Rookie Allison leads the qualifying at NASCAR's oldest superspeedway

Qualifying results, Page 14-D By Bill Robinson Staff Writer

DARLINGTON, S.C. - Rookie driver Davey Allison took on NAS-CAR's oldest superspeedway, Darlington, in qualifying Thursday and added a fourth pole to his list for the season.

By beating out Bill Elliott with a speed of 157.232 mph, Allison, 26, became the second rookie in Winston Cup history to win four pole positions in a season. Dale Earnhardt, in 1979, was the first.

"And we're not through yet," said Allison, from Hueytown, Ala., and the son of veteran racer Bobby Allison.

"This feels as good as the other three poles," said Allison, who also qualified fastest at Rockingham, N.C., Brooklyn, Mich., and Daytona

Beach, Fla. "And this one is special, since it's Darlington, and this ol' place is so special. That just puts us a couple of poles behind Bill, so we're gonna see if we can't catch him before the year's out.

Eight races remain after the Southern 500, run on this track that dates back to 1950 and the first running of the Southern 500.

Allison was the only driver above the 157 mph mark. Elliott. 31, of Dawsonville, Ga., the man who had been favored to win the pole in his Thunderbird, was next fastest at 156.487 mph.

Terry Labonte, in a Chevrolet, was third-best qualifier with a 156.313 mph mark, while Lake Speed was next at 156.268. Earnhardt, winner of a season-high nine races, pushed his Chevy to 155.882 mph, the day's fifth-best speed.

Said Elliott: "Well, I drove it pretty hard down into (turn) one, but it felt pretty good. It ran a little quicker than I thought it would. Still, we'll take it and see where we end up. From what I've seen that Dale's run, and what Davey's run, they will be the two that will beat me - we'll just have to wait and

A Southern 500 victory for either Allison, Elliott or Kyle Petty will bring a bonus of \$100,000 for winning two of the four races comprising NASCAR's Grand Slam. Elliott won the season-opening Daytona 500, stock-car racing's richest race. Petty won the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte, N.C., the sport's longest event, and Allison took the Winston 500 at Talladega, Ala., the sport's fastest track.

Series

From Page 1-D

Further, Auburn now demands that once-haughty Alabama leave its temple of choice, Birmingham's Legion Field, to play the blood-rivalry every other year in Jordan-Hare.

For decades, Tuscaloosa was the spawning ground of hundreds of "Auburn jokes." But now, a popular little exchange from Bayou La Batre in the south to Muscle Shoals in the north goes like this:

"Did you hear the latest joke at Alabama?"

"No, what?" "Football."

This floodtide continuity of Auburn confidence amounts to the cresting of a new order, and the capital of change is Jordan-Hare, population 85,000 on a Saturday (bigger than the whole dang town of Tuscaloosa), and built to last 2,000 years (no kidding - Auburn football player-turned structural engineer Trey Gainous figured this out).

Once it was meek Jordan-Hare Stadium, situated a few meek blocks from meek Toomer's Corner in the meek hamlet where the meek greeted one another meekly:

"How you?" "Just fine."

And they'd walk on with heads slightly bowed, skittish with the fear of the very sight of anything crim-

Now, on the oddly bustling Toomer's Corner, the bumper-stickers taunt: "Avoid the Rush. Hate the Tide Early This Year."

And the stadium wrought here, with this year's expansion, is the second-largest in the SEC and fifthlargest in the nation. Meanwhile, Alstill leave it only the third-largest stadium in the state, behind Legion Field (75,808) and Jordan-Hare.

Jordan-Hare and environs are, of course, a somewhat insulated bastion of Auburnism.

"But there's Alabama people Gus Denny, touching pensively at the waxed handlebars of his mustache in his bookstore near the Corner. "Funny. This is 'bout the quietest I've ever seen 'em."

But in the farthest reaches of the state, the mood is the same.

