

SPORTS

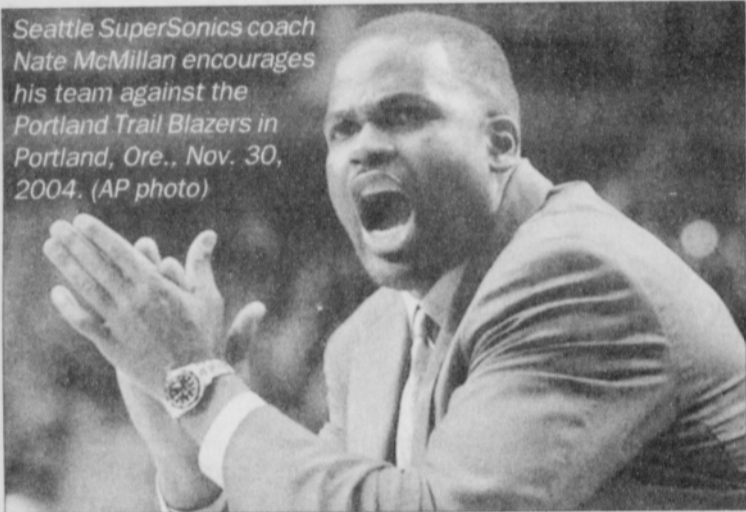


Tennis Group Serves Area Youth

Several participants in the Portland After School Tennis gathered recently for a group photo. Having served a record 121 children last summer, the program has begun its current summer season. PAST is open to children in 11 inner-city neighborhoods, thanks to the generous support of donors, instructors and volunteers. It's goal is to work with youth from diverse cultures to prepare them for a lifetime of personal achievement and successful citizenship. For more information email past_tennis@yahoo.com.

McMillan to Coach Trail Blazers

Seattle SuperSonics coach Nate McMillan encourages his team against the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland, Ore., Nov. 30, 2004. (AP photo)



SuperSonics coach signs contract

(AP) - Nate McMillan is leaving the Seattle SuperSonics to coach the Portland Trail Blazers.

Last week, the Blazers hired McMillan, who led the SuperSonics to the Northwest Division title this past season.

McMillan's contract with the Sonics expired July 1 and the Blazers aggressively pursued him. The terms of his contract were not immediately available.

McMillan's departure comes a day after Seattle signed All-Star free agent Ray Allen to a five-year, \$85 million contract extension.

McMillan replaces interim coach Kevin Pritchard, who took over for the fired Maurice Cheeks when the Blazers embarked on a youth movement in midseason. Cheeks was 162-139 in three-plus seasons with Portland.

McMillan had coached the Sonics since Nov. 27, 2000, and

compiled a 212-183 record. He spent his entire 12-year playing career with the Sonics.

Not much was expected of the Sonics this season, but McMillan led them to 52 wins and they took the San Antonio Spurs to six games in the Western Conference semifinals.

"We are feeling a mixture of pride in his accomplishments as the head coach of the Sonics and sorrow that he will not be a part of our organization going forward," Walker said. "The pride stems from seeing his evolution in becoming a head coach less than five years ago to becoming a candidate for coach of the year this past year. He will be missed."

McMillan comes to a team that has lost its way recently after being one of the NBA's most consistent franchises. The Trail Blazers have missed the playoffs for two straight seasons, snapping a streak of 21 straight years reaching the postseason in 2004.

The team finished last season with a 27-55 record, their worst mark in 31 years and even saw its attendance decline.

Local Girl Awarded for Arthur Ashe Essay

Inspired by Arthur Ashe, the first African-American world-class tennis player, Portland's Elizabeth Aguila, 11, wrote an essay on him that would lead to an award.

Aguila was recently selected among many other children in the Portland After School Tennis program for the Arthur Ashe award. She was flown to New York for the awards convention.

"I love to play tennis and Arthur Ashe inspires me to get even better at it," Aguila wrote in her essay. "Arthur Ashe wasn't just a famous tennis player, he was an inspiration to people around the world."

The local tennis program is a charter member of the United States Tennis Association and the National Junior Tennis League, a program funded and supported by USA and founded by the late tennis great.

The organization provides low or no cost after-school tennis pro-



Portland tennis player Elizabeth Aguila wrote an award-winning essay on the late tennis great Arthur Ashe.

grams to inner city students, grades 5 through 12, in the Portland Public School District. Many children and parents have been impacted greatly by this program.

DOUBLE J TIRE CENTER
NEW • USED • NEW CAPS
Taxes, Mounting & Balancing Included
FULLY GUARANTEED

"NOW WITH 2 LOCATIONS"

6841 N.E. M.L.K. JR. BLVD. 4510 S.E. 52ND & HOLGATE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211 PORTLAND, OR 97206
(503) 283-9437 (503) 771-1834

HOURS - MON. THRU FRI. 9 TO 6 • SAT. 9 TO 4

Would you like to own your own home?
Would you like to refinance your current home, to lower your monthly payments?

- Good Credit
- Bad Credit
- Mortgage Late o.k.
- Refinance
- Purchase
- First-Time Buyer

100% Financing Option Available & No up front fees!

I DO IT ALL!
If I can't do it - NOBODY CAN!

CALL ME TODAY!
503.722.8878

Charlotte Martin

HOMELoan SOURCE

222 N.E. Park Plaza Dr. Suite 115
Vancouver, WA 98684

2005 CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SERVICES

Put Your Income Tax Refunds to good use this year

CARPET CLEANING

- 2 CLEANING AREAS OR MORE..... **\$25.00**
• PRESPRAY TRAFFIC AREAS Each Area
• INCLUDES 1 HALL
- 1 CLEANING AREA..... **\$35.00**
• PRESPRAY TRAFFIC AREAS
• SMALL HALL FREE
- STAIRS (with service, per stair).... **\$1.50 Each**

- AREA & ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING
- AUTO / BOAT / RV CLEANING
- DEODORIZING & PET ODOR TREATMENT
- SPOT & STAIN REMOVAL SERVICE

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

SOFA	\$69.00
LOVESEAT	\$49.00
SECTIONAL	\$99.00
CHAIR OR RECLINER	\$35.00
THROW PILLOWS	\$5.00

UPHOLSTERY COUPON SPECIAL
SOFA • LOVESEAT • CHAIR \$119.00
(White Upholstery Extra)

MARTIN CLEANING SERVICE
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
Residential & Commercial Service
CALL: (503) 281-3949

Advertise in The Portland Observer

VICTORY Middle School
5250 NE MLK (Near Killingsworth)
(503) 890-1858
(503) 789-9099
FREE Public Charter School

What Do YOU Want In A School for YOUR CHILD?

Victory students are **BEATING THE NATIONAL AVERAGE!**

Test scores prove it!

OPEN HOUSE!
Thursday, July 21st 6:30 P.M.

Bring your child and find what a great school can be

Refreshments will be served
5250 NE MLK Blvd.

We will help your child succeed:

- * 15:1 Student-to-teacher ratio!
- * Before- and after-school assistance!
- * Excellent teachers!
- * Modern textbooks & cooperative learning!
- * Excellent art instruction!
- * Physical education in a great modern gym!
- * Parents informed of academic progress!
- * Parents can help out in our classrooms!

Secure this opportunity for your child. Enrollment is limited.

(503) 890-1858 or (503) 789-9099

Look us up on the web:
<http://www.victoryms.org>

VICTORY Middle School
5250 NE MLK Blvd. (Near Killingsworth)
(503) 890-1858
(503) 789-9099
FREE Public Charter School

Equal Opportunity for All. Victory Middle School admits students of any race, color, nationality and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.