

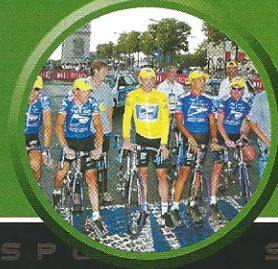
- ✓ The U.S. men's soccer team advances to the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time, by defeating Mexico 2-0.

Christof Stache/AP/Wide World Photos



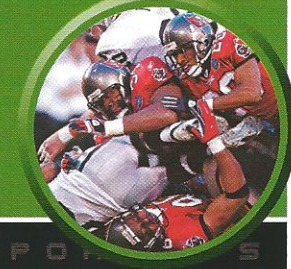
- ✓ The U.S. Postal Service team propels *Sports Illustrated* magazine's Sportsman of the Year Lance Armstrong to his fourth consecutive Tour de France victory.

Mike Powell/Getty Images



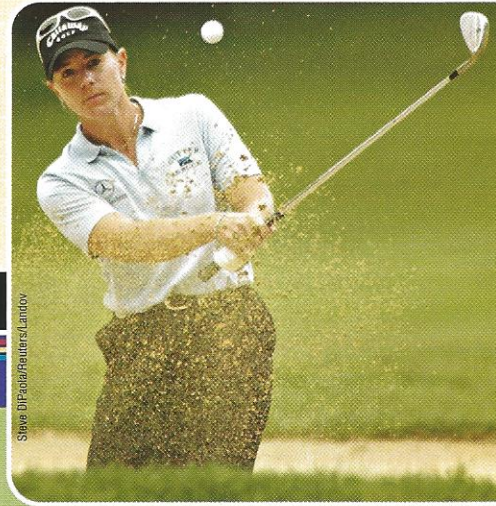
- ✓ The top-rated defense of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers shuts down the No. 1 offense of the Oakland Raiders to win Super Bowl XXXVII 48-21.

Matt A. Brown/Newsport/Corbis



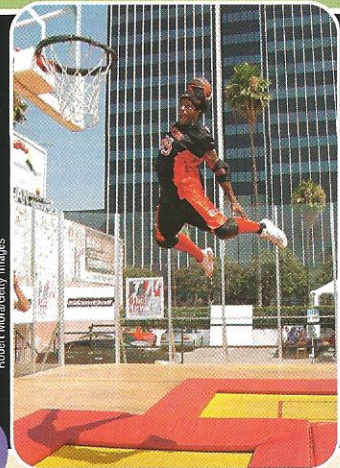
Mark J. Terrill/AP/Wide World Photos

- ✓ LPGA pro Annika Sorenstam, after a record-setting 13-win 2002 season worldwide, accepts an invitation to play the Colonial tournament on the men's 2003 PGA Tour.



Steve DiPaola/Hallers/Landov

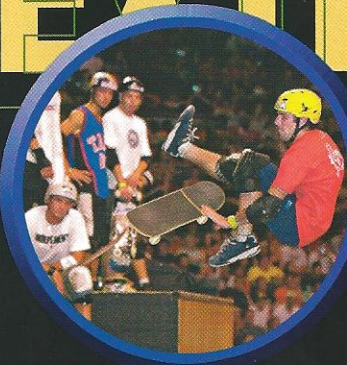
- ✓ The Ohio State Buckeyes beat the heavily favored Miami Hurricanes in double overtime to win the BCS National Championship. The 31-24 victory is the school's first national football title since 1968.
- ✓ The new sport of SlamBall takes basketball to the extreme on a specially designed court with four trampolines in front of each hoop.



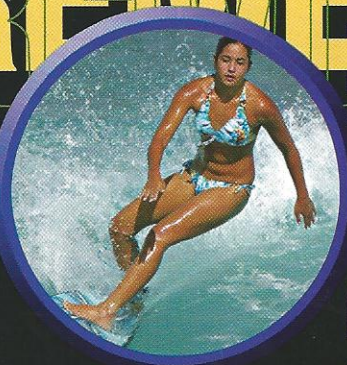
Robert Mora/Getty Images

EXTREME SPORTS

J.S. Moses/AP/Wide World Photos



Phil Melnick/On the Photo Communications



- ✓ Skateboarding reaches new popularity heights thanks to the high visibility of the X Games and the "Tony Hawk's Pro Skater" video game series.
- ✓ Surfing welcomes a tidal wave of women to the sport after receiving a Hollywood endorsement in the popular summer flick *Blue Crush*.