

Volume 13, Number 31 U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, B.I.O.T. August 8, 2003

HSD, Royal Marines use teamwork

Injured Taiwanese fisherman rescued

Story and photo by JOSN Heather Schory Naval Media Center

The Health Services Department, or HSD, and the Royal Marine Commandos worked together Monday to rescue a wounded Taiwanese crewmember aboard Tian Xiang 16, a Chinese fishing vessel from Tian Jin.

The boat was fishing in the Chagos Archipelago when the fisherman was involved in a fishing accident.

While fishing the outer islands the crewmember was struck with a five-inch fishing hook, which became lodged in his neck. The vessel's crew stabilized the injured member since any harsh movement could seriously injure or kill the victim.

A crew from HSD boarded a tugboat to meet the fishing vessel about three miles out to sea. After setting out to sea,



Security improves at clubs

Patrons to see more duty hosts

Story by JOSN Dave Olson Naval Media Center

Diego Garcia residents will see some changes in security at clubs on the island.

Royal Overseas Police Officer 2 Matthew Jackson said the Brit Club began implementing permanent changes to improve patron safety and maintain order. The Brit Club will hire duty hosts to watch over patrons. the crew had to wait on board the tug for 90 minutes since the boat was still 12 miles out.

Once the fishing boat drew close, the marines equipped themselves with combat gear as a precaution against a terrorist attack and set out on their rigid hull inflatable boats.

Marines are the first to board, to ensure the vessel is safe for the medical staff. The marines are in charge of the safety of the harbor and everyone involved in the evolution.

While the medical crew was assessing the patient, the marines continued to safeguard the vessel ensuring the safety of the medical staff.

After the medical crew completed their assessment, they transferred the patient to the tug and began initial treatment. The staff's main concern was making sure the patient's neck remained stable.

An ambulance was waiting when the tug arrived at Moody Brook. The patient was taken to HSD where he was given a thorough examination. Since HSD doesn't have all the facilities of a regular hospital the patient was medivaced to Singapore where he will receive follow-on care.

Members of Health Services Department extract the patient from the fishing vessel Tian Xiang 16 after initial assessment of his injuries Monday.

Other changes at the club will include increased illumination and the addition of extra lighting outside of the club.

Jackson said the addition of extra lighting and duty hosts are a permanent change to Brit Club security.

Other clubs, such as the Filmau and Club 61, will also see changes.

"An increased presence of BIOT police will be made at all island-wide clubs," Jackson said.

BIOT will work closer with NSF's Security Department to better improve club safety.

Jackson said the changes in club security will be made in the next few weeks.

2Tropical Times
August 8, 2003NewsRADM Robert C. Chaplin bids farewell,
reflects on tour as CNFJ and time in Navy

As I reach the end of my tour as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan, I would like to reflect on some of the major events and accomplishments of the past three years and consider some of the challenges remaining before us.

Certainly the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon changed the lives of every one of us. Increased security and force protection measures, travel restrictions, heightened tension, short-notice ship deployments, and the demands *Operation Enduring Freedom* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom* imposed on the forward deployed naval forces made all our lives a little more complicated. We were required to do more with the same amount of material and time available. New solutions were necessary; one that emerged

Tropical Times

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LI3(AW) William L. Sweats II This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Tropical Times are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Navy. The editorial content is prepared and provided by the Naval Media Center, Broadcasting Detachment, Diego Garcia. The Tropical Times is published every Friday.

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The settlement of the Ehime Maru tragedy, painful as that was for all involved, was the right course of action after USS Greenville (SSN-772) struck and sank the fishing training ship off Hawaii, causing nine deaths. The compensation settlement and the consideration shown the families of the victims helped bring this tragic episode to closure.

On a brighter note, the closing down of the Shinkampo incinerator, which was initiated by my predecessors, was a major triumph over a decades-long health problem. Our efforts are today benefiting not only the residents of NAF Atsugi, but also our Japanese neighbors in the surrounding communities.

The improvement in the Navy's housing situation in Japan now guarantees that more than 70 percent of our Sailors and their families can reside in base housing, although much remains to be done to ensure all of our families have the option of living on base. Considerable new housing has opened up at Yokosuka. That should improve with the recent agreement by the Joint Committee and the Government of Japan to build an additional 800 housing units for our Sailors and their families in return for U.S. Navy land in Yokohama.

