

Sports/METRO

SPORTS
briefs

Rams Clinch Postseason Trip, Beating Saints

NEW ORLEANS - The St. Louis Rams clinched a playoff spot by beating New Orleans 34-21. Kurt Warner threw for 338 yards and four touchdowns, three of them to Isaac Bruce and the other to Marshall Faulk. Grant Wistrom led the defense with three sacks and an interception. The win by St. Louis (11-2) also kept the Rams a game ahead of Chicago in the race for home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs and clinched a postseason berth for San Francisco.

NFL Puts Refs, Browns Under Review

NEW YORK - From instant replay to beer sales, the NFL will review all aspects of the bottle-throwing melee by Cleveland fans after a replay decision led the Browns' loss to Jacksonville. It will not, however, take action against the Browns' owner and president for statements that failed to criticize the fans' actions.

Coughlin Won't Seek Irish Job; Holtz Contacted?

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Jacksonville coach Tom Coughlin said he has no interest in leaving the Jaguars - a statement he didn't make when the Notre Dame coaching job came open the first time. Coughlin's name was mentioned prominently in the days after Irish athletic director Kevin White fired Bob Davie, and before he hired George O'Leary. South Carolina coach Lou Holtz side-stepped questions about possible recent conversation with Notre Dame officials.

Irish AD Takes Blame for O'Leary Mess

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White took responsibility for the circumstances that led to the sudden resignation of football coach George O'Leary over fabrications in the coach's résumé. White, in his first public comments since O'Leary's departure, said that the resumption of a search - "Phase 2," he called it - did not have a specific timetable. "I don't know what to say," White said on his weekly program on ESPN Radio 1000 in Chicago. "It has been the most challenging, difficult time in not my professional career, but in my life."

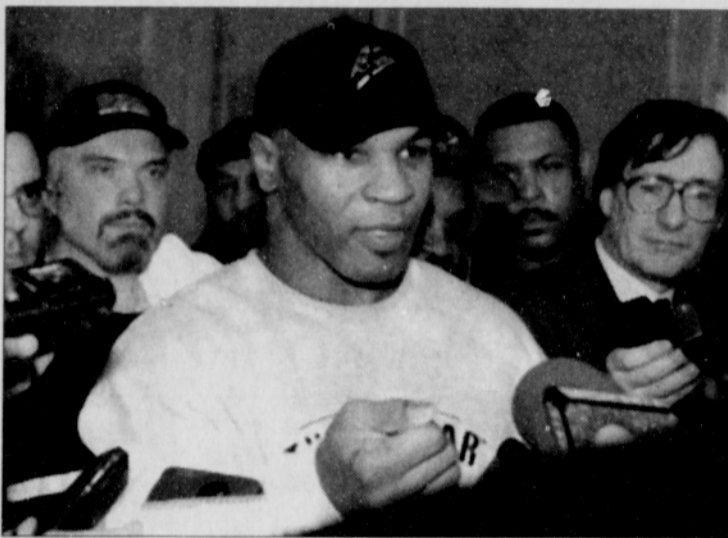
NASCAR Tightens Pit Road Rules

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - New safety regulations by NASCAR next season require pit crew members who go over the wall during races or practice to wear helmets and fire-resistant clothing. Drivers also must wear helmets and fire suits during practice, qualifying and competition, something that has been routine for some time but is now a rule. The pit crew safety rule changes follow an accident at Homestead-Miami Speedway last month. Three members of Ridy Rudd's crew were injured when they were hit by War Burton's car.

Little League Clamps Down on Eligibility Issues

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - Teams in next year's Little League World Series will have to carry more detailed documentation of eligibility of their players, including proof of age and residency. The stricter guidelines were recently announced, four months after the Rolando Paulino Little League team from the Bronx, N.Y., was stripped of its third-place finish when star pitcher Danny Almonte was found to be too old to play.

EX-BOXER ACCUSES TYSON OF ASSAULT



Mike Tyson

NEW YORK (AP) - Police are investigating a claim that Mike Tyson punched a former boxer outside a nightclub after the man yelled at him and called his companions "chicken heads."

