

SPORTS

Blazers And AVIA Sponsor Competition For Students To Tackle 'Prejudice'

The Portland Trail Blazers and AVIA Group International are again sponsoring an essay competition for students grades 1-12. The "Write-On" competition is part of the three segment Blazer/AVIA Scholastic Improvement Concepts (BASIC) program which is co-sponsored by Bank of America and *The Oregonian*. The topic for this year's essay competition is "Prejudice."

"We choose the topic of 'Prejudice' because we believe that it is important for our youth to think about this subject," said Wally Scales, vice-president of special events for the Blazers and BASIC program coordinator. "In simple terms, prejudice means having a preconceived judgement or opinion. There are many types of prejudice: ethnic, religious, economic, physical...the subject really has no boundaries. Students are encouraged to write on any aspect of the topic (i.e. experiences, thoughts, types, ideas, etc.). It is our hope that the students, in studying this subject, will gain new insight into themselves and the world around them."

Students throughout the state of Oregon and Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in Southwest Washington are invited to participate in the essay competition. Participating schools are asked to select the best essay entry for each grade level. Basic program ambassadors at each school will then forward these top essays to the appropriate Education Service District (ESD) for their region. Each ESD will then determine the top entries at each grade level for their area. All first place regional entries will then be forwarded to the Portland Trail Blazers. The Portland

Council International Reading Association will select a grand prize winner for each grade level.

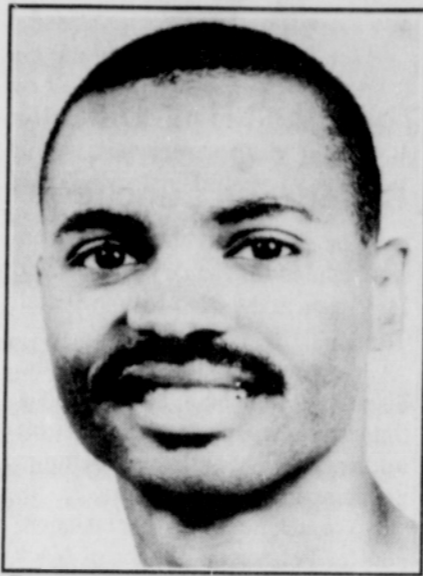
A special category has been established for home taught and handicapped students. Entries from this category should be sent directly to the BASIC Program Coordinators at the Portland Trail Blazer office: 700 N. E. Multnomah, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97232. Ten names will be drawn from these entries to receive autographed Blazer basketballs.

Special recognition certificates will be awarded to all essay program entrants. Regional first place winners selected by their respective ESD will each receive an AVIA BASIC athletic bag. The grand prize winners at each grade level will have the chance to attend the Trail Blazer game at Memorial Coliseum in Portland on April 18th. In addition to receiving four tickets to the game, the top winners will be presented a host of prizes including AVIA athletic shoes and an autographed team ball. They will also be invited to a pre-game reception with BASIC chairman Clyde Drexler.

Schools must submit their top essays for each grade level to their ESD by no later than February 28th. Special category entries must be received at the Blazer office by March 11th.

Students, teachers or parents requiring additional information about the BASIC "Write-On" essay competition should contact the BASIC ambassador at their respective school. Special category entry forms can be obtained by calling the BASIC Hotline: (503)231-5275.

Trail Blazers Activate Strothers, Waive Young



Danny Young

The Portland Trail Blazers announced Tuesday that they have activated guard Lamont Strothers from the injured list and requested waivers on veteran guard Danny Young. Strothers is expected to be in uniform when Portland hosts the Orlando Magic on Tuesday evening.