"They can't talk anymore," says Bob Hurt, head cheerleader for Auburn's 1957 national championship team, now standing at an Auburn Club party in Florence, Ala., a fragmenting old stronghold of Tideism 'way up on the Tennessee-Mississippi border.

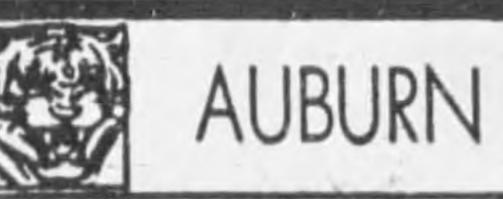
"Definitely, you feel a change," says former Auburn basketball player Bill Alexander, now a Florence insurance man. "They're the ones on the defensive now. They know they have to recognize us as being as good or better."

The old Auburn mentality was a decades-deep mound of paranoia and inferiority complexes which could be triggered by a single taunt from a Tideist neighbor in a barber shop or super market.

And it filtered down, Gus Denny believes, to Auburn players through the years.

There's Alabama people nearby. Funny. This is bout the quietest I've ever seen 'em.

Auburn fan Gus Denny



vs. Texas at Auburn, Sat., 4:30 p.m.

"There was a time when Alabama ran onto Legion Field in Birmingham with a seven- or eightpoint lead before the kickoff, just because they were Alabama and they wore red," says Denny.

Now, the skittishness nags at the

Up and down the state, invariably, the Auburn people begin their appraisals of the enemy mood with the same words: "They're cautious. They're waiting to see how this thing turns out."

"This thing" is the Joab Thomas/Steve Sloan/Bill Curry regime at Alabama. When Dr. Thomas, the president, hired Sloan as athletic director and Curry as coach last January, many Tideists sensed unilateral disarmament in the face of Auburn's clear buildup in football strength.

If the terminology sounds too militaristic, consider that over the past two decades, the Auburn-Alabama football rivalry has escalated into the nearest thing to civil war generated by sports in America.

Last year, then-Alabama coach Ray Perkins, fanning the rivalry to its crescendo, called it "the biggest abama's storied Bryant-Denny Sta- thing that has ever happened in this dium in Tuscaloosa is closed and state," without a hint of deference dark for the season, for renovation to the Civil War, the civil rights and expansion to 70,000 that will marches of the '60s or the reign of George Wallace.

> Suddenly, this year, it is too serious, Thomas has said in his clear overtures for de-escalation.

Auburn, feeling its might and led by iron-willed coach Pat Dye the man who came in 1981 and nearby. There's a nest of 'em over stopped allowing the Auburn inferiat Opelika (12 miles away)," says ority complex - now demands that every other year, Alabama visit the city-state Jordan-Hare. Alabama, which had been pleading to keep the game at the traditional "neutral site," Birmingham's Legion Field, now wants to end the annual renewal, and play Auburn on a rotating basis which, under new SEC plans, would create a meeting of the blood rivals about twice every four years.

> "They're trying to pull out," says Alexander. So runs the new Auburn mental-

Brooding, scowling in his leather chair, Pat Dye sits preparing for Saturday's season-opener, when another broken dynasty, Texas, will visit the city-state Jordan-Hare as a 13-point underdog.

"It's hell," he says, "when you lose two starters before you even play a game. Isn't it?"

He has settled so naturally, almost unconsciously, into the status held by his old teacher, the man who built the old Tideist mentality, the late Bear Bryant. Now it is Dye who is the settled, stern emperor of football in a state obsessed with the game.

Mumble, grumble, squint, scowl - that is the protocol, whether the padded leather throne is in Tusca-

loosa or Auburn. Safety Shan Morris and guard Vincent Jones have gone down with injuries during Auburn's practices this week - plenty of excuse to squint and scowl.

Does he really think this Auburn team is overrated - ranked too high, too soon?

"No question about it," is the reply Bryant used thousands of times when poor-mouthing his po' little Alabama teams, and it is precisely the reply Dye uses now.

