

CONTACT: MIKEL LEFORT, 459-3292, e-mail to: sports@thetimes.com

THE TIMES

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Scoreboard: 2C

Baseball: 4C

What was the best sports story of the year in Shreveport? LSU's first-ever appearance in the Independence Bowl and thumping of Michigan State? Or the Shreveport Captains' 92 victories --- best in the minor leagues ---- on their way to a Texas League championship? Or was it the departure of the Shreveport Pirates, the city's Canadian Football League franchise?

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — What's going on here?

Could it really be that long-beleaguered Brits were 5-0 on the second day of Wimbledon? Especially after three big-name Americans were wiped out on' opening day?

Maybe it was the crowd that inspired them. Maybe it was England's soccer team, whose success in Euro '96 has captivated this country for two weeks. Maybe it was because Britain simply has better tennis players these days.

Or maybe this was the day that the Brits, who have always found the hum-

Related story, 3C

blest and most gracious ways to accept defeat, finally just got sick and tired of being bashed.

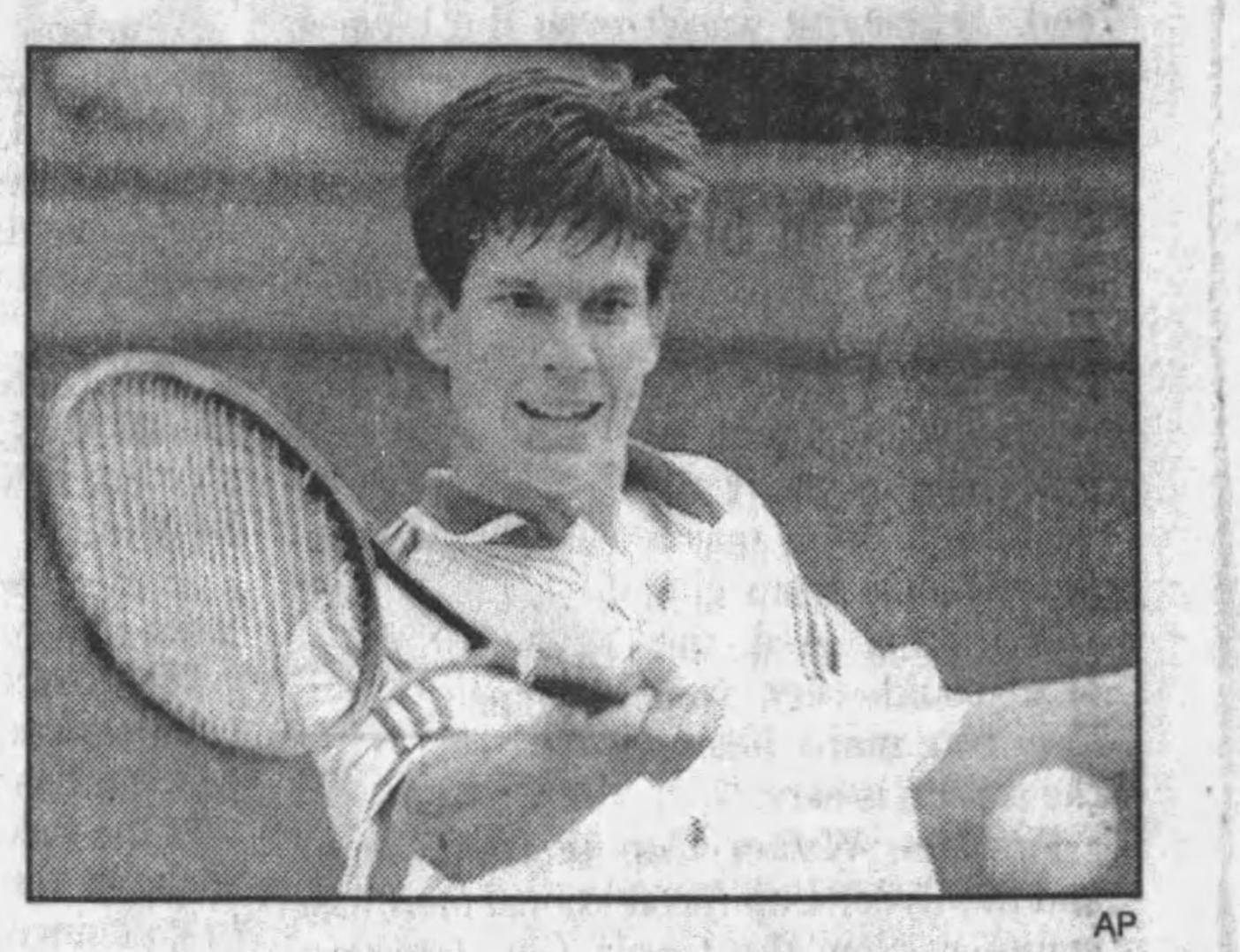
Brits clean up court at Wimbledon

"Once you been knocked enough times, there becomes a sort of wall that the players go into," said Mark Petchey, one of the quintet of winners Tuesday. "There's a big belief within the players that there's time to get out there and prove what we're about."

Whatever the reason, seven British men have advanced to the second round of a Grand Slam for the first time in 20 years. After the American disaster Mon-

day that saw Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Michael Chang leave in a hurry, Tuesday's stars became a slew of names that few have heard outside the British Isles. None are ranked in the top 50.

Tim Henman (ranked 62) led the charge with a five-set shocker over French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Centre Court. At the same time, Canadian-turned-Brit Greg Rusedski (65) was winning on Court 1, Petchey (202) on Court 2, Danny Sapsford (195) on Court 3 and Luke Milligan (278) on Court 5. This after Chris Wilkinson (138) and Colin Beecher (323) both won on Monday.



Britain's Tim Henman won a five-set match against Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in 3 hours, 36 minutes.

Call our Best of ... hotline at 676-0733 and cast your vote for this and nine other categories. Today is the deadline for all votes. The results will appear June 30.

BRIEFS

From Wire Reports

NFL

Irvin jury selection gets under way

