

# SPORTS BRIEFS

# SPORTS

## Blazers on Top of Western Conference

### Testaverde Signs for Three Years, \$19.5 Million

NEW YORK - Vinny Testaverde, who led the New York Jets within a victory of the Super Bowl, signed a three-year contract worth nearly \$19.5 million Monday to remain with his hometown team.

Testaverde, who signed as a free agent before the season, was 13-2 as a starter after taking over for Glenn Foley. The 35-year-old quarterback led the AFC in passing and directed the Jets to their first division title since the team joined the NFL in 1970.

The 1986 Heisman Trophy winner, who grew up in Elmont, N.Y., will receive a \$6.2 million signing bonus. The deal includes a four-year option and incentives could be worth as much as \$2.5 million a year.

### Venus Williams successfully defends title

OKLAHOMA CITY- After winning her second straight IGA SuperThrifty Tennis title, Venus Williams seemed just as happy for her kid sister, Serena.

Several hours earlier, Serena had beaten Amelie Mauresmo to win the Gaz De France Open. It was her first victory as a pro and made the Williams' the first sisters to win WTA Tour events on the same day.

"I found out that she won before I came out to play the match, so I really felt that it was my duty to come out here and win," Williams said after beating Amanda Coetzer 6-4, 6-0 Sunday.

"Amanda played well, of course, and of course she didn't give it to me, so I had to come out here and play. I'm just glad that Serena won, for sure."

### Brawl After English Match Leaves One Fan Dead

MANCHESTER, England- A British boxing fan was killed when he fell under the wheels of a bus after a mass brawl broke out at a Commonwealth title match, ambulance officials said on Sunday.

The 31-year-old victim died after fighting erupted between rival supporters during the Saturday evening bout between Paul Jones and Jason Matthews at the Oldham Leisure Center sports in northwest England.

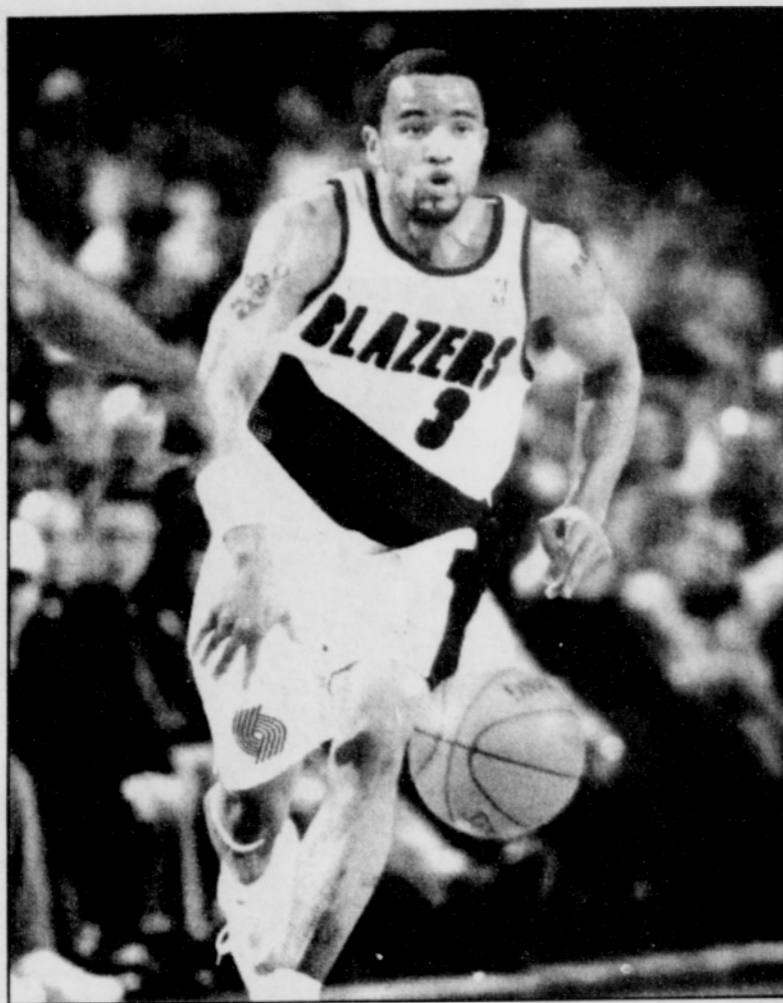
Police said officers were called to "a large-scale fight" after the bout between Paul Jones and Jason Matthews.

The bout ended in the seventh round when Jones was disqualified and Matthews won the title. Fighting soon broke out in the crowd.

### Robinson Offered Diversion Program for Solicitation Arrest

Miami, Fla- Falcons safety Eugene Robinson, charged with prostitution solicitation the night before the Super Bowl, was offered a diversion program on Tuesday that, if completed, would clear the All-Pro player's record.

Robinson did not appear before Judge Teretha Lundy Thomas in Miami-Dade County Court for his arraignment. Robinson's attorney, Jeffrey Allen, met briefly with prosecutor Marc Weinstein to strike the deal. Pre-trial diversion programs are often offered to first-time offenders. Robinson would be ineligible if Thomas discovers he has been convicted or charged with a crime in Florida or another state. Under the agreement, Robinson has to have an HIV test and complete a course on AIDS. He will be able to complete the program in his home state of Washington where he lives in Woodinville with his wife and two children, court spokesman Mort Lucoff said.



Damon Stoudamire (above) has been a key player to the Blazers victories

GAME: Utah Jazz (11-2) at Portland Trail Blazers (9-3).  
TIME: Tuesday, 10 p.m. EST.

With the NBA's best record, Utah goes in search of its third straight win Tuesday when the defending Western Conference champs visit the Blazers, a team that leads the Pacific Division and is 5-0 at home this season.

While the Jazz are most closely identified with an efficient offense highlighted by their patented pick-and-roll, the team has used defense to set the tone for

many of its victories.

"We had a plan coming into the game and we stuck with it," Karl Malone said after Sunday's win over San Antonio. "A lot of times you play defense first and try to open things up for your offense."

While the Jazz rely heavily on Malone for his scoring, the Trail Blazers have a number of players capable of scoring points. As Portland looks for its third consecutive win and sixth straight at the Rose Garden, it remains the only team in the league with six

players whose scoring averages are in double figures.

Among them is Rasheed Wallace, who made the most of his third start of the season by scoring a season-high 22 points in Sunday's victory at Minnesota.

STANDINGS: Jazz - 1st place, Midwest Division. Trail Blazers

- 1st place, Pacific Division.

PROBABLE STARTERS: Jazz - F Malone, F Bryon Russell, C Greg Ostertag, G John Stockton, G Jeff Hornacek. Trail Blazers - F Brian Grant, F Walt Williams, C Arvydas Sabonis, G Damon Stoudamire G Isaiah Rider.

TEAM LEADERS: Jazz -

Malone, 23.5 ppg and 9.0 rpg; Stockton, 7.8 apg. Trail Blazers - Rider, 17.9 ppg; Grant, 11.3 rpg; Stoudamire, 8.7 apg.

1997-98 SEASON SERIES: Trail Blazers, 3-2. After losing the first game, Portland won three straight before the Jazz were victorious in the season finale.

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