

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
SPORTS**Looking back to 1952**

The uproar over figure skating at the Olympics doesn't surprise a St. Louis couple with more than 50 years of experience in the sport. See today's community sports section.



Nine of the cars involved in an 18-car crash Sunday at the Daytona 500 slide around the track on the second turn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ward Burton wins by attrition

Accidents and scrapes KO many contenders at Daytona

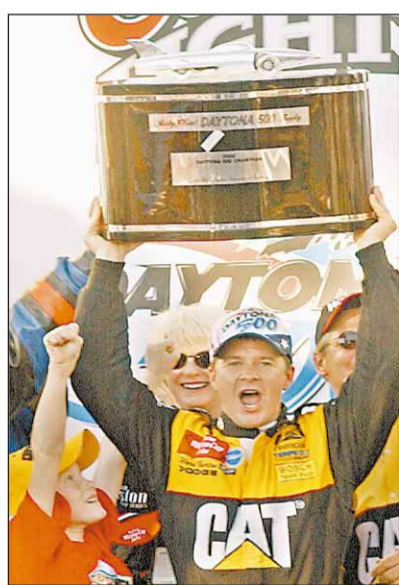
BY CAMERON HOLLWAY
Of the Post-Dispatch

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Who better to win such a bizarre Daytona 500 than Ward Burton?

The 40-year-old from South Boston, Va., survived a battle of attrition Sunday at Daytona International Speedway, then fought off — of all people — Geoffrey Bodine and Elliott Sadler in winning stock car racing's most prestigious title. He won \$1.38 million and will begin a whirlwind media tour today, including a stop in New York City.

"I fit in better in the little hills of Virginia," Burton said. "Nothing I've ever done before reminds me of this. Watching on TV, no. Being a part of it, being in that victory circle, actually being able to make that (victory) lap ... there's nothing that you could experience that could top that."

The victory was the fourth in the career of Burton, who's been better known for his Tide-water drawl and for being the older brother of championship contender Jeff Burton than for winning races.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Ward Burton holds up his trophy as the winner of the Daytona 500.

What most racing fans probably don't know about Burton is that he went to a military academy for high school, where he was a first lieutenant and the school's top rifleman. He also spent two years in his early 20s living in a

Top 10 results

Driver	Car	Make	Money
1. Ward Burton	22	Dodge	\$1,383,017
2. Elliott Sadler	21	Ford	\$957,037
3. Geoffrey Bodine	09	Ford	\$644,187
4. Kurt Busch	97	Ford	\$499,462
5. Michael Waltrip	15	Chevrolet	\$409,159
6. Mark Martin	6	Ford	\$300,995
7. Ryan Newman	12	Ford	\$246,587
8. Sterling Marlin	40	Dodge	\$248,779
9. Jeff Gordon	24	Chevrolet	\$289,674
10. Johnny Benson	10	Pontiac	\$198,612

log cabin and surviving off the land by hunting, fishing and trapping his food.

Sunday, his survival instincts came in handy.

"My car ran better on older tires, so you've gotta be there at the end of the race," said Burton, the first Dodge winner at Daytona since Richard Petty won the 500 in 1977. "We were just trying to be real careful. We dodged a bullet when the 29 car (Kevin Harvick)

lost it. We were lucky there."

A year ago, Dale Earnhardt died on the final lap of the 500 in the second of two major accidents, the other involving 19 cars. Sunday, NASCAR officials and fans had to hold their collective breaths again when three-quarters of the way through the race, the GM Goodwrench Chevrolet again was involved in a major accident.

See Daytona, D3

TEXAS 72, MISSOURI 70

Texas puts lid on rally by Mizzou, grabs win

BY BILL COATS
Of the Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Of the 2,400 seconds that ticked off the clock Sunday at Hearn Center, Missouri was in front for a mere nine. And yet the Tigers had several gold-plated opportunities to pull out a come-from-behind victory over Texas.

With Mizzou trailing by a point, a capacity crowd of

13,545 saw go-to forward Kareem Rush misfire three times in a row: On a jumper from the lane with 1:10 remaining, a short hook shot with

19 seconds left and a 15-footer with 12 seconds to go.

Arthur Johnson failed to convert a point-blank put-back after Rush's last miss. And finally, Rickey Paulding, a 77.3 percent free-throw shooter, clanked two from the line with 10.2 seconds remaining.

Texas freshman guard T.J. Ford swished two free throws with 5.1 seconds to go, and the Longhorns skipped out of town with a crucial 72-70 victory: Texas inched ahead of Missouri into third place in the Big 12 Conference standings.

See Missouri, D5

SPRING TRAINING

Veres hopes his stay isn't over

Deposed closer wants to play for Cardinals

BY JOE STRAUSS
Of the Post-Dispatch

JUPITER, Fla. — No one called Dave Veres last December with the news that the Cardinals were signing free-agent closer Jason Isringhausen to a four-year, \$27 million contract. But when it happened, Veres, the Cardinals closer for much of the previous two seasons, felt an urgency to contact general manager Walt Jocketty.

