



# Sports/METRO

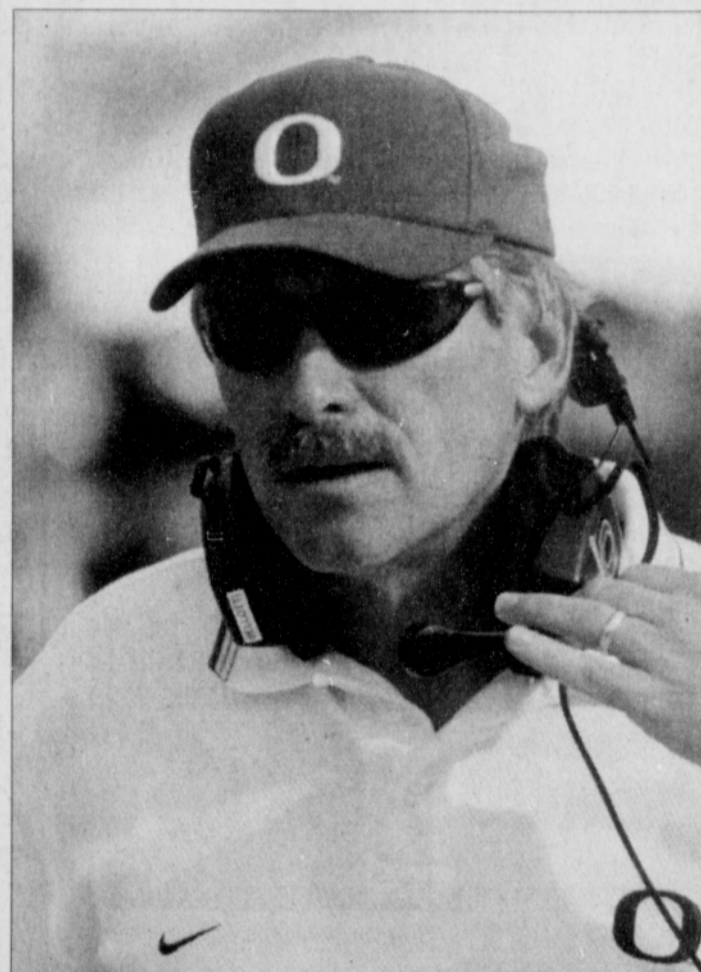
## Jefferson Senior Leads at Tournament



Jefferson High School's head coach Marshall Haskins (at left) goes over what proved to be the game stealing jumper with Senior Brandon Lincoln. Jefferson went on to beat Jesuit 69-66 in the third-place game at the nationally renowned Les Schwab Invitational on Dec. 22.

PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Ducks Hope for a Split National Championship



Oregon Ducks Coach Mike Bellotti declared, "The hype is exciting, but we still have to go out and stop the best running team in the nation if we want to be co-national champions."

The University of Oregon Ducks prepared for New Year's day Fiesta Bowl with the possibility of a national championship.

Ducks coach Mike Bellotti was miffed that his team could be ranked No. 2 in both major polls and not play in the Bowl Championship Series national title game.

Retribution could come if the Ducks pull out a win against Colorado.

An Oregon victory and a Miami loss to Nebraska in the Rose

Bowl could mean split national champions, with the Pac-10 champion Ducks earning the top spot in The Associated Press rankings.

The ESPN-USA Today poll, determined by a vote of coaches, has a pact with the BCS that automatically gives the Miami-Nebraska winner the national title. The AP poll, determined by a vote of sports writers, has no such agreement.

"I hope the AP people vote their minds," Bellotti said.

