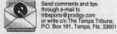


THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

of Metro

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# Sports



Martin Fennelly

## Big thinking could lead to Olympics

So now we go for gold. The burning cross on Billy Poe's lawn has faded out. It's time to move on. And up. "Why not Tampa Bay?" asked Tampa mayor Dick Greco-Hansen Wednesday. The mayor is right. Olympics Now.

Or at least 13 years from now. Yes, it's a long time. And a longer one, if it could cost millions, even billions of dollars. Some of us might even die, especially in the battle to be named the official games shop of the 2012 Tampa Bay Games. But some fights are worth it.

Proving a historical hypothesis — money grows on trees — Halliburton commentators voted to give the \$150,000 in tourist tax money to put down a non-renewable deposit with the U.S. Olympic Committee. It's a down payment on a bid for the Games. Summer Games.

We can use the old barn out back! My money'll make the big-headed rat system!

C'mon guys!

### Think large, Tampa

A little voice inside me says this idea hasn't been thought out. Another little voice inside me tells me Tampa is already a fine place to live, without Olympics. A third little voice inside me says I AM A MURPHY — AND THE REVOLUTION IS COMING. But back to the Olympics.

You have to admire the speak of a local leader like Ed Teranicki, who, after receiving his diploma, is pushing the trucks of Orlando, St. Petersburg, and you know who. If you attended the Summer Games of Atlanta — and are just getting back — you have one tiny question.

Why, oh why Tampa Bay? Because the Olympics would bring Tampa Bay into the international arena, something the Bay area has failed to do — years, even after the Miss Universe brought in the Swedish dancers. If you want to be the London, Cam, Buenos Aires and the other places listed in the around-the-world temperatures and the weather page, you have to think big. Yes, it will mean having our small-town ways. And it will mean developing a mascot from scratch (Cub-house lameness don't count).

The payoff: The Olympics would spur economic growth and help people — probably even poor people. Moreover, the Olympics would make us with the community pride that Boca 2001 Super Bowl title, the Devil Rays' 2005 World Series win and the Lightning's three consecutive Stanley Cups (2006-2010) couldn't possibly match. What are we waiting for?

Tampa lacks — something

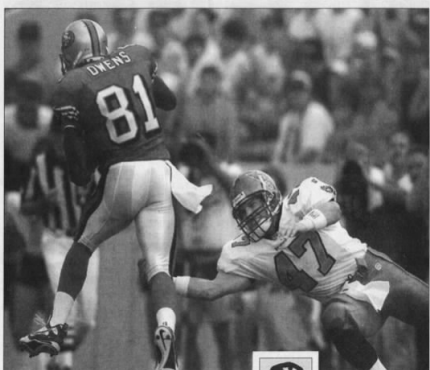
The competition for 2012, the American competition, is quite ordinary. Seven other cities — Baltimore, New York, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Houston, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. — have already paid the fee. Seven lesser cities.

But there are a few problems. Tampa Bay lacks infrastructure. Clearly, we would need more infra. And roads. And buses. And a railway. And a bigger aqueduct. Lastly, improvements would be needed at Legends Field. At least that's what George Simchen told us.

We haven't even discussed the athletes village or competition venues. The Olympic Stadium will be no problem, since the 2005 referendum will be looked to schools and police. As for the rest, all of us have to chip in 50c here and now, my wife and I would like to volunteer our pool as site of the synchronized swimming competition.

The pool is 32 feet by 18 feet, ample room unless teams synchronized swimming become a sport. We'd need temporary seating, but we already have two pairs of goggles and 13 towels more regular and not back, unless you count the one we put under the baby's car seat to keep it level, in which case we have five beach. And we'll use all of them if needed.

It's the Olympics!



Cliff Huxford/Tribune photo  
Bucc defensive back John Lynch, who topped up San Francisco's Terrell Owens in the first game of the season, played in the Florida Marlins' minor league system.

“ Things are good here [with the Bucs.] I wish them [Marlins] the best. I'll be following them.”

## What if... Metro

### By CARTER GAGAN of Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — John Lynch once was a baseball player.

The Bucs strong safety is better known these days as one of the hardest hitters in the NFL. But he once was one of the hardest-throwing pitchers in the Florida Marlins' minor-league system.

Now, the average person has a better chance of, say, winning the lottery than becoming a major-league baseball player. It's a long shot, even if you're a second-round draft choice (6th overall) and possess a 95-mph fastball.

Still, Lynch always will wonder what could have happened had he chosen the road not taken. The road that just very well

could have led to this year's World Series.