Although a great deal has been accomplished, we still have many issues confronting us. Finding a suitable, permanent site for night landing practice and the related issue of aircraft noise at Atsugi will continue to top our agenda.



Additional housing, land return issues and determining the right size of the Navy's "footprint" in Japan are all issues that will need to be resolved in the future.

Maintaining good relations with our Japanese hosts is of the utmost importance. We must all continue to work to reduce accidents and incidents which tend to impair that relationship. The clothing and conduct regulations promulgated by CNFJ are guidelines that move us in that direction, but the final responsibility for proper appearance and deportment at all times rests with each of you.

I have truly enjoyed my time at CNFJ and am grateful and humbled to have met and worked with so many fine professionals during my tour. The base CO's and their personnel have all provided outstanding support to the forward deployed naval forces of the U.S. 7th Fleet so they are ready to respond to any challenge and successfully accomplish their mission. To the base CO's and their personnel, and to my staff at CNFJ headquarters, I thank you all for your steadfast commitment to excellence - you have truly elevated the entire region to new levels of achievement. Our memories of each you will be some of the treasures Jan and I take away when we leave. Thank you, and farewell.

Celebrating a biological masterpiece

Foot health month observed

By LT Billie Coley Health Services Department

August is Foot Health Month. How much do we really know about our feet? Did you know that in the medical field, the foot is considered to be a biological masterpiece? Considering the relatively small size of the foot, it has a very complex structure. The foot contains 26 bones, 33 joints and a network of more than 100 tendons, muscles and ligaments, plus scores of nerves and blood vessels. Its strong, flexible and functional design enables it to do its job well and without complaint if taken care of properly.

In performing the daily activities of living, you impose on your feet a force equal to several hundred tons. On average, a person walks close to 115,000 miles in a lifetime; more than four times around the world. So, taking into account the structural complexity of the foot plus the daily stress placed on our feet, it's no wonder foot problems are among the most common health complaints.

Although some foot ailments can be traced to heredity, many stem from the cumulative impact of a lifetime of abuse and neglect. Foot pain is most definitely not normal. Most people do not realize the important relationship between foot health and overall health and well-being. Diseases, disorders and disabilities of the foot or ankle affect the quality of life and mobility of millions of Americans. For those of us in the military, healthy feet are a necessity for operational readiness.

Let's consider some of the most common foot ailments:

- Heel pain: the most common cause of heel pain is plantar fasciitis. This is an inflammation of the plantar fascia (connective tissue that runs from the heel to the ball of the foot). Shoes that cramp the feet in the arch area, especially women's pumps, usually cause this. Treatment is with anti-inflammatory medications, padding and shoe inserts.

- Heel spurs: this is a build up of bony tissue on the heel bone. These growths can be identified on X-rays and treated with anti-inflammatory medications, padding and inserts and in severe cases, surgery.

- Metatarsalgia: pain in the ball of the foot. There are many different things that can cause this, such as tight shoes, calluses and high heels. Proper shoes and conservative treatment can alleviate this pain.

- Bunions: These are misaligned big toe joints which can swell and become tender. They tend to be hereditary, but often aggravated by ill-fitting footwear.

- Hammertoes: This is another hereditary condition that is aggravated by ill-fitting footwear. Hammertoes result when the toes contract into a claw-like position.

- Neuromas are enlarged, benign growths of nerves that result in pain, burning or a tingling sensation in the foot. Treatment is with orthotics, cortisone injections and oral medications.

- Ingrown nails: Nails whose corners or sides dig painfully into the skin, often causing infection. Improper nail trimming, shoe pressure, injury, fungus infection, heredity and poor foot structure often cause this condition. Prevention is by proper nail trimming. Toenails should be trimmed straight across, slightly longer than the end of the toe.

- Warts: warts are caused by a virus which enters the skin through small cuts and infects the skin. They often come from walking barefoot on dirty surfaces or littered ground. There are several simple procedures which can remove warts.

- Athlete's foot: a skin disease caused by a fungus. It can spread to other parts of the body. Signs of athlete's foot are dry scaly skin, itching, inflammation and blisters. Prevention is by washing your feet daily with soap and water, drying carefully, especially between the toes, and changing shoes regularly.

