



by Roy Lee Jernigan  
Sports Editor

# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

The PIL got back into the swing after the Christmas break and Tuesday marked the resumption of league play. Last year the Benson Techmen came off of their Xmas vacation and were blown away by the Democrats and knocked out of the Class AAA state tournament. Tech forward Aaron Bell played with that memory and insured his mates against a repeat of that pivotal game. Benson was on the big end of a 80-68 romp.

Jefferson came out with a tight zone defense designed to force perimeter shooting from the Techmen and for a time it worked. With Bell and Courtney Celestine popping those outside jumpers the Techmen took the first quarter 18-13. Head Coach Bobby Harris had his squad ready and at the 7:08 mark of the second quarter forward Tony Broad hit two free throws to get Jefferson even at 18-18. Benson got serious from here and took off. Coach Dick Gray put his starters back into the game and the Techmen went on a 15-6 scoring spree and took the lead at halftime 36-26.

When Benson hit the floor in the third quarter their guards were geared to getting the ball inside to Bell and Celestine and Jefferson was on the ropes from that point on. A fast break layup by Chris Johnson and a baseline jumper by Bell swelled Benson's lead to 40-26. The Democrats were taken out of their offensive game plan and were down 53-36 going into the last quarter. If you are familiar with Coach Harris, you know that his team never quits and they didn't. The Democrats fought gamely but there was just too much Aaron Bell and Courtney Celestine. Bell led the scoring for Benson with 21 points and he hauled down a bushel of rebounds. Celestine played a flawless game and scored 15 points. Jefferson's top scorer was Jerrell Spires with 13.

I am a Bobby Harris fan and when these two teams meet again, on February 8th at Benson, don't be surprised if the Democrats can come up with a formula to counter Benson's high powered offense.

### Tuesday results, Jan. 8

#### Boys

Roosevelt 78, Cleveland 61  
Grant 85, Lincoln 54  
Benson 80, Jefferson 68  
Madison 44, Franklin 40  
Wilson 65, Marshall 50

#### Girls

Cleveland 70, Roosevelt 45  
Lincoln 60, Grant 44  
Madison 46, Franklin 44  
Wilson 36, Marshall 32  
Benson 45, Jefferson 41



**MYCHAL SOARS.** Portland's Mychal Thompson is fouled by former Blazer Lionel Hollins as he flies to the basket. Mychal made both foul shots and went on to 28 points, 8 rebounds and 3 assists in 42 minutes of play. Portland 121, Houston 117. (Photo: Dan Long)

### Boys Capsule

Tony Ross kept alive his torrid scoring pace in the league by scoring 30 points against Lincoln. Mark West, Grant's Mr. Inside, helped keep the defense honest by chipping in for 15. The win kept the defending champs in the driver's seat atop the PIL race with a 4-0 record. John Power led the scoring for Madison with 16 points in their win over Franklin. Gary Rubin hit for 23 points against Wilson. Andre George lit up the scoreboard for 41 and Roosevelt drubbed Cleveland. Russ Persaud tallied 29 for Cleveland but it wasn't enough.

### Girls capsule

Lynn Fuller scored 17 points for Franklin but Diana DeYoung hit 18 to pace Madison in a 2-point game. Lincoln jumped on the Grant Generals and was led by Ann West's 21. The loss was the first for Grant in league play. Marlo Dishman and Amani Housen had 10 apiece for the Generals. It was a clean sweep for Benson over Jefferson. Shannon Farrell had 12 for Benson and Rachel Wickenheiser had 12 for Jeff. Jill Weisner, Cleveland's scoring machine, burned Roosevelt for 28 points. Weisner is the premier player in the league this year and her scoring reflects that fact emphatically. Wilson remained undefeated and Julie Scherr's 12 points over Marshall led the scoring. Rosalyn Hortsch hit 14 for Marshall.

### Friday results, Jan. 11

#### Boys

Benson 78, Madison 56  
Grant 105, Cleveland 68  
Franklin 57, Lincoln 41  
Roosevelt 81, Marshall 74  
Wilson 52, Jefferson 36

#### Girls

Madison 72, Benson 30  
Grant 55, Cleveland 35  
Lincoln 50, Franklin 34  
Marshall 63, Roosevelt 26  
Wilson 57, Jefferson 35

### Boys capsule

Four starters hit in double figures and the defending champs remain undefeated in League play at 5-0. Grant got good balanced scoring and massacred Cleveland 105-68. As usual, Tony Ross was the ring leader, popping 20 points from his guard position, and Mark West once again worked the inside for 19. Sean Mitchell tallied 21 for Cleveland. Wilson held onto their share of the league lead and remained undefeated for the season by pasteing Jeff. Gary Rubin took scoring honors with 22 points and the Democrats were led by Anthony Butler's 10. Aaron Bell and Courtney Celestine continued to be the heard of the Techmen, scoring 19 and 16 points respectively, in Benson's win over Madison. Madison was led by Kevin Goldsby with 15 and John Powers' 14. Andre George got away again and posted 43 points as Roosevelt eased by Marshall. Andre seems to have gotten his basketball legs now so watch out for some big figures by this young man. The PIL race is starting to shape up now and Grant, Wilson, Roosevelt and Benson won't be taking prisoners from this point on.

