

Sports Illustrated

December 12, 1988

Volume 69, No. 26

CONTENTS

- ON A MISSION** 20
Charles Barkley and the Philadelphia 76ers are out to prove that they belong among the elite of the NBA
by Jack McCallum
- A TRIO AT THE TOP** 26
The Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Denver Broncos to create congestion in the mild, mild AFC West
by Rick Reilly
- HIGH ON THE HEELS** 36
At the new basketball Tournament of Champions, beleaguered North Carolina rose to the occasion
by Curry Kirkpatrick
- A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** 42
In a stunner, NBC won the rights to the '92 Summer Games for a record sum of \$401 million
by William Oscar Johnson
- BIG HAND FOR A QUIET MAN** 46
Though he was in Japan, Heisman hoopla got to Barry Sanders, the bashful winner from Oklahoma State
by Rick Telander
- ONE ECK OF A GUY** 50
With an assist from his wife, Dennis Eckersley, the Oakland A's ace reliever, beat a drinking problem
by Peter Gammons
- INTO THE LIMELIGHT** 60
After working in obscurity for many years, coach Dick Tarrant has put Richmond on the basketball map
by John Feinstein
- LITTLE BIG LINEBACKER** 66
Sam Mills, the New Orleans Saints' 5' 9" fireplug, specializes in cutting rival players down to size
by Michael Bamberger
- TRANSACTIONS** 82
Every day newspapers list those whose roles in sports are changing. Here are five of the personal stories behind last week's agate type.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Letters 6 | College Football 78 |
| Scorecard 15 | For The Record 107 |
| College Basketball 72 | Point After 108 |
| Tennis 76 | |

Cover Photograph by John Biever

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (ISSN 0038-822X) is published weekly, except semiweekly during a week in September, a week in November and, in 1988 only, a week in January, with two issues combined at year-end, by Time Inc., Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, New York 10020-1393. N.J. Nicholas Jr., President; Kevin D. Senie, Treasurer; Philip R. Lochner Jr., Secretary. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Authorized as second-class mail by Canada Post Corp., Ottawa, Canada, and for payment of postage in cash at Toronto. U.S. subscription: \$64.26 for 54 issues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, Post Office Box 30602, Tampa, Florida 33630-0602.
©1988 TIME INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IS A REGISTERED MARK OF TIME INCORPORATED.

DEC. 12, 1988

\$2.25

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



CHARLES THE GREAT

HIS ROYAL ROUNDNESS
CHARLES BARKLEY OF THE 76ERS



MereMart.com®

Vintage Magazines for Special People



10094