

African American Coaches Reach Top

On world stage for Super Bowl XLI

For the first time in the Super Bowl's 41-year history two African American head coaches will be on one of the sporting world's biggest stages.

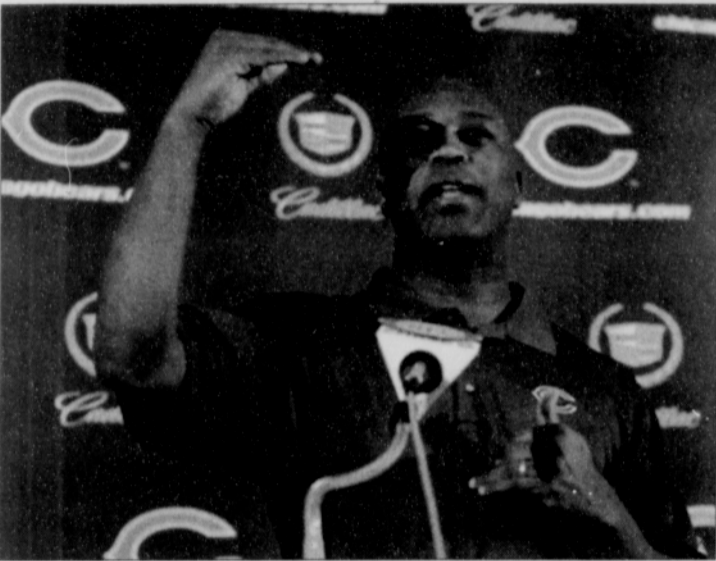
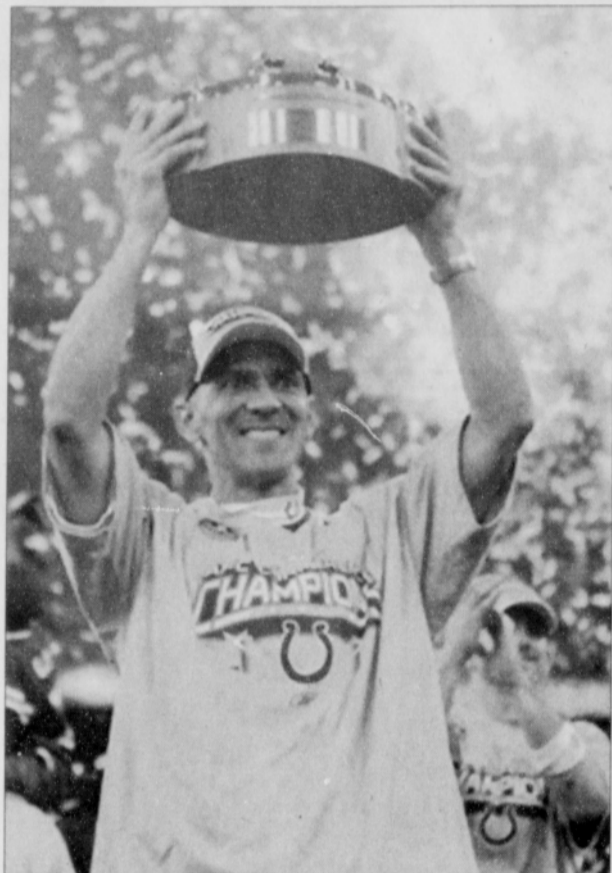
Leading the Chicago Bears in Miami on Sunday, Feb. 4 will be Lovie Smith, who became the first black head coach to reach the title game with his team's victory on Sunday. A few hours later, Smith was cheering for his good friend and mentor Tony Dungy as Indianapolis reached the big game by staging the greatest comeback in an NFL conference championship.

The Bears ended the New Orleans Saints fairytale season with a 39-14 thrashing to capture the NFC championship at a snowy Soldier Field propelling the 'Monsters of the Midway' to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1986.

Indianapolis rallied to edge the New England Patriots 38-34 to put the Colts into their first Super Bowl since the 1970 season, when they called Baltimore their home.

The historic mark for black coaches on the NFL's championship game is a long overdue breakthrough for a league that still enforces a rule requiring teams with coaching vacancies to interview minority candidates before filling the position.

"Of course, you know where my loyalty is, for the Chicago Bears, but we have to play someone and in my perfect



Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith at a news conference one day after his team clinched a berth in Super Bowl. The Bears face the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLI in Miami on Sunday, Feb. 4. (AP photo)

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy holds up the Lamar Hunt Trophy after defeating the New England Patriots 38-34 in the AFC Championship football game Sunday in Indianapolis. (AP photo, for Super Bowl XLI in Miami, Florida, on Sunday, Feb. 4.)

world I would like to see the Colts be that team," Smith told reporters before Indianapolis joined his side in the title game.

