

SPORTS

St. John's Racquet Center To Give Free Tennis Lessons

When: Saturday, September 20
Junior: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Adults: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Who can come: Any adult or junior beginning level or returning player

Taught by: St. John's Racquet Center's Professional Staff
Sponsored by: St. John's Racquet Center (Kids N' Tennis, Inc.)

U.S. Tennis Association's Play Tennis America The Tennis Industry Association

Format: Fun Fast Friendly Games Prizes Raffle Refreshments

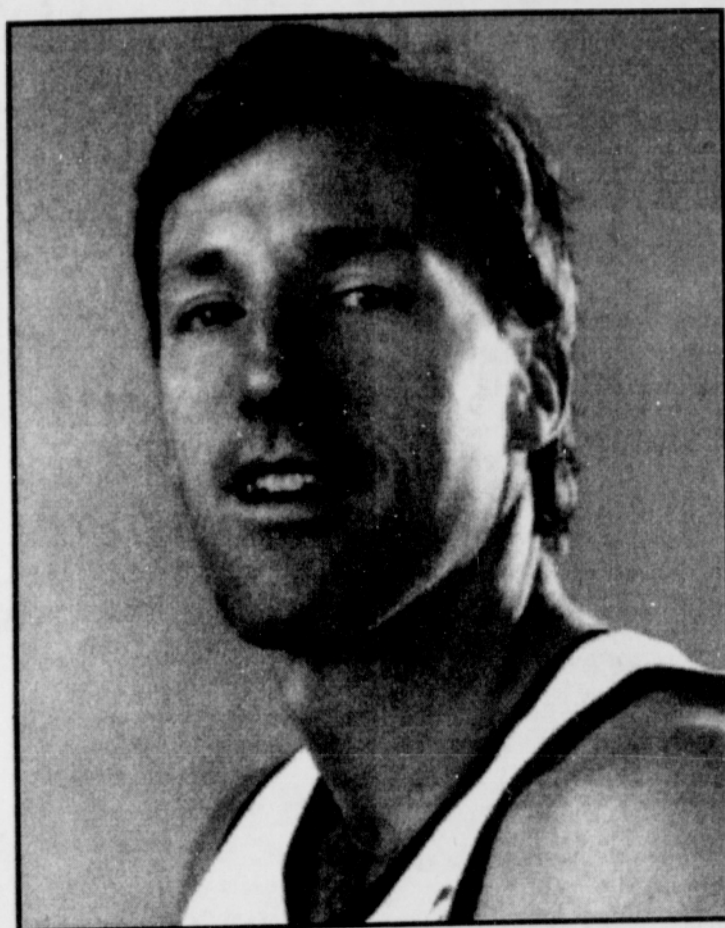
To sign up: Call St. John's Racquet Center at 823-3629

What to bring: A racquet if you have one (Loaners Available) Wear sneakers and comfortable clothes

(This is part of the Greater Portland Area's September Free lesson Blitz designed to introduce new players to the game of tennis. Nine area clubs and facilities are offering lessons and follow-up class for beginners. St. John's has consistently been a leading center in offering and delivering the finest quality instruction and guidance to new and seasoned adult and junior players. Don Johnson, Andre St. James, and Chris Valverde are certified and experienced professionals who will direct this effort. Don Johnson founded Kids N' Tennis, Inc., which has won numerous awards for outstanding service and leadership in the community.

Arbitrator rules on Dudley trade

Agent says there's no doubt the Blazer will become a member of the Knicks



Chris Dudley

Arbitrator Kenneth Dam on Monday denied a request by Chris Dudley and the NBA Players Association to allow his trade to the New York Knicks to go through while the league appeals Dam's ruling from the previous day. Still, Dudley's agent says there is no doubt the backup center will become a member of the Knicks if the latest ruling in his favor holds up on appeal. The NBA and the Portland Trail Blazers, the team that resigned Dudley this summer, were keeping quiet Monday about the ramifications of Sunday's ruling. The ruling validated the proposed trade of Dudley to the Knicks under terms that would allow New York to give him a huge pay raise after one season. "It was a clean sweep," Dudley's agent, Dan Fegan, said. "Chris is happy. He felt vindicated. It's an important victory, not only for him but for the Players Association." The issue now will go before a three-person arbitration panel to make the

final decision on whether the trade should be valid. Both sides must agree on who serves on the panel, meaning a resolution could be several weeks away. The NBA had contended in the arbitration hearing that the trade would circumvent the league's salary cap and open the door for other free agents to take the same route. Dudley and the Players Association had contended that Dudley, as a resigned free agent, should be able to take his "Larry Bird rights" to New York with him. Those rights allow a team to re-sign a free agent at any amount regardless of the salary cap. That would allow the Knicks to re-sign Dudley after this season for a hefty pay raise. According to the arbitrator, the Blazers agreed to sign Dudley for \$1.13 million, then trade him to the Knicks, reportedly as part of a three-team deal with Toronto that would send a first-round draft pick to Portland. When the NBA blocked the trade, the Blazers had to

