

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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## Bryant booked for sexual misconduct

By Colleen Slevin  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant turned himself in to police and posted a \$25,000 bond on a felony count of sexual assault, the Eagle County sheriff's office said Sunday.

The 24-year-old All-Star guard was released after turning himself in on Friday.

The sheriff's office said an arrest warrant was issued after deputies investigated a report made Wednesday claiming sexual misconduct by Bryant.



BRYANT

The report said the incident happened on the night of June 30 in a hotel in the Edwards area of Eagle County, near Vail.

After a series of interviews and a review of the physical evidence, investigators met with representatives for District Attorney Mark Hurlbert and concluded they had enough evidence for the felony sexual assault count, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

"During the investigation, Bryant was cooperative with investigators and remains cooperative with authorities," the sheriff's office said.

Judge Russell Granger ordered the case sealed.

Attempts to reach Bryant for comment were not immediately successful.

"These allegations are completely out of character of the Kobe Bryant we know," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement. "For the seven years he's been with us, he has been one of the finest young men we've known and a wonderful asset to both our team and our community."

"However, since this is a legal matter being handled by the authorities in Colorado, we must refrain from further comment at this time."

Bryant was the NBA's second-leading scorer last season, averaging a career-best 30 points a game. He scored 40 or more points in nine straight games in February and also had career-high averages of 6.9 rebounds and 5.9 assists while playing in each of the Lakers' 82 games.

The Lakers were eliminated from the Western Conference semifinals by the San Antonio Spurs, ending Los Angeles' run of three straight NBA championships.

Bryant underwent shoulder surgery on June 12 in New York. The Lakers expect he'll be ready by the start of training camp in October.

Bryant married Vanessa Laine in April 2001. Bryant and his parents recently mended a rift that developed when he became engaged to Laine when she was an 18-year-old high school student.

Vanessa, gave birth to their first child, Natalia Diamante Bryant, in January.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Duncan teaches basketball to kids on home island

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan came to the U.S. Virgin Islands over the weekend to hold basketball clinics and promote his foundation on his home island of St. Croix.

Duncan, 27, the National Basketball Association's MVP the past two seasons, spent part of Saturday at St. Croix's Central High School teaching basketball fundamentals.

"It's great to come out here and do what I can," he said. "It's good to interact with them and show them some stuff."

The 7-foot forward and several college basketball players ran the kids through a series of drills during the two-hour session.

Kemia Frederick, 9, was wearing a Duncan jersey as he stood in line for an autograph. "I think he is a real good basketball player," Frederick said. "I came to learn how to shoot and how to pass."

## Federer wins first Grand Slam title

By Howard Hendrich  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBLEDON, England — Nothing Roger Federer faced in the Wimbledon final flustered him nearly as much as actually winning his first Grand Slam title.

Nonplussed by Mark Philippoussis' power, Federer ripped returns on serves that made line judges, ball boys and spectators flinch. He laced passing shots by his 6-foot-4 opponent, spun aces off lines and crafted crisp volleys.

Cool and collected throughout his 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3) victory over Philippoussis on Sunday, Federer let that smooth veneer crack after it was all over.

When a backhand return by Philippoussis slapped the net on match point, Federer dropped to his knees, arms aloft. Then he rose and, as he walked to his court-side chair, put his hands to his face.

He sat and began to sob, his chest heaving.

These were tears of joy, certainly, but also tears of relief.

"There was pressure from all sides — also from myself. I wanted to do better in Slams," Federer said. "I've always believed, but then in the end, when it happens, you don't think that it is possible. It's an absolute dream for me. I was always joking around when I was a boy: 'I'm going to win this.'"

Still only 21, yet already for years considered a "can't miss" future champion, Federer felt pressure to perform. His 1998 Wimbledon junior

title inspired some to sing praise, and those notes grew into a full-blown chorus after he ended seven-time champion Pete Sampras' 31-match winning streak at the All England Club in 2001.

But until this fabulous fortnight, the fourth-seeded Federer never had made it past the quarterfinals at a Slam. Since the upset of Sampras, Federer lost three first-round matches at majors — including at Wimbledon last year and the French Open in May.

With the winner's Challenge Cup cradled in his hands, Federer's voice cracked and he cried some more.

"You see the trophy, and it's so beautiful. Gold. You don't have golden trophies very often," he said later. "Just the way when you look at it, and when you hold it — it is something you've always dreamed of. So right then, you feel like: 'Am I dreaming? This is true right now?'"

