



P.O.I.C. graduates, L-R (front) Debra Mannings, Keith McRoberts, Elaine Higgins, Denise Walker, Marie Skellenger, Leska Adams, (rear) David Wilson, Velma Sykes, Dennis Wolfe, Jeaneen McGaw, James Murphy, Kathleen Johnston.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

POIC Training Program Grads Honored

by Bob Lothian

Denise Walker graduated at the top of her class Friday. Walker, 33, mother of three, became an expert word processor in just 15 weeks through the secretarial/word processing training program of the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Council (POIC).

Walker learned to type 70 words per minute on computerized equipment donated by IBM, without mistakes. In addition, she completed the course and went on to cover advanced material, "a very difficult accomplishment," said POIC word processing center manager Susan O'Hara.

Our of 13 students in the program's first graduating class, four have jobs, including Walker. The rest have good prospects of finding a job soon, said O'Hara.

The graduates were honored Friday night during a ceremony at Westminster Presbyterian Church. They were recognized for their efforts at coming from low-income, unemployed backgrounds to learn a marketable skill in 15 weeks.

"There is one thing they have in common and that is each and every one of them made a commitment to change their lives," O'Hara said.

"It's a new beginning," said Oliver Smith, assistant to Mayor Bud Clark.

Walker started work April 14 as an administrative assistant at CODA, Comprehensive Options for Drug Abusers, at a salary of over \$1200 a month.

"Nothing," is what she had as a mother receiving public assistance in North Portland, she said.

Senior Citizen Annual Fishing Derby

The month of May is Older Americans Month. On May 30th at Saivies Island Oak Island area on Steele Lake the Urban League of Portland, along with other providers of services to seniors, will hold its Annual Senior Citizen Fishing Derby. The event begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

Each year over 300 senior citizens participate in the day's exciting ac-

"This is a new beginning for me and my family and my children," said the proud graduate.

James Murphy, 37, had been unemployed for two years but after completing the training program he went to work in the word processing department of North Pacific Insurance Co., where he makes \$1100 a month starting salary.

"It kind of reaffirmed my faith in humanity a little bit," Murphy said about the training program.

Class vice-president Keith McRoberts said the program shows what disadvantaged people can do when given a chance.

"A program of this magnitude deserves to give more people the opportunity that we had," McRoberts said.

O'Hara said the second cycle has expanded to include 20 students. Over 1300 applicants are waiting in line, she said. As she talked, a woman came up and wanted to know how she could sign up.

O'Hara said applicants must be 18 or over, have a high school diploma or G.E.D., and be economically disadvantaged, unemployed or underemployed.

The program teaches word processing, clerical skills, production typing, and proofreading, "with a heavy emphasis on English," she said.

Modelled after an IBM/Urban League joint program in Tacoma, O'Hara said the Portland program is financed by grants from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and the Fred Meyer Foundation.

For them, the derby is a chance to enjoy the outdoors, mingle with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy a few hours of fishing. These are activities many seniors have little opportunity to participate in.

The media has always done an outstanding job of providing coverage of this event. We hope to see you there again this year on May 30th!

Let's Talk Basketball

Hey you! Wake up! The Portland Trail Blazers basketball season is finally over. So now, all of you A.C. Green, Maurice Lucas and Peter G. fans can start bragging publicly about the Defending World Champion Los Angeles Lakers. But before you do that let's pause for a moment of silence so that you die hard fans can reaffirm your commitment and loyalty to the Portland Trail Blazers by saying, "BLAZER BASKETBALL HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME". NO!, you say. Well be at ease my friend.

Many NBA fans in Oregon feel Blazer basketball has been anything but good. Except to Blazer management, especially after they were done with team cuts or is it budget cuts. (Remember the Denver trade and Darnell Valentine?) Say it ain't so Jack. How else do you explain the Blazers oh so boring 40-42 season? Did I mention how non-competitive the Blazers were even up to the last game?

Nugget coach Doug Moe was overheard saying before the last Thursday game that he would like his club to be more competitive. He could have added that he would like the Blazers to be less competitive because that's exactly the way Portland performed in last Thursday's game at Memorial Coliseum.

The 116-112 Nuggets victory over Portland was done with cool, concise, precision. Denver knew all they had to do was stay close to the Blazers and then wear them down at the end of the game.



Back in the first quarter, Thompson and Drexler led the Portland attack with 9 and 8 points respectively, while Fat Lever and Calvin Natt contributed 9 and 5 points respectively and kept Denver in reach of the freewheeling, fastbreaking Portland Trail Blazers.

