

IMAGINings!

A Publication of The ImagiNation Network, Inc. • Winter 1995

VOL. 3 • NO. 8

BARRY SANDERS

Plays Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™!

Football superstar Barry Sanders will "turf the net" this winter on the ImagiNation Network and play the winner of our first Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™ tournament. Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™ is the first interactive multi-player football game available over a computer network. It's licensed by the NFL Players Association and features the teams, players and statistics of the 1994-95 football season.

In return, the ImagiNation Network will provide computers and computer services to various public schools in Wichita, Kansas— Sanders' hometown.

"It is important to me to give back to the community," says



Sanders. "The ImagiNation Network membership is a community of bright and talented individuals who use the computer to communicate, socialize and play games with others. With the company's donation of computers and services to the Wichita Public Schools, we are helping give students an opportunity for a head start on the computer age while teaching them how to have fun with it at the same time."

PLAYING FOOTBALL WITHOUT A HELMET!

ImagiNation Network members signed up early for a spot in the six-week league tournament for Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™! The games started November 19. The winners will receive footballs autographed by Barry Sanders and FREE hours online. Plus, the top player gets the chance to play against Sanders one on one.

Look for more details online.

Play and Win
\$1,000 Cash!
(see page 3)

A Puzzle a Day!

What's that in your mailbox? Each day, Monday through Friday, you'll find a new puzzle in your mailbox - the Daily Word Puzzle, now sponsored by *GAMES* Magazine!

Solve the *GAMES* Daily Word Puzzle, send us your answer within 24 hours, and you could be a winner. Each day, several winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Daily prizes include *GAMES* magazine subscriptions, *GAMES* puzzle books (13 to choose from!) and FREE hours online in the ImagiNation Network.

Join the fun - open the "GAMES" letter in your mailbox today!

GAMES

GAMES magazine, the sponsor for the Daily Word Puzzle, is a bimonthly magazine for people who enjoy exercising their minds in new and playful ways. Every issue features crosswords, logic puzzles, colorful visual challenges, cryptics and more.

Try your hand at a puzzle created by the *GAMES* magazine writers who craft the Daily Word Puzzle on the ImagiNation Network. Turn to page 2 now!

ASK



Fred

Hey Fred!

I still don't have my new software for Version 2.4. Is there a really quick way to get it?

— Ready4Fun

Dear Ready4Fun:

We've already shipped Version 2.4 software to all of our current members, so you may have already received it. But just in case you haven't, you can download the new software directly from the ImagiNation Network website. The address is <http://www.inngames.com>.

At the website, you'll find the software for Version 2.4 as well as software for Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™ and The Fates of Twinion. Plus, you'll find easy, step-by-step instructions on how to download and install the software. No need to wait another second to have some fun online!

Hey Fred!

I've got a friend who comes over and plays online with me in the ImagiNation Network. She has a computer at her home, but she doesn't have the software. It would be a lot of fun to help her get her own account. How do I do it?

— Friends

Dear Friends:

There are several ways to get your friend online. First, you can "Refer A Friend" by signing them up online in the Mall. When you do, you and your friend can get five free hours online each and software will be sent to your friend's home.

You can also lend your friend your new Version 2.4 software and let her sign up online to become a member.

Or you can refer your friend to the ImagiNation Network website, where she can download the software for free and then sign up online to become a member. The address is <http://www.inngames.com>.

If you have any questions, just call 1-800-IMAGIN-1.

Got a question for Fred, your "In the Know" guy in the ImagiNation Network? Write to Fred in care of Imaginings at E-mail Box 915 or 577 Airport Blvd., Suite 300, Burlingame, CA 94010.

PUZZLED???

See if you can solve this puzzle— created by the *GAMES* magazine writers who do their darndest to stump you every day online with the Daily Word Puzzle:

CAR TALK



Each of the answers to the clues below contain the consecutive letters C-A-R. Can you see what we're driving at in each case?



1. Lapel flower, or supplier of condensed milk
2. Dish made with snails
3. Lion King villian
4. Party time in Rio
5. She moves first in "Clue"

"Computers are forcing people to be that much more creative. There are so many games— it means game designers have to be brilliant."

