Both Williamses Should be Named to the Olympic Team

U.S. Olympic coach Billie Jean King is scheduled to name her Olympic team this week. Many are assuming King is going to name Lindsay Davenport's doubles partner, Corina Morarlu, to the team. The choice would exclude both Williams, while her sister, Venus, is already named to the squad. If chosen, the Williams sisters would become the U.S. Olympic doubles team. After it all, they have both Williams sisters doubles title, including Wimbledon 2000.

Contact Sports Editor: Leland Stein III at (909) 682-6070 or blackvoice@eee.org

Thursday, July 13, 2000

SPORTING STEIN III

Richard Williams guides daughters, Venus and Serena, to the pinnacle of the tennis world

Sometimes our deepest dreams actually become reality! How many fathers or mothers have fantasied the destiny of their offspring? We can all pick or project our hopes or dreams for our sons or daughters; yet, bringing those projections to fruition are the stuff legends are made of. One man, in particular, on today's giant sporting stage, has achieved the seemingly impossible... his name is Richard Williams.

At the $2.5 million Wimbledon tennis championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Richard and his wife, Oracene, watched the impossible become the possible as Venus became the first African-American women to win the prestigious Wimbledon singles title since the legendary Althea Gibson accomplished the feat in 1957 and 1958.

Venus defeated defending champion Lindsay Davenport in the final, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). "It's really a privilege for me to win this Wimbledon while she's (Gibson) still alive," said Venus, 20, said. "I appreciate how hard it was for her. You realize that not everyone wants you to win... not everyone is going to support you... and that's OK." Landon proved to be fruitful, as the ace just kept coming for big spins and strong serves. Venus, 16, as they followed-up Venus historic win by beating Ai Sugiyama and Julia Haaland-Davenport 6-3, 6-2 to become the first sister tandem to capture the women's doubles championship. Despite her daughter's growing and twin success, many Richard's name invoke a stream of negative connotations.

The opposition and criticism of Richard is a "basket in the graveyard" type of criticism. By that I mean, many are just repeating or relishing old-time perceptions. Many still can't overcome the fact Richard did not sell his children to the USTA Junior Circuit at the tender ages of 12, 13 or 14 - it must be noted that over 90 percent of the top male and female tennis players played on the junior circuit. Many Richard has implemented unconventional methods, or should I say, wise methods like: ensuring his daughters attend high school at approximately integrating them into the rigors of the WTA Tour's circular schedule or maintaining strong family devotion; just to name a few. I think the negative perception will fade away. We all have a choice in how we are going to perceive any situation. The good news, of course, is that nearly every person for our entertainment whether it be players or her personal shortcomings. Who in fair conscience can continue to focus on any minor differences Richard brings to the tennis table?

recent to focus on the good deeds each of us bring to the table. In Richard's case, he should be the poster boy for persistence, tenacity, vision, fatherhood, sacrifice and leadership. After all, his girls have already won three Grand Slam doubles titles together - the 1999 U.S. Open and French Open, along with the 2000 Wimbledon title. They also have won two Grand Slam mixed doubles titles against. Most important, Serena and Venus each have one Grand Slam singles title in the family bag - Serena has the 1999 U.S. Open title and Venus, of course, maintains the family silverware with the 2000 Wimbledon singles title. This year both are going to try to get as much as we can," Venus said. "We're both really greedy," added Serena. The Williams, when we reflect on those events to understand where they started, can better grasp their need to push hard and with passion.

Richard Williams, who grew up picking cotton in Louisiana, knew nothing about tennis when he set out to make his daughters champions. He bought a book on the game, studied pictures of the progeny, read books in magazines and just about to teach Venus and Serena on public courts when they were little more than failures in Campbell. Richard noted that the first couple his daughters played on did not have nets.

Richard and Oracene have shown their offspring that one doesn't need nets, money, the junior Tour or expensive tennis facilities to get to the very top they can. At the heart of Venus and Serena's self-confidence is a sense that anything is possible, that any goal can be achieved with strong work ethic, their self-assumed attitude was surely born from the streets of Compton, where it's do or die. Venus and Serena's success at Wimbledon was tremendous. At least, Venus was playing in only her fourth tournament this year after being sidelined for six months with tendinitis in both wrists. While Serena had a two-month layoff with tendinitis in her knees.

