



# SPORTS / METRO

## Athlete Breaks Olympic Color Barrier

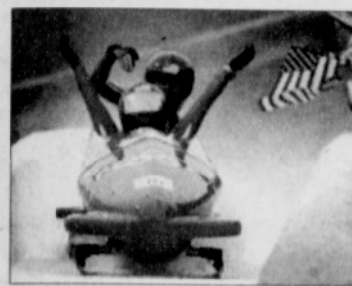
(AP) - A 28-year-old woman became the first African American athlete ever to win a gold medal at a Winter Games last week.

Bobsled breakman Vonetta Flowers joined Portland native Jill Bakken to win the gold medal Feb. 19 in the inaugural women's bobsled competition at the Olympics.

Bakken was born in Portland and grew up in Bend. She now lives in Park City, Utah, and regularly makes runs on the Olympic track.

She and Flowers surprised everyone by beating the favored Germans and the much-hyped Jean Racine in the other American sled.

The victory ended a 46-year drought for the United States.



Vonetta Flowers (left) and Jill Bakken celebrate a gold medal at the Salt Lake Olympics. Flowers became the first African American athlete ever to win gold in the winter games.

## Ducks Set Spring Game in Portland

Portland Family Entertainment and the University of Oregon announced that the Ducks will play their annual football Spring Game at PGE Park on Saturday, April 27 at 1:05 p.m.

Tickets for the Oregon Spring Game go on sale Saturday, March 2 at 9 a.m. At that time, tickets will be made available at PGE Park in addition to all Western Oregon Ticketmaster outlets, including select Fred Meyer and G.I. Joe's locations. Also, tickets may be purchased by phoning Ticketmaster at (503) 224-4400 or on-line at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

It marks the second year in a row that the Ducks will have contested their popular Spring Game in the Portland area after playing to a capacity crowd at Hillsboro Stadium in 2001.

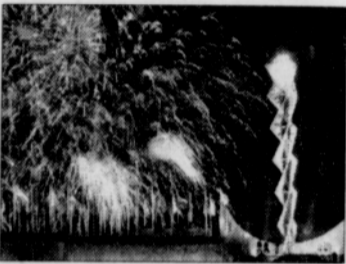
This year's final scrimmage will simulate the activities that normally take place for an Oregon home game, with the Oregon Marching Band, the team's rally squad and the Duck mascot all being in attendance.

## Salt Lake Games End in Harmony

(AP) - America bade farewell to the Winter Olympics with a final show of harmony, a cathartic end to an event that was exciting, troubled, wonderful and frustrating all at once.

The games went out Sunday night with a flourish of Americana, an eclectic dose of Vegas kitsch with stars like Donny and Marie Osmond, Kiss and Jon Bon Jovi highlighting the three-hour stadium party.

The Americans won 34 medals,



Fireworks over Salt Lake City's Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremonies Sunday night. (AP photo)

shattering their previous record of 13. It still wasn't enough to put them ahead of Germany (35) in the total medal count, but these still were America's games.

Bon Jovi played, Harry Connick Jr. sang, and so did Earth, Wind and Fire and Gloria Estefan. Dorothy Hamill, Katarina Witt and Scott Hamilton skated. Willie Nelson sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water," a quiet counterbalance to the glitz of the rest of the show.

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## Williams Charged in Limo Driver's Death

(AP) - Former NBA star Jayson Williams surrendered Monday to face charges in the fatal shooting of a limousine driver at his sprawling mansion.

The NBC Sports commentator, accompanied by two men, walked through a back entrance into the state police barracks.

Williams' attorney, Joseph Hayden, said his client was charged in the death of Costas Christofi.

"The death of Mr. Christofi was a tragic accident, but it was an accident," Hayden said. "We are very confident that after a full, fair and thorough exploration of all the facts, it will be clear that Mr. Williams is innocent of recklessness and innocent of any criminal conduct."

Christofi, 55, was found shot to death at Williams' 65-acre estate in Alexandria Township on Feb. 14. Christofi's nephew, Chris Adams, said his family could not confirm earlier published reports that Williams was playfully twirling a shotgun while giving a tour of his 30,000-



Jayson Williams arrives at the New Jersey State Police barracks Monday to surrender in connection with the shooting death of a limousine driver. (AP photo)

square-foot home when the weapon fired, hitting Christofi.

His death originally was reported as a suicide. After an autopsy, the medical examiner ruled the shooting a homicide.

The 6-foot-10 Williams was once among the NBA's best rebounders, but leg injuries ended his basketball career. He retired from the New Jersey Nets in 2000 and now works for NBC as an NBA studio analyst.

NBC Sports vice president Kevin Sullivan said the network would not comment.

## Beavers, Timbers Tickets Available

Individual game tickets for the 2002 Portland Beavers' and Portland Timbers' seasons go on sale Saturday, March 2 at 9 a.m.

At that time, tickets will be made available at PGE Park in addition to all Portland-area

Ticketmaster outlets, including select Fred Meyer and G.I. Joe's locations. Also, tickets may be purchased by phoning Ticketmaster at (503) 224-4400 or on-line at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

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