

by Roy Lee Jernigan

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## SLAM DUNK!



Billy Ray soars in the attack position.



Slam Dunk judges and contestants



12,660 fans remembered their high flying scoring machine



Clyde "The Glide" Drexler, as usual, rose to the occasion.



The Slam Dunk winner, Billy Ray Bates.

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## The Lee Graham Classic

We are a group of professionals, educators and coaches from various schools throughout the city who have joined together to form a collective planning unit. We are a non-profit organization and our primary focus and goal is to recognize members of our community who have given of themselves in a positive manner. These individuals have been pillars of strength and have facilitgated the development and self-sufficiency of our youth for years; as model citizens, counselors and members of parent groups.

This summer we would like to recognize Mr. Lee Graham, by organizing a community-based track and field meet to be dedicated to him and held in his honor. The track meet will be titled, "The Lee Graham Classic," and will feature the finest athletes throughout the city of Portland on the high school and college levels. There will also be several events for "open" and "masters" age groups. A total of 12 specialty events are being planned. The tentatively scheduled date is August 10, 1985 at Jefferson High School.

Historically, only business leaders, members of the legal profession, educators, and professional athletes have been honored by members of our community. We feel that this pattern should be broken and a new one established and set into motion. Lee Graham has been unrecognized for too long by those with limited vision and little depth of realism. Mr. Graham was a bus driver for Alderman Farms for years and was directly responsible for getting hundreds of young people employed during the summer harvest season in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He has been a major force in the movement to keep young people off "the streets" and out of trouble. His love and dedication to the young people of his

community mandated that he adopt many important and difficult roles: counselor, father, teacher and employer to an ever-increasing extended family of youth during the past 30 years. The young people loved him, were in awe of him, and most importantly respected him because they knew that he was "for real" and that he had their best interests at

Mr. Graham is a strong and committed man who has never allowed his emotional love for youth to blind



**LEE GRAHAM** 

him to their need for discipline and a positively structured environment. Since his retirement from Alderman Farms, Mr. Graham has remained actively supportive and involved in his community. He is a member of numerous organizations that serve young people, in addition to being a member of Jefferson High School's Dad's Club. He has become a permanent and welcome fixture in the grandstands and bleachers at city athletic events, and he has not missed a Jefferson ball game or track meet in over

20 years. We are asking for your support and participation so that we can make this event a celebration that appropriately honors an individual who has made such a significant contribution to our community. Leo Graham is a man who deserves to see our respect and admiration for the many years of service that he has so unselfishly dedicated himself to.

Please help in our effort to make this community-based event a successful and meaningful celebration of the spirit of achievement that so appropriately honors Mr. Lee Graham. He has contributed so much to the youth of Portland's northeast com-

We are in need of a variety of items for the track meet. Articles such as t-shirts, shoes, trophies, gift certificates, medals, record albums and/or any other contributions that you might be able to donate would be very much appreciated by us as we prepare for this event.

We are a non-profit organization and all financial and "in-kind" contributions are tax deductible. We would of course recognize your contributions to people attending the event, or respect a desire to remain anonymous if that is your preference.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions and if you would like to make arrangements to contribute in some way to the success of this community event.

Thank you.

ROSE CITY PLANNERS Leon Lincoln John Mays Leon McKenzie Ernie Smith VonRay Johnson Grace McKenzie Carol Walden