DALLAS — A judge on Tuesday rejected a motion by defense lawyers for Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin that the pool of potential jurors for his drug possession trial did not reflect the racial mix of the Dallas area.

State District Judge Manny Alvarez denied the motion without comment as the trial got under way for the Dallas star, who faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted on felony cocaine and misdemeanor marijuana charges.

The jury will be selected from a pool of 67 people, most of whom are white. Twelve are black, one is Asian and one is Hispanic. Irvin's lawyers objected after a pool of 30 potential jurors was brought in to replenish those in the original pool of 65 - 23 of whom were excused from duty in a morning session because of scheduling conflicts. Of the 30 replacements, 27 were white, one was black, one was Asian and one was Hispanic.



Barkley talk keeps Houston buzzing

The Associated Press

HOUSTON - Hakeem Olajuwon has heard the hopeful speculation buzzing around town regarding the Houston Rockets' reported efforts to trade for Charles Barkley.

Now the Rockets center wants to hear what Sir Charles has to say about the possibility that a mini-Dream Team of Barkley, Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler might convene to bring the Rockets another NBA championship.

"It would be nice to hear from Barkley himself what he's thinking," Olajuwon said Tuesday. "Barkley is an asset. To have Barkley on the team, on any team, is an asset."

Olajuwon will have a chance to hear Barkley's thoughts next week, when Dream Team

III gathers in Chicago to begin practice for the Barkley, 33, has asked

Saints release safety Buck

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints released safety Vince Buck, their second-round draft choice in 1990, with three seasons left on his contract.

"This move was not necessary to get under the salary cap or to make room for the signing of our 10 draft choices," general manager Bill Kuharich said. "It does, however, give us more money to utilize in addressing other positions as needed."

So far in the offseason, the Saints have added safeties Greg Jackson, an unrestricted free agent from Philadelphia, Je'Rod Cherry, drafted in the second round last April, and Anthony Newman, a nine-year NFL veteran who joined the team last year. Buck was drafted out of Central State University in Ohio and began his career at cornerback before being moved to free safety in 1994, where he started each of the last two seasons. He spent the last three games of 1995 on injured reserve.