"It's really amazing for us to come back like this," said Serena, who won the 1998 French Open in a heart breaker to Venus in the women's event everyone is getting to practice hard to beat. But you know what? We are four-time Grand Slam champions.

"We can do a lot better. We're not playing our best tennis right now. There's a lot of room for improvement.

"Not yet!" The no Grand Slam, of course.

"For me, the U.S. Open," Venus said. "For me, too," said Serena, who will defend her title when the tournament opens in late August.

The sisters are also determined to compete for the No. 1 ranking. When Serena joined the tour in 1998, Venus predicted they would be ranked 1-2 by the end of the year, but it hasn't happened yet. Venus will move up to No. 3 this week behind Martina Hingis and Davenport, tying her career best. Serena will rise to No. 7. "We've had a few hiccups to jump as, as injuries and consistency," Venus said. "But we're on our way."

I've watched the sisters at a number of WTA tournaments, as they stood, the anticipation of the media and rival players, that they would one day be fighting for the number one ranking. Their memories were always taken as a boost. I've always taken their projections as a positive.

Venus: "If we don't feel like we win we're going to compete with the best on the Tour, then why are we out here? We are not out here just to lose. Our goal is to be the best we can be, and we believe our best will take us to the top.

The Williamses challenge for the future will be to keep the family intact. As the second soared upward, they most likely will face each other as the did in the past Wimbledons nonetheless. It will take all of Richard and Oracene's calming to ensure Venus and Serena may remain together as they continue to embark on their tennis journey.

Venus Matches Gibson, Wins Wimbledon Title

IT'S SEEN A LONG TIME: When Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport, she became the first African-American since Althea Gibson in 1957 and 1958 to win the valued Wimbledon single's title. Along the way Venus beat No. 1 Martina Hingis, her sister, Serena (and Davenport).

Venus Matches Gibson, Wins Wimbledon Title

Venus Matches Gibson, Wins Wimbledon Title

THE BRITISH FANS ARE BEST FANS IN THE WORLD.

LELAND STEIN III

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With hip hop music’s ascent to the top selling spot on the American music scene its artists have become more visible, and with this their actions more closely observed and scrutinized by fans as well as critics. Many of these artists, against whom the established music models made their fans推崇 artists who sin sexually or on the heads of some who are simultaneously being bombarded with charges that their lyrics promote gratuitous violence. Ellerbee hopes will eliminate artists threatening and shooting record label people.”

Giving his artists an understanding of the record industry is another of Double Xposure’s primary goals. The music industry is a lending institution, a bank. Everything you get from them you gotta have to give back. Ellerbee, to recover our young people, “we’ve allowed the music industry to rob and rape our young artist today through reality and violence,” he said, adding that “once you take your clothes off there’s no tricks left under your shirt.”

Ellerbee’s goal is “to educate, sensitize and motivate the young Black people coming into the music industry.” This education, Ellerbee hopes, will eliminate among other things, incidents of artists threatening and shooting record label people.

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Ellerbee goes as far as saying that artists should “Get a lawyer to watch their lawyer.” as a way of avoiding having the industry take advantage of them. He suggests that they find young people coming out of law schools wanting to go into entertainment law and offer them a percentage of future earnings.

Double Xposure hires highly trained professionals with skills in everything from etiquette and social interaction, industry terminology and choreography in order to give their artists a well-rounded perspective as well as longevity in their careers.

With a roster of clients that includes Rome, Ginuwine and one of hip hop’s most notorious MC’s DMX, Ellerbee has worked out act for him. Hip hop music has
Black Social Workers will sponsor the Inland Area Association of African Americans Are Losing the King Blvd., Riverside. For more information contact (714) 708-4221.

The Salvation Army of Ontario is seeking the public’s help with food and clothing donations for its annual community Thanksgiving celebration. Join Jan. 21 and 22 at the Fontana Library. To sign up for more information, please call Ethiopia at (704) 381-4531.

Volunteers

Tutors Wanted.

For adults learning to read. Volunteers are needed for the Adult Literacy Program serving the Fontana, Rialto, and Bloomington libraries. The next training workshop is being held Jan. 21 and 22 at the Fontana library. To sign up for more information, please call Ethiopia at (704) 381-4531.

