



Metro/Sports

Hometown mourns Hornet Phills



BY PATRICK DENNIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kendall Phills, left, widow of Charlotte Hornets' Bobby Phills, and Dwayne Phills, Bobby's brother, embrace next to a photo of Phills during his funeral at the F.G. Clark Activity Center Sunday, Jan. 16, 2000, on the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. Phills was killed Wednesday morning, Jan. 12.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobby Ray Phills III perched on his uncle Dwayne Phills' shoulder, a Charlotte Hornets jersey with the number 13 on it hanging loosely on his tiny body as he looked down into his father's coffin. The 3-year-old son of the Hornets guard, who died in a car crash Wednesday, leaned forward, raised his right hand and waved a final goodbye as Dwayne slipped a Bible into his older brother's coffin. "He's alive. He's alive with me. He's alive with his friends and family," Dwayne Phills said. Teammates and friends said goodbye to Phills, who was killed when he lost control of his car while speeding. Police said he might have been drag racing with teammate David Wesley at the time. The Hornets, the Cleveland Cavaliers and Milwaukee Bucks were honorary pallbearers at Phills' funeral Sunday in his hometown.

"He was what life was all about," said San Antonio's Avery Johnson, Phills' teammate at Southern University. "This is a time to remember all the great things about him. We're all going to miss him." Phills was killed instantly Wednesday morning when he lost control of his speeding Porsche and it crashed head-on into another vehicle. The 30-year-old player left behind a wife and two children, 3 and 1. "I have a lot of good memories," Wesley said, his voice shaking. "Our friendship was always there. I'll miss him all the time. The only bad memory I have is the accident. It's the toughest thing I've ever gone through because we all love Bobby." Phills' wife, Kendall, gave a mostly upbeat speech about her husband, though she had one regret about the morning Phills died. "I didn't tell him I love him," she said. But she said of the man she met when she was 14-years-old, it was one of the few times

in their marriage she hadn't. "I was lucky to have him as my husband, my protector, the captain of my ship, my eternal soul mate," she said. "Until we meet again Bobby, I'll always love you." The celebrities were far outnumbered by hundreds of people who remembered Phills growing up in Baton Rouge, going to school with them at Southern University Laboratory School or making spectacular plays in the arena where his coffin stood at midcourt. "I always called it the Bobby Phills Show. Now this is the last Bobby Phills Show. And this is the place it should be," said Jewel Jefferson, 73, who once led cheers for Phills during his college career. State Senator Cleo Fields read a proclamation and a letter of condolence from the governor. Southern University Chancellor Edward R. Jackson announced that the school will retire Phills' number.

Johnson retires, Wannstedt named Dolphins coach

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saying "this time it's final and forever," Jimmy Johnson today announced his retirement, leaving the coaching job of the Miami Dolphins to assistant Dave Wannstedt. Johnson's decision comes one day after the Dolphins suffered the worst loss in AFC postseason history, a 62-7 defeat to the Jacksonville Jaguars. "This time it's final and forever. I'm retiring from coaching," Johnson said at a news conference this afternoon. "I've had my time in the sun, in the spotlight. Now I want some time with my family."

Johnson decided to retire as coach and general manager last January after a 38-3 loss to Denver in the divisional playoffs, but changed his mind after meeting with Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga. This time, the 56-year-old coach said he is committed to the decision.

"It was 100 percent Jimmy's decision to retire," Huizenga said. "We're disappointed to see him go. At the same time, I'm enthused and excited that Dave Wannstedt will become the head coach." Wannstedt, who was hired as an assistant last January to ease Johnson's workload, was given a three-year contract as the successor. Johnson, who also served as the team's general manager, will remain with the Dolphins in a limited role, but does not want the responsibility of day-to-day operations. "I will do whatever they want me to do in assisting, whether that be in free agency, personnel, the cap, the draft," he said. "The only thing I didn't want is to be here on a day-to-day basis."

Professional Bull Rider Ross Coleman of Molalla, Ore., will join the top 45 bull riders in the world competing for part of \$6.2 million in prize money against the world's toughest bulls on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Portland's Rose Garden.

BY ANDY WATSON/PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS, INC.