Portland started the game strong, by utilizing a blistering running attack. Of the first sixteen points, ten of them came via the layup route. I might add many of those layups were a result of some fine passing by four Blazers (Carr - Thompson - Colter and Clyde Drexler) and Kiki Vandeweghe was usually on the receiving end of those passes.

After one quarter Portland led 33-24 and appeared to have the game under control. Meanwhile back at the Nuggets ranch, there didn't seem to be much concern about the nine point deficit. After all Portland outscored them not outplayed them.

Both teams opened the second quarter with their running units. Portland line-up of Carr, Paxson, Porter and Jones played hard defense and pushed Portland's lead to as much as 16 points in the second quarter.

Jones, who until now had been a non-factor, hit all four of his field goal attempts for 8 points and had 5 rebounds in the second quarter, after which he went back to being a non-factor.



Napier Named Vice Pres

Harold (Gene) Napier has been named Vice President for Facilities Engineering, Management and Operations of Nero and Associates, Inc. (NAI) at the company's corporate headquarters in Portland, Oregon, according to David M. Nero, Jr., Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board.

Napier was most recently Project Manager of the Palmdale, California Air Force Plant Number 42.

Napier joined NAI in 1981 after four years of Air Force and 23 years of NASA experience in facilities engineering and maintenance.

Paxson, playing like a seasoned veteran, scored 10 points and had 2 assists in 14 minutes of playing time in the first half.

Denver played poorly in the first half. They shot 43.5 percent — 20 of 46 attempts — while Portland made 26 of 44 attempts on 59.1 percent shooting. The result was a 63-52 halftime lead in favor of Portland.

The third quarter was all Fat Lever, who seemed to wake up after being held scoreless in the 2nd quarter.

The Nuggets point guard scored 19 of his 30 game high points in Denver's explosive 3rd quarter. Most of his irreparable damage was done in the last 3 minutes of the 3rd quarter when he bombed in not one but two 3 point field goals.

You might say his lucky number was 3. Denver won the series 3-1.

While Lever's deft outside shooting continued, Denver started to score down low.

With 7 minutes left in the third quarter, Rasmussen came in for Natt and promptly scored and picked up a foul on Drexler who had a un-Clyde-like game (16 points - 2 assists - 3 rebounds and 6 fouls). A few plays later, Lever rebounds in a basket, and shortly after that, Rasmussen rebounds his own miss for a layup.

Despite all of Denver's efforts, Portland stubbornly held on to a 13 point lead at the end of the 3rd quarter.

One thing was obvious... Denver's game plan was working better than the Blazers.

At the end of the 3rd quarter, the momentum was beginning to swing in Denver's favor — one key indicator was the rebound totals that showed Denver taking the advantage 36-32.

A confident Denver team started the fourth period down by 4 and they were ready to overhaul and overrun the lackadaisical Blazers.

The Nuggets managed to stay close throughout the 4th period before taking their first lead with 3:00 minutes to go on an all-pro lean-in 15 foot jumper by Lever that propelled them into a 108-107 advantage.

Once Portland fell behind, their offense collapsed. They scored 5 points in the last 4 minutes of the game.

After Drexler failed to score, Denver went to the well one more time and got two points from Shayes, making the score 110-107.

All-star guard Jim Paxson tied the score at 110-110 on a 3 point shot with 1:24 to play.

Then Alex English put Denver ahead for good when no one blocked him out and he rebounded his own missed shot with 1:10 to go.

What happened in the next 1:02 was typical of many Blazer endings. Drexler tried to drive on T.R. Dunn and picked up an offensive foul — 6th foul — bye, Clyde.

Dunn gave his teammates a scare when he went down with what appeared to be a severe knee injury — he bumped knees with Drexler, that's all, ouch!

Kenny Carr, the Blazer with the most heart, did all he could to keep Portland in the playoff hunt when he brought Portland to within two points of a tie. Then the bottom fell out for the last time.

The Nuggets ran the game clock

"We live by admiration, hope and love." William Wordsworth

down to 14 seconds because Portland's defense forced them out of their offense. Terry Porter felt he could steal the ball from the Nuggets Mike Evans but was charged with a foul with only 2 seconds left on the shot clock 25 feet from the basket.

Evans made both free-throws and closed out another Portland Trail Blazers season. Need I say more? I didn't think so.

Next season let's hope for more competitiveness, instead of hopelessness and forgetfulness.

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