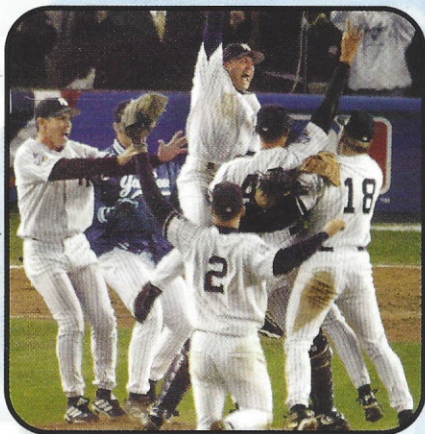




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▲ In July, the U.S. women's soccer team wins the 1999 World Cup by beating China 5-4 in penalty kicks following a 0-0 tie. More than 90,000 fans attend at the Rose Bowl and another 40 million watch on television.

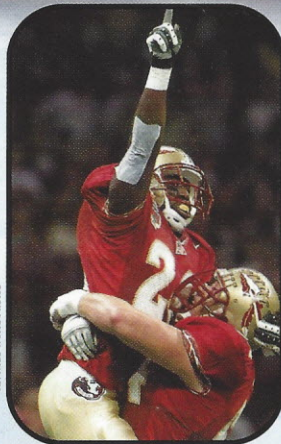


AP/Wide World Photos/Charles Krupa



AP/Wide World Photos

▲ The U.S. team beats the European team to win golf's Ryder Cup at Brookline, Massachusetts, in September. The American's stirring comeback is marred by unruly galleries and a premature victory celebration.



AP/Wide World Photos

▲ Travis Pastrana, 15, wins the gold medal in the X Games' inaugural Moto X freestyle motocross event. The fifth year of this ESPN-sponsored competition is held in San Francisco in June and July.



AP/Wide World Photos

▲ The New York Yankees win the 1999 World Series in a four-game sweep against the Atlanta Braves.

Flash

In July, many major league baseball umpires announce their resignation as a labor protest. The strategy backfires when owners accept the resignations and in September, 22 umpires lose their jobs.

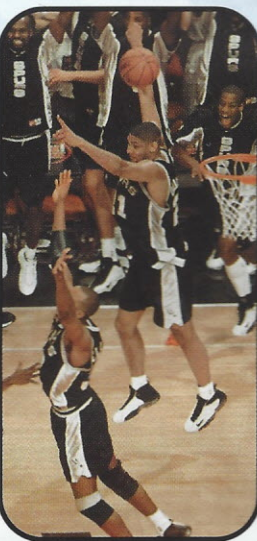
In January 2000, Michael Jordan returns to pro basketball as part owner and President for Basketball Operations of the NBA's Washington Wizards.

2000

▲ Andre Agassi wins the French Open in June and becomes the fifth man ever to complete a career Grand Slam. Agassi goes on to win the U.S. Open in September.



AP/Wide World Photos



AP/Wide World Photos

▲ In June, the San Antonio Spurs win their first NBA championship by defeating the New York Knicks four games to one.



AP/Wide World Photos

▲ Twenty-year professional hockey veteran Wayne Gretzky announces his retirement in April 1999 after setting or tying 61 records. Two months later, "The Great One" is inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.