"I been around some football teams in the Top 10," says Dye, who was around plenty when he was an assistant to Bryant at Alabama in the '60s and '70s. "And I know we're a long way from being there right now. Now, the defense - if they don't play well, it'll be because they don't play hard.

scrappers and fighters." Put your stars on the spot, publicly; ramrod and encourage your weaker unit - the protocol of Bry-

ant, to the letter.

They've got ability. The offense -

they're gonna have to be a bunch of

There is one last obstacle to the complete turning of the worm in Alabama. To claim total victory, Auburn must learn to play up to preseason ranking, to start high and climb higher, avoiding upsets, the way Alabama used to. In 1984, Auburn was ranked No. 1 in preseason and lost its first two games, to Miami and Texas. In 1985, Auburn climbed to No. 1 early, only to be humiliated by Tennessee, 38-20, in Knoxville.

But here, this is not a phenomenon unique to the Dye era. In 1959 Auburn was picked to win the SEC and perhaps the national championship, and ended up 7-3. In 1964 Auburn was picked No. 1 in preseason, and finished 6-4.

"Years ago, when we were winnin' like hell under Shug (Jordan), the people - and the players seemed to feel like there were certain games we weren't supposed to win," says Denny. "Alabama was

But now, "Dye's put a little more class in 'em," Denny says of the players.

Could this team be ready to break out of the Auburn syndrome, ready to play like a Top 5 team out of the gate, ready to hold off all would-be upsetters?

Dye answers sternly: "No. At Alabama, we won those games because we were, simply,

better than the teams we played." A fact, which, of course, Bryant

never, ever would admit going into a game, or a season.

Ronnie Anders' bookstore does big business in Auburn souvenirs. He can read the mood of a state by the mail-orders he fills for caps, shirts, jackets, mugs. ... He's seen the bad times, when the orange-andblue items gathered dust on the shelves. Not this summer, though.

"The 'sidewalk alumni,' the people who didn't go to college, are switching," he reads from his business volume, a groundswell away from the time when virtually every auto mechanic and pulpwood hauler in the state wore caps and shirts of crimson. "They're the people who go with the winners."

NFL interest in Carter heightens

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer.

Interest in former Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter has heightened for today's NFL supplemental -draft.

The Dallas Cowboys and San Diego Chargers, two teams previously opposed to participating in the draft, are now considering using a pick on Carter.

"Our position last week was that we were philosophically opposed to the draft," said Chargers general manager Steve Ortmayer. "Now, we've gone in a different direction (on Carter). We've re-evaluated * because Ohio State was given the opportunity to reinstate him and they chose not to. We certainly think he's worthy of strong consideration."

"We're going to participate," said Dallas Cowboys president Tex Schramm.

The Atlanta Falcons said they will not participate, but coach Marion Campbell said the team's non-participation would be due primarily to the timing of the draft. Sources close to the team said it might take a chance on Carter if he were available in the late rounds.

Carter and former University of Pittsburgh running back Charles Gladman are each available for the special draft. Both players were declared ineligible for their senior seasons because they accepted money from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Protests by college coaches and athletic directors

helped cause a one-week postponement of the supple-

mental draft. NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle agreed to delay the draft last week, citing an unprecedented ruling by the NCAA, which conditionally restored the eligibility of Pitt defensive back Teryl Austin, who also had taken money from the agents.

Ohio State reviewed Carter's case this week and decided against appealing for Carter's eligibility. Gladman and Pitt had no interest in resuming their relationship. Carter was projected as a potential first-round choice in next April's NFL draft.

New York Giants general manager George Young said he thinks last week's boycott lost its steam when Rozelle allowed Ohio State and Pitt a chance to appeal for the eligibility of both players.

"This boycott stuff, I'm not buying it," said Young. "We've done everything we can as a league."