Former boxer Mitchell Rose told police Tyson grabbed his mink coat before knocking him to the ground early Sunday morning, just the latest run-in with the law for the former heavyweight champion.

"We're working with law enforcement," said Darrow Soll, one of Tyson's lawyers, said Monday. "We've conducted witness interviews, and the allegations are unreported."

Police had not talked to Tyson as of Monday evening, and it was unclear whether they planned to do so.

Rose had been told to leave the nightclub by Tyson's security guards and club per-

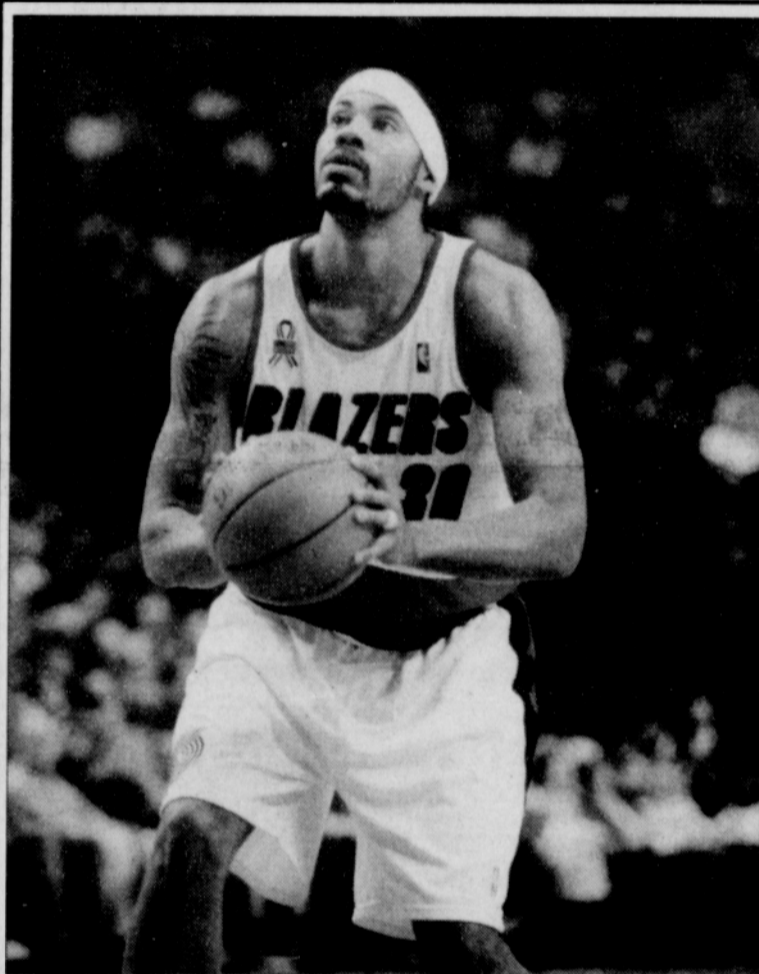
sonnel, but waited for him outside, according to a police report. When Tyson left the club, Rose cursed and screamed at him and his companions, including two women, the report said.

"Look at Mike Tyson with a couple of chicken heads!" Rose said, according to the report.

Tyson then chastised Rose and left, people with Tyson told police. Rose, however, said Tyson assaulted him before leaving.

During Rose's boxing career, he had two wins, eight losses, one draw and two knockouts. He has not fought since Nov. 12, 1998.

The case is the latest in a long line of accusations against Tyson, who spent three years in prison for rape, and isn't the first time he's been accused of fighting outside the ring. In 1988, Tyson broke a bone in his right hand in a street brawl with boxer Mitch Green in Harlem.



Power Forward Rasheed Wallace scores a game high 37 points as Portland defeats Orlando Magic last Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Rose Quarter.

PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Blazers Have Best Game

After having played 22 games, Blazers shot 56.4 percent from the field at Saturday's game, making it the team's best shooting performance this year.

Rasheed Wallace, the Power Forward for the Trailblazers gave his best game of the season with 37 points and 13 rebounds, winning against Orlando Magic 117-106.

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