



WIN YOUR OWN SCOTTISH ADVENTURE!
 You, 3 friends, 6 days, your choice of Scotland's best—golf, whisky, the arts & more.

ENTER NOW

Visit Scotland
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 Continental Airlines

Los Angeles Times Sports

You are here: Entertainment Articles > 2007 > January > 24 > Sports

Sports

Archive for Wednesday, January 24, 2007

| Email This | Print This | Text Size: [+] [-]

The aptly named Raiders

By Mike Penner

January 24, 2007 in print edition D-2

Now that Lane Kiffin, USC's 31-year-old offensive coordinator, has agreed to become the Oakland Raiders' new head coach, we have some insight into the strategy behind Al Davis' latest coaching search.

First, the Raiders themselves, then Art Shell and now Kiffin. Piece by piece, Davis is succeeding in his insidious plot to move all of Southern California to Oakland.

Davis' plan hit a temporary snag when Steve Sarkisian, USC's assistant head coach, turned him down. Undaunted, Davis kept flipping through the USC media guide until he found a coach who would sign.

Sarkisian, 32, could have become the NFL's youngest head coach, a distinction that now belongs to Kiffin.

Some have said it is too early in Kiffin's career for him to be a head coach in the NFL. Raiders fans would contend it's a year too late.

Had Kiffin been in place this time last year, there's a decent chance he'd have drafted [Matt Leinart](#) instead of Texas defensive back Michael Huff. With Leinart still on the board, the Raiders passed, however, and now enter another draft desperate to find someone, anyone, who can do the same.

Trivia time

At 31 years and 8 months, Kiffin becomes the NFL's youngest coach of the modern era. Before Kiffin, who had been the youngest?

If only the Seahawks had won

It took the New Orleans Saints 40 years to reach a conference championship game – and when they finally got there, they had to play the game in Chicago.

Of all the rotten luck.

Not only did the Saints lose to the Bears, 39-14, but when the team checked into its hotel Saturday, New Orleans linebacker Danny Clark was served with papers naming him in a paternity suit by a Chicago woman.

According to the Chicago Sun Times, private detective Michael Slevnik waited three hours in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place before spotting Clark, who'd played at the University of Illinois. The newspaper described Slevnik as "a rabid Bears fan."

A quick preview of future Saints trips to Chicago:

"Who dat?"

"Oh, dat's my daddy."

Advertisement

Southern California | Foreclosed Home Auction

Saturday Mar 7

Click Here To See Our Homes



digg™ [What is Digg?](#) [About Digg](#)

Upcoming stories from the LA Times

- 123 [Christian Bale Speaks Out: 'I Took it Way Too Far'](#)
- 24 [Manny Says Lengthy Contract Talks Won't Affect His Play](#)