Veres reached Jocketty immediately before the Cardinals entourage left for the winter meetings in Boston. His request was simple: Keep me.

A minor-league starter who finally reached the major leagues in his ninth professional season and secured a closer role in his 14th, Veres wanted Jocketty to understand his preference: He'd rather remain with a contender in a set-up capacity than



CHRIS LEE / POST-DISPATCH

get traded to a lesser club for the ego gratification of closing.

"I told Walt if he thought there was an issue with me closing or setting up, that wasn't the case," Veres recalled Sunday.

Dave Veres saved 15 games last season when he saw limited action because of circulation problems on the index finger of his pitching hand. He also suffered from back pain and a strained hamstring.

"If they had to trade me because of money, that's one thing. But I don't want them trading me because I don't want to set up. That's not the case."

See Cardinals, D9

INSIDE

2 TENNIS: Monica Seles and Venus Williams win tournament titles.

2 COLLEGE BASKETBALL: The Washington U. women's and men's teams are triumphant again.

9 BASEBALL: The Montreal Expos are trying to keep things positive at spring training.

10 NBA: The Phoenix Suns lose their first game since coach Scott Skiles was ousted.

No. 3 Maryland hammers top-ranked Duke

Shortly after he weaved his way through the jubilant Maryland crowd Sunday, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski made a rare concession: The better team won.

The top-ranked Blue Devils trailed throughout their showdown with No. 3 Maryland, falling behind by as many as 25 points in a lopsided 87-73 defeat.

Duke's 11-game winning streak and grip on first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference

tumbled under the strain of 18 turnovers, miserable shooting from 3-point range and shoddy foul shooting.

The loss dropped the Blue Devils a half-game behind Maryland in the ACC standings. **D5**

Maryland's Byron Mouton scored 15 points against the Blue Devils.

**Mattiace drives away with Nissan Open**

Scott McCarron's collapse on the last three holes enabled Len Mattiace to win the Nissan Open, Mattiace's first victory in seven years on the PGA Tour. Mattiace, 34, had played in 220 previous tournaments. **D2**

2002 WINTER GAMES

Witty stuns herself with gold, record

Speed skater was diagnosed with mono last month

BY VAHE GREGORIAN
Of the Post-Dispatch

KEARNS, Utah — She is understated, has no aura of scandal about her and hasn't had to overcome an unfathomable burden such as, say, a liver replacement.

So speed skater Chris Witty won't be celebrated as the story of the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Games.

Just the same, Witty's world-record, gold-medal performance in the Canadian pairs skating duo receives gold medals. **D7**

ance in the 1,000-meter race on Sunday at the Utah Olympic Oval should be as indelible as it was improbable.

"I'm going to have to wake up tomorrow and pinch myself," she said. "I'm still in shock. I can't believe it."

She added: "I think it was all heart."

Witty finished in 1 minute 13.83 seconds, just ahead of Germany's Sabine Voelker (1:13.96) and U.S. skater Jennifer Rodriguez (1:14.24). Rodriguez nearly had fallen early in her race and didn't believe her time would be good enough to earn a medal.

"I was crying that I didn't get a medal," she said, "then I was crying that I did get a medal. It was, like, the whole rainbow."

It was like the end of the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I don't know where that came from," Chris Witty says about her record-setting victory.

**U.S. MEDAL COUNT**

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
4	7	7

OLYMPIC COVERAGE CONTINUES ON D6-8

rainbow for Witty, who burst into tears and began trembling as soon as she saw her time but had to wait through three more pairs to see if she won.

The last pair, featuring Germany's Monique Enfeldt-Garbrecht, worried her the most.

See Witty, D8

Today's game vs. Belarus, noon

Tie gives Team USA the edge in hockey

Brooks fears letdown today against Belarus

BY DERRICK GOULD
Of the Post-Dispatch

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah — Emerging from the afterglow of Saturday's 2-2 tie against Russia, Team USA coach Herb Brooks was aware of the prime spot his team is in and worried it might suffer a sag in today's qualifier vs. Belarus.

Brett Hull's tying goal with 4:30 remaining in the game knotted the Russians and Americans atop their pool at 1-0-1. But because of its 6-0 rout of Finland, Team USA has the best shot to be the pool's top seed in the medal round.

Tkachuk suffers injury

The Blues' Keith Tkachuk scored in the second period to give Team USA a 1-0 lead. He later sustained a thigh bruise and is not expected to play in today's game against Belarus. **D6**

That seed means the difference between likely facing qualifier Germany in the first elimination game or facing one of the gold-medal contenders — Canada, Sweden or the Czech Republic.

When asked about an emotional letdown from what so far has been the game of the Games, Brooks said, "Yeah, I'm worried about it. That's what I've been yapping at all day. We all have seen these things. These players have put themselves in position to write a heck of a story."

See Hockey, D8