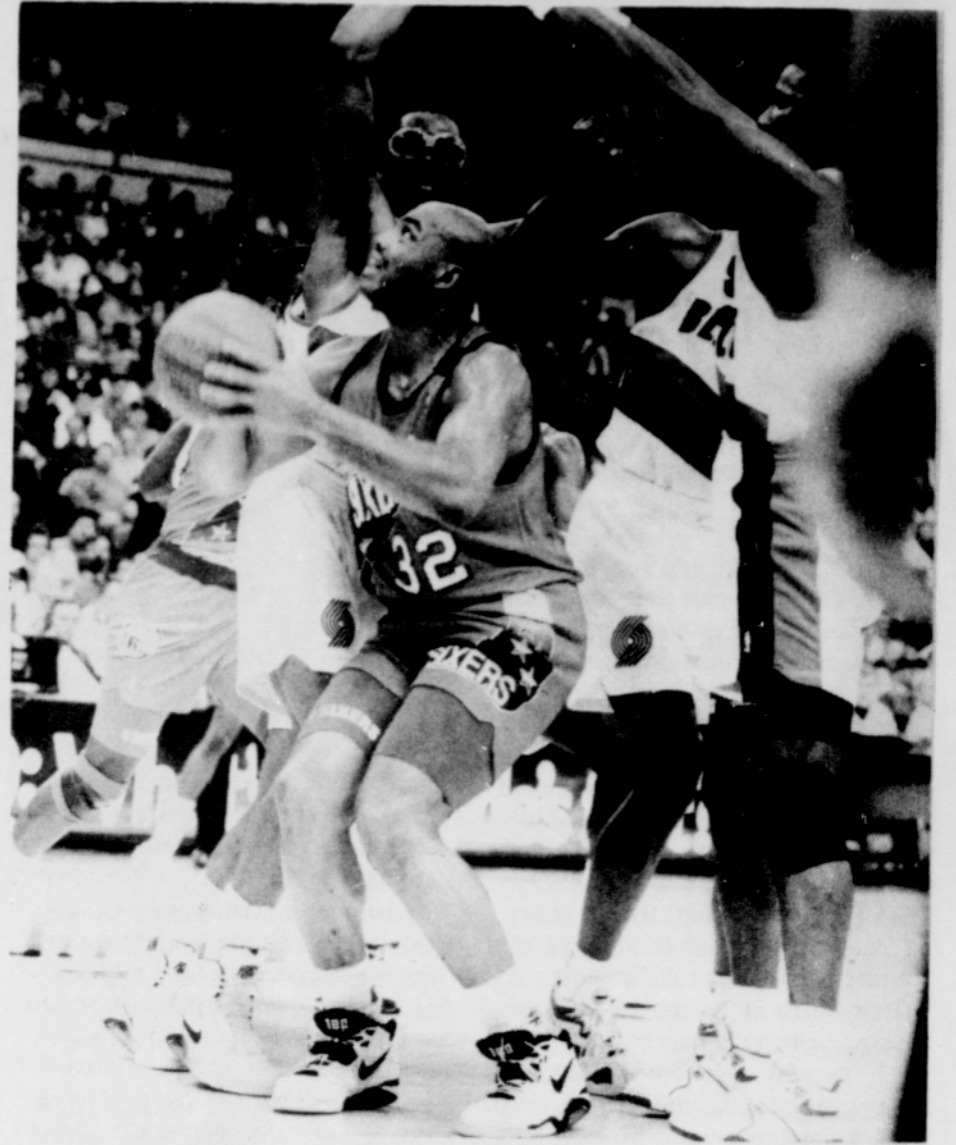
Strothers, a 6-foot-4 guard out of Christopher Newport college, averaged 5.6 points, 2.0 rebounds and 11.2 minutes, shooting .600 from the floor, in five appearances in Portland's six-game preseason. He was slowed by back spasms that forced him to the team's injured list on Oct. 31. Strothers had averaged 17.4 points and 4.9 assists in eight games of the Rocky Mountain Revue in Salt Lake City last August. The Trail Blazers acquired Strothers in a draft-day trade with Golden State,

which had selected him with the 43rd pick of the 1991 college draft. The Warriors received the Blazers' second round draft choices in 1995 and 1999.

"Strothers adds some young talent to our mix of veterans," said Geoff Petrie, the Blazers' Senior Vice-President of Operations. "The decision to go with Lamont and waive Danny Young was a very difficult one for us to make. Young was solid and dependable, but we very much like the potential that Strothers displayed during an outstanding collegiate career."

Young had appeared in 18 games in this, his fourth, season with the Trail Blazers, averaging 2.5 points, 1.1 assists and 7.4 minutes. He joined the Blazers after signing a free agent contract on Nov. 3, 1991. He had played three full seasons and part of a fourth with the Seattle SuperSonics before being waived. In his eight years in the league, Young has averaged 4.7 points, 3.0 assists and 16.9 minutes, shooting .443 from the field, in 458 games. He scored a career-high 21 point versus Denver on December 23, 1990.

Strothers, a First Team Division III All-American last season, set an NCAA record for all divisions by scoring in double figures in 116 consecutive games, each contest in his four-year career. He finished as the third-leading scorer in Division III history with 2,709 points, a career average of 23.3 points. Golden State made the 23-year-old Strothers the Division III player taken the highest ever in the NBA Draft with the 43rd pick.



Charles Barkley and the Philadelphia 76ers got shut down by the hot shooting Portland Trail Blazers 115-102 Sunday Night at the Memorial Coliseum. Strong Blazer defense held Barkley to 21 points and a season low three rebounds. The Blazers take on the Pistons Friday at Detroit.

