern Cal   | 3-1   | 294 |
| 22. Arkansas       | 3-0   | 226 |
| 23. Missouri       | 2-1   | 218 |
| tie. Notre Dame    | 2-1   | 218 |
| 25. Michigan       | 2-2   | 64  |

## How should Oregon spend limited transportation funds?

Patch potholes?  
Relieve congestion?  
Promote public transit?



The Oregon Department of Transportation will hold meetings to discuss the Oregon Highway Plan and the Oregon Transportation Plan. The plans will affect how transportation funds are spent on roads, highway safety and public transit services.

To learn about the plans and provide comments, join us:

**Wednesday, October 7**

**Open house, 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Discussion at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**ODOT Region 1 Building  
123 NW Flanders  
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