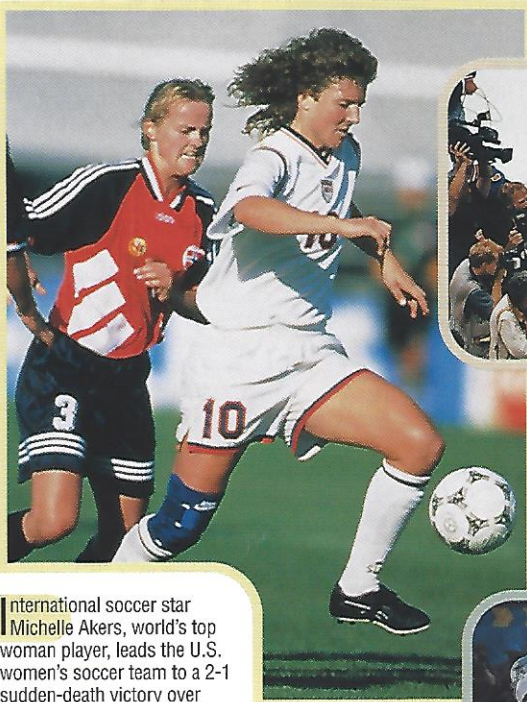
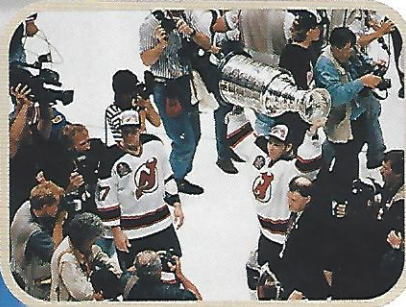


sports news



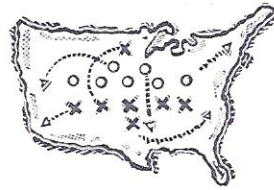
International soccer star Michelle Akers, world's top woman player, leads the U.S. women's soccer team to a 2-1 sudden-death victory over Norway in the U.S. Cup title game in August.

Chris Cole, Allsport



Focus on Sports

The New Jersey Devils win the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup, beating the heavily favored Detroit Red Wings in four straight games.

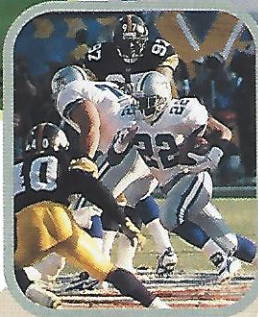


The most controversial moves are off the field this season as the Cleveland Browns NFL franchise announces its move to Baltimore and the Houston Oilers announce their move to Nashville.



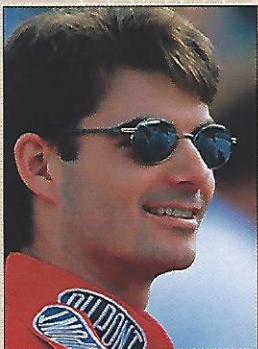
Clark Campbell, Sipa Press

In May 1995, Peter Blake's Team New Zealand in "Black Magic 1" defeats Dennis Conner's team in "Young America" in the first 5-0 sweep in the 144-year history of the America's Cup.



AP/Wide World

In Super Bowl XXX, the heavily favored Dallas Cowboys beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17. Dallas cornerback Larry Brown ices the game for the Cowboys with the second of his two interceptions, and is named MVP for his heroics.



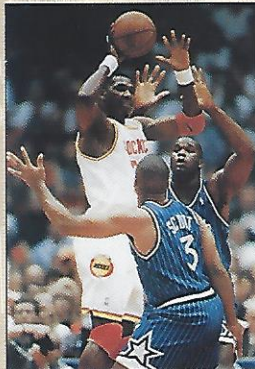
David Taylor, Allsport

Jeff Gordon, 24, dominates the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing's Winston Cup, winning 7 of NASCAR's 31 races and earning \$4.3 million in 1995, a record for the sport.



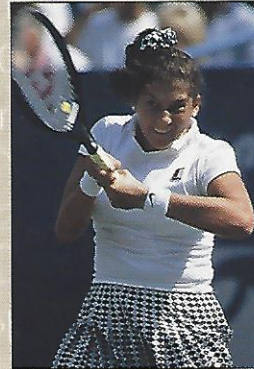
AP/Wide World

The University of Nebraska demolishes the University of Florida, 62-24, in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl to win their second consecutive national college football title and cap Cornhuskers coach Tom Osborne's 23rd season.



Reuters/Bettmann

The Houston Rockets, led by center Hakeem Olajuwon, win their second consecutive National Basketball Association championship in June, sweeping the series with the Orlando Magic in four games.



Steve Berman, Gamma/Liaison

Twenty-one-year-old tennis champ Monica Seles, returning to competitive play two years after being stabbed at a tournament in Germany, wins the 1995 Australian Open.



Hall-of-Famer Mickey Mantle, a switch-hitter and one of the great sluggers in baseball history, dies of cancer on August 13. Mantle hit 536 home runs in his 18-year career and compiled a lifetime batting average of .298.