"Tony Dungy has done an awful lot for our game (but) he hasn't had the opportunity to coach in the Super Bowl..."

"Being the first black coach to lead his team, of course the players knew about it and wanted to help us make history today," added Smith. "But I'll

feel even better when I'm the first black coach to hold up the championship trophy."

The game will also feature two quarterbacks who still have something to prove. Despite guiding their teams to the Super Bowl, Bears quarterback Rex Grossman and the Colts Peyton Manning have still failed to meet the expectations of demanding fans and media.

Perennial Pro-Bowl quarterback and

twice NFL MVP, Manning's credentials also include a Hall of Fame ring but he is saddled with the reputation of a player who crumbles under pressure at the big moment and is incapable of winning the big game.

The Bears quarterback has helped Chicago to 15 wins this season and their first Super Bowl in 21 years but has received precious little credit because of his inconsistent play.

Steelers Hire First Black Coach

(AP) — Mike Tomlin, the defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings, was hired by the Pittsburgh Steelers — the first black head coach in the team's 74-year history.

Tomlin was hired on Sunday, the same day two black coaches, Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy, made it to the Super Bowl for the first time.

Tomlin had a successful first season as Minnesota's defensive coordinator. His name was one of about a dozen on a list of qualified minority candidates given to Steelers owner Dan Rooney at a mid-December meeting in New York. Rooney is the chairman of the NFL's committee on workplace diversity.

Tomlin was chosen largely because of the motivation, enthusiasm and organizational skills he showed in two strong interviews with Rooney, team president Art Rooney II and director of football operations Kevin Colbert.

"It's humbling," Tomlin said last week of being in the running for one of the most high-profile jobs in pro sports.



Mike Tomlin

War Forum Saturday

Everyone is invited to attend a forum on how to maintain our constitutional rights here at home while the government wages a war on terror.

The group Radical Women presents the public session titled "Working Class Women vs. the War on Terrorism" on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St.

Local Church to Host Bernice King

Bernice A. King, the youngest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King will be the keynote speaker at the Williams-King Scholarship Banquet presented by Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1441 N.E. Second Ave.

As an ordained preacher, Bernice King is an elder at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga. She earned a bachelor's degree in

psychology from Spelman College as well as a law degree and masters in divinity from Emory University. She also received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Wesley College and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia. As an author, she has two books to her credit, Hard Questions, Heart Answers: Sermons and Speeches; and Father I Never Knew: The Father I Know Now.

Bernice King frequently speaks at churches, universities, and commu-

nity events around the country. She is nationally and internationally known as a powerful, motivating and life-changing orator and speaker.

Proceeds benefit the Williams-King Scholarship Fund named in honor of the late Rev. Dr. O.B. Williams, founder of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Tickets are \$50 and available at all Ticket West outlets (service charge additional). For more information, call the church at 503-282-9496.



Bernice King



MOTOWN MAGIC WITH The Contours

Sat Jan 27-7:30 pm ★ Sun Jan 28-3 pm ★ Mon Jan 29-7:30 pm

Jeff Tyzik, conductor

Widely remembered for their 1962 hit "Do You Love Me?," this rough and rowdy group helped put Motown on the map. The Contours prove they still really shake 'em down with Motown hits from The Temptations, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson & The Miracles, Stevie Wonder and more.



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Portland Soldier Killed



Sgt. Sean Fennerty

(AP) — U.S. Army Sgt. Sean Patrick Fennerty of Portland has been killed in combat in Iraq.

Fennerty, 26, died Saturday in Al Anbar Province when the vehicle he was in was struck by a roadside bomb, according to the Oregon Military Department.

Fennerty was stationed at Ft. Richardson, Alaska with the 25th Infantry Division.

He was born in San Diego at the Naval Hospital while his father was on active duty. Fennerty grew up in Tucson, Ariz. and Portland. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Portland in 1999 and Oregon State University in 2004.

His family told the Oregon Military Department that Fennerty always wanted to be in the military and serve his country and felt this was part of honor and service.

Fennerty is survived by his mother, father, two sisters and brother.

According to a list kept by Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office Fennerty is the 78th soldier from Oregon or with close Oregon ties to die in the Iraq war.