

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sluman pulls out fourth career win at Sony Open

HONOLULU—Jeff Sluman seemingly came out of nowhere Sunday and held off some of the world's best players, posting his second straight 4-under-par 66 to win the inaugural \$2.6 million Sony Open at the Waialae Country Club.

Three shots behind Tommy Tolles to start the round, Sluman closed with consecutive birdies to finish at 9-under 271. The diminutive Florida State graduate won by two shots and took home the first prize of \$468,000.

"I feel like I'm calmer now coming down the stretch," Sluman said. "I'm handling it better. But also things just seem to be going my way more than they used to."

Jets mistakes doom Super Bowl bid

DENVER—Remember how the New York Giants won two Super Bowls under Bill Parcells? They would pound you on the ground, turn the ball over about once a month and mix in an efficient passing game.

The passing game was OK on Sunday, but mistakes and a 1-yard-and-a-cloud-of-dust ground attack doomed Parcells' New York Jets to a trip home and a longer wait for their first Super Bowl appearance since 1969.

"We moved the ball well except for some costly turnovers," wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson said of the Jets' 23-10 loss to Denver in the AFC championship game. "We knew if we made as many mistakes as we did against Jacksonville (in the Jets' first playoff game), we would lose, and that's what happened."

KO Punch Turned Around Tyson Bout

LAS VEGAS—Mike Tyson winced in pain as his cutman tried to stop the bleeding around his right eye. The look on the face of trainer Tommy Brooks was one of growing concern as he implored Tyson between rounds to try and get something together.

Tyson's wild punches were hitting nothing but air and Francois Botha was making him pay for it with well placed counters. Worse yet, Botha was talking trash, taunting the fighter whose mere presence in the ring once terrorized his opponents.

This was no way for the baddest man on the planet to start a comeback.

Corretja, Venus Williams Win; Rios Drops Out

MELBOURNE, Australia—Marcelo Rios, gone. Goran Ivanisevic, gone. Alex Corretja, almost gone.

With Pete Sampras staying home, the Australian Open faced some gaping holes in the men's ranks on its first day, and came awfully close to losing Venus Williams, too.

A stress fracture in his back knocked out the top-seeded Rios, the 1998 runner-up. Doctors advised him to rest until March.

For No. 11 seed Ivanisevic, a three-time Wimbledon finalist, it was a pinched nerve in the back.

DiMaggio Released From Hospital

HOLLYWOOD, Fla.—Next stop for Joe DiMaggio, Yankee Stadium.

Yes, that's correct. After 99 days in intensive care, after lung cancer surgery, pneumonia, and an infection that nearly killed him and left him in a coma, Joe DiMaggio went home Monday. Now he's getting ready for a return to the Bronx, where he hopes to throw out the ceremonial first pitch on opening day April 9. The 84-year-old Yankee Clipper received last rites after he lapsed into a coma last month. But each time doctors said he probably wouldn't survive, DiMaggio proved them wrong.

Check Out Next Week

Sports @ The Portland Observer

Doing the Bird: Atlanta revels in Falcons' first Super Bowl

ATLANTA—Start flapping those arms and jump on the bandwagon — the Atlanta Falcons are going to the Super Bowl.

The city awoke Monday with a giant "Dirty Bird" hangover, celebrating a gritty team that pulled off a stunning upset in the din of the Metrodome, conveniently forgetting all those years when the Falcons were treated like the crazy uncle that everyone in the family tries to ignore.

"Go Braves — and take the Falcons with you," was a popular bumper sticker in the 1980s when both teams were at the bottom of their respective sports.

Well, the Braves have tomahawk-chopped their way to seven straight postseason appearances in the 1990s, but it took the NFL's winningest coach and a strutting group of has-beens and never-weres to take the Falcons to their first championship game after 33 years.

Atlanta, which defeated Minnesota 30-27 in overtime Sunday for the NFC title, will meet the Denver Broncos in the Jan. 31 Super Bowl in Miami.

The team will begin its preparations

on Wednesday, which left a couple of days to savor the moment. Actually, the party began Sunday night when the team arrived at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport and was greeted by more than 5,000 people. Nary a mention was made of those three years when the team failed to sell out a home game.

"You felt like you were in a dream world," said linebacker Jessie Tuggle, who has been with the Falcons for a dozen, mostly losing seasons. "You always talk about being in a Super Bowl and now we've done it. We earned the right to go to Miami. It means a lot when it all sinks in, the way everything fell together."

Another 4,000 or so revelers jammed the team's suburban training complex, creating a rush hour-like traffic jam in the middle of the night. The scene was surreal when the players appeared on a second-floor balcony, saluting the crowd that had spilled onto the practice field below.

"It was absolutely nuts," Tuggle said. "It was like a rock concert in

Suwanee, Georgia."

Coach Dan Reeves, who underwent heart bypass surgery just five weeks ago, endured a whirlwind schedule Monday. After getting only 4½ hours of sleep, he appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," stopped by Piedmont Hospital for a routine check-up, and held his usual post-game news conference in Suwanee.