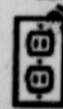
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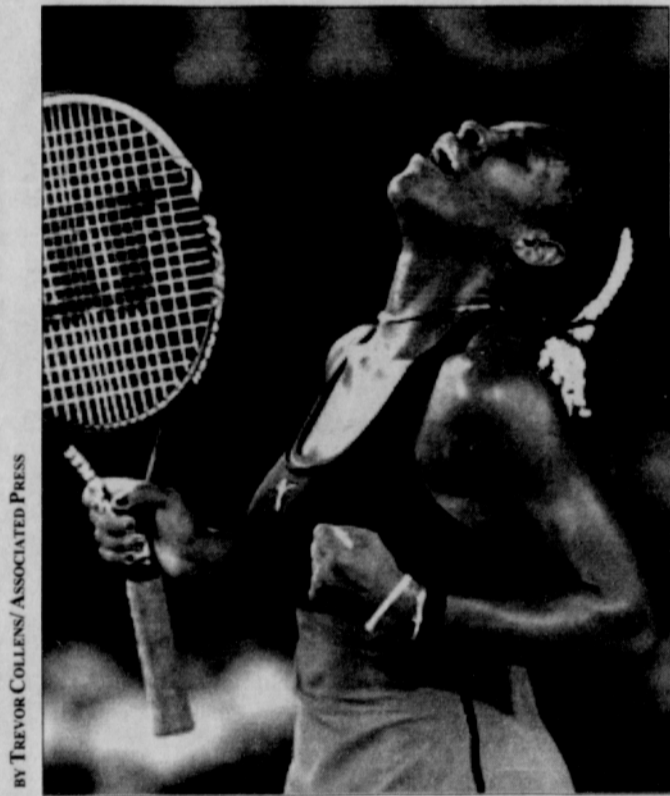
Stylist Karen Dixon

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Tracy Horsley

Serena Williams survives first round

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Open champion Serena Williams fumbled through mistiming, wild shooting and foot faults before surviving her Australian Open first-round match 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 against 261st-ranked Amanda Grahame today. Williams, seeded third, needed two hours to beat the Australian wild-card entry, playing in her first Grand Slam tournament and enjoying thundering support from a home crowd of nearly 14,000. "It was just out of control," said Williams, who committed 55 unforced errors — 23 in the second set — in her first match in three months. The match was interrupted for 35 minutes by rain, in the midst of a seven-deuce game as Grahame scored her second break of the second set to take a 4-1 lead. Play resumed after the stadium roof was closed.



BY TREVOR COLLINS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

American Serena Williams celebrates her win over Australian Amanda Grahame at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2000.

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money. He also stated that the people of color who have been on the board only served for relatively short terms. So the problem is both in recruitment and retention. Tim McGuire also stated that the public is neither well aware nor informed about Oregon Sports Hall of Fame, specifically the nominating process, membership, or its sensitivity to people of color. McGuire stated that the Hall of Fame promotes a number of programs to reach young people in the community — another aspect of their activity of which the community at large is unaware. Janice Carter, interim managing director for the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and its museum, stated Mr. Spencer had been recently nominated as a potential inductee for the Hall of Fame. She stated that, although Mr. Renfro had written several letters regarding the nomination, he had failed to follow through with necessary paperwork needed to facilitate the nomination. She said the process entailed a sports resume and other documentation in order to be considered for induction. She said a person must be nominated by a member. (Membership costs \$25 per year) She, too, readily admitted

that the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame was both white and male dominated. She also said that the organization is looking at change and ways to attract a more diverse representation. Both McGuire and Janet said that there are numerous people of color including, but not limited to Mack Robinson (track), Margaret Johnson Bailes (track), Ahmad Rahshad (football), and numerous others presently in the Hall. Obviously, there is disparity of perception here. However, the opportunity for dialogue and resolution appears to be available. On the face value, the merit of a Multicultural Sports Hall of Fame seems to be valid and have merit. If the leadership of the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame is genuine in its stated position, it is incumbent on women and people of color to get involved and make a difference in the process, rather than criticize the institution before engaging it or researching the facts. At any rate, both parties agree that there is a need to recognize accomplishments of both women and people of color in the endeavor of sports. The matter is how to pursue fair and just acknowledgment of this goal.

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