



Metro/Sports

Portland Fire's Athlete of the Year

Fire guard Jackie Stiles has been presented with the Honda-Broderick Cup as the Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year, based on voting by more than 900 NCAA schools.

Stiles, now a rookie with the Fire, had an illustrious career at Southwest Missouri State. Her four years of accomplishments were highlighted in her senior season by scoring 30 points against Creighton on March 1 to become the leading scorer in NCAA women's basketball history, then taking her Lady Bears team to an NCAA Final Four appearance. The 5-foot-8 senior guard from Clafin, Kan., scored 40 points or more in six games her final collegiate season, including a game-high 49. She shot 56.6 percent from the field, with 60 assists and 40 steals.

"I am truly in a state of shock that you would honor me with this prestigious award," Stiles said of the honor. "This is definitely a night I will never forget. There were times when it



Jackie Stiles

wasn't easy and I thought maybe I didn't handle some things the right way, and things were tough. But it's all been worth it and I wouldn't trade anything."

In her first season in the WNBA, Stiles is currently averaging 13.0 points, 2.7 rebounds, and 2.0 assists in 33.3 minutes per game for the Fire, ranking her second amongst WNBA rookies in point production.

Venus Does a Repeat at Wimbledon

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last year, she leaped giddily across the grass. This time she staged a more restrained celebration, befitting a player who has become accustomed to championships.

A few drops of rain fell as the final game began, and Williams rushed to close out the win. On the first match point she smoked a service return that jammed Henin, who could only dribble a backhand to the net. A smiling Williams waved and swung her fists at the crowd, then hopped happily beside her changeover chair. She's familiar with the routine: Since July 2000, Williams has won three major singles titles and two Olympic gold medals.

For the latest triumph, Williams received \$647,500.

Henin earned \$323,750. After six months of mostly disappointing results, she has reason to smile. In January, Williams endured the most lopsided loss of her career, 6-1, 6-1 to Martina Hingis in the Australian Open quarterfinals. Then she was upset last month by Barbara Schett in the opening round at the French Open.

But Wimbledon rejuvenated her game, just as it did a year ago, when the tournament marked her start of a 35-match winning streak. Williams'

serve and dominating presence at the net make grass her best surface. She's 6-foot-1 and looked even taller standing across the court from the 5-



Venus Williams is the reigning Wimbledon champion for the second year in a row.

6 Henin, a 19-year-old speedster who showed considerable poise in her first Grand Slam final. It was Williams who appeared nervous at the start, double-faulting on the first two points. But from there she dominated with her serve, which reached 118 mph, and she faced only one break point.

The first set took just 20 minutes, but the match then became more competitive, and Henin took a 3-2 lead in the second set before yet another shower forced a 15-minute delay. The crowd was rooting for an upset by the slender Belgian with the ballcap and ponytail, and Centre Court erupted when she broke for a 5-3 lead. She closed out the set, but that was the

last game she won. Williams reasserted control with an headshaking array of big serves, return winners, overhead slams and deft volleys. Last year Williams became the first

black woman to win Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58. Now, like Gibson, she's a back-to-back champion — the first since Steffi Graf in 1995-96.

Sports Briefs

Seattle Gears Up for the All-Star Game

Seattle officials and local organizers are cleaning up the town, honing their media messages for hordes of journalists and applying the lessons they learned last year, when an entourage of Seattle officials traveled to Atlanta to study the 2000 All-Star Game. City officials say the city just wants to do a good job of accommodating the All-Star Game rather than consciously engineering an image-boosting event for the benefit of the game's international audience. The city and other organizations are starting to shine up Seattle for the event. Crews will pick up trash more frequently, especially in the vicinity of Safeco Field and Pioneer Square. Workers also will clean alleys, streets and sidewalks around the ballpark.

The Tour de France Victories

Armstrong, trying to win the Tour for the third straight year, led the main pack briefly in the final half-mile, but Zabel rode by him from the left and stayed out front until the finish. The German completed the 123.27 miles from Antwerp in northern Belgium to this southern town in 4 hours, 34 minutes, 32 seconds. Zabel also won Sunday's first stage and now has 10 stage victories in five Tours.

France's Emmanuel Magnien was second Tuesday, followed by Italy's Stefano Garzelli.

Australia's Stuart O'Grady was credited with the same time and claimed the yellow jersey as the race's overall leader. Marc Wauters finished more than 6½ minutes behind Tuesday and relinquished the overall lead. Armstrong, also credited with the same finishing time as the top riders, moved up from 11th place to seventh overall and trails O'Grady by 21 seconds.

High TV Ratings for NASCAR Event

The Pepsi 400 in Daytona Beach, Fla., drew a 5.8 rating on Saturday night on NBC, which was airing its first race under a \$2.8 billion NASCAR TV rights deal it shares with TNT and Fox.

Earnhardt led a remarkable 116 of 160 laps, but his dominance showed most as he moved up from seventh place to the lead in a late 3-mile span in the first race at Daytona since his father died in a last-lap wreck during the Daytona 500 in February. The market with the largest audience was Greensboro, N.C., with a 14.2 rating (each point represents 1 percent of TV homes), followed by Orlando, Fla., with 13.5. The country's largest market, New York, produced only a 2.8 rating.

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