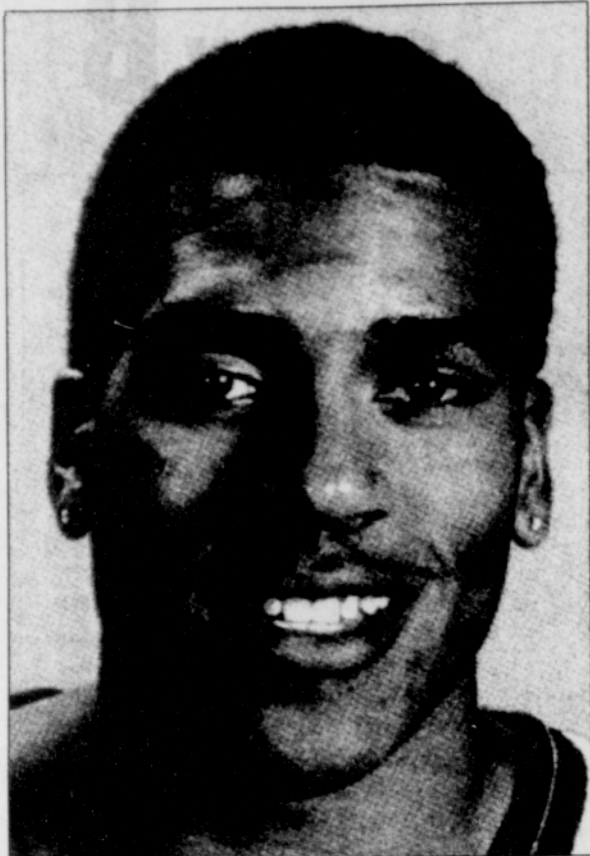


# SPORTS

## As the Dust Settles... Continued



Jim Jackson

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**

Seattle-area home needs a kidney transplant.

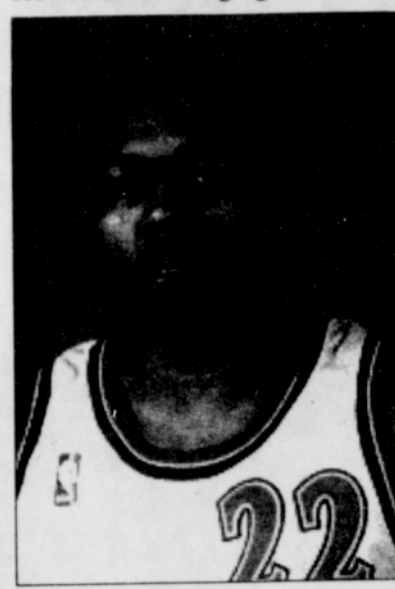
But Schrempf reportedly chose Portland to stay close to his and his two sons.

"Some people may insist that my decision not to re-sign with the Sonics was motivated by money, but the reality is that the decision was based purely on issues of fairness and loyalty," Schrempf said in a statement.

By trading Smith, 30, the Hawks would end a commitment of

\$36 million over the next four seasons to a player who missed 14 games last season with bruised knees.

Rider is among the most heavily fined and suspended players in the NBA. He was suspended three games last season and 12 overall during three seasons in Portland for violations ranging from fla-



Ed Gray

grant fouls to spitting on fans.

O'Neal, the youngest among the league's 156 free agents, signed a four-year contract. As per its policy, the team did not disclose terms of the deal, but O'Neal said he turned down a one-year offer of \$9 million-\$10 million from another team to stay in Portland. His agent, Arn Tellem, did not immediately return a phone call.

"I want to be here for the next 10-15 years," O'Neal said at a news conference. "So hopefully I'll play to my potential the next two to three years, and then we can talk about some extensions, but overall I really want to be here. I want them to retire my jersey here."

O'Neal, a 6-foot-11, 226-pound center-forward, is a strong rebounder with good leaping ability. But playing behind Blazers center Arvydas Sabonis and power forwards Rasheed Wallace and Brian Grant, he hasn't gotten much opportunity to shine.

O'Neal averaged just 2.6 points last season, and just 1.6 points in Portland's playoff drive to the Western Conference finals. Over three seasons, he has averaged 3.9 points, 3.0 rebounds and 11.3 minutes.

Still, the Blazers think he can live up to the expectations they had when they selected him with the 17th pick in the 1996 NBA draft out of Eau Claire High School in Columbia, S.C.

