

SPORTS

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flash

Tennis pro Pete Sampras wins the eighth grand-slam title of his career at the U.S. Open in September. Steffi Graf wins the U.S. Open Women's title, beating Monica Seles.

Pro boxer Mike Tyson loses his Heavyweight Champion of the World title to Evander Holyfield in a November match. Holyfield, a former two-time world champion, reclaims his title in the surprise win.

Chicago Bulls star Dennis Rodman furthers his controversial reputation by kicking a photographer in the groin during a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves in January 1997. Rodman is suspended for up to 11 games without pay, costing him more than \$1 million, in addition to a \$25,000 fine to the NBA, as well as a reported \$200,000 settlement with the photographer.

Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar is suspended for five games, deferred to the 1997 season, when he spits on an umpire during a heated argument over a questionable call in the National League play-offs. Controversy ensues over the leniency of the punishment.



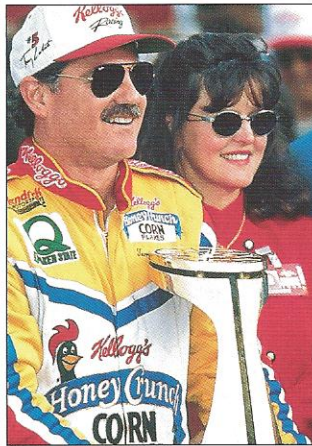
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Team USA wins the World Cup of Hockey, beating Canada 5-2 in the final. Eight teams from Canada, Europe and the U.S. participate in the World Cup, which replaced the Canada Cup.



AP/Wide World

Twenty-year-old golfing phenom Eldrick "Tiger" Woods turns pro in August, making the transition from exceptional amateur golfer to well-endorsed professional, including a deal with Nike worth an estimated \$40 million.



Craig Jones, Allsport



Al Bello, Allsport

In June, the Colorado Avalanche beat the Florida Panthers in the NHL Stanley Cup play-offs. The final game in the series remains scoreless until 1:05 a.m., when the Avalanche finally score the winning goal in the third overtime period.



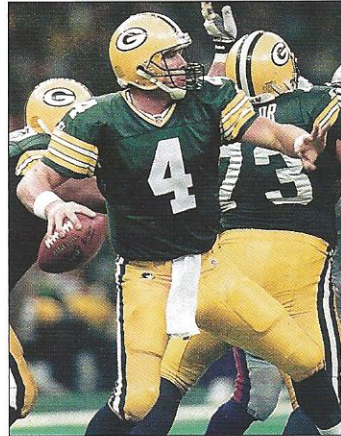
Al Bello, Allsport



Reuters/Archive Photos

Race car driver Terry Labonte wins NASCAR's Winston Cup championship with a total of 4,657 points after finishing fifth in the final race, the Napa 500, at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Led by quarterback Brett Favre, the Green Bay Packers beat the New England Patriots 35-21 in Super Bowl XXXI at the Louisiana Superdome. It is the Packers' first Super Bowl since 1968.



AP/Wide World

The New York Yankees win the World Series, beating the Atlanta Braves in a four-game sweep, after losing the first two games. It is the first series title for the Yankees since 1978.