Of course, there was nothing routine or usual about this day. The Falcons have never played at this time of year, suffering through 25 losing seasons in their first 32 years.

After Reeves was hired as coach, the Falcons lost seven of their first eight games in 1997. Since then, they have won 22 of 26 doubling the franchise's playoff victories from two to four in the span of eight days.

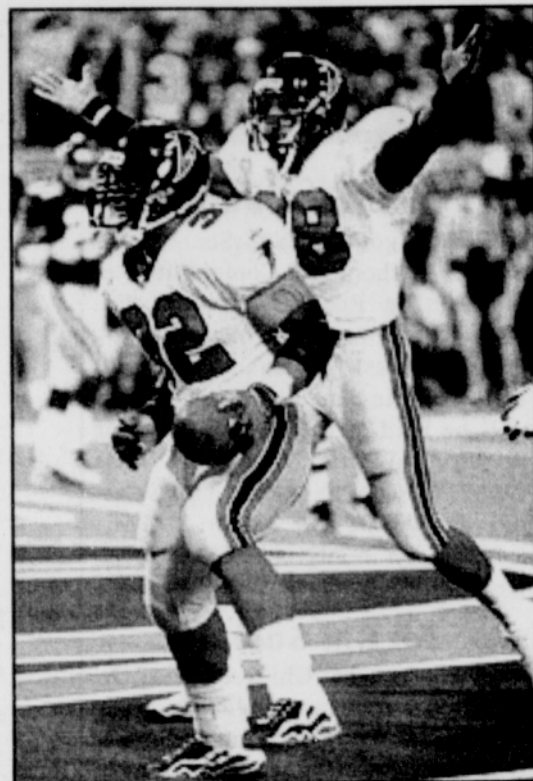
"It's incredible when you think about it," Reeves said, "coming from 1-7 halfway through your first year to be in the Super Bowl in the second year. I can't say enough about our players."

But much of the focus will be on Reeves at this Super Bowl. He'll be

facing the team he coached for 12 years and took to three title games. He'll also be facing the coach he fired for alleged subordination and the quarterback who said playing for Reeves was "hell."

Reeves, who was fired by the Broncos after the 1992 season, insisted Monday that he has buried any hard feelings for Mike Shanahan and John Elway.

"I don't live in the past," the Falcons coach said. "If you're going to be a football coach and you preach and teach to the players that they should look to the next play and not think about the last one, I think you have to go through life the same way."



Jamal Anderson celebrates, as the Falcons defeated the Minnesota Vikings.

Settlement Again Delayed; Pippen, Sprewell Trades Set

NEW YORK—All sorts of deals are being made, from Scottie Pippen heading to the Houston Rockets to Latrell Sprewell going to the New York Knicks.

But those transactions will have to wait some more, as the NBA informed its teams Tuesday that training camps will not open on Wednesday, delaying any trades or signings until Thursday at the earliest.

But the waiting game hasn't stopped teams from having deals ready to go whenever the lockout does end.

The Chicago Bulls agreed to a sign-and-trade deal sending Pippen to the Rockets for forward Roy Rogers and a second-round draft pick, and the Knicks were set to acquire Latrell Sprewell from Golden State for John Starks and Chris Mills.

Also, top free agent Antonio McDyess was expected to choose between Denver and Phoenix by the end of the day.

Also: Minnesota, Toronto and Denver agreed on a three-way trade sending guard Chauncey Billups to the Nuggets, center Dean Garrett and guard Bobby Jackson to the Timberwolves and guard Micheal Williams and two No. 1 picks to the Raptors.

The Bulls signed and traded guard Steve Kerr and center Luc Longley, with Kerr going to San Antonio, and Longley headed to Phoenix for forward Martin Muursepp, forward-center Mark Bryant and guard-forward Bubba Wells.

New Jersey reportedly acquired center Jim McIlvaine from Seattle for forwards Michael Cage and Don MacLean.

The Los Angeles Lakers sent forward Tony Battie to Boston for center Travis Knight.

Vlade Divac is waiting for McDyess to decide before he goes to Phoenix, Denver or Sacramento.

All of those deals cannot be completed until league and union lawyers put the settlement into writing. In addition, both sides are trying to resolve several differences that have arisen.

The biggest disagreement concerns the new average salary exception, which allows teams already over the salary cap to sign an extra free agent. The union wants the exception to be used for six-year contracts; the league wants it limited to three-year deals.

The Bulls will sign Pippen to a deal worth \$67.2 million for five years before trading him.

Although the salaries for Pippen and Rogers do not match, the deal is allowable under NBA rules because Houston will have enough salary cap room to fit in Pippen's contract. His salary for this season will be \$10.6 million.

Pippen, a six-time champion with the Bulls, had talked to the Rockets about signing with them as a free agent. He apparently agreed to the sign-and-trade deal because it allows him to make more money than Houston could have offered.