### Girls capsule

Wilson holds down the top spot in the League at 5-0 and 7-0 for the season. The girls from Wilson went into Friday's play intent on keeping that record intact and did. Helen Meisenheider led the way with 14 points in the win over Jefferson. Rachel Taylor led the Democrats with 10 points. Marshall put the clamps on Roosevelt and held them to a mere 26 points. Rosalyn Hortsch scored 14 and Marshall sits in a tie with Grant and Madison at 4-1. Grant rebounded from a tough loss Tuesday and took things out on Cleveland. Amani Housen got tough for 16 points and B. Smith followed with 14. That tough General defense brought Cleveland's Jill Weisner back to earth and held her to 19 points. Good job, Coach McKenna. This game proved your defense works. Lynette Davis had 23 and Diana DeYoung 18 as Madison blitzed Benson.

### Saturday results, Jan. 12

#### Boys

Franklin 63, Benson 60  
Grant 108, Madison 85  
Marshall 51, Jefferson 48  
Roosevelt 68, Lincoln 45  
Wilson 83, Cleveland 34

#### Girls

Franklin 71, Benson 35  
Grant 67, Madison 43  
Marshall 42, Jefferson 20  
Lincoln 59, Roosevelt 31  
Wilson 71, Cleveland 45

### Boys capsule

These games were played to make up for the games that were postponed on December 21. The defending champs at Grant held on again and waited on Madison as they went over the century mark in successive games. Boss Tony dazzled them for 36 while Mark West dropped in a smooth 23.

John Power couldn't get much help but managed 26 points against the Generals. Benson got derailed by Franklin and now must get back on track if they are going to stay close to the leaders. Over-confidence might be the answer for this loss but Franklin deserved the win. Aaron Bell 18, Courtney Celestine 13 for Benson and Angelo Tupper was high man for Franklin with 18. Andre George capped off a marvelous week of basketball with 33 points against Lincoln. Roosevelt is hovering near the top awaiting their turn to knock off Grant or Wilson. Jefferson is 3-3 in league play and can't afford any more losses if they want a piece of the pie in the PIL. The top teams won't come back to them this year. Marshall put the skis on the Democrats this time out, Jeff Key had 21 for Marshall and Eural Andrews 17 for Jefferson. Gary Rubins' 26 were enough for Wilson over Cleveland. The entire Cleveland team could only score 8 points more than Gary.

### Girls capsule

The Wilson girls are having things pretty much their way so far this season and continued to play good basketball as they whipped Cleveland. Tracy Thirdgill led the way with 19 and Jill Weisner had 20 for Cleveland. Marshall took it to Jefferson behind Ann Backus' 16. Laura Jenkins shaken and baked her way to 17 points to pace the Grant Generals' win over Madison. Diana DeYoung was Madison's leader popping 13. Franklin got a double dip on a single trip as the girls pounced on Benson as did their male counterparts. Michelle Fuller led the Franklin attack with 21 markers. Lisa Hering had 11 points for Lincoln and rolled over Roosevelt.

### PIL girls

	League		Season	
	W	L	W	L
Wilson	6	0	8	0
Marshall	5	1	7	1
Grant	5	1	6	2
Madison	4	2	4	4
Lincoln	3	3	5	3
Cleveland	3	3	4	4
Franklin	2	4	3	5
Benson	1	5	1	7
Jefferson	1	5	1	7
Roosevelt	0	6	0	8

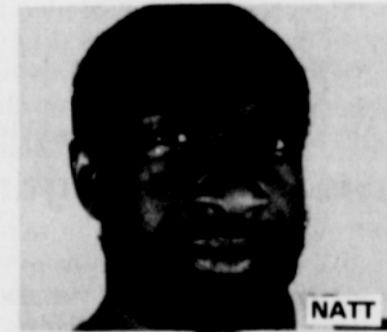
### PIL boys

	League		Season	
	W	L	W	L
Wilson	6	0	8	0
Grant	6	0	7	1
Roosevelt	5	1	7	1
Benson	4	2	5	3
Jefferson	3	3	4	4
Marshall	2	4	3	5
Franklin	2	4	2	6
Madison	1	5	2	6
Lincoln	1	5	2	6
Cleveland	0	6	0	8

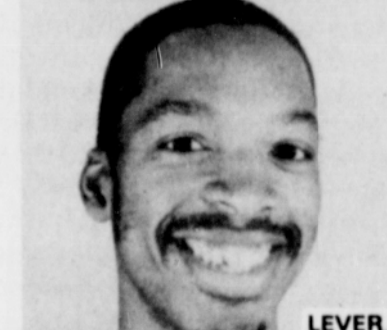
### PIL schedule

Friday, Jan. 18  
Girls 5:45 - Boys 7:30

Grant at Jefferson  
Benson at Lincoln  
Cleveland at Madison  
Franklin at Marshall  
Wilson at Roosevelt



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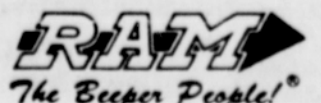
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