For Best Results Advertise in the Observer

Trail Blazers To Air Second Prime Time Special

Blazer Broadcasting recaps the first half of the 1991-92 National Basketball Association season with its second prime time special of the year, entitled "Blazer Trail...A Midseason Report." The show will air Thursday, January 16 at 8 p.m. on KOIN-TV. Blazer fans in the greater Eugene-Springfield area can see the special at 7 p.m. on "Oregon's FOX," KLSR-TV.

Bill Schonely hosts the 60-minute program which includes highlights from the first three months of the regular season. A special feature offers an up-close and personal look at rookie Robert

Pack, who's one of the biggest Blazer free agent surprises since Billy Ray Bates.

The Trail Blazers will be playing in a new building in 1994-95. A report from Pat Lafferty updates fans on the Oregon Arena Project. The Blazers/AVIA Scholastic Improvements Concepts (BASIC) program is in its eighth year. Viewers can find out how BASIC is encouraging youngsters to increase their interest in reading.

Blazer Broadcasting will have a musical tribute to one of the all-time greats, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who

earlier this season retired from basketball after testing positive for the HIV virus. Terry Porter offers his perspective on common issues facing today's NBA players.

Mike Rice goes one-on-one with coach Rick Adelman, as they take a look back at the first half of the regular season and a look forward to what the second half may have in store for Portland. Steve Jones pairs with Rice as the two analysts dissect part one of the 1991-92 NBA campaign and offer their insights and predictions for what lies ahead.

Bob Lanier To Visit Portland's Middle Schools

One of the National Basketball Association's all-time greats, Bob Lanier, will be in Portland this Thursday and Friday as he visits middle school students across the country promoting the NBA's "Stay in School...It's Your Best Move!" program. Lanier, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, will visit three schools in Portland, highlighted by his stop at Harriet Tobman Middle School. The following is a list of his school visit itinerary:

Thursday, January 9, Harriet Tubman Middle School, 2231 N. Flint, Portland, OR 97227 at 2:00.

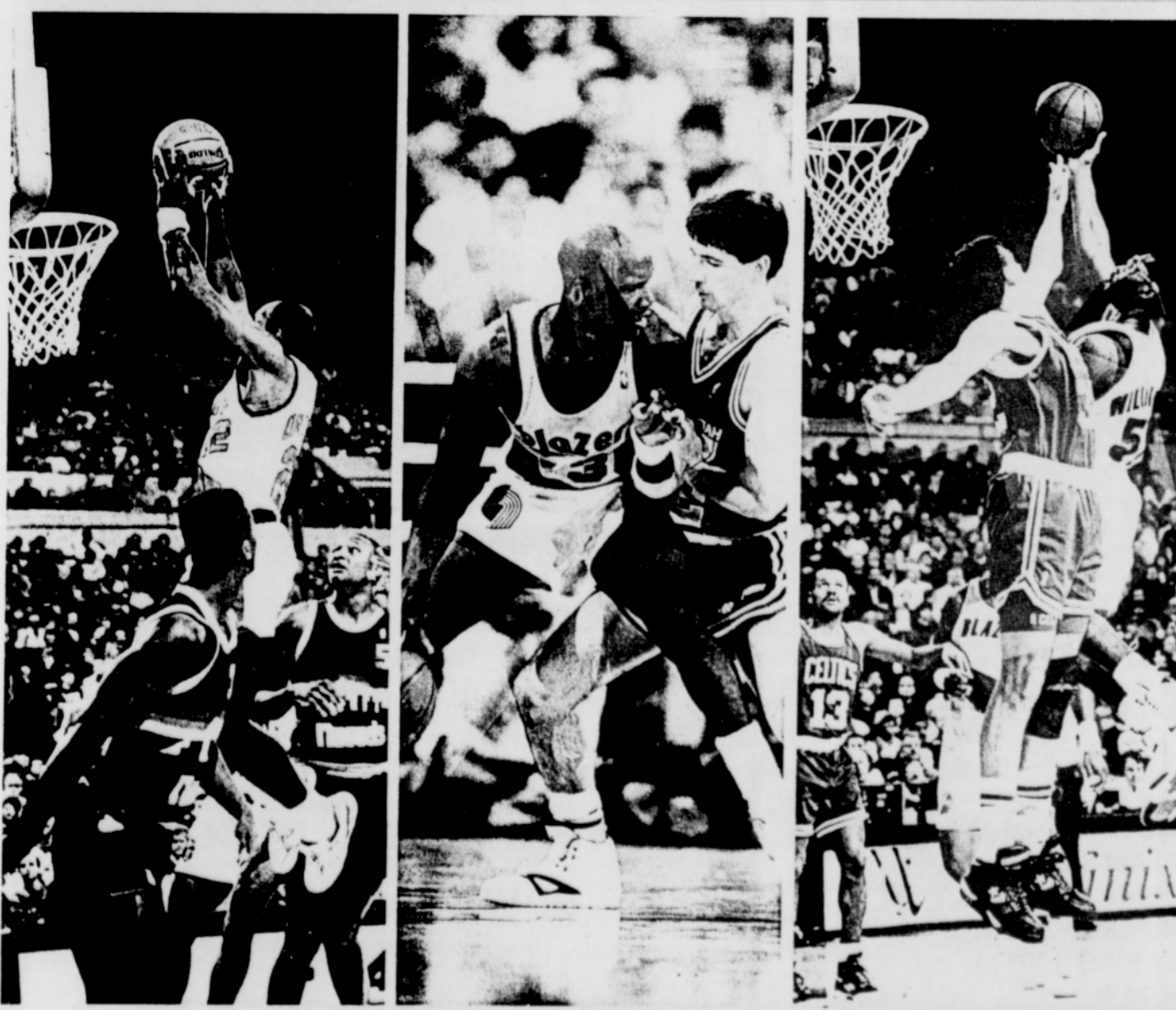
Friday, January 10, Ockley Green Middle School, 6031 N. Montana, Portland, Or 97211 at 10:45 a.m.

