

## Alabama hires Shula as coach ■ 1C



## Wild advance in NHL

Goalie Dwayne Roloson helps lift Minnesota past Vancouver ■ 15C

By VICKI CHADLER, AP/WIDEWORLD



## How does your garden grow?

- Reining in rambling roses, 8D
- Blooms on demand, 9D
- TV's miracle landscapes, 9D

By Betty Phoenix  
USA TODAY

at/Sun, May 9-11, 2003

## Newsline

Money Sports Life

ak retail helps push markets lower

	Close	Change
Industrial average	8491.22	▲ 69.41
Composite	1489.69	▲ 17.07
30-year yield	4.69%	▲ 0.01
10Y Internet 50	81.25	▲ 1.08

By VICKI CHADLER, AP/WIDEWORLD



By STAN BARNETT, The Birmingham News, AP

ingham, Ala.: Hoover police officer Stan Barnett carries a child through floodwaters.

## Weather continues to mangle parts of USA

ss rain and tornadoes blamed for deaths, hundreds of injuries and at least \$25 million in damage ■ 3A

## Sanctions still divisive

mits U.N. resolution today for support of lifting penalties ■ 4A

## Death rate increases to about 15%

Health Organization revision suggests older Americans especially vulnerable because of diminished heart and lungs. Meanwhile, travelers advised to avoid Chinese provinces of Tianjin, Mongolia, and Taipei, Taiwan, 6A.

entiating SARS from other respiratory illnesses, airline passengers is daunting, 6D.

olly recalls harrowing journey

st interview since being trapped by a boulder in canyon. Aron Ralston details the ordeal he amputated his arm to survive, 3A.

restatement showdown looms

Andersen is challenging parts of Qwest's restatement proposed \$2.2B restatement, 1B.

War views strain foreign trade

Whitney's loss of a contract to Airbus is one of several business incidents that show global



Face of an icon: David Beckham has become far more than a British soccer star, gaining international fame.

# He's the most famous athlete in the world (except in the USA)

David Beckham,

who lent his name to the movie *Bend It Like Beckham*, finally might become a household name in America. On soccer fields everywhere else, he's regarded as a superstar.

By Ellen Hise  
USA TODAY

LONDON — He's the most famous man Americans don't know: one of the world's highest-paid athletes, a fashion pace-maker married to a glamorous pop star, an idol of gays, teens and mothers alike. And gorgeous, to boot.

It has taken a movie in which he doesn't even appear for English soccer star David Beckham to score in the USA. Though *Bend It Like Beckham* might now be filling theaters across the country, before it was released there was talk of changing the title for fear film-goers wouldn't understand it.

In the rest of the world, however, the name needed no explanation.

If David Beckham is relatively unknown in the USA, he is indisputably among the most recognized sports figures elsewhere in the world, where soccer — known everywhere but the USA as football — is the real king of sports. In Britain, tabloid photos of him and his wife, Victoria, former Spice Girl Posh, sell the most newspapers since Princess Diana. In Thailand, fans have erected a golden likeness in a Buddhist temple. Even in

## Cover story

# Support for Bush tax cuts growing

## Less-costly version advances in Senate

By Richard Benedetto and William M. Welch  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Public support for tax cuts to stimulate the economy is increasing as Congress prepares to act on reduced versions of President Bush's most important domestic policy goal.

A USA TODAY/CNN Gallup Poll shows 52% of Americans think the tax cuts Bush has proposed are a good idea, a gain of 10 percentage points in two weeks. And 53% approve of Bush's handling of the economy, his highest rating in six months.

The gains for Bush come on the eve of key votes:

► The House of Representatives today takes up a 10-year, \$550 billion package that reduces income taxes on corporate dividends and capital gains.

► A smaller package of tax cuts, along with \$20 billion in aid to states, cleared a crucial committee Thursday and appeared headed for Senate passage as early as next week. It includes \$421 billion in tax cuts, but it closes loopholes and raises other taxes to trim the net cost to \$350 billion.

The actions make it likely that tax cuts will be enacted before summer, but that the president won't get all he wants. House passage of a big package was assured, but the Senate was in doubt.

The boost in public support and advances in Congress came after the nation's unemployment rate hit its last month and Democrats stepped up criticism of the president's economic stewardship. They may reflect Bush's shift in focus from the war in Iraq to the economy, along with a similar shift in news coverage. For months, polls have documented Bush's popularity

### USA TODAY/CNN Gallup Poll

Are President Bush's proposed tax cuts a good idea?

Good idea

Now 52%

April 23 42%

Bad idea

Now 41%

April 23 47%

Source: USA TODAY/CNN Gallup Poll of 1,000 Monday-Thursday. Margins of error: ±3.0 percentage points. Totals do not add up to 100% because of other responses and rounding.

By Earl Geller, USA TODAY