See "Masterpiece" Page 4

Galley Menu Aug. 9 - 15					
Lunch Saturday Blackened Fish w/Tartar Sauce Beef Caldereta Speedline: Chicken Salad	<u>Dinner</u> Sweet & Sour Spareribs Turkey Loaf w/Chicken Gravy	Wednesday BRITISH NIGHT El Rancho Beef Stew BRITISH NIGHT Caribbean Chicken Breast Turkey Curry Speedline: Grilled Tuna Sandwich London Broiled Beef w/Gravy			
Sunday Minute Steak Italian Veal Cutlet Sandwich Speedline: Pastrami Sandwich	Old Fashioned Bean Soup* Teriyaki Baked Chicken	Thursday Mambo Pork Roast Beef Yakisoba Beef Tender Strips Chinese Five-Spice Chicken Speedline: Gyros			
Monday Baked Fish w/Tartar Sauce Cantonese Pork Spareribs <i>Speedline:</i> Baked Burritos	Cream of Chicken Soup* Veal Cubes Parmesan	Friday Oriental Pepper Steak Cheese Tortiglioni Oriental Pepper Steak Swiss Steak w/Mushroom Gravy Franconia Potatoes* Speedline: BBQ Pork			
Tuesday Simmered Beef w/Natural Gravy Boiled Potatoes* <i>Speedline:</i> Egg Salad Sandwich	Stuffed Flounder Creole Grilled Pork Steak w/Gravy	*Heart healthy items. Reminder to CDF patrons: meal pass must be visually sighted at the sign-in desk. No smoking areas will be enforced. Due to unforseen circumstances, it may be necessary to provide substitutions for food items not in stock or to permit the use of perishables.			

By JO2 Jefferey Fretland Naval Media Center

With commands having to utilize increasingly limited funds, it is no surprise that many refurbishment projects are being undertaken by service members themselves.

The NSF Self-Help Mart is a one-stop place to pick up many items for building projects, no matter how large or small.

First established by the Chief of Naval Operations, self-help stores are designed to provide military and Department of Defense civilian personnel the opportu-

"We're basically the Home Depot for the whole island." CE1 Robert Barrett

nity to initiate repairs to office spaces, barracks rooms and storage areas according to CE1 Robert Barrett, coordinator of the NSF Self-Help Mart.

"The self-help stores are designed to assist commands with major and minor repairs when their available resources are stretched fairly thin," Barrett explained. "We have most every piece of equipment available – nuts, bolts, woodworking supplies, pipe threaders, wrenches everything needed to implement restoration work. We provide the materials, tools and knowledge to get the job done. The customer provides the labor.'

Barrett added the 6,000-square-foot facility also provides other services, including a central tool issue room, woodworking shop, welding area for special projects and a storage warehouse stocked with lumber, plumbing and electrical supplies.

"We're basically the Home Depot for the whole island," Barrett said.

Self-help has supplied equipment for several tenant command projects. The Air Force recently used trowels and other supplies to pour concrete for a major renovation project adjacent to building 922. Patrol Squadron 46 enhanced a 400square-foot office space. Harbor Operations obtained spackling to repair office walls.

The Naval Central Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment (METOC) initiated a major refurbishment to its office building. Walls were repainted, carpet squares placed in a storage area, and a stairwell linking the weather tower to the lounge was removed.

AGC (SW/AW) Jason P. Thompson, METOC leading chief petty officer, spent one weekend in June replacing carpeting in the storage room.

"We had several different items from the self-help for our makeover, including white paint, carpet glue, utility knives, tape measures and framing squares. We were able to accomplish the work in a much shorter time," the Diamondhead, Miss., native said. "If we had contracted out the work, it might have taken two or three months longer to do the project. We saved a lot of money doing it ourselves."

AG2 Charles J. Neese, a weather forecaster from Camden, S.C., noted visitors to METOC should have a much better impression of the facility when they walk through the front doors.

"The new paint really improves the overall appearance of the front office," Neese said. "The METOC has a much more professional look to it."

Sailors working in self-help realize the impact their contributions have toward improving island morale.

CECA Eric Lawrence works in the wood shop. He assists BU2 Ronnie J. Criss with many projects, including the construction of mail boxes and book shelves.

"We have everything we need for our tasks," Lawrence, from Flint, Mich., said. "We help out the commands when money's tight, so I know our work is appreciated."

Criss echoed a similar sentiment.