reduce their offer to Dudley to have room to sign free agent Brian Grant to a seven-year deal worth between \$56 million and \$63 million. Dudley, who gave up \$13 million by opting out of the final three years of his Portland contract, wound up re-signing with the Blazers for the league minimum of \$272,250. As part of his ruling, Dam said Dudley should be paid the original \$1.13 million that was offered. NBA spokesman Chris Brienza said the league would not comment on the ruling because the case remains unresolved. The Blazers won't even acknowledge that the trade was in the works. Team spokesman John Christensen would say only that the Blazers had received the ruling and were reviewing it. Team president Bob Whitsitt did not return calls to his Seattle and Portland offices. Bill Hunter, executive director of the NBA Players Association, said Dam ruled that the Blazers "have entered into a binding sign-and-trade agreement with respect to Dudley." The ruling means the Blazers must go through with the trade, even if they now prefer not to do so, Fegan said. Even if the ruling is overturned, it would be difficult for Dudley to play for Portland, Fegan said. "I think at this point it's very likely that the bridges are burned, but you never say never," Fegan said. Dudley, a member of the Players Association board of directors and a Yale graduate, has been in this type of battle before. Four years ago he signed a contract with Portland for an amount far below what he was offered by his old team, the New Jersey Nets. The deal with the Blazers had a one-year opt-out clause that allowed Dudley to make himself a free agent, thus clearing the way for the Blazers to re-sign him at a much higher salary after one year. The NBA fought Dudley and the Blazers through arbitration and into court, losing on all fronts. Dudley wound up doing just what the NBA said he would do, signing a six-year, \$24 million contract with Portland. It was that contract that Dudley opted out of this summer.

Portland's Wagner wins at challenge

Sandra Wagner, an avid golfer, from Portland won first place in the top Women's Flight Low Net division at the Black Enterprise/Pepsi Golf Challenge.

Wagner had rounds of 74, 75 and 80 to edge out Barbara Mahone of Pontiac, Mich. and Brenda Gould of Brooklyn during the Labor Day weekend tournament.

Wagner is a member of the Western States Golf Association, the United States Golf Association, the Leisure Hour Golf Club of Portland and the Heron Lakes Women's Golf Club of Portland.

She has displayed the ability to overcome many challenging hurdles and has accomplished much in her golfing career.

Over the past 17 years, Wagner has had two hole-in-ones, in 1993 and 1994, won over 100 trophies during championship flight tournament play and has earned many awards for excellence and dedication to both golfing and community service.

She said her late father, Samuel Wagner, inspired her to begin playing golf in 1979.



Sandra Wagner of Portland receives first place trophy at Black Enterprise/Pepsi Golf Challenge.

Oregon downs Arizona in opener

Saladin McCullough returned the game's opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and Akili Smith hit Blake Spence with a short touchdown pass in the second quarter, leading Oregon to a 16-9 Pac-10 victory over Arizona in the season opener for both teams. McCullough carried 21 times for 63 yards for Oregon (1-0), which has won the last four meetings with Arizona. The Ducks lead the all-time series, 12-11. Arizona quarterback Keith Smith

completed 12-of-21 passes for 116 yards and backup Brady Batten was 9-of-19 for 101 yards and a late fourth-quarter touchdown to Brad Brennan.

The Wildcats (0-1) lost their first road game after dropping all five road contests last season. Arizona managed just a 33-yard field goal by T.J. Rodriguez until Batten connected with Brennan on a 20-yard touchdown pass with 14 seconds remaining.

Johnson holds on to win LPGA

Ladies pro golf tournament sees close finish at Columbia-Edgewater

Chris Johnson wanted to make sure she didn't play the last two holes of the LPGA Safeway Championship the same way two years in a row. Johnson birdied those holes Sunday to complete a 6-under-par 66 that gave her a one-stroke victory over Lisa Hackney and Kim Saiki. That was a far cry from last year when Johnson bogeyed both holes and finished second to Dottie Pepper by two strokes. "I was very aware of what was going on," Johnson said, adding some members of the gallery were being very vocal in their support. "As nice as the encouragement was I didn't need to be exacting about the shots." And last year did help in a way. "My swing wasn't as sound last year, and it let me down on the last couple of holes," Johnson said of the collapse, "but I think it did a lot for me, knowing I could play shot for shot like I played with Dottie." The victory was the ninth of her career for Johnson and her second of the year. This time the collapse was by Hackney, an LPGA rookie with a lot of European experience, who struggled over the final few holes of the 6,294-yard Columbia-Edgewater Country Club course. Three of Hackney's last four tee shots were poor and she bogeyed Nos. 15 and 17. She birdied 16 to stay a stroke ahead of Johnson, but her drive on 17 bounced off a cedar tree and her tee shot on 18 found a fairway bunker. "It was a horrible shot," Hackney said of No.

17. "But it was fun to have a chance to win. I didn't make the most of it this time, but hopefully next time I'll do a bit better." Australian Shani Waugh, who led after two rounds, shot a 72 Sunday to finish fourth at 208. Juli Inkster, Kim Williams and Dawn Coe-Jones were all at 209. Johnson birdied Nos. 13 and 17 and was approaching the 18th green when Hackney was just beginning her troubles. Johnson hit an 8-iron from 143 yards that rolled within eight feet on 18. "I hit it a little firmer because I knew I needed to make it," she said of her last putt. Johnson birdied four of her last seven holes and had just one bogey all day. "I just tried to stay loose, to loosen the brain," she said. "I rolled the putt in on 13, and I thought, well, maybe I have a shot." Johnson, who won the McDonald's LPGA Championship in May for her first major, earned \$82,500 for the victory. She moved into fourth place on the season winnings list with \$612,835, nearly triple her best previous total for one year. Saiki shot a career-best 66, including eight birdies. After bogeying No. 9, her round picked up on the next hole, which started with a tee shot that went right about 60 feet. But she angled her shot back to the fairway, then landed within inches of the cup to birdie the hole and make a charge at the leaders. "I can't say I've ever felt that comfortable," Saiki said. "I'm totally satisfied."



Spectators surround LPGA champion Chris Johnson at Portland's Columbia Edgewater Country Club.



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