



Metro/Sports

Wimbledon-Venus and Pete set ultimate standard



Venus (R) and Serena Williams of the USA lean out of the ivy covered window of Centre Court at Wimbledon after winning the women's doubles title July 10. Venus Williams also won the women's singles title three days ago.

REUTERS

Pete Sampras set a Grand Slam standard at Wimbledon that might endure into the 22nd century while Venus Williams powered women's tennis to a level of athletic excellence it had not witnessed before. From Billie Jean King through Martina Navratilova and Steffi Graf, the power and fitness in the women's game have been on a steady upward curve. But Venus's victory showed that development has reached a plateau with the 20-year-old American and her younger sister Serena looking down on the rest.

"She and Serena are going to win many more titles," said Lindsay Davenport after losing Saturday's women's final to Venus. "They're showing that tennis players can be very athletic — they've done great things for the sport." U.S. Open champion Serena, only 18, is probably the better all-round player and Venus is still tactically naive — but who needs tactics when you serve as fast as many men and can blow away 95 percent of your opponents? The sisters' volleying improved with every match at the All England Club and Venus unveiled a superb drop-shot for the final.

But it is their athletic prowess that takes the breath away exemplified in the singles final when Venus lost her footing at the baseline as she was sent the wrong way by Davenport. Keeping her eye fixed on the ball, she bounced up off her left hand, got the return back and won the point. **VENUS WANTS A FULL LIFE** Navratilova, beaten in the doubles quarterfinal by the Williams sisters, believes it could yet be a few years before Serena and Venus become the finished article. "They have the capacity to take it another step, they just haven't gotten there yet. With their size — they're just so big," she said. "If they put it together technically, we could see them in the finals for a lot of years to come, if they commit themselves to that, if they want to stay around." While they enjoy tennis, it is clear that Venus for one will not still be

playing the game at 30 like Graf. She has denied reports that she thought of retiring earlier this year but she wants education, a career and a full life. "You know I wouldn't be any happier in my life in general if I had won or lost," she said after the singles final. "Winning losing, money, riches or fame don't make you happy." "For my tennis career, this is great. But as far as being Venus, it doesn't really make a huge difference." Injury could also play its part in their futures. Venus was out for five months with tendinitis in both wrists while Serena has also missed several tournaments this year with injuries. But, when fully fit, they appear to have too much power for world No. 1 Martina Hingis, whose best days may be behind her at just 19, although a fully fit Davenport has the tactical know-how to test the sisters who won the doubles title Monday.

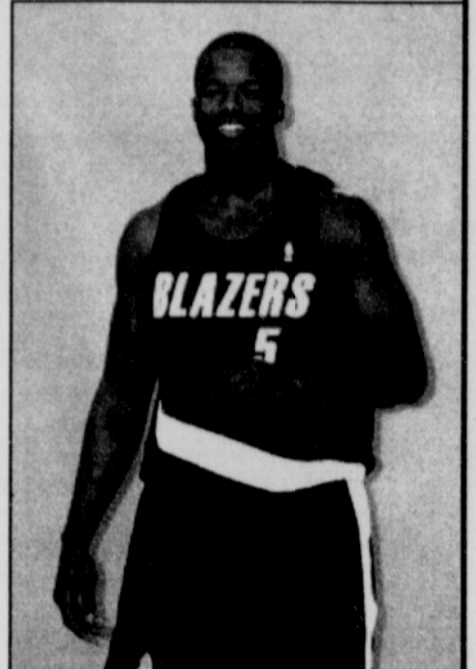


Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras poses at an event promoting the appearance of his likeness on a special edition package of Wheaties cereal, July 11 in New York. In winning Wimbledon on July 9, Sampras earned a record-setting 13th Grand Slam title

O'Neal is tardy for first day of summer school

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Trail Blazers have planned an interesting mix for the annual Southern California Summer Pro League. Their main five players figure to be first-round draft pick Erick Barkley at point guard, Bonzi Wells at shooting guard, Jamel Thomas at small forward, Antonio Harvey at power forward and Jermaine O'Neal at center, with Harvey and O'Neal swapping spots at times. O'Neal, however, was not on hand Friday night for the team's first practice. The Blazers said he missed his flight. O'Neal has asked to be traded, but he also said he would play in at least some of the Blazers' 10 games at Long Beach.



Erving family make plans to lay to rest Cory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grief-stricken, devastated and worn down from more than a month of searching for Cory Erving, the family of basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving made plans Saturday to bury their 19-year-old son and brother. A memorial service was scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Heartland Community Church in Kissimmee, about 20 miles south of Orlando. The service was to be open to the public. Cory Erving likely will be buried in Philadelphia, where he spent his childhood and where his father spent most of his career, said Joel Glass, a spokesman for the Orlando Magic, where Julius Erving is an executive. Further details were unavailable on the burial, which will follow the memorial service.

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- 18 holes • power cart included
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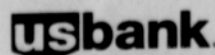
August 10-11, 2000 • at Heron Lakes Golf Course - Portland, Oregon



Highlights of Tournament

- Charlie Sifford, the first African-American touring professional will be the tournament guest of honor.
- A youth clinic and tournament for PYGA Junior Golf will kick-off our activities on Thur., August 10, 2000.
- An opening reception and dinner at the Benson Hotel, Portland, OR to celebrate our success. An exciting live auction of some great items will be part of the evening festivities and the announcement of tournament pairings will be held on Thur., August 10, 2000. The adult tournament will be Fri., August 11, 2000 at Heron Lakes Golf Course.
- It will be a scramble format. Groups will be paired in fivesomes consisting of one PGA professional and four amateurs. Professionals will be assigned to teams at the opening night reception.
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