

# People

## COUNTRY SPECIAL

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### STARS AT PLAY

BY ANTOINETTE Y. COULTON, SHELLEY  
AKERS AND EILEEN FINAN  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE HOLZ

#### DIERKS BENTLEY

Six years after starting to play hockey for kicks, Bentley is now in two coed amateur leagues in Nashville: the Ice-holes and the Rogue Rats. "I'm a competitive person by nature, and I love sports," says Bentley, who tries to hit the ice three times a month. "I've always loved hockey: It's fast, it's fun, and it's a great workout." So far the 33-year-old Grammy-nominated singer has been injury-free. "I'm a scrappy player, but I don't find myself in too many fights," he says. "The only thing my wife, Cassidy, worries about is me getting into bed after a game without taking a shower."

“ Hockey makes you breathe so hard that your ribs hurt, but it clears your mind. It's a big release”

