

# SPORTS

## Coach Calls Suspension Excessive



Indiana Pacers Coach Isiah Thomas gets into a shouting match with game officials. (AP photo)

(AP) -- Indiana Pacers coach Isiah Thomas doesn't think the NBA is targeting his team for their recent combative behavior. However, he does wonder if the league is treating their outburst unfairly. Thomas said Monday he didn't agree with the NBA's decision to suspend him for two games for escalating an on-court altercation and not acting as a peacemaker during a fight with the Raptors. "I don't understand it and I think it's been very excessive," he said. Thomas will be allowed to coach practice and will lead the East team at the All-Star game in Atlanta on Sunday. The Pacers lead the Eastern Conference. The trouble for Thomas began Friday when he became involved in an altercation between Toronto's Morris Peterson and Al Harrington. Peterson tripped Harrington — on purpose, Thomas said — and when no flagrant foul was called, the Pacers coach left his seat and got into a shouting match with Peterson. Thomas was restrained by Raptors coach Lenny Wilkens and ejected by referee Steve Javie. Thomas admits that after Peterson cursed at him, he cursed back, but that was all. Then came the news on Saturday that Stu Jackson, NBA senior vice president of basketball operations was suspending Thomas. Coach Thomas did not act as peacemaker during this incident," Jackson said. Thomas, Indiana's third-year coach, said he was stunned. "I've been in this league 20 years and I don't remember a time where a coach or players have been suspended for multiple games for arguing," Thomas said.



Cathe Wiese, founder of My Fathers Place family shelter.

## Family Homeless Shelter Reopens

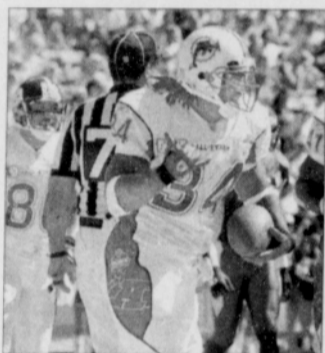
*continued from Metro*  
 "It's home," she said. "I want to be back home." Wiese came up with the idea for a family shelter while working with victims of domestic violence. What she found was more than just women and kids in need. "There were whole families that were hurting," she said. Wiese said other shelters won't take kids over 10-years-old and men are not allowed to bring children to shelters. Because of these rules, those in trouble are often forced to break up and find shelter separately. Wiese wanted to keep them close. "Here they can work on their issues and problems together," she said. Since Wiese doesn't accept government funding, many of the rules that apply to other shelters don't apply to hers. For example, family stays at other shelters are typically limited to just 30 days. "We feel like that's not long enough for them to turn their lives around," Wiese said. The typical stay of a family at My Father's Place spans three to five months. Since the shelter opened two years ago, Wiese said the need has remained steady. "From the day we opened, we've been full," she said. Wiese has had to turn away as many as 100 families a month. Those lucky enough to secure a room at My Father's Place will find safety and security but not a free ride. Tenants are required to look for work and take accountability for their futures. "We don't do anything for them that they can't do for themselves," Wiese said. Wiese believes that when families move into a positive environment, there is no limit to what they can achieve. "It's all about encouraging people to be everything they can be," she said.

*It's all about encouraging people to be everything they can be*

— Cathe Wiese, founder of My Fathers Place family shelter

## Williams Pro Bowl MVP

(AP)—Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams scored two touchdowns, ran for 56 yards and forced a fumble on special teams to help lead the AFC past the NFC 45-20 on Sunday for their sixth win in the last seven Pro Bowls.



Ricky Williams of the AFC Miami Dolphins flashes the Hawaiian "shaka" sign after scoring his first touchdown of the Pro Bowl game at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu Sunday. (AP photo)

Williams, who led the NFL in rushing after three tough seasons in New Orleans, also caught three passes to win the MVP award.

Williams' multifaceted performance was the highlight of a dominant afternoon for the AFC, which got three 100-yard games from its quarterbacks and six interceptions from its defense as the NFL wrapped up its season with another high-scoring all-star game.

With his dreadlocks, surfer wardrobe and profoundly mellow ways, Williams is right at home in Hawaii — both on its beaches and in its football stadiums.

Hawaii suits his famously detached personality, but his effort

was anything but mellow. "What's fun is how laid-back everything is," Williams said. "It's always great to get in the end zone, but it's especially great to do it against the best players in the world with millions of people watching."

## Portland Major League in Questions

*Editor's note: The office of Mayor Vera Katz released the following question and answer sheet Tuesday regarding efforts to build a stadium to bring a Major League Baseball team to Portland.*

**Why is the city buying a Major League Baseball team?**  
 The city is not buying a MLB team. The city is investigating options to build a stadium where a MLB team could play in Portland.

**Why is the city interested in acquiring an MLB team?**  
 Portland was invited by MLB to be considered as a possible future home of the Montreal Expos, along with several other U.S. cities. The league currently owns the Expos and would like to relocate the team in time for the 2004 season. Such a relocation has not taken place in 30 years. MLB is also considering reducing the number of teams, so the potential for a brand new team is highly unlikely. Thus, relocation of an existing team such as the Expos could be the only feasible way for Portland to have an MLB team in the future.

**Our schools are in the midst of a budget crisis. How can we afford to pursue a new baseball team and stadium at a time like this?**  
 The city will not use any existing revenues that currently support schools and core city services for the development of a new stadium.

**How will the city pay for the stadium?**  
 One proposal being discussed at the Legislature would use the state income taxes paid by the baseball players—both home and visiting—to finance between \$150 and \$175 million cost of the stadium. Other finance options being considered are: a tax on game tickets, stadium parking fees, and/or a tax on food and beverages sold at the games.

**What would happen to PGE Park if a new stadium were built?**  
 PGE Park could continue to be available for Timbers soccer, PSU football, concerts, and community use.

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