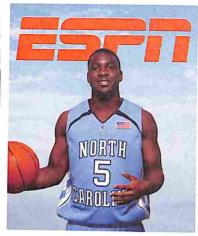
# CONTENTS\_09.23







# COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW 2007

### 70 DON'T LOOK BACK ...

Last season, Joakim Noah's Florida Gators rode a cast of characters to the school's first national championship. But can the African Viking and his you-first teammates capture the magic again?

BY TOM FRIEND

# 78 ... SOMEONE MIGHT BE GAINING ON YOU

For the first time in a decade, top preps can't skip straight to the NBA, which means a crew of talented frosh are looking to cut down the nets in Atlanta on their way to a pro payday. BY LUKE CYPHERS

## 86 ALONG FOR THE RIDE

After Florida's surprise run last year, every D1 pretender is looking for its time at the top. We run down the top 16 true contenders while Dick Vitale & Co. fill out their Dance cards.

#### 96 TERP WARS

With a national title and all of her starters back, Maryland coach Brenda Frese could be forgiven for taking it easy this summer. Yeah, right. BY LUKE CYPHERS

## 54 HELLO, I'M JAPANESE

Okay, he's not really (by birth, anyway). Still, when Scott Fujita feels a connection to something, he's not afraid to embrace it. And New Orleans

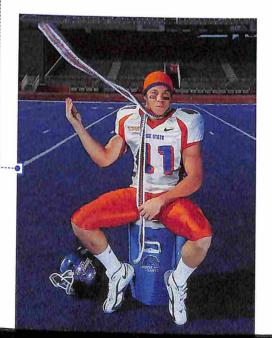
couldn't be happier. BY DAVID FLEMING

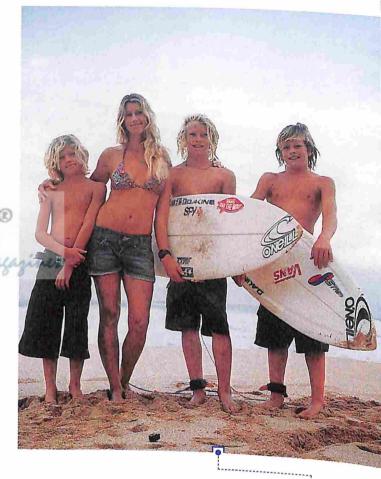
### 62 BIG-TIME BALLER

Boise State's IAN JOHNSON crochets. Seriously. Dude's handy with a pipe wrench and a trombone, too. And if you think those skills are impressive, watch him run the football. BY MARK KREIDLER

#### 110 CAN'T LET GO

After 19 seasons of racing for Roush and more farewell tours than the Stones, Mark Martin is looking for his next ride—again. Will he ever figure out how to say goodbye? BY RYAN MCGEE





# 116 THE REEDUCATION OF LT. WANG

In 2001, Wang Zhizhi became the NBA's first Chinese player, then turned his back on his country. The prodigy turned prodigal son is back in his original uni now, but has the clock run out on his pro career? BY BROOK LARMER

#### 124 ONE BIG HAPPY -----

While surf phenom JOHN JOHN FLORENCE may get the glory, the 14-year-old would be the first to credit Oahu's gritty North Shore community for helping him ride straight. BY TIM STRUBY

# THE SAINTS' SECRET WEAPON (HINT: HE'S JAPANESE)



ESPN THE MAGAZINE \* 9.23 \* NOV 20 2006 \* ESPN.COM \* \$4.99 US/\$5.99 CAN/FOR