— Eric Berlin, co-creator of the Daily Word Puzzle

6. Dad's Thanksgiving responsibility
7. Document signed in 1215
8. Small coconut cookie
9. 007's favorite gambling game
10. "Father of Modern Philsophy"



"As any puzzle creator can tell you, ideas can come from anywhere. You might be riding in an elevator and look down at the carpet and get an idea for a maze. I keep a notebook with me at *all* times."

— John Chaneki, co-creator of the Daily Word Puzzle

Answers: 1. Carnation 2. Escargot 3. Scar 4. Carnivale 5. Miss Scarlett 6. Carving the turkey 7. Magna Carta 8. Macaroon 9. Bacarrat 10. Descartes



HOLIDAY DASH for \$1,000 CASH

Play the ImagiNation Network Holiday Cash Dash and you could win \$1,000 cash for the holidays!

Don't miss your chance to play. Here's how:

-For seven days, from December 11-17, we'll put a special holiday-related question in your mailbox. Look for the envelope with the return address "CASHDASH". Fill in the blank with your answer, and send it in. (Hint: The answer to each question will be a number. Keep track of your answers throughout the week - you'll need them to answer the Grand Prize question on Day 7).

-For each of the first six days, Monday through Saturday, we'll select one winner at random from all correct entries received. Each daily winner will receive \$100 cash!

-Solve the puzzle on the 7th day, then add that number to the answers from each of the previous six days. Then send in THE SUM OF ALL SEVEN ANSWERS. You must know the answers for ALL 6 days prior to the 7th day in order to send in the correct answer for Sunday's grand prize question. For example, Monday's answer might be 2; Tuesday's, 100; Wednesday's, 25; Thursday's, 5; Friday's, 1,006; Saturday's, 3 and Sunday's, 10. The correct response for Sunday's grand prize entry would be 1,151.

Join the fun — look for the
Holiday Cash Dash in your
ImagiNation E-mail Box begin-
ning Monday, December 4th!

The six daily winners and one grand prize winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received.

The seven lucky winners will be announced on the Special Events

bulletin board in the INN Help Room at 5 p.m. Pacific time on Monday, December 18, 1995. Winners will receive notification by E-mail and U.S. Mail. Prizes will be delivered by Federal Express letter.

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Begins 12/11/95 and ends 12/17/95.

HOW TO ENTER: Correctly answer the daily question, found as a letter in your INN mailbox with the return address "Cash Dash". Fill in your answer to the question and return it as directed. (If you do not wish to access INN to play, you may listen to the daily question by calling 1-800-IMAGIN-1 and pressing 7. Then, print your answer on a postcard along with your name, address, telephone number and the date of the daily question and mail it to: Holiday Cash Dash, ImagiNation Network, 577 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010.) Electronic entries must be returned the same day they are completed online. Mail entries must be post-marked by the day after the question is posted. One entry per account per question. Each entry must be submitted separately. Sponsor not responsible for telecommunications malfunctions, late, illegible, incomplete, or misdirected entries. Entries become property of sponsor and will not be returned.

WHO MAY ENTER: Open to U.S. residents age 18 years and over. Employees of ImagiNation Network, Inc., sysops, and its information providers, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and the immediate families of each are not eligible.

WINNING: Winners will be selected in a random drawing of eligible entries on or about December 27, 1995. Judge's decision final.

ODDS OF WINNING: Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received.

PRIZES: One Grand Prize: \$1,000. Six Daily Prizes: \$100. Total Value of all prizes: \$1,600. Prizes non-transferable. Taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Winner will be notified by mail or e-mail and must claim prize by returning a signed affidavit of eligibility, waiver of liability and publicity release within [14] days after notification of prize is mailed or prize is forfeited. Tennessee residents need not sign publicity release. All prizes will be awarded. One prize per household.

WINNERS LIST: A list of prize winners will be posted on the Special Events Bulletin Board in the INN Help Room in the Clubhouse or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope before February 28, 1996 to: Holiday Cash Dash Winners List, ImagiNation Network, 577 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010.