## Bonds Named Male Athlete of the Year

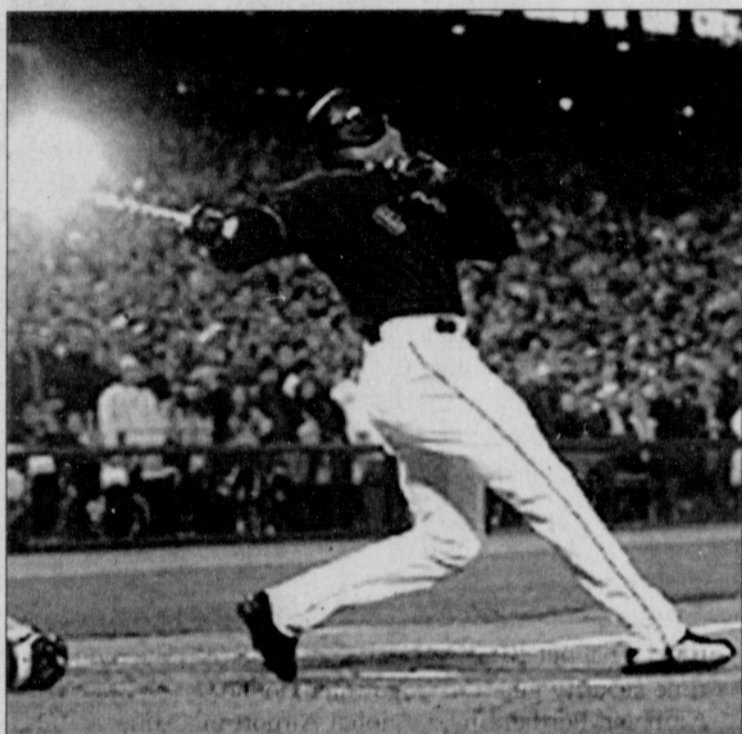
SAN FRANCISCO—(AP) In a record-breaking season capped by major awards, one home run was especially significant to Barry Bonds.

It was not his 500th career homer, or his 71st of the season, which broke Mark McGwire's record.

It was a memorable year for baseball's new home run king. He started it 0-for-21 at the plate, but finished with 73 homers and a record .863 slugging percentage.

Besides smashing McGwire's 3-year-old record for homers, the San Francisco slugger broke a pair of Babe Ruth's records with 177 walks and the gaudy slugging percentage. Bonds hit .328 with 137 RBI while moving from 17th place to seventh on the career list with 567 homers.

Bonds edged three-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong to claim the AP award announced Wednesday. Tiger Woods, who won in 1999 and 2000, tied for third.



Hitting his 73rd home run this year, Barry Bonds breaks the national record set by Mark McGwire three years ago.

Bonds received 33 first-place votes and 136 points from sports-writers and broadcasters.

Armstrong, who finished second in the voting for the second straight year, had 26 first-place

votes and 127 points.

American League MVP Ichiro Suzuki and Woods tied for third with 43 points, though Suzuki had seven first-place votes and Woods, who also won the AP honor in 1997, had two. Randy Johnson was fifth and Allen Iverson sixth. Points were awarded on a 3-2-1 basis.

The 37-year-old Bonds is the 24th baseball player to win the AP award. Pepper Martin won the first award in 1931, and other baseball winners have included Bonds' godfather, Willie Mays, who won as a member of the New York Giants in 1954. McGwire won in 1998 when he hit his record-breaking 70 homers.

After briefly testing the free-agent market, Bonds accepted the Giants' offer of salary arbitration and will be back in San Francisco for at least one more season. Bonds said he's already preparing for the 2002 season and trying to figure out how he can become an even better player.

## Capriati, AP's Female Athlete of the Year

(AP) - In late 1988, when Jennifer Capriati was 13 and about to turn pro, she played in an exhibition event in Haverford, Pa. Some players worried she was too young to start a career and would be off the tour within a few years; others were certain she was too talented not to become a star.

It turns out both predictions were on the mark.

Capriati's remarkable return from career crisis to the top of tennis in 2001, with championships at the Australian and French Opens and a brief turn at No. 1, earned her The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year award on Thursday.

"I'm no longer going to doubt myself in anything," Capriati said after winning her first major title this year. "If I can come home with a Grand Slam, now I know anything is possible."

She received 37 first-place votes and 157 points from sportswriters and broadcasters to top Venus Williams, also the runner-up in 2000. Williams had 26 first-place votes and 120 points, Annika Sorenstam was third with 94 points, while Stacy Dragila and Lisa Leslie completed the top five.

Williams stopped Capriati's streak at the majors by winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open for the second straight year. Sorenstam won eight times on the LPGA Tour, the most in 22 years, and became the first woman to shoot 59 in competition.

Points were awarded on a 3-2-1 basis, and eight women received at least one first-place vote.

Capriati's resurgence was stunning, coming years after she first flashed the power game that would carry her back to the top. She won three titles and reached four other finals, posting a 56-14 match record, including a year-best 24-2 in Grand Slam tournaments.

"I am proud to be able to come back from everything that's happened in my life, and just to enjoy tennis and play this well," Capriati said in October, when she moved up to No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

While Capriati won just one other event this year — at Charleston, S.C. — she was strong at the other Grand Slam tournaments, reaching the semis at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

That was enough to push her to No. 1 in the WTA rankings in October; she finished the year at No. 2, behind Davenport.