"We try to do the best work we can with the equipment we have," Criss added. "We're doing a mail box for PRW 1 right now. When someone tells us they like the work we do, we know we've made that person's day."

Self-help is located in Bldg. 437 adjacent to the passenger terminal. For more information, contact the store at 370-4532.

Masterpiece from page 3

- Blisters: These are caused by friction. Do not pop them. Prevention is by keeping your feet dry and always wear socks as a cushion between your feet and shoes.

- Corns and calluses: These are protective layers of compacted, dead skin cells. They are caused by repeated friction and pressure. Corns ordinarily form on the toes and calluses on the soles of the feet. Never cut corns or calluses with any instrument, and never apply home remedies, except under a physician's care.

- Foot odor: Smelly feet result from excessive perspiration from the more than 250,000 sweat glands in the foot. Daily hygiene is essential. Change your shoes daily to let each pair air out and change your socks daily if not more frequently. Foot powders, antiperspirants, and soaking in vinegar and water can help lessen the odor.

If you have any concerns or questions, contact the Health Services Department at 370-4212.

This week's tides Aug. 9 - 15

	<u>High</u>	Low	<u>High</u>	Low
Saturday	1:10 p.m.	7:03 a.m.		7:21 p.m.
Sunday	1:28 a.m.	7:51 a.m.	2:04 p.m.	8:15 p.m.
Monday	2:16 a.m.	8:39 a.m.	2:46 p.m.	8:57 p.m.
Tuesday	2:58 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	3:28 p.m.	9:39 p.m.
Wednesday	3:40 a.m.	9:51 a.m.	4:04 p.m.	10:15 p.m.
Thursday	4:10 a.m.	10:27 a.m.	4:34 p.m.	10:45 p.m.
Friday	4:46 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	5:10 p.m.	11:21 p.m.

Chaplain's CornerTropical Times
August 8, 20035Registration for personal growth retreat begins

By LCDR Matthew Warnke NSF Chapel

After my article last week about a CREDO Personal Growth Retreat (PGR), several people asked questions about the retreat. So, I will share a little bit more about the retreat in this article.

I have attended CREDO weekends in Okinawa, Japan, San Diego and Hawaii. I was involved as a team member in about a dozen PGR weekends while I was stationed in Hawaii. I have enjoyed every PGR that I have attended. They are fantastic retreats. Each of them has been different because of the people who went, but each of them has been meaningful. This will be my first one on a ship, so this one will also be different.

I am still in contact with many of the people with whom I attended CREDO weekends. There is a bond of friendship and trust that is built on the weekend that carries into daily life. We have shared a moment of trust and caring, that is similar to God's care for us, and it is not easily forgotten. The people that I met at CREDO are some of the closest friends I have made while I have been in the military.

Registration for this weekend will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There is limited space, so sign up early if you want to attend. Once we reach the maximum number, others will be put on a waiting list and contacted if a spot opens. Command approval is required to attend. A special request chit is best. You should not need to take leave to attend this weekend. It is an official Navy function.

Each participant should bring their civilian clothing and personal items, such as a towel, soap, razor, etc. Due to the air conditioning on the ship, you may also wish to bring a sweater. If you get sea sick on a regular basis, stop at Medical and pick up medication to prevent sea sickness before you come to the chapel. Linens, berthing and food will be provided by our hosts on the MENDONCA. Do not bring valuables, watches, radios, TVs, or a clock. There is a soda machine on the ship, so you may want to bring a little bit of money.

Participants should gather at the Chapel at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21 to begin the retreat. We will do a couple of things at the chapel and then we will take a launch to the ship for the retreat. We should return on the afternoon of Aug. 24.

If you have any questions or desire to register for the retreat, contact RP2 Maximino Padua or RP3 Ida Oganessian at the chapel at 370-4601.

Community Updates

- The island-wide alarm will be tested Wednesday at 10 a.m. Island residents do not need to contact their commands or muster. This is only a test.

- Registration for the upcoming college term is under way. Bring your tuition assistance form signed by your department head to the Navy College Office for funding authorization.

- California is having a special election Oct. 7. To get an absentee voting ballot stop by the NSF Legal Office. For additional information contact LNC(SW/ AW) Johnnie White at 370-2922.