After all, two of Lynch's minor-league teammates — catcher Charles Johnson and shortstop Edgar Renteria — are starters for the National League champions. Could Lynch have been the answer when starter Alex Fernandez tore his right rotator cuff against the Braves in the NLCS?

For that matter, would the former White Sox starter and Miami native even have been signed to a five-agent deal Lynch progressed through the minors to the parent club's starting rotation?

Maybe, maybe not. He'll never know. Does the thought of what might have been keep him awake at night?

"No. Not at all. Things are good here,"

Lynch said. "I wish them the best. I'll be following them."

"Someone said the other day, 'You could be in the World Series.' And I said, 'Yeah, but I'm in the NFL, we're 5-2 and in first place in our division. It's happy for all those guys. It's a lot of fun to watch them.'"

John Lynch, baseball player, didn't fully evolve into John Lynch, football player, until his senior year at Stanford. He was drafted by the Marlins in 1996, after his junior year, and offered two contracts. One for more money if he got football, another for a little less if he decided to finish his football career with the Pac-10.

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## Dino's return a boost

By ROY CUMMINGS of Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — The man who received a shot in the arm Tuesday will try to give the Lightning's struggling offense its own much-needed shot in the arm.

Right wing Dino Ciccarelli, who took a costume injection to improve mobility in his painfully swollen right arm, says he'll be in the lineup to right when the Lightning take on the Penguins at the Ice Palace.

"It feels a lot better; it's good, and I'm going to go," Ciccarelli said as he flexed the arm that

for days was locked in a bent position due to fasting bone chips in the elbow. "There's still a little bit of numb, but the extension's a lot better and I can even bend it now. I mean, you can't expect it to be 100 percent."

Don't expect the Lightning offense to be 100 percent either. After all, winger Miami Krenberg still has the flu, which means he won't be operating at peak efficiency if he does play. Ciccarelli's effectiveness remains uncertain despite his improved status.

Although he practiced Thursday and reported no problems, Ciccarelli said he's still not sure if his elbow will allow him to play better than his last couple of games, when he couldn't reach pucks caught in his skates.

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When Pittsburgh Penguin vs Tampa Bay Lightning  
Where/When to Watch  
TV/Radio: Sunline  
Times: 7:00 PM  
See BOLTS, Page 7

## Stewart still has magic at Disney

By NICK ELLIOTT of Tampa Tribune

ORLANDO — Considering the way Payne Stewart dresses on the golf course, it figures he would be comfortable at the Walt Disney Classic. After all, with Stewart's penchant for sneakers and matching hat, it's only logical he would feel at home around the Magic Kingdom. At first glance, he looks a bit like one of the parking lot attendants.

Maybe that explains his success. Through Stewart's career, the Orlando resident has six top-10 finishes at Disney, including one victory and a quarter-pipe finish last year at Walt Woods.

And nothing has changed. On Thursday, golf's fashion-meter was at it again, styling his way to an 8-under-par 64 to take a one-shot first-round lead over David David and Frank Ludvig. Two shots back at 66 are Lee Risher, Neal Lamontier, Jay Deising, Andrew Magee and Woods, who last year edged Stewart by one.

For Stewart, it's just a matter of comfort. He said the tournament format that pairs pros with a

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## Cannon fueled by inspiration

By LISA MALKENBERGER of Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — KALLIA KONA, Hawaii, has an uphill track cutting across the jagged Kona coast.

John Cannon will thank God for this scenery.

After nine months of intense mental and physical preparation, the last thing the former pro football player needs to do is succeed continually. There are enough crosses to bear in the Ironman World Triathlon Championship. His father's tragic death at a New Jersey train station two years ago must not be one of them.

"I know I'm going to be thinking about him," said Cannon, tears welling in his eyes. "He was my best friend. I can just picture him along the course, cheering me on yelling, 'That's my Johnny.' That's going to be the tough part."

But it certainly won't be his only hardship.

CANNON, 37, WILL venture Saturday into waters uncharted by any athlete.



JOHN MALKENBERGER photo  
The Ironman Triathlon is yet another challenge for John Cannon to tackle.

It's 1,421 competitors, 132 did not finish.

Temperatures along certain portions of the lake course can exceed 100 degrees because of heat reflected from lava and asphalt. There's also Kona's headwinds, which typically range from 5-35 mph, but have reached 60 mph, enough to whip cyclists off their seats. The swim is an 8.5-mile swim, with the Pacific Ocean's strong currents and rough chop. The run has been hot enough to burn skins.

WHILE HE'S NEVER attempted a triathlon of this magnitude, Cannon insists failure isn't an option. His father — like others — would be expected on loan.

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