



by Roy Lee Jernigan  
Sports Editor

# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK



The 1984 Portland Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series race at Hagg Lake saw national champion Scott Molina and Sylviane and Patricia Puntous, two-time winners of the Hawaii Ironman, rise to the top of a sharp pro-am field that outnumbered 800. More than 1,000 competed here on July 7.



The backroads of Washington County was the scene for the Portland race of the Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series on July 7 at Hagg Lake near Forest Grove. Cyclists biked 40 kilometers (24.8 miles) after

tackling a 1.6K swim (.9 miles) and before running a 10K (6.2 miles). Last year's winner, Scott Molina of San Diego, broke two hours on the course, finishing in one hour, 59 minutes and 49 seconds.

## Morning day-camp for kids

A week-long morning day camp for children, ages 6 - 12 years, is scheduled by the Forestry Center for August 5th through August 9th.

The day camp will cover different hands-on topics ranging from paper-making to edible forest products. Youngsters will have the opportunity to be a "forester-for-the-day" as they explore the interesting world of treelore. A highlight of the camp will be a field trip to the Magness Memorial Tree Farm to hike trails and climb the fire lookout tower.

An experienced camp counselor will be leading the sessions. Group size will be limited to insure a fun and learning environment.

Cost for the Day Camp is \$25 for WFC members, \$27.50 for non-members and it includes the five sessions which run from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. daily. Meet at the Exhibit Hall.

For more information, contact the Forestry Center, 4033 S.W. Canyon Rd., Portland, 228-1367.

## Around the world in sports

In order to talk sports this week we must start halfway around the world and work our way back to Portland. London, England, must be our starting point because of the fabulous performance of West Germany's Boris Becker. The grass courts of Wimbledon proved to be the world's stage for the 17-year-old phenom as he captured the men's singles title from Australia's Kevin Curren.

The fact that Becker did not have to face any of the top four seeded players at Wimbledon should in no way diminish his accomplishment. When you play single elimination

tournaments the object is to whip whoever they put in front of you and that's what young Boris did. Becker is a big, strong kid with a solid forehand and the determination of a Pit Bull. In the four matches that I witnessed, he seemed oblivious to everything short of getting the ball back over the net. There's a new kid on the block. Let's see how John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors handle him when they get a crack at him.

On the women's side of the net, it was once again the Martina Navratilova show. America's Zina Garrison was Martina's semifinal round op-

ponent on Centre Court and Zina put to rest her disappointing performance of last year. Zina is a 21-year-old Black lady who is ranked No. 8 in the world and her continued good play can conceivably push her higher up in the rankings. Zina lost to Virginia Wade in the second round of Wimbledon last year after blowing a huge lead. Zina couldn't stop Martina but she sure made Martina ready for Chris Evert Lloyd in the women's final. Martina captured her fourth singles championship in succession and her sixth Wimbledon title with her victory over Chrissy.

## Wilson's Traci Thirdgill fuels controversy

Traci Thirdgill has decided that she wants to attend St. Mary's Academy in downtown Portland and complete her high school education there. The coaches at Wilson H.S., where she attended last year want to block her transfer and immediately began to fight their battle in *The Oregonian*. Traci was on *The Observer's* first team All-Star team for basketball last year. She was totally overlooked and placed on the 1985 honorable mention ALL-STATE team by the state's coaches. Suddenly she is a threat to hand St. Mary's another state championship and the controversy begins. Supposedly that is the crux of the situation, but don't believe it.

Traci says that her transfer is because she wants a better education and if you know anything at all about public education in Portland you know that she has a sound argument. Jim MacDicken, head coach at Wilson says that Traci wants to transfer because of basketball and that she is not being loyal to her teammates and Wilson H.S. MacDicken said, "It's funny, I've already written about 100 letters to colleges about Traci. In the

letters I talked about her loyalty and dedication. Now this puts me in an awkward position. I don't want to damage her chances at a scholarship, but I don't want to destroy my own credibility, either." The word loyalty has become a buzz word for coaches throughout the country; they want it but they don't want to give it up. If MacDicken got an offer to become the head coach at USC do you think that he would pass it up because of his loyalty and dedication to Wilson?

The rules, as they exist, permit Traci to transfer without her reasons being tried in the newspapers and her character challenged by a distraught coach. If you don't read it anywhere else, you will read it here, the bottom line to this whole mess is that racism has once again raised its ugly head. I don't think that any of this controversy is directed at Traci; she's being used to get to Lindsay Strothers at St. Mary's. Here's a Black man that has a great program that attracts good players because he makes them better. St. Mary's offers a far better education than does the local public schools, so it's only natural that a kid who wants to better him or herself

would want to attend the Academy. If the public schools want to compete for these kids then they should upgrade their schools, both athletically and scholastically. Get some coaches that don't resort to brow beating their charges when personal decisions are in conflict with coach. Offer better academic programs so that private education doesn't appear so appealing.

Traci has decided to work with John Phillips to improve her game and character. That decision alone shows that the young lady has an insight into herself and wants to improve herself. John knows the game of basketball and the game of life and I'm sure he will guide Traci well. Stick to your guns, Traci. There are a lot of us that are behind you and understand what is being done to you; you have friends that you can count on. MacDicken wants you for MacDicken and that translates into Traci for Traci.

Portland, Oregon, is too cold. When they can't kill enough of us with guns and choke holds, they resort to assassinating our children's characters with the written word.

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