Support Groups

The Community Counseling Center at Cal State, San Bernardino is making appointments for adults facing such issues as depression, anxiety, traumatic life changes, relationship problems and eating disorders. A $10 fee is charged for each 50-minute counseling session. For more information, call the Community Counseling Center at (909) 880-5699.

Option House, Inc. offers support groups for women facing Domestic Violence. Support groups are free and meet biweekly. Sundays 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Mondays 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Groups are held at Domestic Violence Outreach Center, 3333 North 8th St. in San Bernardino. For more information, call (909) 882-0802.

Teen Group Sessions, held Tuesday and Thursday, 4-6 p.m. held at At-City Violence Prevention Outreach Center, 3333 S. Bloomington Ave. Ste. B, Bloomington. Enrollments are taking place to face conflicts, resolution, prevention, education and skills for more. For information, call (909) 820-0400 or (909) 381-3471.

The Riverside Historical Society is now accepting manuscripts for its local history journal. The fifth issue of the journal of the Riverside Historical Society will be published in February 2001, and will feature articles on the history of the city. Manuscripts should not exceed 3,000 words in length and consist of notes. For questions of style, authors should consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Please mail manuscripts to 1 August 2000 to: Publications Coordinator, Riverside Historical Society, P.O. Box 246, Riverside, CA 92502.

Basketball Scholarships are possible for the most advanced players. For an evaluation form, call (704) 972-6610 anytime.

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After 36 years, a truce has been called in the Water War between the people of the East San Bernardino Valley and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. As a result, for the first time, the East Valley’s water surpluses can become the financial asset they were one day destined to be. This will allow major investments to be made throughout our region, without raising taxes. Below, the full story is told.

1. The Battlefield

**East Valley Sits Atop A 1,000 Foot Deep Underground Lake**

How can the East Valley be rich in water, when it looks like a coastal desert?

Our area is crossed at a diagonal by the San Jacinto earthquake fault. It runs from roughly Cajon Pass, under San Bernardino Valley College, under the I-215 & I-15 interchange and continues into the hills behind Loma Linda and Redlands. Where this fault crosses the Santa Ana River, it acts like a natural underground dam. How can the East Valley be rich in water, when it looks like a coastal desert?

- Having a 1,000 foot deep lake under such key economic assets as Hospitality Lane, Inland Center, the I-10 and I-215 freeway interchange and the offices in downtown San Bernardino presents problems for our area. The surface of the lake lies just below ground level and sometimes rises to flood the buildings above it. We had a near miss in 1999, partly due to El Nino.

In the past, the jobs were lost when the former South “E” Street Post Office and an Orange Show Road theater were permanently closed due to flooding. Also, in a strong earthquake, liquefaction from this high ground water could cause the collapse of buildings or the I-10 freeway interchange.

Our region thus has an interest in lowering this high ground water level and selling the excess water.

**Met Moves To Take Control Of The EastValley's Water**

Throughout the 20th Century, Met and its affiliates have successfully acquired water resources throughout the West. For example, the LA Department of Water and Power obtained water rights to Colorado River Water including the excess not used by other Western States. Met acquired rights to a major share of the water from the California State Water Project.

By 1964, Met had convinced most of the East Valley’s established leaders that the area should join their system and let Met manage the region's water assets. In 1964, they scheduled an election to bring about the transfer of control.

**Holcomb Wins The War To Keep Local Control Of Water**

Those who experienced the 1964 election remember it as the toughest in the East Valley’s long and colorful history.

Formed in 1964, the East Valley was part of the Western Water Power and Power Met had signed an agreement with California State Water Project to bring water from the California State Water Project to the Eastern San Bernardino Valley.

As an added benefit, the manner in which the sale to Met will be executed will lower the gr6urid water threat in south San Bernardino. The 15,000 acre feet of surplus state water was the key to the East Valley’s long term prosperity just as underground oil had built Long Beach.

In many ways as an unexpected outcome, over 60% of the public agreed with Holcomb’s position.

Today, the farsightedness of those who fought the 1964 election is evident. The region controls more than enough water to handle its own growth. Southern California is thirsty and the region has had the few unplanted sources of supply. BUT....