# S P O R T S

### Bears, Jauron to Sign Long-Term Deal

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Dick Jauron is going to be the first Chicago Bears coach for a long time. With the Bears at 11-3 and assured of a playoff spot after going 5-11 last season, general manager Jerry Angelo finally gave Jauron the security he had sought. Angelo said he would negotiate a contract extension after the season with Jauron, who has one year left on a four-year deal.

### Cowboys Great Harvey Martin Dies at 51

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Former Dallas Cowboys defensive end Harvey Martin, once a Super Bowl MVP, died of pancreatic cancer. He was 51. The four-time Pro Bowler starred for the Cowboys in the 1970s and highlighted his 11-year career by being the co-MVP of the 1978 Super Bowl.

### BYU's Staley May Declare for NFL Draft

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young's Luke Staley, the 2001 Doak Walker Award winner as the best running back in the country, is expected to announce his intent to enter the NFL draft.

### Nash's 3 Spoils Duncan's 53

SAN ANTONIO — Steve Nash scored 27 points and made a 3-pointer with 0.6 seconds remaining in overtime as the Dallas Mavericks overcame a 53-point effort by Tim Duncan and beat the San Antonio Spurs 126-123. Dallas won its seventh straight despite a career night from Duncan, who scored 28 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and also pulled down 11 rebounds. Michael Finley led the Mavericks with 28 points and Tim Hardaway had 15 for Dallas, which defeated San Antonio for only the 11th time in their last 50 meetings.

### Nuggets' Issel Resigns After Insensitive Comment

DENVER — Dan Issel accepted a buyout and resigned as head coach and president of the Denver Nuggets, after he was suspended for making an insensitive ethnic remark to a spectator. The announcement came after Issel and general manager Kiki Vandeweghe finalized the details of Issel's departure in private meetings. Assistant coach Mike Evans, who has been serving as interim coach, will remain in charge of the team.

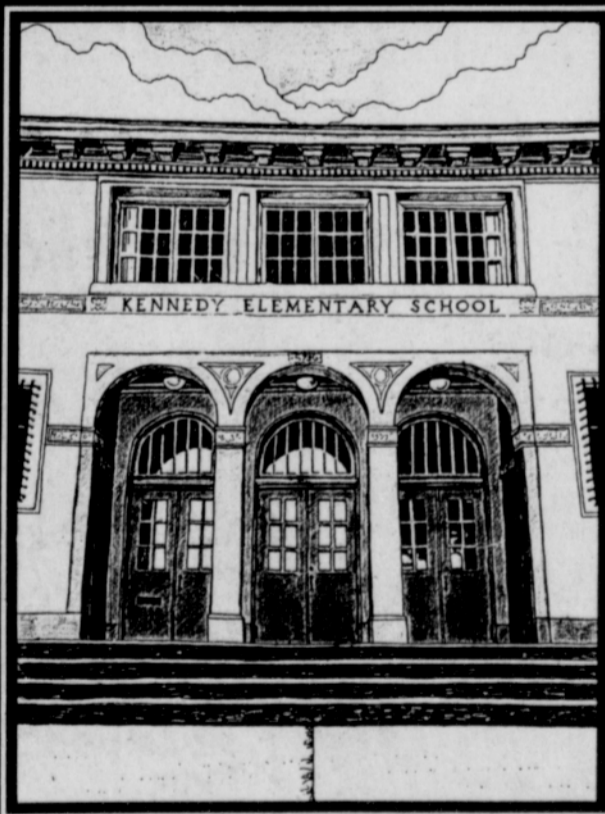
### Staley Leaving BYU for NFL Draft

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young's Luke Staley, the 2001 Doak Walker Award winner as the best running back in the country, announced he will forgo his final year of eligibility and enter the NFL draft. Despite a broken leg, suffered earlier this month, and a history of injuries, some expect the All-American to be a first-round draft pick. He set school marks this year with 28 touchdowns, 1,582 yards rushing and 170 points. He is BYU's all-time leader with 48 TDs.

### Floyd Resigns as Bulls Coach

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Tim Floyd resigned as coach of the Chicago Bulls as the team stumbled through its fourth straight rebuilding season of the post-Michael Jordan era. The Bulls are 4-21, last in Central Division, and have the NBA's worst record. Floyd's overall record was 49-190.

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