Whittaker Middle School, 5700 N. E. 39th, Portland, Or 97211 at 1:45 p.m.

Over the course of 11 weeks, Lanier will travel to 11 NBA cities, making inspirational speeches on the importance of education. Lanier, who has served as the National chairman of the NBA Stay in School Program since its creation in 1989, feels that these school visits can contribute to improving dropout statistics. "I really believe we can touch a young person's life," he says.

"It's a domino effect: if I can affect the lives of two or three students here, two or three students there, all over the country - and they in turn do the same thing - then things will get better." Lanier will talk with students about self-esteem and the importance of a high school education. "I think at most of the visits you could see that kids really get into it," says Lanier. "Instead of talking at them, I try to get the kids actively involved in discussions and responses, so many kids are looking for self esteem and positive role models to reach out to. That's what we're trying to do for them."

FREE STATEWIDE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN



GENERAL INFORMATION and REGISTRATION

Standard Insurance Company OFFICIAL TEAM ENTRY FORM

Please fill in all appropriate information below and mail to: Portland Trail Blazers - Dept. S - 700 NE Multnomah - Portland, OR 97232

COMPANY NAME: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

COMPANY ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE (DAY) _____ (EVE) _____

LIST EACH MEMBER'S NAME, AGE & ADDRESS BELOW: (#1 must be company employee)

1. NAME: _____ AGE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

2. NAME: _____ AGE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

3. NAME: _____ AGE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

4. NAME: _____ AGE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

***EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATION:**
I certify that the first member listed is a valid employee of this company.

(Must be signed by company official or representative.)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JAN. 24!

BRACKET: (Please check one)
 WOMEN 19+ MEN 40+
 MEN 30-39 MEN 19-29

REGION: (Please check one)
 PORTLAND SALEM
 EUGENE MEDFORD

1. A team must begin the game with at least three eligible players. If fouls or injury reduces the roster to two, the game may continue. A team may not continue with only one player.
2. As a general guideline, rules for Oregon High School basketball games are in effect for this tournament. On matters not specified in these rules, the decision of the game official will be final.
3. Games start with a coin toss: there are no jump balls. Possession will alternate in "jump ball" situations.
4. **SCORING.** Two points for a field goal; one point for a free throw. Three-point field goals will be awarded for field goals made behind the three-point line. The winner is the first team to score 21 points.
5. **FOULS.** Three personal fouls will disqualify a player. Upon the fourth "team" foul, each foul will award the other team with two free throws. Offensive fouls DO count as individual and team fouls. A player fouled in the act of shooting will be awarded two shots (one shot if the basket was made).
6. Good sportsmanship and conduct is required throughout the tournament. The official is empowered to call technical fouls. Any team assessed two technical fouls in a game is automatically disqualified.
7. When a basket is made by Team "A," the next possession belongs to Team "B." After a score by Team "A," the ball must be handled by the official, then must be inbounded anywhere behind the three-point line to begin play. On any change of possession, the ball must be "cleared" beyond the three-point line.
8. After a steal or after rebounding a missed shot by Team "A," Team "B" must clear the ball behind the three-point line. Then play can continue by means of a pass, dribble or shot.
9. Each team is allowed one time out per game. However, the official may stop play at any time because of a player injury. Jewelry is not to be worn.
10. Failure to comply with tournament roster rules will result in disqualification.