Church Services

The Chapel in the Palms 370-4601

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Rosary and Devotion Sunday 8 a.m. Saturday 7 p.m. **Catholic Mass** Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. **Choir Practice** Thursday 7 p.m. Saturday Confession 6 p.m. Scripture Study Thursday 6 p.m. <u>ISLAMIC</u> Jum'ha Daily 7:30 p.m. <u>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST</u> OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Sunday 8 a.m.

> <u>CHURCH OF CHRIST</u> Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

The Chapel in the Palms 370-4601 PROTESTANT Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m. **Contemporary Service** Sunday 11 a.m. **Gospel Service** Sunday 1:30 p.m. **Christian Fellowship** Tuesday 7 p.m. Women's Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Chapel Choir Practice Wednesday and Saturday 5 p.m. **Gospel Choir Practice** Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Thursday 5 p.m. Saturday 3 p.m. Video and Game Night Friday 7 p.m. Iglesia ni Cristo

Tagalog Worship ServiceThursday 5 a.m. and7:30 p.m.English Worship ServiceSaturday 7:30 p.m.Tagalog Worship ServiceSunday 5 a.m.

For more information, contact the base chapel at 370-4601.

Camp Justice Chapel 370-4959

Table Talk Tuesday 7 p.m. Praise and Worship Celebration Wednesday 7 p.m. **Chapel Movie Night** Monday 7 p.m. **General Protestant Service** Sunday 9 a.m. Ladies Night Out Thursday 7 p.m. Sports Night Friday 7 p.m. **Corporate** Praver Saturday 8 p.m. <u>ROMAN CATHOLIC</u> **Catholic Mass** Sunday 10:30 a.m. LUTHERAN/EPISCOPAL Worship Service Saturday 7 p.m.

Hindu Temple

Fellowship Service Thursday 7 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel 370-2956

Daily Rosary 6:00 to 6:15 p.m. Theological Formation Weekdays 7 p.m. Evening Mass Weekdays 6:15 p.m. Saturday Mass 5:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Palmsville Mass Every First Friday 8:30 p.m.

Christian's Den

Band Practice Tuesday and Saturday 8 p.m. Tagalog Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m. Tagalog Fellowship Thursday 7 p.m. Contemporary Christian Service Sunday 7 p.m.

Sports/Movies

NSGD takes top two places at volleyball tourney

Story by JOSN Michelle Robison Naval Media Center Nick Stevenson, Joe Achenbach and Rachel Black of NSGD won the threeperson volleyball tournament at the Chief Petty Officer's Club Sunday by using teamwork and communication while braving the wind and rain.

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Only five teams showed for the 11 a.m. start, but that didn't stop them from giving it their all.

Coming in second place was Adam Green, John Allison and Kevin Smith, also from NSGD. Green said the tournament was fun, but the wind and rain complicated things. And, when the sun came out later in the day, it made the temperature almost unbearable.

Later Sunday afternoon a tennis social was held at the base gym.

Island residents flocked to the courts to have fun, meet new people, and get a T-shirt.

Reden Canda, tennis social coordinator, explained why the social was held. "The purpose of the social is to have fun."

Canda went on to explain the format used. "It's played as a trade. One through eight - it's like a round-robin game."

