

Spears joins Dunk Kings tour

By Nyewusi Askari

Ulf Spears, 16, of Portland, has been named to the 12 man roster of the Dunk Kings Summer Classic Tour, July 29 - August 15. The Dunk Kings will leave Seattle for the Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., areas for 19 exhibition basketball games in a schedule featuring the Dunk Kings best from the Pacific Northwest versus the best summer high school squads in the East.

Ulf was a standout sophomore this past season for Benson Tech State Champions. He is playing on his second Summer Classic roster after being named the Most Outstanding Player of the '79 Classic to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands where he led the team to a 7-2 record. An injury prevented him from playing on the roster of the '80 Classic, but the upcoming one is an exact duplicate with even more great Eastern teams added.

Ulf, the oldest of four children, and the son of Mattie Spears and Albert Shephard, began playing basketball at the age of seven. During his elementary and junior high days, he played for the Albina Sports Program coached by Phil and Carol Walden. Here, he played the center position, but after being accepted at Benson, he switched to playing guard. During his freshman year, he was chosen to play on the varsity team; an honor held until then, by Benson NBA great Richard Washington.

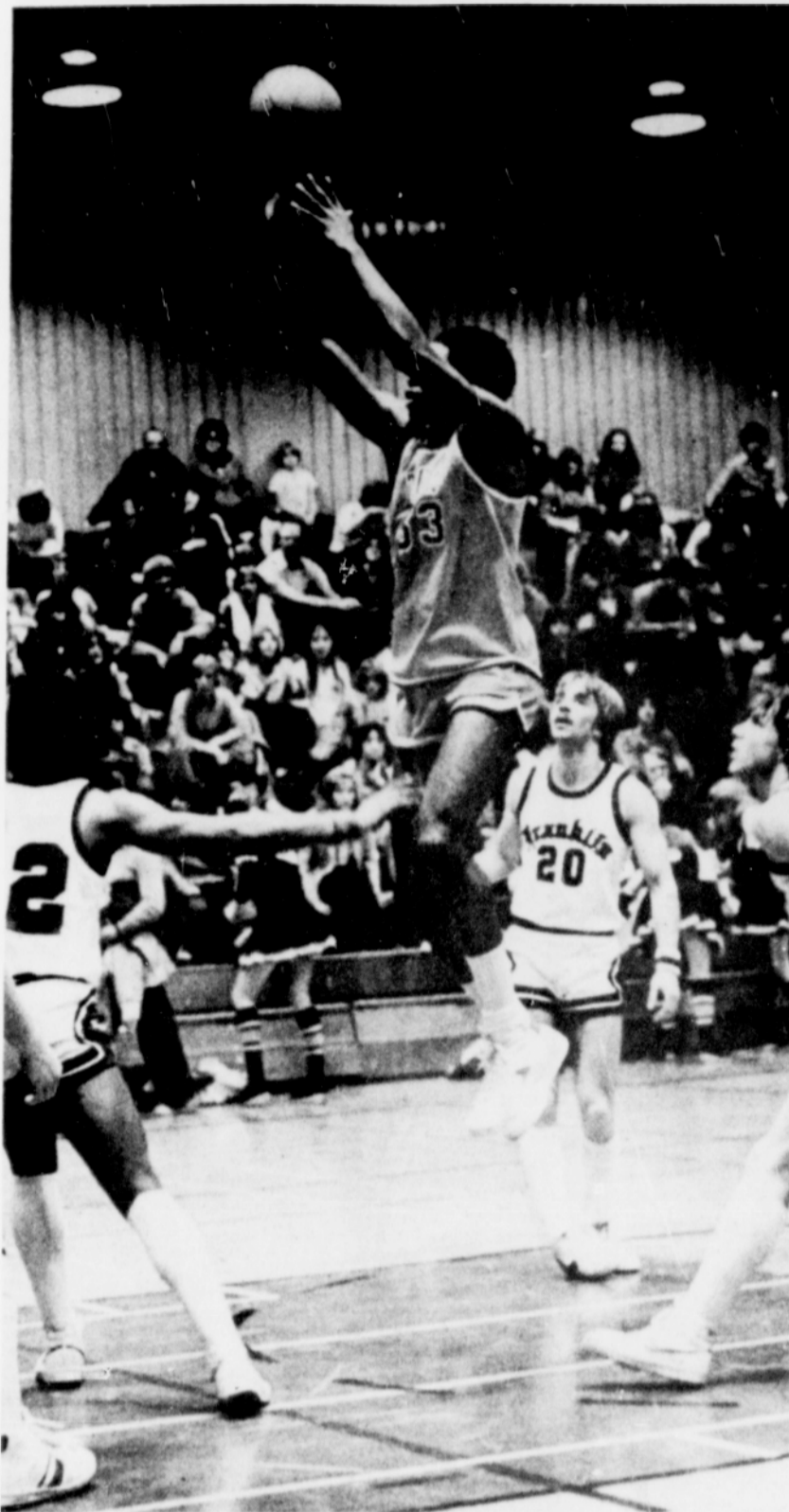
But basketball is not his only speciality. He holds several state awards in track and field. In the 13-14-year-old category, he holds the national record of 18'6" in the long jump, and until last year, held the state meet record in the 100 and 200 yard dash.

