

# Portland Dunkers make Caribbean tour

Thirty-four Pacific Northwest residents left yesterday for San Juan Puerto Rico to represent the Dunk Kings in the Caribbean Dunking and Basketball Classic August 24th-29th. Twenty young dunkers and basketballers ages 11-16 will make the ten-day tour along with coaches and chaperons that will take them traveling through Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Miami Beach with dunking and basketball competitions and exhibitions as well as a few dunking clinics and other sports events.

The young athletes are the Dunk Kings All Stars and will represent the United States in the Classic. All the

young athletes had to raise their own travel costs and many are receiving great support in their respective communities throughout Washington and Oregon. Making the trip from Portland are: Ulf Spears, 14; Greg Penney, 14; Timmy Pittman, 11; Todd Irving, 13; Tony Pittman, 13; Kenny Luckett, 13; and Philip Avery, 11.

The young dunkers attending the Caribbean Classic will be divided into two basketball squads, team A for 16 and under and team B for 13 and under. The teams will play at least five games in tournaments in Caguas, Puerto de Tierra and San Juan in Puerto Rico and possibly one



TODD IRVING



ALF SPEARS

game in the Virgin Islands. Team A will have many players who were freshmen and sophomore varsity players at their respective high school.

The team A roster will rely on 14-year-old Ulf Spears of Portland. At 6'6" Ulf will play center. In his hometown many people say he will not only "play" as a freshman next year at Benson Tech but will break many school records set by Richard Washington ex-UCLA All American and NBA pro with the Kansas City Kings.

Others on the A team roster are John Moore, Grandview High; Dusty Broderson, 16, Ephrata High; Keith Cooper, 14, Morton High; all forwards. Jon Anderson, 16, Lebanon High, Oregon is the leading guard prospect. Others who will play are Greg Penny, 14, Portland; and Pierre Cockrell, 15; Brian Wright, 13; Roy Williams, 14; all from Tacoma.

David Melton 12 of Seattle and

Timmy Pittman 12 of Portland who have in the past year battled each other as finalists in more than a dozen competitions will team together to lead the B team.

The Puerto Rico teams will be very competitive. Some have still young high school teenagers who are playing or almost ready to play in the big league, the Baloncesto Superior League, top Pro-Amateur League in Puerto Rico. Many of the players in this league have U.S. college or Olympic experience, and most play on the Puerto Rico national teams.

The basketball competition—win or lose—will be an exciting once-in-a-lifetime athletic and cultural experience that will add to all the young players confidence. Many of the dunkers, with their local community pride, receive greatly appreciated fundraising help in their communities and will hail a hardy thank you by bringing back some Caribbean Classic trophies and gold medals to the Pacific Northwest.

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## Penny leads Grant squad

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

"Academics is number one in my life," asserted Avery Penny, the 5'8" floor leader from Grant High School.

"I value it like money, because both of them are needed to survive out here in this world. Without them, how can you be somebody?"

Penny, a senior-to-be, took time from his busy summer endeavors to sit down for an interview at Matt Dishman Community Center, in between playing basketball and packing for a trip.

He is on the way to Calville, Washington for a two-week training session sponsored by Grant's "Career Education Center."

"I'll be receiving pointers in drafting," he said. "I plan to be an engineer when I go to college, and working with skilled professionals will give me good experience. I'd also like to mix business administration and P.E. with this major if possible."

In June, Penny spent four weeks in San Francisco under the same program. He worked on-site with several field engineers, to comprehend their job. When questioned about how far he could go in basketball on his height, Penny replied quickly, "I never worry. When I play with the big boys like Steve Johnson at OSU and against the other larger guys in the city, I seem to do rather well. I think that I can hang." Penny was All PII last season (Honorable Mention).

As a freshman in 1975, hot off the court at Sabin Elementary School and playing for ASP (Albina Sportsmen), Penny averaged 17.0 per game and learned to play on a high school level.

He averaged 15.0 during his sophomore season, but most of the minutes were utilized on the JV team. Grant finished second in the state that season. Last season Penny

scored at a nine point per game clip on a junior oriented team that qualified for the state again. What are your expectations for this upcoming year?

"Personally, I would like to lead Grant to the State Championship," he said seriously. "This year, I'll be one of five experienced seniors who have been there before and I think we will be very hungry for it."

Penny plans to raise his 3.1 grade point average to a 4.0 also. Where did you pick up on athletics?

"Basically, I'm a self taught person, even though I've had good coaching over the years," said the 17-year-old.

If the coaches did keep him on his toes, then he had to deal with brothers: Dewayne, 17 (Grant JV basketball team); Greg, the 15-year-old MVP of Portland Middle Schools who will attend Benson Tech and is currently in a "Dunk King" tournament in Idaho; and Darryn, the young baseball wizard at 13.

Avery is a solid baseball player too and plans to tryout at Grant. This summer he batted .325, played third base, pitched, and banded four inside-the-park homers. He was also listed on the Irving Park Summer All-Star Team.

Who laid the foundation for your positive outlook and motivation to achieve? "My parents (Joe and Sandra Penny)," he said proudly. "They have been behind me ever since I can remember and are always at the games, especially my father."

What's the biggest thing that they taught you? "To have confidence and to just believe in anything that you set out to do, and how life still goes on when you fail to accomplish that goal."

By this time Penny's mind drifted back to basketball. "You know, a person can always contribute something to a team. Even if it's just inspiration."

no other lesson, we have learned this."

Support of the boycott has continued to grow with the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, representing nine neighborhood associations, adding their endorsement. Groups of white parents are organizing support groups.

BUF planning meetings continue to be held each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at King Neighborhood Facility. (For tentative plans for students during the boycott, please see page 3)

## PPS promises desegregation

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) are bussed out of the community be allowed to return to their own school, or if grades are not available, to a nearby school of their choice.

The recommendation for a monitoring system consisting of a committee and staff was not discussed by the Board committee. "It is necessary for the community to monitor implementation of whatever plans are agreed upon. We cannot depend on the District to monitor itself in a manner that guarantees equity to Blacks. If we have learned

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