SPONSOR: The ImagiNation Network, Inc., 577 Airport Blvd., Suite 300, Burlingame, CA 94010.

ho ho

All I Want for Christmas is...

ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho



ho ho ho ho

Beginning November 27, you can write to Santa at E-mail Box 123. Tell St. Nick your holiday wishes and he'll write back with a personalized letter to you!

Find Us On the Web!

The ImagiNation Network has an address on the information super-highway. You'll find our home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ingames.com>. It's the place to go when you need updates to your software or new software for a friend.

Let NTN Trivia Stuff Your Stocking

You might find an extra surprise this year if you play NTN Trivia's Holiday games in December. We're giving away five fabulous prizes to the winners in two special games.



Play "O, Christmas Tree"
December 22 at 7:45 p.m.
Pacific time

Play "Remember '95"
December 29 at 7:45 p.m.
Pacific time

First prize is a New World CD-ROM title. Second place gets you an ImagiNation Network T-shirt. Third place winners get a 20-minute ImagiNation Network pre-paid phone card. Those who place 4th and 5th get FREE hours online.

find Your Place Online

Hundreds of clubs, groups and special events meet online every week in the ImagiNation Network. For the most current listings, go to the Town Hall and look at the CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.

All times listed are Pacific time. Conferences listed with an asterisk are private and require approval from the conference's host (displayed in parentheses with the contact person's mailbox number) to attend.

Once you find a conference you're interested in, make a note of the room name, and the time and day listed. The room names are waiting rooms in the Clubhouse. Once in the waiting room, click on the GO TO button, select A CONFERENCE, and then click on the conference name for your meeting—you'll join immediately!

And remember, you can always start your own club or group! Just drop a line to E-mail Box 931. It's that easy!

New to ImagiNation?

Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time, get the information you need to navigate the world of ImagiNation. These special classes for new members start at the top of each hour in the HELP ROOM.

Homework Hotline

Homework Help is on the way for ImagiNation Network kids. Look for meeting times online—Homework Help is held in the INN University.



A Holiday Discount for Daytime Access

In the spirit of the season, we're dropping the daytime surcharge from November 22 to January 15 for members who don't have Preferred Access Numbers.

For this limited time only, you'll be able to access the ImagiNation Network from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and pay only \$3 an hour. This special offer is half off the regular weekday rate of \$6 an hour!

As always, for members who don't

have Preferred Access Numbers, weekday hours are not deducted from your monthly plan hours. (Members who use Preferred Access Numbers will continue to have access during the weekdays at their regular Membership Plan rates.

This year as you spend time at home during the holidays, enjoy yourself playing games, making friends and having fun online in the ImagiNation Network!

Order Now!

Place your order now for the Official Game Manual for Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™! You'll learn how to customize your league and game plans, call special plays, and play the game right! Just \$7.95 in the INN Mall.

BIG WINNER!

JEAN won a new Pentium workstation worth \$2,500 as the top-place player in the year-long NTN Trivia contest.

"It's an absolutely fabulous machine," she says. "I just can't thank you enough!"

NEWS BULLETIN

Attention Red Baron Pilots

Thanks to all who have helped us make it a lot more fun to play Red Baron on Version 2.4!

Because you took some time and gave us your input, we've been able to make the game play more realistic and more challenging.

Here are the issues you've helped us identify and solve:

If you've ever gotten bumped off of Red Baron with an "error 218":

This alerted us that Red Baron players were encountering a joystick read error. The problem became prevalent only after more of you began playing at modem speeds of 14.4. This error eventually causes a buildup in lost packets that bump members off the system.



Our programmers devised fixes for this problem that were included in the final release of Version 2.4 that was shipped free of charge to all ImagiNation Network members.

The best thing is to install your new software. But if, for some reason, you're still playing with Version 2.3, here's how you can avoid this problem:

- Play without using a joystick.
- Play Red Baron at a lower baud rate when using a joystick.

(Higher baud rates used in conjunction with joystick play increases your chances of experiencing this problem.)

Gameplay warping with Preferred Access Numbers connection versus non-preferred access connection:

We found that this problem is experienced primarily by members connected at 2400 baud on non-preferred connections. This is mostly due to more packet traffic experienced on the non-preferred net connections, especially during prime time hours of 5 to 10 p.m. Pacific time.

