

SPORTS

Terry Porter Assists On And Off The Court

BY BILL BARBER

Recently, I was talking to a good friend of mine, who is not much of a sports fan, about some of the finer points of basketball. We were doing okay until I said "Terry Porter is famous on the basketball court in the category of assists." "What is an assist?" was the discussion-halting question. "Assists means instead of taking a shot at the basket yourself, you pass the ball off to a teammate that has an even better chance to make a basket." "That's sweet...He must be a very considerate and generous person," my good friend observed. Sweet?!? Basketball fans have to admit, Porter's three-point shot is as "sweet" as anyone in the NBA. Opponents don't think he is sweet when he steals the ball from them. "Sweet" was obviously meant in a different context. A reference to Terry Porter's inner man. Not the outer man that basketball fans seem very familiar with. During the subsequent interview I went in search of the "inner man" not everyone sees in Terry Porter.

"I've been involved with Project Graduation for five or six years," Porter stated. "It is important that we let kids know that when high school students do celebrate graduation that they do it without the use of alcohol, because there have been so many tragic things that have happened. So many have celebrated with alcohol and it caused them to lose their lives."

Porter also has been a key fundraiser for a group of local business people called "The Sixth Man Foundation." "Kermit Washington came up with the idea," said Porter. "Sixth Man gives aid to a variety of people who need it, no matter what the reason. We have helped people who may have lost a job and need money for surgery

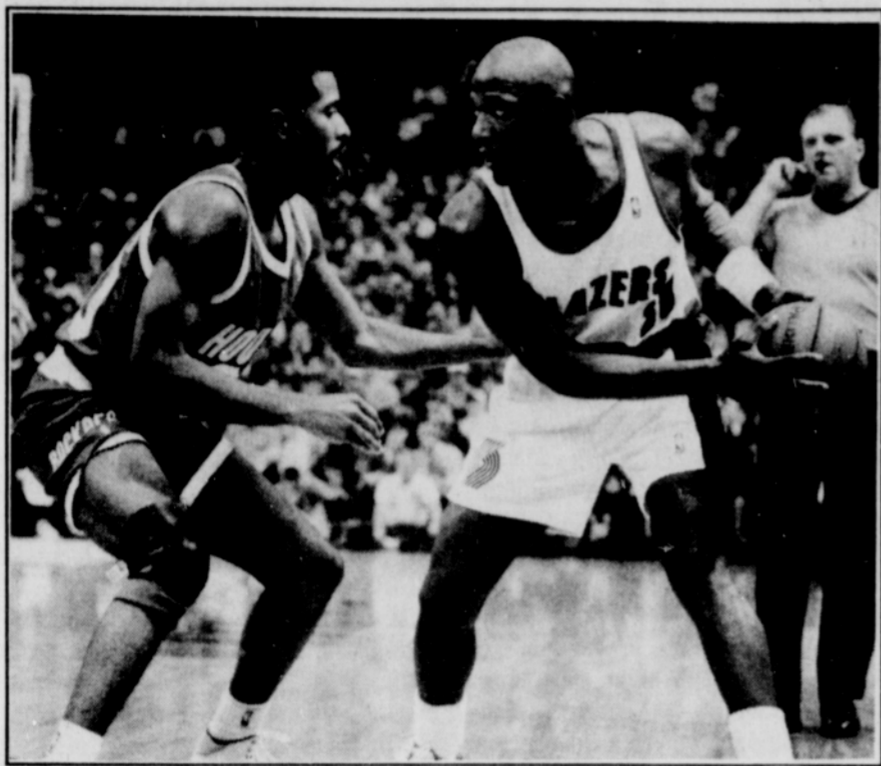


Photo by Veronica Green

by putting on a summer celebrity softball game and things of that nature. We try to get the public out to the game."