The Times/MICHAEL McCARTER

Don Simington, 33, is having one of his best seasons ever. The LaDowns jockey has returned after several injuries.

Batting back Downs jockey doesn't let injuries get best of him

By RUSSELL HEDGES The Times

ne of a jockey's worst fears is injury. It's not just the pain or the lost income from being unable to ride. An injury can be devastating to a jockey because when he comes back, it's almost like starting over.

Unless the jockey is a "name," he can move to the end of the line when the good horses are doled out.

Louisiana Downs veteran jockey Don Simington knows this all too well. In the last five years, Simington has rarely made it through a full meet because of injuries.

In 1991, he broke several vertebrae in his back and was out six months. Since then he has broken a wrist, collarbone and both his hands. "I would ride a couple of months and go back down for two months," he said. "It been four or five years that way."



The Times/MICHAEL McCARTER Don Simington has spent many hours at the racetrack, working the Downs backside to get good mounts.

It hasn't been easy coming back from each injury. Simington and his agent, Byard Gilbert of Hot Springs, Ark., have spent many hours working the backside at Louisiana Downs to get good mounts.

"I just go by and check with all the trainers and owners in the morning." Simington said. "The other guys can't ride them all."

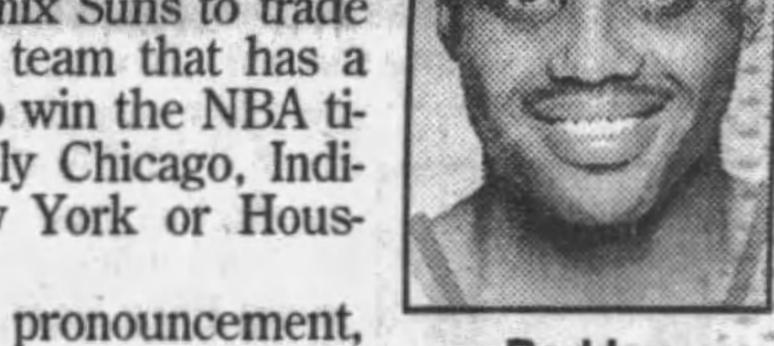
Not surprisingly, the key to getting better business is winning. But that can be a Catch 22 situation because winning depends upon the horses.

"There's probably not much difference in ability among the top 15 jockeys here," Simington said. "If you're winning, everybody wants you. If you're not, nobody wants you. It snowballs.

"You ride what others can't and don't want to. Then the business starts coming together. You get a little luck, the more you win the better you do. The rest

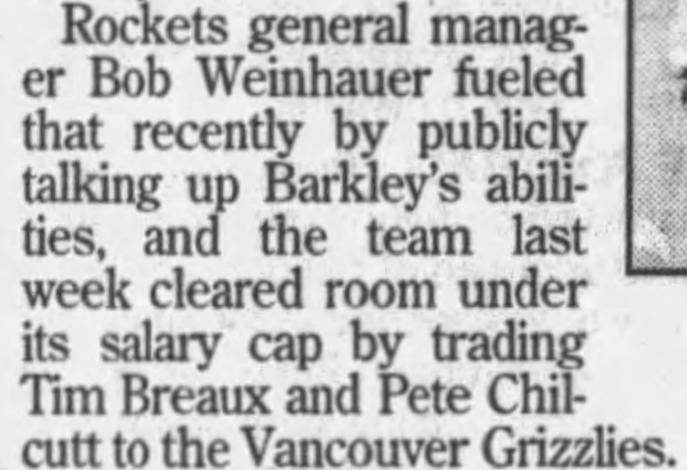
the Phoenix Suns to trade him to a team that has a chance to win the NBA title, namely Chicago, Indiana, New York or Houston. That

Olympic Games.



Barkley

which the 6-6 forward made on national television three weeks ago, pushed rampant speculation — already well under way in Houston - to a fever pitch.

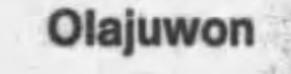


Then on Tuesday, the Houston Chronicle published an altered three-column photo of Barkley in a Rockets uniform under the headline, "If the uniform fits ..."