To solve the problem, we plan to add more Preferred Access Numbers in the coming year. We'll keep you posted as new Preferred Access Numbers become available.

In the meantime, your best bet is to:

- Play against members who are connected at the same baud rate and type of connection as your own.
- Set your modem connection for the default modem, or set your modem to use error correction as specified in your modem owner's manual.
- Play at 9600 baud rate and above if available.

If your modem automatically detects the highest baud rate possible and logs you on at the higher baud rates:

Some members have mentioned that setting their modem to a lower baud rate access makes no differ-

ence if the higher baud rate is available on the number they use to call in. The best possible fix we've discovered is to call into access areas that only have the lower baud rates available. The only other way to address this issue is to switch to a different modem that does not auto-detect.



If you encounter a difference in frame rate with a Pentium computer:

Red Baron's frame rate calculation is directly related to the speed and flight modeling used to play the game. To create more equitable and realistic play for everyone, we had to equalize the number of frames being drawn so that it's the same for Pentium machines as it is for a 486 computer. Those who are accustomed to flying at the increased frame rate on a Pentium in Version 2.3 will notice a difference in the framerate for Version 2.4. However, these changes allow you and your opponents to test skills—not machine performance. This is the solution that was requested by most of the Red Baron membership.

If you've wanted to know the baud rate of your opponent:

Rest easy! We've added this feature to the Arena in Version 2.4. Now you'll see baud rate information on your opponent as you invite them to a game.



Spread the Word

The ImagiNation Network software is pre-loaded on many new computers— so if you have friends with new computers, let them know that all they have to do to join you online is turn on the computer and click on the INN logo. Online signup is quick and easy!

Look for the ImagiNation Network on:

- ▶ Acer computers
- ▶ AST computers
- ▶ Blitz computers
- ▶ Compaq computers
- ▶ Digital Equipment Corp. computers
- ▶ Epson computers
- ▶ Falcon Northwest computers
- ▶ IPC computers
- ▶ NEC computers

ask Member Services

REAL QUESTIONS FROM REAL MEMBERS TO IMAGINATION'S MEMBER SERVICES

Q: When I try to play *Front Page Sports: Football Online*,™ I get a message that says: *Insufficient Expanded Memory*.

A: *Football Online* requires 585K (599,040 bytes) of conventional memory and 1024K (1,048,576 bytes) of expanded (EMS) memory. Some computers are not configured for expanded memory, but it's easy to create expanded memory with a *Front Page Sports: Football Online* boot disk. You'll need a blank disk that fits in your A: drive and is the same density (high density or double density) as that drive. Change to your *Football Online* directory (usually C:\INN\FOOTBALL) and type: INSTALL. Select CREATE A BOOTABLE FLOPPY from the Installation Choices menu. Follow the on-screen instructions. When your boot disk is finished, restart your computer with this disk in the A: drive each time you want to connect to the ImagiNation Network and you'll have the ex-

panded memory you need to play *Front Page Sports: Football Online*.

Q: When I was installing my software for *Front Page Sports: Football Online*, I got this message: "error reading drive B:". What does this mean, and what do I need to do to fix the problem?

A: If you are installing *Front Page Sports: Football Online* using Windows,™ quit Windows and install through DOS. If you still have problems, follow the instructions provided in the previous answer to create and use a boot disk before.

Q: I've been playing a lot lately. How can I save money every month?

A: AT&T long distance customers get 10 percent off the monthly membership fee. Check online for details. Also, if you find yourself going into over hours, you may be able to save money by upgrading to a higher plan.

Want FREE Software For The Ruins Of Cawdor?

Do you lose yourself for hours in *The Shadow of Yserbius*? Just wait until you try *The Ruins of Cawdor*, the game that takes you back in time to medieval Scotland! *The Ruins of Cawdor* is now available— place your order now for free software for the newest fantasy role-playing game created especially for the ImagiNation Network.

You'll find a form in your mailbox to place your order. Choose YES if you want *The Ruins of Cawdor* or NO if you don't, then send the survey in.