Young and other NFL executives now liken the controversial draft to a poker game, or a "supplemental bluff." They think teams that say they won't participate will participate. They think teams will try to lower the stakes by letting Carter slip past the first two rounds. Gladman? It's anybody's guess whether he'll be drafted or not.

The draft will begin at 1 p.m. and will be conducted by telephone out of NFL headquarters in New York. A weighted lottery will determine the order of selection. Teams will be polled, in order, round by round, as to whether they wish to exercise a draft pick on Carter or Gladman.

From Page 1-D

cent of the time. The Falcons increased their offer in answer to two developments: 17 the Cowboys' \$1.625 million signing of their first-rounder, defensive tackle Danny Noonan, and 2) the continuing miseries of incumbent quarterbacks Dave Archer and Turk

Schonert. Why a defensive lineman's salary in Dallas should affect a quarterback's salary in Atlanta is a mystery. But that's how the NFL bean counters have arranged things. In any case, Chris, the Falcons said Noonan's signing showed them they were low on their offer to you. Also, the 23-3 loss to Cleveland meant the Falcons' quarterbacks have produced two touchdowns in three weeks.

Perhaps your agent Mr. Blatt believes the Falcons' movement means that a continuing holdout will force them higher. It is true that the Falcons always have come up with the money necessary to sign their No. 1s.

But the Falcons are angry, justifiably so, and they say their offer now will decrease \$30,000 per week.

Early this week, I asked a question in this space: Why should the taxpayers pay 30 percent of the \$150 million cost of a stadium when the Falcons won't pay for a quarter-

Good for them.

Now the rush of events has caused a reconsideration of such a question. The Falcons this week have done the right things. If you don't sign now, Chris, it's no longer the Falcons' fault. Think of what's happened this week: The Falcons have admitted a mistake in their offer; they have corrected the mistake, and they have offered you a deal that our NFL man Glenn Sheeley projects would be the seventhbest in the draft (you were the 13th

than most people had you ranked). What an NFL team wants first from its quarterback is physical talent: strength, size, quickness, vision, durability. Without all that, there's no way to play this hard game. No doubt, Chris, you have it all, or the Falcons wouldn't have drafted you.

man chosen, and that was higher

Next an NFL team wants a quarterback heavy with the indefinables: courage, competitiveness, maturity, leadership. It's not easy to know if a kid quarterback has those traits. But again the Falcons must

LABOR DAY MONEY SAVER.

NO NEED TO WASTETIME

GUARANTEED LOW PRICES

Built-it

4 HEADS • QUARTZ

• 155 CH CABLE

147 CH. CABLE . A/V JACKS

On Screen Display And Programming

ON SCREEN DISPLAY

* 8 EVENTS/21 DAYS

Smyrna, 432-3556, 3755

41 FUN REMOTE

♠ REMOTE

have been satisfied on those scores with you, Chris.

Now you have an opportunity to prove the Falcons were right on all those judgments. With one action, you can show the great good sense an NFL quarterback needs. One decision right now can demonstrate the maturity that's necessary to play quarterback in the NFL.

By rethinking your rejection of the Falcons' good-faith offer, you can show the front office, your teammates and the fans that you believe in doing good work for good

Unless your aim is to squeeze the Falcons for every last penny that might pop out of their piggy bank, now is the time to call your agent Mr. Blatt and say, "Mike, get the Falcons on the horn, I want to go play some ball."

TY ECOT BALL WINNERS Parlays & Teasers!

