

SPORTS THE TAMPA TRIBUNE



DEMERS WON'T CHANGE COURSE Lightning coach is sticking with youth movement despite heat from disgruntled owner. STORY, PAGE 4

Earnhardt keeps streaking in twin 125s



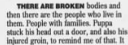
Defending Daytona 500 champ Dale Earnhardt has a regular in Victory Lane — on Thursdays.

DAYTONA BEACH — Dale Earnhardt was his 12th straight twin 125 qualifier at Daytona; Bobby Labonte takes the other. ... Earnhardt displayed the aggressiveness and focus that has brought him seven Winston Cup championships and 32 Daytona victories.

MARTIN FENNELLY Columnist

Puppa faces more shots than needed

Daren Puppa is around. I know this because his voice paged me in the Ice Palace hall Thursday morning. His words were louder than I've ever heard them, which isn't saying much, since a car starting normally draws out Daren Puppa. But he wanted my attention. He had it.

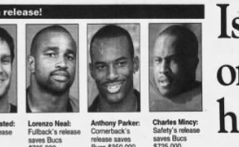


Puppa

There are broken bodies and then there are the people who live in them. Puppa with injuries. Puppa's sack had a hole in it, and also his injured groin, to remind me of that. It was a good reminder.

Making room for Chidi

TAMPA — Chidi Ahanotu is the Buccaneers' franchise player, but Michael Husted, Lorenzo Neal, Anthony Parker and Charles Mincy are wanted. ... The Buccaneers are looking out for their own best interests.



Michael Husted, Lorenzo Neal, Anthony Parker, Charles Mincy. Release dates: Husted \$625,000; Neal \$725,000; Parker \$350,000; Mincy \$725,000.

Is Moon on Bucs' horizon?

TAMPA — Let the quarterback games begin. On the day the Bucs — and other NFL teams — begin bidding on free agents, there's a new name on the list.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Salary. Includes names like Tony Stewart, Jeff Green, etc.

Bulls can't bounce back after brawl

TAMPA — Houston beats USF in a game marred by a bench-clearing first-half brawl. ... The only thing sicker than Thursday night's first half brawl between Houston and South Florida at the Sun Dome was the way USF pulled in the second half, in allowing an opponent certain victory to somehow slip away.



USF coach Seth Greenberg pulls Artus Reeves away from first-half scuffle.

Sellers not running low on confidence

TAMPA — Jimmy Sellers may appear cocky, but he's poised to become the first winner from Tampa of the Gasparilla 15K. ... He's confident to the point of being arrogant and has been known to stay out all hours of the night before an important race.



See GASPARRILLA, Page 6