The three-hour social proved a good

Main Outdoor Theater	Officer's Club	
Tonight at 8 - Anger Management Tonight at 10 -	Tuesday at 7:30 p.m Fatal Blade	
Tomorrow at 8 p.m	Thursday at 8 p.m Forrest Gump	
Tomorrow at 10 p.m	CPO Club	
The Hunted	Tomorrow at 7 p.m Exit Wounds	
Sunday at 8 p.m The Hunted	Tomorrow at 9 p.m The Count of Monte Cristo	
Monday at 8 p.m Forrest Gump	Tuesday at 7:30 p.m	
Tuesday at 8 p.m Minority Report	Wednesday at 7:30 p.m Identity	
Wednesday at 8 p.m Just Married	Thursday at 7:30 p.m Fatal Blade	
Thursday at 8 p.m Agent Cody Banks	Each movie that plays at the MOT will be replayed the following morning at 11 in the Turner Club.	
Identity starring John Cussack and Ray Liotta When ten strangers with secrets are brought together during a savage rainstorm, they all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager. Fear checks in as one by one the travelers die in mysterious and bloody ways. The others must uncover the killer and discover his deadly secret.	Anger Management starring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson After a misunderstanding escalates out of control, a mild-mannered New Yorker is ordered to attend anger management classes run by a doctor whose unorthodox approach for treatment is confrontational and abusive. The situation gets out of control when the doctor decides to move in and intensify his unique form of therapy.	
Minority Report starring Tom Cruise and Max von Sydow In the late 21 st Century a special program is developed that uses clairvoyant dreamers who can see the future and predict when murders will occur. This allows police to stop the killer before he commits the crime. But is the system foolproof, or is it possible to get away with the worst of	Forrest Gump starring Tom Hanks and Sally Field Tom Hanks stars as Forrest Gump, a slow-witted innocent man. Forrest Gump has a generous heart and a confounded ability to find himself in some of the most remarkable events in U.S. history, beginning with his childhood in the 1950s.	
crimes? One man is about to find out. Just Married starring Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy When a cute uptown girl meets a down-to-earth guy, they instantly fall in love and rush into marriage against the wishes of their family and friends. Her parents, determined to break up the happy couple as they honeymoon in Europe, send an ex-boyfriend after them.	forces assassin kills four deer hunters and begins a game of cat ann mouse with the only man who can stop him, the one man who taugh him everything he knows. But now, even as they face off for the las time, neither is sure "who is the hunter and who is the hunted".	
Exit Wounds starring Steven Seagal and DMX After saving the life of the vice president by ignoring each order he was given, a Detroit cop who doesn't play by the rules is transferred to one of the worst precincts in the city, where he soon meets other rogue cops, only these are on the wrong side of the law.	The Count of Monte Cristo starring Jim Caviezel and Guy Pearce A dashing and honest sailor's peaceful life and plans to marry are abruptly ended when his best friend frames him for a crime that sends him to prison. Consumed by thoughts of vengeance, the sailor escapes and begins life anew, with the goal of becomeing rich and powerful enough to destroy his enemies.	
Agent Cody Banks starring Frankie Muniz and Hilary Duff To his family and friends, Cody Banks is a typical teen who loves skateboarding, hates math, and feels like a complete idiot around girls. But Cody has a secret: he's part of a CIA youth program and is assigned to befriend a fellow student who father is developing a fleet of robots.	X-Men 2 starring Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan Based on the Marvel comic book characters. A mutant is drawn closer to his past when an escaped mutant leader helps halt a rogue government official's plot to destroy every mutant on the planet.	
Fatal Blade starring Gary Daniels and Eric Lutes Slick fighting and martial arts action take center stage in this Los Angeles-based movie about the battle for crime in the city between the Japanese Yakuza, drug lords and the LAPD.	The information contained in this section is subject to change. For cur- rent movie information, check out the marquee at the MOT or call MWR at 370-2982.	

way for island tennis fans to meet and have a good time.

Sports Shorts with JO2 Scott New



The boys of summer have finally arrived.

All-American Bowl, Tokyo, Japan The Buccaneers dismantled the lowflying New York J-E-T-S Jets, 30-14, with a solid combination of precision passing

solid combination of precision passing and pound-the-rock running. Let's not forget the reigning top defense in the NFL.

What an entrance.

Hall-of-Fame Game, Canton, Ohio The Kansas City Chiefs beat the Green Bay Packers, 9-0, as officials called the game in the third quarter. Some say because of lightning and rain, while others say it was the mercy rule. Mercy for the fans, as it was called on account of boredom.

Even so, I can finally breathe a sigh of relief. It's football season and all is right in the world.

Let the speculation and trash talk begin – it's time for more *Random Thoughts* ...

...Who will dethrone the defending Super Bowl Champions?

Atlanta thinks they have what it takes. Two words for you. Mike Vike.

... The *Eagles* have a new stadium and a new chip on their shoulders – losing to the Buccaneers in the final game at the Vet. With all the talent in Philly – this year it's all or nothing.

...Will Brian Griese thrive in his father's old stomping ground or belly-up in Miami?

...How many yards will Emmitt Smith gain in Arizona? Or lose?

...Speaking of Mike Vick, did you know he has a younger brother? His name is Marcus -and some have said he is sicker than his big brother. *Sicker*?

As college and pro teams sweat it out in training camps and pre-season warmups, I'll be getting my fantasy leagues in check, talking trash with football fans around the island and playing for this year's sleeper team – Deadly Force. Yes, I'm talking softball. New team. New season. "New" players.