Indeed it is, thanks to an all-around performance that made Federer the first Swiss man to win a major title and the seventh male champion at the past seven Slams, one short of the Open era record. Contrast that with the women's game: Serena Williams claimed five of the last six majors, beating sister Venus in each final, including Saturday at Wimbledon.

The all-Williams final lasted longer than the 1-hour, 56-minute masterpiece painted by Federer, who has the air of an artist with his ponytail and white bandanna.

Smoothly covering the court, Federer dominated every facet against Philippoussis, who was trying to become just the third unseeded men's

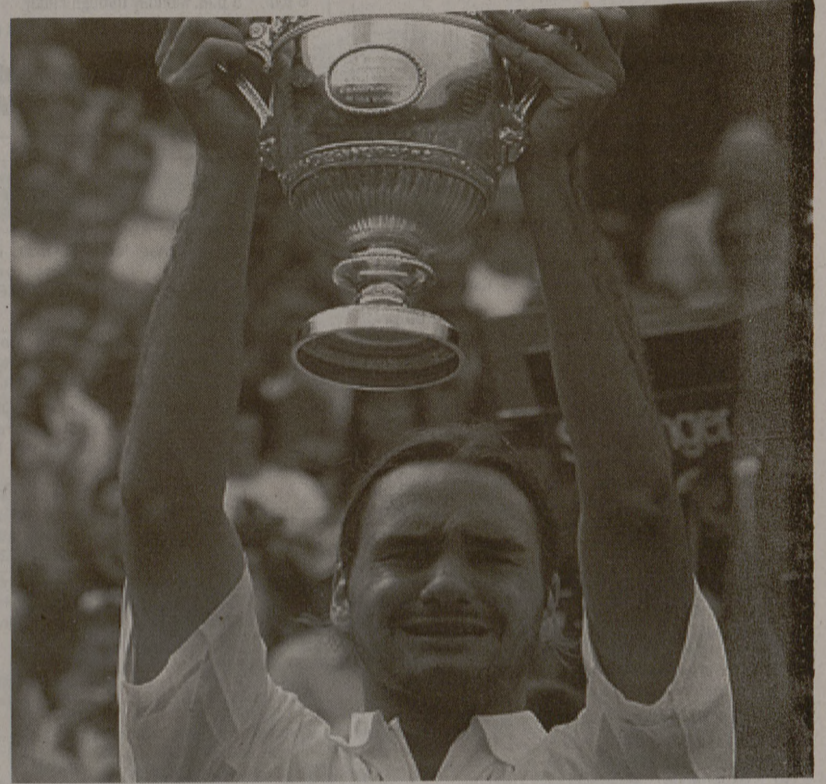


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champion at Wimbledon since seeding was introduced in 1927.

Now Federer will rise to a career-high ranking of No. 3, and he leads the tour with 50 match wins and five titles. It's hard to decide what was most impressive Sunday:

- He outaced Philippoussis 21-14 — the Australian entered averaging 27 for the tournament, including a record-tying 46 to beat Andre Agassi;
- He didn't double-fault once and

never faced a break point;

— He finished with a 50-37 edge in total winners;

— Even with risky shotmaking, Federer only made nine unforced errors.

"He can do everything," said Philippoussis, now 0-2 in major finals, including the 1998 U.S. Open. "He came up with some great passing shots. Running forehands. Backhand returns. What can you do?"

## Armstrong still in the hunt despite crash

By John Leicester  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEAUX, France — Lance Armstrong was hoping for an uneventful start to the Tour de France — no crashes, nothing to disrupt his quest for a record-tying fifth win.

It didn't quite work out that way.

The 31-year-old Texan was thrown from his bike Sunday in a dramatic pileup involving about 35 riders sprinting for the finish of the first full stage of the Tour.

"It is never good to crash, but it wasn't that bad," said Armstrong, the 1999-2002 Tour winner. "We all just fell over and got piled on top of."

Armstrong was not seriously hurt, but his bike had a flat and the wheel wouldn't turn so he completed the race on the cycle of his U.S. Postal teammate, Jose Luis Rubiera.

U.S. rider Tyler Hamilton, a former teammate of Armstrong's now cycling for the Danish CSC team, and four others were taken to a hospital for X-rays, Tour doctors said. Hamilton, who broke his collarbone, looked doubtful to continue the Tour.

Italy's Alessandro Petacchi was just ahead of the pack that crashed and won the stage. He blamed Tour organizers for the pileup, saying the corner where the accident took place, a few hundred yards from the finish, was dangerous.

"We're made to wear a helmet, but then they give us a dangerous corner so close to the finish," said Petacchi, 29, who rides for Italy's Fassa Bortolo team. "That's something that should not be on the route in such an important race as the Tour de France."