2. The Skirmishes!

**Met Able To Prevent East Valley Water Sales**

Two natural resources have been crucial to Southern California’s development: water and oil. The East Valley is blessed with an abundant water supply. In the 1964 election, the area’s voters decided to retain local control of their water by not joining the Met system. However, a commodity only has financial value if it can be sold. And here, Met has held most of the cards.

Outside the East Valley, every major Southern California jurisdiction is part of the Met system and receives most of its water through its pipes and canals. Even if a local agency wanted the rights to the surplus sold to Met, it would have to buy the East Valley’s surplus water. Met was positioned to either deny access or charge very high fees for use of their delivery system.

As a result, the East Valley has had abundant water for 36 years, there has been no place to sell it.

**East Valley Gets Separate Rights To State Water Project Water ... Gets Rights To Sell Any Surplus**

Meanwhile, the East Valley was securing rights to more water. When the State Water Project came on line in 1972, the region’s independent identity meant it received its own share of state water for the first time. The area, in the future, could access to 102,600 acre feet a year. However, because the area is rich in native water, it has not needed most of this quota. In the 1990s, for instance, the average delivery has only been 7,600 acre feet ..., leaving 95,000 acre feet a year available for sale.

However, the State of California ruled that the SB Valley Municipal Water District, which manages the East Valley’s water, could not sell this surplus on the open market. They wanted the surplus to return to the state for $5-$11 per acre foot. This, however, was not the district’s understanding of the terms on which it joined the system.

A lawsuit ensued.

In 1997, this suit was settled in favor of the East Valley. The area can thus sell its state water at market rates.

**Fighting For The Right To Deliver Water In Met Areas**

As the last 36 years have passed, conditions in Southern California’s water markets have tightened. As a result, some of the areas in the Met system want to buy water from the East Valley at what they consider to be reasonable prices. Meanwhile, the East Valley continues to need markets for water it wants to pump from the underground lake that threatens Hospitality Lane, Inland Center, the I-10 & I-15 Interchange and downtown San Bernardino.

As an added benefit, the truce allows the East Valley to sell surplus state water to their system for their own use.

When the East Valley sought to sell surplus state water to the Met, the Met System would pay $150-$200 an acre foot. That is far above the $5-$11 an acre foot offered by the State. Also, Met will not object to allowing the Valley District to deliver 10,000 acre feet of excess natural water to the Orange County Water District.

However, Met has one condition: Met’s long term need must be satisfied.

These measures will raise $4.1 million for the SB Valley Municipal Water District that will be used for infrastructure projects.

**Truce Will Reduce East Valley’s High Ground Water**

As an added benefit, the manner in which the sale to Met will be executed will lower the ground water level in south San Bernardino. The 15,000 acre feet of surplus state water being sold will reduce the high ground water level near Cajon Pass, under San Bernardino College and north of the San Bernardino Mountains above the valley’s driest wells, making them more effective and lowering their pumping costs.

In exchange, 25,000 acre feet of water will be pumped out of the underground flood zone with 15,000 going to Met and 10,000 to the Orange County Water District.

**Truce Shows The Wisdom Of The 1964 Election**

In one fell swoop, the truce with Met terms the East Valley’s excess state water rights into a financial asset for the taxpayers, lowers the water level in the area’s underground floodplain, and puts water, as needed, into the area’s driest and most expensive wells. This negotiation shows the foresight of the 1964 election as it has allowed the East Valley to stand before Met as an equal with surplus water to sell, at a time when Met’s long term need is easing and their traditional sources of supply are stagnating or shrinking.
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Mac Leos Your Business

The federal government is committed in helping entrepreneurs to start a new business, and/or expand their existing business. The program is especially designed to help applicants who are self-employed, graduates of high school, vocational school, and college to save students in acquiring business skills and preparing for the challenges of the workplace.

Application deadline is
4 P.M. Friday, May 2000.

Contact Leslie Rosen
Manager Economic Project Specialist
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office
(909) 387-4604 to obtain an application for funding

Micro Loan Program for Entrepreneurs

The loan program provides small loans to start a new business, and/or expand their existing business. The loan program is especially designed to help applicants who are self-employed, graduates of high school, vocational school, and college to save students in acquiring business skills and preparing for the challenges of the workplace.

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Your BUSINESS MUST BE IN LOS ANGELES, VENTURA, OR ORANGE COUNTIES