When the tour reaches Philadelphia, Ulf will find himself in the city he hopes to one day play for. (He aspires to play with the Philadelphia 76ers). His favorite players? Darryl Dawkins of the 76ers, and Earvin "Magic" Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers. Ulf has stated a preference for playing guard.

The Summer Classic is the only summer tour schedule designed with a playing roster of high school underclassmen in mind. Other traveling squads lean toward the just graduated senior stars and for good reason, while the Summer Classic allows the under recognized hoopsters of the Northwest to play before many of the Eastern basketball writers and coaches who select most of the top pre-season high school All-America teams. These writers often neglect to mention the great Northwest underclassmen. The Dunk Kings Summer Classic Tour eases some of this dilemma in terms of making Northwest athletes more visible.

The Dunk Kings is a non-profit organization but is proud to offer the Summer Classic Tour to all the Northwest great underclassmen prospects. Each participant must raise \$448 to cover tour costs. Ulf has raised half of the funds needed to make the Summer Classic Tour.

Remember the name, remember the year, because it is a name you will hear a lot in the coming years. Maybe it will take the playing abilities of Ulf to bring a championship to Philadelphia. And most coaches agree that Ulf should be tough for the eastern guards to handle. The *Observer* will have an update on the Summer Classic Tour, and a report on Ulf's performances.



Ulf Spears, Benson Tech guard, has been selected to tour with The Dunk Kings. Above, Spears is shown in recent high school competition.

OSU coach brings problems

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Thomas' appearance at the Junior World Championships is also expected to cause the cancellation of the meets of a group of Oregon high school and college students touring Canada under the sponsorship of the Oregon Coaches Cultural Exchange Program, of which Thomas is chairman. Not only were the Canadian amateur officials insistent at Thomas' appearance in Vancouver, but competition with the Oregon team could endanger Canada's status with the International Olympic Committee which sanctions all international meets.

Thomas planned to take a group of wrestlers from Oregon State University to South Africa in August. Aside from bringing about the end of the participants' amateur careers, the trip could have caused them to lose their intercollegiate eligibility because of an NCAA rule against summer wrestling. The trip also could have set off an incident with the potential repercussion of a boycott of the 1984 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles.

The 1976 Montreal games were boycotted by African nations

because the New Zealand rugby team had played South Africa and New Zealand was allowed to participate in the Olympic Games. A 1984 boycott is already being threatened because a South African rugby team has been given permission by the U.S. State Department to tour the U.S.

Tuesday, Thomas announced he would not take the trip because OSU decided not to request the NCAA waiver.

Concerts scheduled

"Heartbeat" concerts, held in Pioneer Square each Tuesday and Thursday noon, will feature performing groups.

The Marion Mayfield Trio will perform on August 13th. Scheduled are: Ron Hughes Quartet, July 28; Go Way De Rain, July 30th; August 4th, Mult. Rhythm Ensemble; Ecotopia, August 6th; Dave Eberly Trio, August 11th; Craig Carothers Band, August 18th; and PDQ, August 13th.

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