

Jeff High track star keeps Olympic torch

John Frazier, Jr., the runner who carried the Olympic torch in a leg of the recent nationwide relay to Los Angeles, was presented with the torch by Oran B. Robertson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at Fred Meyer.

Frazier, 18, a 1984 graduate of Jefferson High School, said the presentation of the torch came as a pleasant surprise. "People kept asking me if I'd get to keep it, and I said I didn't know. I was surprised ... when they said I could," he said.

Many companies who sponsored runners have kept the torches themselves. But Roger Williams, Fred Meyer Director of Community Relations, said, "the Olympic torch and John's athletic ability complement each other. The Olympics honor the athletic spirit, and John embellishes that spirit."

For a young runner, Frazier has an impressive history of running accomplishments. As a member of the Jefferson track team, he set school records in the 100 and 200 meters.

Frazier was the 1983 Oregon State Champion in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and mile relay events.

Last July, Frazier ran in the 100-meter and 200-meter events at the Junior Olympic Games. He says of the experience, "It was great getting together and competing with the best people from all over the country." Frazier took third in the 100 meters.

His accomplishments were noted by Fred Meyer officials, who selected him to be the runner for the company-sponsored Olympic torch. Of his selection, Frazier recalls, "I was shocked. I'd just heard about the relay, and a few days later, they asked me to do it. I was surprised, and really proud."

The Olympic torch relays through Oregon were greeted by thousands of cheering supporters. Said Frazier, "I felt like I was actually taking part in the Olympics." He may have his chance to do just that.

This fall, John Frazier, Jr., will enter the University of Oregon on a track scholarship. He says hopefully, "My last year of college will be an Olympic year ... and I hope to make it there."



John Frazier, Jr. (second from right) holds Olympic torch given to him by Fred Meyer after he carried it through Portland. (l-r) John Frazier, Sr., Roger Williams, Oran B. Robertson, John Frazier, Jr., and Della Frazier. Fred Meyer is an official sponsor of the 1984 Olympics. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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Trail Blazers sign two new rookies

The Portland Trail Blazers signed two rookies to 1984-85 contracts on Monday. One is Steve Colter, 22, a 6'3" guard from New Mexico State drafted this year as the 33rd selection in the second round.

The other is Tom Scheffler, 29, a 6'11" center from Purdue, who has played the last seven seasons in Europe.

No contract details were revealed. As a senior at New Mexico State last season, Colter started all 28 games, led his club in scoring with 19.3 points a contest, in assists with 12.1 (more than twice the total of any teammate) and in steals with 38. He shot .501 from the floor and .766 at the foul line.

General Manager Stu Inman, after watching Colter in the summer league in San Diego, said, "He has clearly emerged at this point as the leader for the backup guard position behind Darnell Valentine."

"He is smart, competitive, and a good shooter and we feel confident that he will have a good career in the NBA," said Inman.

Scheffler, who played the last seven seasons in Italy, Switzerland, and France, finished his college career in 1977 at Purdue where as a senior, he averaged 8 points and 4.8 rebounds a game while shooting .532 from the floor and .760 at the foul line.

Scheffler was drafted by Indiana in the sixth round but already had arranged to play in Europe.

Rainbow keeps on rolling in Oregon

The local Jesse Jackson for President Committee has changed its name. They are now called the **Oregon Rainbow Organizing Committee**. Please make contributions to this new name, P.O. Box 6797, Portland OR 97228-6797. Call 283-2487 or 228-2159 for more information. We need your help to register more voters for the November election.

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