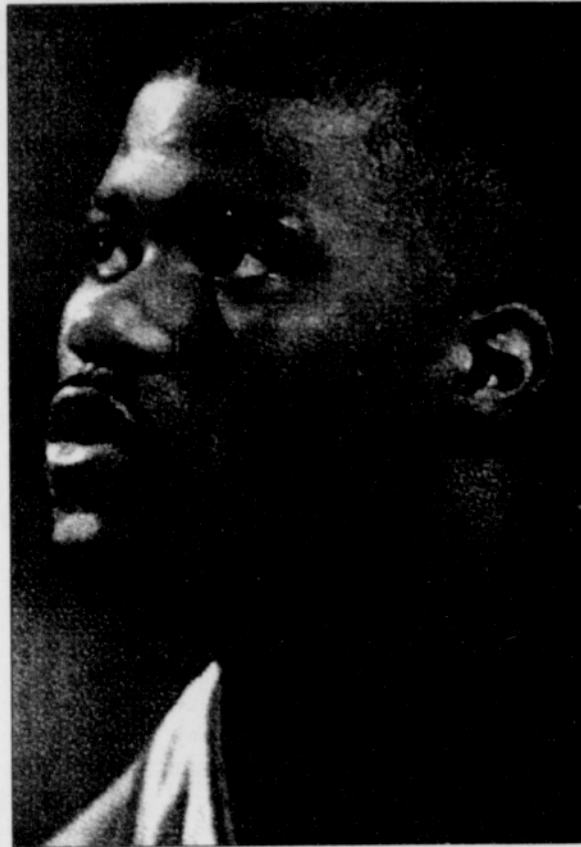
"We're even more excited now than we were three years ago," Whitsitt said. "He's continued to improve each year. He's earned time on

a very talented roster. There's no question Jermaine has not even reached his potential and will continue to get better."

O'Neal's warm and fuzzy news conference came just two days after he called the Blazers' initial offer - reportedly a seven-year deal worth \$30 million - "almost a smack in the face."

O'Neal arrived in Portland from Columbia late Sunday night to work out details on the contract.

O'Neal said he decided to re-sign for four years instead of seven - the maximum allowed under the NBA's collective bargaining agree-



Isaiah Rider

ment - to make sure everything is "totally right between myself and the organization."

## Woods Steals Show in Prime-Time Showdown

By DOUG FERGUSON  
© THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (Aug. 2) — Golf went prime time, and so did Tiger Woods. But it was hardly a masterpiece.

The official score from Monday night's unofficial event will be Woods over David Duval 2&1. It was an exhibition, not a rivalry. They walked the fairways side-by-side, and shared some hearty laughs when it was over.

And they both got a lot of money for a short day of work.

Under the floodlights at Sherwood Country Club and the spotlight of a national television audience, Woods took command of the match on the par-3s and finished it on the last one with a short par putt that Duval conceded on the 17th hole.

Woods won \$1.1 million, and Duval had to settle for \$400,000.

Each will donate \$200,000 to charity, including \$100,000 each to the PGA Tour-sponsored First Tee program.

"My desire is that this brings more people to the game," Duval said. "When Tiger turned pro in '96, golf became cool — not a dorky game. This really is pretty cool."

Woods, who has won three times and has finished no worse than seventh since his post-Masters break, is No. 1 in the world rankings - a position Duval previously held by becoming the first player in 25 years to win four times before the Masters.

That wasn't at stake Monday night, in what essentially was an exhibition, a chance for the top two players in the world to finally go head-to-head.

"I didn't approach the match that way," Woods said. "I approached the match that David and I are good friends, and we were

going to come out here and put on a good show."

Both held up their end of the bargain at times, with Woods' 300-yard drives crackling through the air and Duval recovering from trouble to make a small comeback that ended up in the rocks.

Two-up after the first two holes, Duval didn't win another one until the 13th. He tried to push Woods down to the wire, but what he thought was a perfect drive on No. 16 took a wicked hop into a cluster of stones and shrubs, giving Woods a 2-up lead and making the match dormie.

"I know I can play better against him than I did," Duval said. "My game did not feel really good today. I don't know why."

Woods and Duval have been paired together only one other time, in the third round of the World Series of Golf last year, a tournament that Duval went on to win.



Steve Smith

## Davenport Repeats as Bank of the West Champion

By ROB GLOSTER  
© THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Lindsay Davenport was at dinner on the eve of her Bank of the West Classic final against Venus Williams when other players told her of Williams' boast that nobody in women's tennis has the power to hit with her.

Davenport, the world's top-ranked player and the defending champion of the tournament, took that as a challenge. And on Sunday she proved Williams wrong.

"I figured I'd take my chances and see what happens, and that's what I did," said Davenport, who had three aces while Williams had none.

"That's the way I'm going to win. I'm not going to win a lot of points by running down balls or serve and volleying. What I do in my game I do really well. I served really well today."

Davenport, who has won eight of nine matches against Williams, had defeated her 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, in the Bank of the West final last year. Davenport, 23, used that win as a springboard toward the U.S. Open title and the No. 1 ranking.

"A year ago I was No. 2 or No. 3, and since then I've won two Grand Slams," said Davenport, who won Wimbledon this July. "It's been an incredible year and I've enjoyed every minute of it. To have your great-

est success a little later is sometimes more enjoyable."

"I was able to play important when it counted," said Davenport, who earned \$80,000 for the win. "It's just one of those things where you have to concentrate harder and play better percentage tennis. It's just one of those things that come with experience."

Williams, seeded second, was leading 5-4 in the first set and had two set points on Davenport's serve.

But Davenport saved both and eventually forced the tiebreaker, in which Williams failed to win any of her four service points.

Davenport has won all three of her career tiebreakers against Williams.

Williams seemed to become frustrated and impatient in the second set, especially as she wasted opportunities. In the fourth game, Williams lost her serve after holding a 40-15 lead. In the seventh game, she wasted three break points.

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