

Pros net new players

PORTLAND, OR — Two of the top women tennis players want to make sure kids learn their sport. As Kathy Jordan, ranked #6, and Lori McNeil, ranked #9, travel around the nation to play in tournaments, they also teach kids the game of tennis.

McNeil, 23, made big headlines when she defeated Chris Evert at the U.S. Open in early September. McNeil, who turned pro at 19, learned the game with her mom.

"I went with my mom to the tennis courts, and that's where I met coach John Wilkerson." McNeil grew up in Houston, Texas, and now lives in San Diego, California. Her dad, Charlie McNeil, played pro football with the San Diego Chargers.

"I thought tennis was fun. But before



Kathy Jordan is ranked #6 in the world.

we even played tennis, we had to jump rope and run. So, after a disciplined workout, we played tennis, and I thought it was easy," McNeil remembered. "Growing up I really admired Arthur Ashe. I thought he was really cool," she added.

Jordan, 27, also turned pro at 19. "Playing in the pros was a great opportunity for me to compete, and it didn't matter if I would win or lose," Jordan said.

Jordan has been swinging tennis rackets since she was seven. "My dad is a great player. He taught me the game.

"As a kid I would get together with my friends, go to the courts and hit. Then we'd go have lunch. It was fun to do on the weekends," said Jordan, who grew up in Pennsylvania.

Jordan and McNeil were in Portland for the World Mixed Doubles Invitational Tournament sponsored by Louisiana Pacific and Super Buick Dealers. The United States Tennis Association sponsored their visits to schools. The USTA reports that two million kids will learn about tennis by the end of this school year, thanks to visits from professional players.



McNeil doubled with Scott Davis.

Going for the Heisman

WORCESTER, MA — Senior Gordie Lockbaum is a small guy playing football at a small college. The 5-foot-11-inch, 195-pound running back hopes to win college football's most coveted award — the Heisman Trophy. Lockbaum attends Holy Cross College in Massachusetts, a NCAA Division I-AA school.

More than 1,000 sports writers and editors vote on the candidates for the trophy for the most outstanding college football player in the United States. Last year's Heisman was won by Florida's Vinny Testaverde. Lockbaum finished fifth in the voting. Behind Testaverde, Lockbaum collected the most first-place votes.

No player in Lockbaum's division has ever won the Heisman. The reason: his division is a notch below the big teams with the big players and voters question the level of competition in I-AA schools. In 1984, Division I-A Boston College's little quarterback Doug Flutie proved himself to win the trophy. Lockbaum's stats:

■ Played running back, defensive back and kick returner last season.

■ Collected 827 yards and 14 touchdowns rushing, 860 yards and 7 touchdowns receiving, 452 yards on kick returns, 46 tackles, two fumble recoveries, one sack, one interception, and punted three times for 91 yards.

■ Holy Cross finished last year 10-1. It was the first team to win that many games in a season.

■ Majored in economics with 3.2 grade point average.



Holy Cross' Gordie Lockbaum wants to carry the Heisman Trophy.

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