

Sports News



Reuters/Archive Photos

- ▶ In July, 16-year-old Swiss tennis star Martina Hingis becomes the youngest Wimbledon champion since 1887. Hingis wins three of the four 1997 Grand Slam events.

AP/Wide World



- ▶ The Florida Marlins are baseball's 1997 World Series champs and the first team ever to win the Series without winning its league pennant. The Marlins defeat the Cleveland Indians in seven games.

- ▶ Quarterback John Elway leads the Denver Broncos to a 31-24 victory over the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego, January 25, 1998. It is Elway's first Super Bowl win in four appearances.



AP/Wide World



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- ▶ Tiger Woods, 21, becomes the youngest golfer ever to win the Masters Tournament. His 18-under-par score sets a Masters record. Woods wins 3 other tournaments and sets a PGA Tour earnings record of \$2.1 million for the season.



AP/Wide World

- ▶ Mike Tyson bites off part of Evander Holyfield's ear and is disqualified in the WBA Heavyweight rematch in June 1997. Tyson is fined nearly \$3 million and his boxing license is revoked.

flash

Swedish golfing phenomenon Annika Sorenstam, 26, tops the LPGA earnings list in 1997 with a record \$1,236,789.

Professional sports salaries keep skyrocketing. One of the most publicized of 1997 is Kevin Garnett's \$126 million contract to play basketball for the Minnesota Timberwolves.

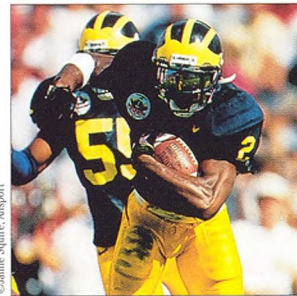


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- ▶ Pittsburgh Penguins' Mario Lemieux retires in April 1997 after a spectacular comeback from Hodgkin's disease and injury. Lemieux is elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in September.



- ▶ In April 1997, the premier issue of *Sports Illustrated Women's Sport* hits the newsstands. The magazine reflects the explosive growth of female participation in sports.



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- ▶ Charles Woodson, Michigan's versatile junior cornerback, becomes the first primarily defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy, awarded in December.

▶ Jeff Gordon, at 26, wins the 1997 NASCAR Winston Cup, his second Winston Cup point title in three years. Gordon's 1997 points total 4,710.

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Scott Cunningham, NBA/Allsport



▶ The Chicago Bulls beat the Utah Jazz in June 1997 for their fifth NBA championship in seven years. Michael Jordan is chosen Finals MVP a record fifth time.

▶ When the college football season ends, two teams share the national championship. Michigan (12-0) is named No. 1 by the sports writers' poll, and Nebraska (13-0) by the coaches' poll.

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▶ Detroit Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman powers his team to the 1997 Stanley Cup championship, its first in 42 years, by sweeping the Philadelphia Flyers in four games.

flash

Women officiate in an all-male professional sports league for the first time. The pioneers, Dee Kanter and Violet Palmer, are referees in the NBA.

Mark McGwire, of the St. Louis Cardinals, slams 52 homers in 1996 and 58 in 1997. McGwire becomes only the second player in baseball history with back-to-back, 50-home-run seasons, the other being Babe Ruth.

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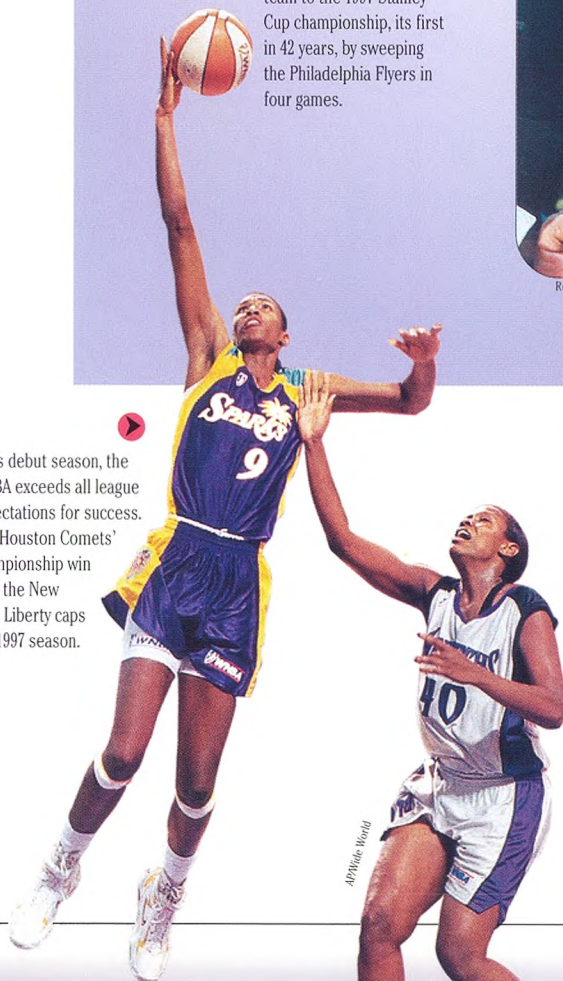
▶ Dean Smith, winningest coach in college basketball history, retires in October after 36 seasons at North Carolina. *Sports Illustrated* names him 1997 Sportsman of the Year.



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▶ Nagano, Japan, hosts the 1998 Winter Olympic Games during February. Three new medal sports make their Olympic debut: curling, snowboarding and women's ice hockey.

▶ In its debut season, the WNBA exceeds all league expectations for success. The Houston Comets' championship win over the New York Liberty caps the 1997 season.



AP/Wide World