The Chronicle also cited unnamed Suns sources as saying Barkley will be traded this summer, and Houston is the leading candidate to land him. Any such move would likely not come until after next Monday, when the NBA salary cap goes up to \$24.3 million, the newspaper said.

Amid all the excitement, it seems the only question remaining - for radio talk show callers and sports pundits, anyway - is which two or three Rockets should be traded for Barkley.

NBA draft



PRO BASEBALL

Lasorda admits self to hospital

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda has been admitted to a hospital with abdominal pain, but the extent of his condition was not clear.

Club spokesman Jay Lucas said Tuesday the 68-year-old manager was resting comfortably in Centinela Hospital Medical Center. Lasorda drove to the hospital from his home Monday night and admitted himself.

Dodgers coach Bill Russell managed the team against the Cubs. Lucas said Lasorda won't rejoin the Dodgers until he receives medical clearance.

Through it all, the 33-year-old Simington has persevered. Now he's having one of his best meets ever.

of it comes right behind." Trainer Steve Pelletier has always been a strong believer in Simington.

Please see HARD, Page 5C

WHEN: 6:30 tonight. WHERE: East Rutherford, N.J. TV: TNT. Details, 3C

Fro salaries make agents do the darnedest unigs

You don't have to tell Oscar Schoenfelt the extreme measures that some agents will use to drum up business.

Kent Heitholt Schoenfelt, a Shreveport

product who now is attorney in Baton Rouge, has heard about agents making illegal payments to college athletes. He knows about the terrible blemish it

puts on the profession. Now the agent business has more sleaze on it than a downtown Miami nightclub.

"But it's been this way ever since I've been in the business and that's over 10 years," Schoen-

felt said.

Schoenfelt has seen it all. He has seen competition try to bribe his office staff to send prospective clients their way.

He has seen a former office employee leave the company and take business with him to another firm. Competition isn't just fierce, it's bloodthirsty.

And Schoenfelt doesn't even represent a lottery pick. Tonight when the NBA selects its future stars, Texas Tech's Darvin Ham will be Schoenfelt's only prospect. Imagine the chicanery when there's millions of dollars at stake.

"It's a competitive business," he said. "I represent four NBA players (Seattle's Ervin Johnson, L.A. Clippers' Stanley Roberts, Vancouver's Tim Breaux and Minnesota's Mark Davis) and that's more than

any other agent in Louisiana. That's how competitive this has become.

"But I also deal in some accident claims and that has become very competitive, too. It's not much different with agents."

The difference is that agents are now planting seeds in hopes of reaping a huge harvest one day. Those seeds are in the form of illegal payments or gifts such as jewelry. Maybe the enticement is even a new car.

Wooing college juniors and seniors is somewhat expected, but now agents are scouting the high schools to locate future prospects.

They fill their heads with praise and try to become friends. Then if letes are without money, any ofthe athlete succeeds at the college level, they have an in.

no more than four percent, some where between \$2,000-5,000 on a minimum salary.

But if the player turns out to be a lottery pick and then lands big endorsement contracts, the numbers soar.

The NCAA and Congress are trying to find a way to stop the corruption. They have asked for the professional leagues to help and the players' associations are certifying agents.

But Schoenfelt still sees two wrongs that won't ever make it right.

First, an agent needs no qualifications to become an agent.

Second, as long as college athfers are going to look good.

"You get any kid who has never The payout for an agent will be had any money and someone

comes along and says here's \$2,000, human nature is that he's going to take it," Schoenfelt said. "That won't change until the NCAA or whoever decides to get the college players some money."

As long as the chance exists that an agent can make a killing off. one of the super prospects, bending the rules will always be a reasonable gamble to some people. Unfortunately, the Leigh Stein-

bergs of the agent world may be the most visible, but behind the: scenes there's too many Norby Walters and Lloyd Blooms who will do anything to get a client.

Kent Heitholt is a Times sports writer. He can be reached by calling 459-3298 or by sending a fax to 459-3301. E-mail to: sports@thetimes.com