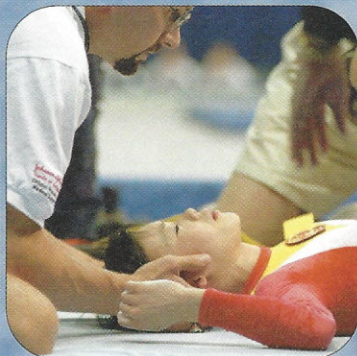


Sports News

Reuters/John Iacano/Archives Photos

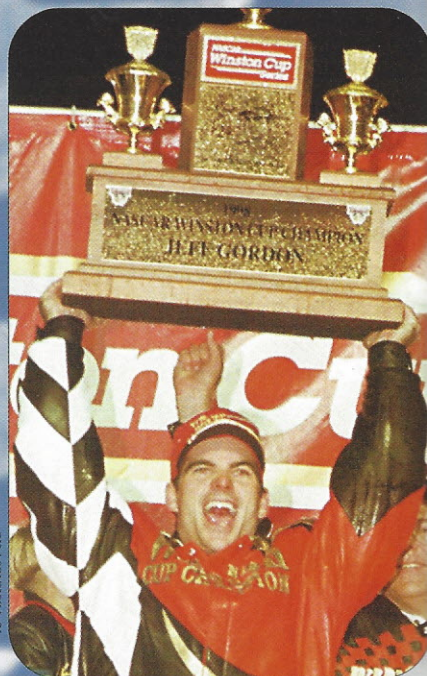


- ◀ Sang Lan, China's 17-year-old gymnastics champion, breaks two vertebrae during a vault at the Goodwill Games in July, leaving her paralyzed from the chest down.

- ➔ Skiboards, short skis with twin tips that allow forward and backward jumping, debut in competition at the 1998 ESPN Winter X Games.



AP Photo/Ric Feld



- ➔ Jeff Gordon wins the NASCAR Winston Cup for a second year in a row. Gordon, 27, is the youngest driver to win three Winston Cup championships.

Mike Powell/Allsport



- ◀ In March 1998, ESPN launches a large-format sports magazine, *ESPN The Magazine*, to compete with *Sports Illustrated*.

- ➔ ABC's Lesley Visser becomes the first woman to report from the sidelines during "Monday Night Football," the 1998 Super Bowl, the NCAA Final Four and NFL playoff games.



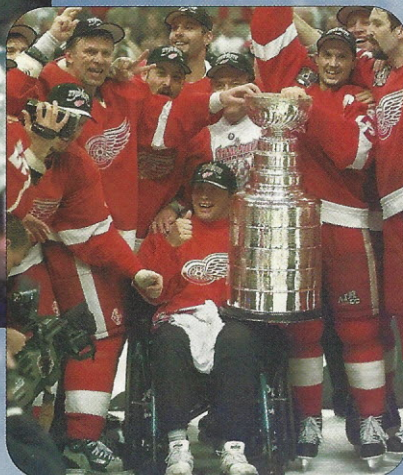
Ida Mae Astire/ABC

- ◀ On January 4, 1999, Tennessee beats Florida State University 23-16 at the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona to win the national championship. It is the first year of the Bowl Championship Series, created to ensure that the highest ranked college teams nationally meet in a bowl game.

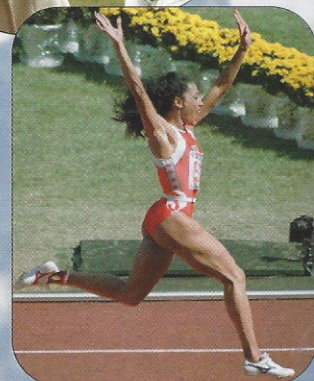


AP Photo/Dave Martin

- ➔ Defending champion Detroit Red Wings win the 1998 Stanley Cup championship, beating the Washington Capitals 4-1. Defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov, severely injured in a car accident after last year's Stanley Cup win, joins the celebration.



AP Photo/Susan A. Walsh



AP Photo/Eric Risberg

- ➔ Flamboyant sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner (FloJo), triple gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics, dies at age 38 in her sleep, of suffocation during an epileptic seizure.