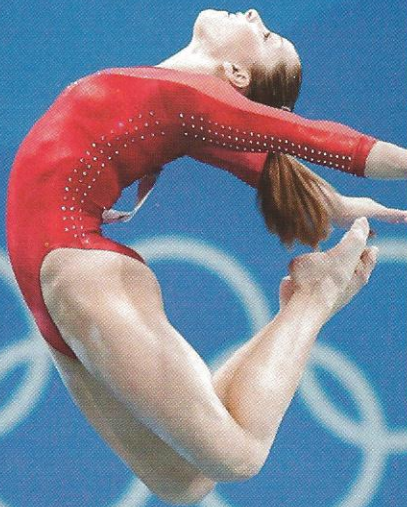


EPA/Gero Breloer/AP/Wide World Photos



Carly Patterson joins Mary Lou Retton as the only American gymnasts to win the women's all-around Olympic gold medal.

Michael Phelps swims his way to eight individual Olympic medals, six gold and two bronze.

David Gray/Reuters/Landov



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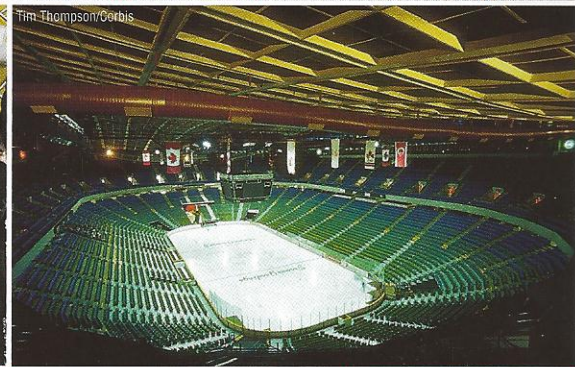
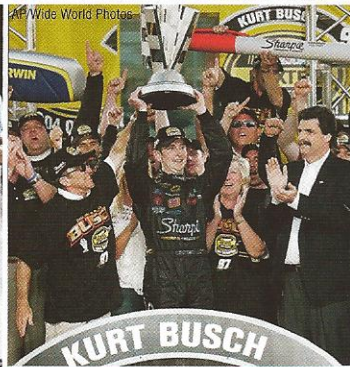
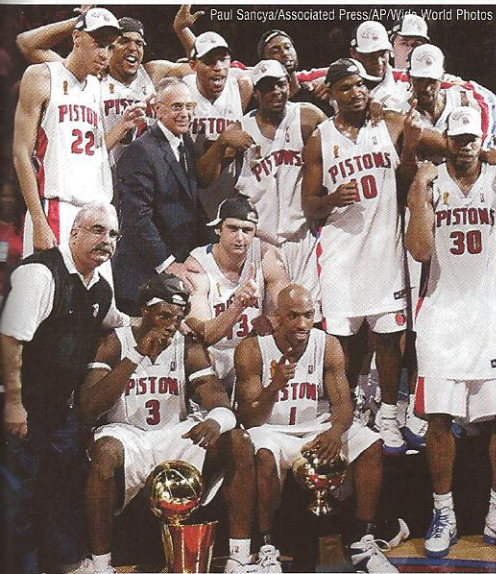
## ATHENS 2004

Together for the last time, the "Fab Five" of U.S. women's soccer — Julie Foudy, Joy Fawcett, Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Brandi Chastain — bring home an Olympic gold medal.

Kevin Djansezian/AP/Wide World Photos



Paul Sancya/Associated Press/AP/Wide World Photos



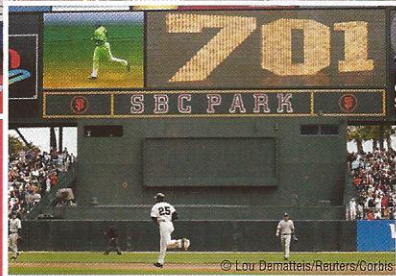
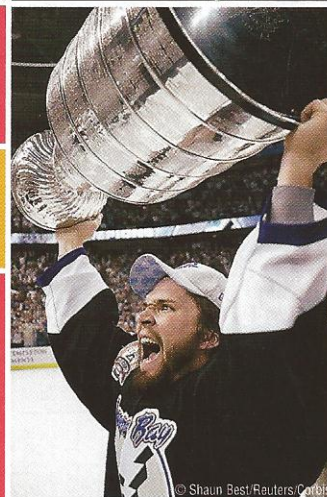
Kurt Busch wins the NASCAR Nextel Cup. It is his first career title and the closest battle in cup history.

The Detroit Pistons, led by Ben Wallace and finals MVP Chauncey Billups, win the 2004 NBA title.

Barry Bonds joins Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron as baseball's only 700+ home run hitters. However, his performance falls under scrutiny after it is revealed that Bonds and other major leaguers have been using illegal steroids.

The NHL takes the 2004-2005 season off as players and team owners fail to come to an agreement on players' salary limitations.

The Tampa Bay Lightning claim the 2004 NHL Stanley Cup by winning the seventh game of the Stanley Cup Finals, 2-1, over the Calgary Flames.



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