The acquisition of Pippen should clear the way for Charles Barkley to re-sign with Houston for the \$1 million minimum, giving the Rockets a formidable front line of Barkley, Pippen and Hakeem Olajuwon, and allowing Barkley to keep his Larry Bird-exception rights for another year.

"I am excited about my new career in Houston, and even though everything seems to be changing, I hope Bulls fans everywhere will understand that it is time for a new era to begin in Chicago," Pippen said.

"Chicago has been my home for nearly half my life, and with family and friends here I will always treat the city as home. I only hope the city of Chicago will continue to treat me as one of their own. Thanks for all the great memories."

Sprewell, a three-time All-Star, drew the longest nondrug-related suspension in league history last season for choking his coach, P.J. Carlesimo.

The Knicks will send Starks and Mills to the Warriors, two league sources said today. New York originally offered Mills and guard Chris Childs.

The Knicks, Heat and Pacers had been known to be the leading bidders, and the AP learned that a complicated four-team trade involving Golden State, Miami, Cleveland and Boston also was discussed.

In that scenario, Sprewell would have gone to the Heat along with Binbo Coles and Clarence Weatherspoon, with

Golden State getting Brent Barry, Dan Majerle and Bobby Sura. Boston would have received Jamal Mashburn and Vitaly Potapenko, and Cleveland would have received Paul Pierce and Andrew DeClercq.

McDyess is expected to decide today between re-signing with Phoenix or going to Denver. The Rockets and Bulls were among his earlier choices.

"Houston and Chicago are out of the picture," agent James Bryant said. "Tony has analyzed the situation carefully, and he's most at home with those two options: Phoenix is going to stay a winner and Denver is going to be a winner."

If McDyess stays in Phoenix, the Nuggets are expected to make a final push for Divac or Timberwolves free agent forward Tom Gugliotta. If McDyess returns to Denver, where he played in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons, the Suns' fallback plan would be to sign Divac to play alongside Longley.

Reports out of Belgrade said Divac would sign with Sacramento, but to do so the Kings would have to renounce the rights to Corliss Williamson to have enough cap space to pay Divac.

The three-way trade involving the Timberwolves, Raptors and Nuggets had been rumored since Sunday.

The AP learned of the Battie-Knight trade from two league sources. It will reunite Knight with the Lakers, the team he played for before signing with Boston as a free agent. The Lakers acquired Battie from the Denver Nuggets in last June's Nick Van Exel trade.

Kerr will sign with the Bulls for \$11 million over five years, then be shipped to the Spurs. San Antonio was undecided on exactly who it would send back to the Bulls, although Monty Williams was a possibility.



Scottie Pippen will not be returning as a Bull.

Other previously undisclosed deals in the works: Clippers free agent forward Loy Vaughn was close to accepting a five-year offer from Detroit for about \$23 million. Rockets guard Matt Maloney was expected to re-sign with Houston. Hawks free agent guard Eldridge Recasner was close to agreeing to a deal with Charlotte for four years and \$5 million. Celtics center Popeye Jones was expected to re-sign with Boston for \$8 million over three years. Wizards forward Harvey Grant was headed to Philadelphia for two years. The league and union also were squabbling over changes to "circumvention" rules. The league wants to prohibit wink-and-nod deals in which a team would sign a free agent for one year with the unwritten understanding that a long-term deal would follow using the Bird exception. The union contends changes to that rule were never discussed.

"I think we have a realistic chance of getting it done by the end of (Tuesday)," union lawyer Jeffrey Kessler said.

Peninsula Little League Boys & Girls - 5 to 16 years of age.

Peninsula Park Community Center - (700N Portland Blvd.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday - February 9, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Matt Dishman Community Center - (77NE Knott St.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday - February 9, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Self Enhancement Incorporated (SEI) - (3920N Kerby St.)

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday - February 4, 1999 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday - February 6, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Blazer's Boys & Girls Club - (5250 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.)

Tuesday - February 2, 1999 6 pm - 8 pm

Thursday February 4, 1999 6 pm - 8 pm

Portland Police Precinct - (449 NE Emerson St.)

Saturday - January 30, 1999 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday - February 6, 1999 2 pm - 5 pm

Tee-Ball 5 & 6 years old

For any questions please contact

Michael Smith

529-8441

Challenger Programs

Minor - ages 7-9 years old

Major - ages 10-12 years old

Senior - ages 13-16 years old

For any questions please contact

Derrick & Lynn Butcher

281-7328

Baseball Program

Farm - ages 7 & 8 years old, Minor - ages 7-9 years old

Major - ages 10-12 years old

Junior / Senior - ages 13 - 16 years old

For any questions please contact

Brian Butcher

735-9158

Things to bring when you sign-up

Birth certificate

Proof of address

ie. Oregon Driver Licenses

Utility Bill

Name & Number of Doctor

Name & Number of Insurance carrier

Family Rates

\$30 for 1 player

\$50 for 2 players

\$75 for 3 or more players

\$5 late fee for sign-ups after February 9th

Happy Birthday
Serena
Washington
From Your
Family
We Love You!