You can also order *The Ruins of Cawdor* from the INN Store in the Mall. Just click on the Mall, then click on the INN Store.



INSTALL VERSION 2.4 NOW!

Have you installed Version 2.4 of the ImagiNation Network? Don't delay the fun—install the new software right away!

In no time at all, you'll be exploring all the new games and improved features of Version 2.4. Use the easy, step-by-step instructions to install the new software as soon as it arrives. In about three months, we'll be "locking out" previous versions of the ImagiNation Network software so that everyone can enjoy being online together.

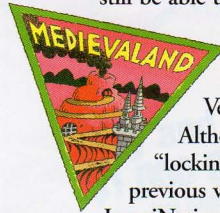
Once you've installed the software on your computer, you can share it with a friend—it's easy to sign up online and become a member.

And when you're installing the software, remember to select a Preferred Access Number, marked on-screen with an asterisk, if one is available in your area. When you dial in using a Preferred Access Number, you'll avoid paying the \$6 per hour weekday rate and get the best service possible.

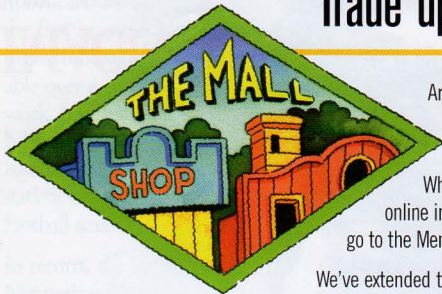
If you like to play *The Shadow of Yserbius*. . . rest assured that you'll still be able to play your favorite game

even after you install Version 2.4.

Although we're "locking out" most previous versions of the ImagiNation Network software, we've taken steps to allow you access to this old favorite.



Trade up for a *Change*



Are you the type who finds time only for a quick game or two on a Saturday night? Or do you spend hours every evening in the Volcano? Make sure you've selected the right plan for the way you like to play.

When you trade up to a new membership plan, you can get up to 10 FREE hours online in addition to great monthly savings! Open the letter "Trade Up!" in your mailbox or go to the Member Services shop in the INN Mall and click on "Trade Up for FREE HOURS!"

We've extended this special offer through Christmas! Now you can trade up until December 25.

Spread Some Holiday Cheer ❄️ Refer a Friend

Let us give you and your friends a gift during the holidays!

Know someone who would love playing games with you in the ImagiNation Network? This year, share the good times you find online in the ImagiNation Network and get a little gift in return.

When you refer a friend to us by January 2, we'll give your friend 5 FREE hours online to play cool games with live opponents in the ImagiNation Network. For each friend who becomes a member for at least 60 days, you'll get 5 FREE hours too.

Check your E-mail Box starting December 2 for the red "Refer a Friend" letter. Or go to the Member Services shop in the Mall to refer a friend. It's our way of saying thanks for spreading the word!



Burlingame, CA 94010.
or 577 Airport Blvd., Suite 300,
Imagination's Editor, at E-mail Box 915
Drop a line to Gretchen Lee,
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

membership, call 1-800-IMAGIN-1.
Network or ask questions about your
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IMAGINings!

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IMAGINATION!™ The Last Word

As the fallen leaves become covered up by snow and you settle into the holidays this winter, you're bound to spend more time online with friends on the ImagiNation Network. You won't be the only one — many of our members are drawn to the warm glow of their computer monitors as the weather turns chilly and the pace slows down.

There's certainly a lot to keep you busy online! Now's the time to learn a winning strategy in Front Page Sports: Football *Online*™. Or stage a marathon Red Baron tournament. Win \$1,000 in the Holiday Cash Dash (see page 3 for details). Or tell your kids a 'night before Christmas' story even if you're thousands of miles away. And when it's time to take a breather, you can drop a line to Santa at E-mail Box 123.

To make it even more affordable, we're offering a special holiday discount for weekday access. (See page 4 for more information.)

So this winter, take some time to play! Happy Holidays, from all of us at the ImagiNation Network!

See you online!

Dean A. DeBiase
President and CEO

Remember! Our Member Services call center,
at 1-800-IMAGIN-1, is now open
from 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Call if you have questions or concerns.