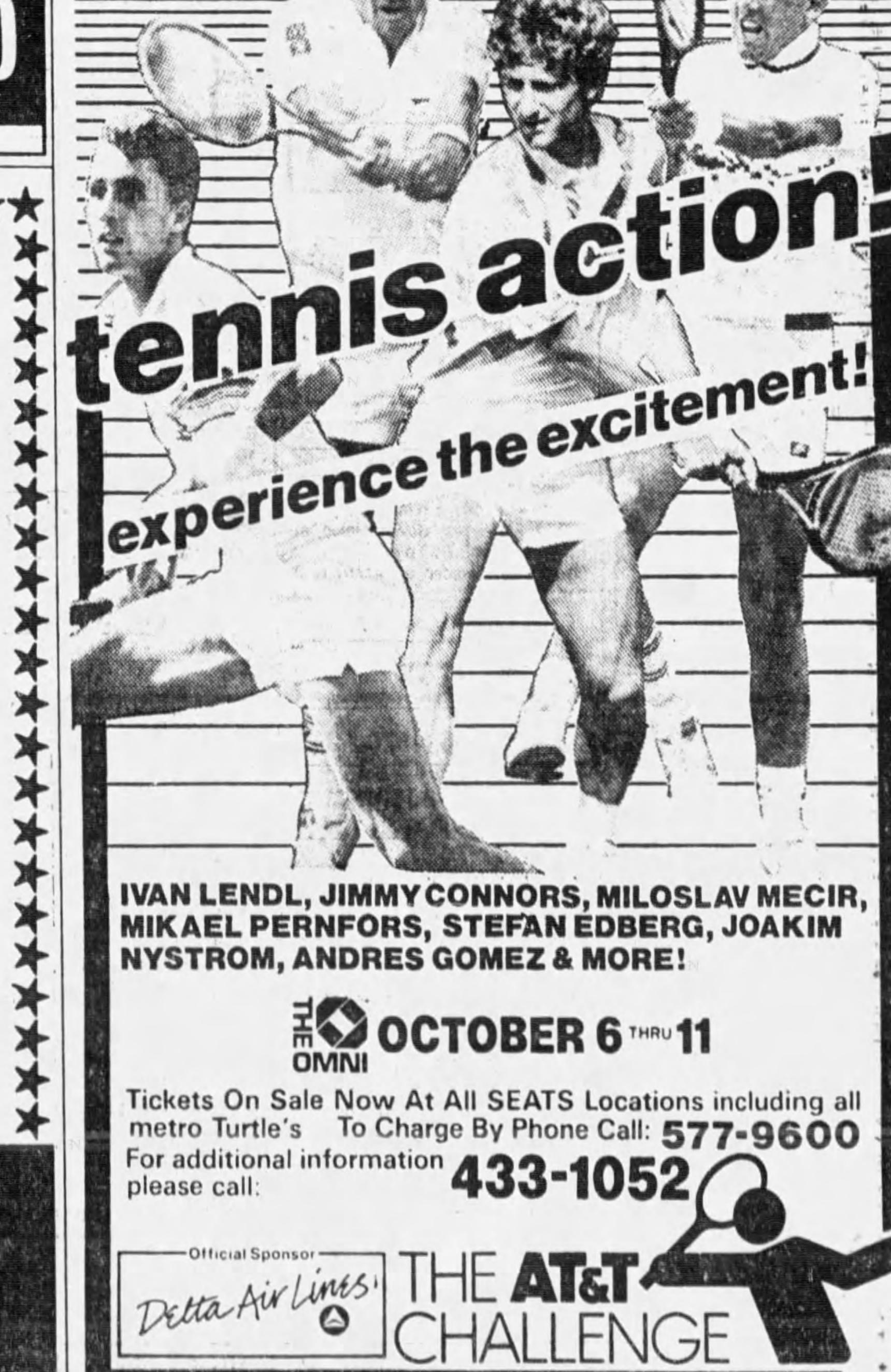
FOOTBALL SCORES BASEBALL SCORES 50° Per Call

24 Hrs • On Tape Absolutely Free! Free Call in Atlanta, GA





BOLLOLOCOK



AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Tucker 938-6705

BEST WARRANTY! YEAR PARTS & LABOR **1988 MODEL** . 4-HEADS . RF ADAPTOR HIGH RESOLUTION \$1,095 FREE CASE WITH ANY CAMCORDER

FREE

CASE