Tour competition director, Jean-Francois Pescheux, denied the course was at fault. "If people tell me today that it was dangerous, then they should stop cycling," he said.

A Spanish rider, Jose Enrique Gutierrez, went down first, slipping in the last turn before the finish in the town of Meaux, east of Paris.

Other riders piled into him. Many others were blocked behind the mass of fallen riders. Shouldering broken bikes, some walked the few hundred yards to the finish.

### Crash throws Armstrong from bike

Lance Armstrong was thrown from his bike in a 35 rider pile-up at the finish line in the first stage of the race. He wasn't seriously hurt although former teammate Tyler Hamilton broke a collarbone.

Stage result	
1 A. Petacchi (Italy)	3 hrs. 44 min. 33 sec.
2 R. McEwen (Australia)	3 hrs. 44 min. 33 sec.
3 E. Zabel (Germany)	3 hrs. 44 min. 33 sec.
4 P. Bettini (Italy)	3 hrs. 44 min. 33 sec.
5 B. Cooke (Australia)	3 hrs. 44 min. 33 sec.

Overall standing	
1 A. Petacchi (Australia)	3 hrs. 51 min. 55 sec.
2 D. Millar (Britain)	3 hrs. 51 min. 4 sec. behind
3 H. Zubeldia (Spain)	3 hrs. 51 min. 06 sec. behind
4 J. Ullrich (Germany)	3 hrs. 51 min. 06 sec. behind
5 V. Pensa (Colombia)	3 hrs. 51 min. 10 sec. behind
6 T. Hamilton (U.S.)	3 hrs. 51 min. 10 sec. behind
7 A. Flickinger (France)	3 hrs. 51 min. 10 sec. behind
8 L. Armstrong (U.S.)	3 hrs. 51 min. 11 sec. behind
9 J. Beloki (Spain)	3 hrs. 51 min. 13 sec. behind
10 S. Botero (Colombia)	3 hrs. 51 min. 13 sec. behind

Armstrong bruised his right thigh and scratched his left shoulder, said a spokesman for his U.S. Postal Service team, Jogi Muller.

Hamilton, one of Armstrong's main rivals, broke his right collarbone and said he would likely pull out of the race.

"I've dedicated my life to it this year. It's a big disappointment," Hamilton said. The accident highlights the pitfalls that could derail Armstrong's drive to tie Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five consecutive victories, from 1991-1995.

Before the race, Armstrong said his goal was to avoid trouble and save his energy for a team time trial later in the week and for punishing mountain stages, where he often leaves rivals in his wake.

"It's a dangerous week, as we all know, and you need to avoid problems and accidents," he said. "We'll just stay out of trouble, try to avoid any problems."

Those sounded like famous last words after the crash.

Two of Armstrong's teammates also went down during the crash. George Hincapie suffered cuts on his left knee, and Vjatcheslav Ekimov had scratches.

The winner, Petacchi, beat out Robbie McEwen of Australia in the dash for the finish. German Erik Zabel was third. Petacchi covered the 104-mile course in 3 hours, 44 minutes and 33 seconds. McEwen and Zabel were just behind.

Australian Bradley McGee retained the yellow jersey awarded to the overall leader. McGee won the Tour's first event, an individual race against the clock over 4.03 miles in Paris on Saturday.

Armstrong is eighth overall, with 19 days of racing left. The 2,125-mile Tour finishes in Paris on July 27.

Wednesday's time trial is important because Tour favorites could fall behind if their team performs badly. They race against the clock over 43 miles, with each team member getting the overall finishing time. Armstrong said it was an opportunity to begin weeding out potential rivals.

"That day already starts to shape the race," he said. "That day is more than survival, that's a day to make some selection."

Sunday's stage started from Le Reveil Matin, a restaurant in the southeastern Paris suburb of Montgeron where the Tour started in 1903. Today, the restaurant serves French cuisine and Tex-Mex.

From there, the riders cycled south before turning east and then north to finish in Meaux, a town of 50,000 people known for its Brie cheese and mustard. This was the first time the Tour has stopped in Meaux, about 25 miles east of Paris.

The route took the riders past ripened fields of golden wheat, the lush forest of Fontainebleau and through picturesque villages. Waving fans along the route cheered the riders.

On Monday, the Tour's third day, the riders cover 126.8 miles, skirting Champagne country and the cathedral town of Reims, where French kings were crowned. They finish in Sedan, a town on the border with Belgium where German troops broke through during their invasion of France in 1940.

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