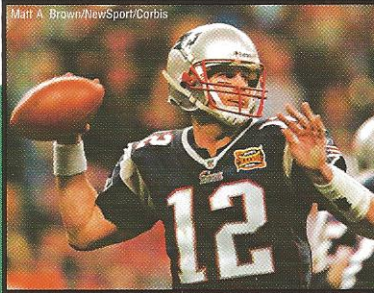


→ The New England Patriots defeat the Carolina Panthers 32-29 with a field goal in the closing seconds to win Super Bowl XXXVIII.

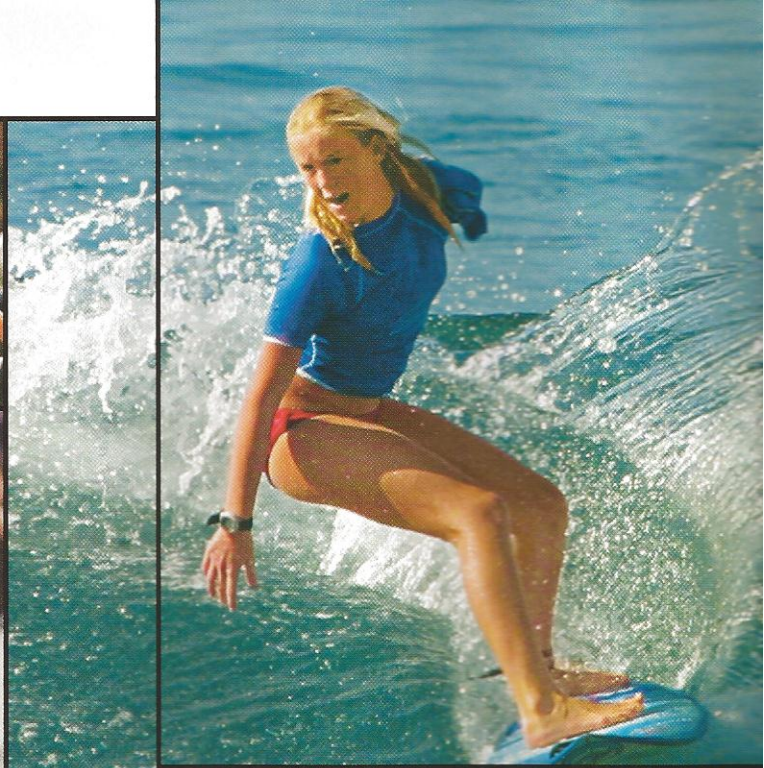
→ Due to a lack of revenue, the Women's United Soccer Association gets the boot after just three seasons.



Matt A. Brown/NewSport/Corbis

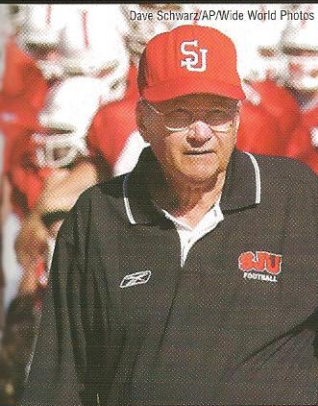


Greg Gammill/NewSport/Corbis



Michael Darden/AP/Wide World Photos

↑ Champion surfer Bethany Hamilton, 13, loses her arm in a shark attack. Just 10 weeks later, Hamilton places fifth in her age group at a National Scholastic Surfing Association meet in January 2004.



Dave Schwarz/AP/Wide World Photos

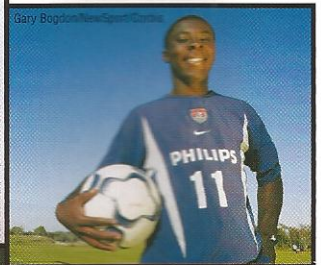
# sports

← St. John's University coach John Gagliardi, 77, leads his team to an undefeated NCAA Division III Football National Championship while also setting the NCAA Football record for coaching victories with 414.



Bob Jordan/AP/Wide World Photos

← Matt Kenseth claims the NASCAR Winston Cup Series championship, after leading the standings through a record 33 races.

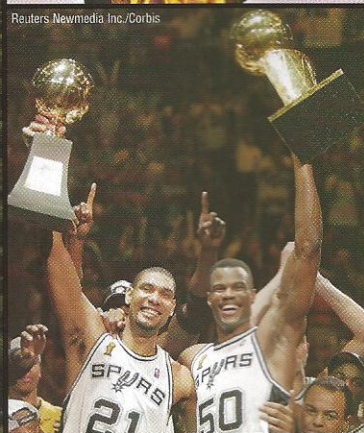


Gary Bogdan/NewSport/Corbis

↑ Freddy Adu, 14, becomes the youngest American pro team athlete in over 100 years when he signs with D.C. United of Major League Soccer.

↓ Death-defying tricks and thrills bring the extreme sports craze to new heights at the January 2004 EXPN Winter X Games VIII in Aspen, Colorado.

Gibson/Folio, Inc./Omni-Photo Communications



Ruters Newmedia Inc./Corbis

← League MVP Tim Duncan and David Robinson — in his final game — lead the San Antonio Spurs to the 2003 NBA title with a 4-2 series win over the New Jersey Nets.