"I'm very excited about the Boys and Girls Club here in Portland. Growing up I was really involved with the Boys and Girls Club, so that really hits home," Porter stated with genuine pride. "I've been involved with that club for the last four or five years and I get a lot of energy and a lot of excitement out of being able to go over there and being able to visit with the kids." Then there is the "Exchange Club." That is something Terry and Jerome Kersey cooked up with the Phoenix Suns. "When we play the Suns in Phoenix we take three students from the Portland metropolitan area Boys and Girls Clubs. The three kids are selected from those who have maintained a grade point average of at least 2.5, have a good attendance

record, and have a recommendation for their teacher and the principal of their school. They are also in good standing with the Boys and Girls Club. When the Phoenix Suns come to Portland, they bring three of their Boys and Girls Club kids with them. If the game is during the week, the kids get to go to school in the other town, and the local Boys Club, in addition to going to the game. Plus they get to come into the locker room and meet the players. These are kids who don't have the opportunity to see the world and different cultures. It really opens their eyes to what else is out there."

Few people know that Terry Porter also set up a scholarship program at his Alma Mater - University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point). There wasn't any big fanfare. "It is just something I feel very strong about. I had the opportunity to

go to a very good school, and they treated me very well. It is something I wanted to give back by helping the minorities who may get the opportunities to get a scholarship. I wanted give something back to all those who helped me," he finished.

You might ask Terry Porter why he goes to all the trouble to be that active in the community? After all, with the kind of money he makes he could just kick back and let life roll by. With his wife Susie, due to have a baby this summer, and commitments off the court, why bother? "It is the satisfaction of giving something back" he confided. As I was growing up I had some of the same obstacles that these kids have to try to get over. I want to help them get over them and let them know that there are a lot of things to achieve in life. Talking to Terry Porter gives you the feeling that this man has some real direction to his life. Sure we all know what he does for a living, but he goes way beyond that. He really seeks out a purpose for living with Olympic zeal. When asked how he would like to be remembered by the people in Portland (not just the fans) he responded, "I hope they will say he is very sincere about trying to help kids realize how much life they have to live, how important it is to set goals and try to achieve those goals. Encouraging them to be a good person and always try to help someone who is in need."

Terry lost both of his parents in recent years. His dad Herman would really be proud of the kind of man he turned out to be. His mom Louise would probably be sitting with someone like my good friend, who is not a sports fan, just talking about how "sweet" he is. The world is full of givers and takers. Terry Porter is a giver.

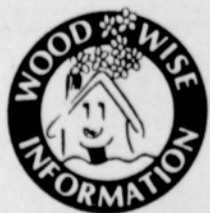
Birth Announcements

Larry Darnell Patterson Jr., was born January 23, 1992 to Larry Darnell Patterson and Jeanette Margret Allen Patterson of 526 N. Baldwin, Portland, Oregon 97217. Darnell Jr. weighed 7lb 2 1/2 oz.; his height was 20 1/2 inches. His sisters are Larika, LaMeka, LaQueena and LaKendra Patterson. his grandparents are Helen and Floyd Patterson and Perry and Lucious Allen, all of Portland Oregon.



Ella Jenkins, children's folk singer, is a guest on an all-new week about Imaginary Friends. On Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, premiering in most areas February 24-28 on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Through her songs, Ella Jenkins invites children to imagine and pretend. "The ability to imagine is one of the most useful tools children need for their learning," says Fred Rogers and focuses this week on imagination and children's use of imaginary friends. This segment is part of program #1650 scheduled for February 28. Contact David Newell at 412/687-2990. Photo: Terry Clark

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If you have any questions, contact Angela Greer, Banquet Coordinator - 284-3996.

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Peninsula Little League Signups

BOYS AND GIRLS TEE-BALL --- 6 to 8 years

GIRLS SOFTBALL --- 6 to 15 years

BOYS BASEBALL --- 6 to 15 years

S I G N U P S

SATURDAY, February 8, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

SATURDAY, February 15, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

SATURDAY, February 22, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

SATURDAY, February 29, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

T R Y O U T S

SATURDAY, February 29, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

SATURDAY, March 7, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- IRVING PARK

SATURDAY, March 14, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- IRVING PARK

SATURDAY, March 21, 1992 --- 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. --- PENINSULA PARK

YOU MUST ATTEND AT LEAST TWO (2) TRY OUTS

DEADLINE FOR SIGN UPS IS MARCH 28, 1992 at 5:00 P.M. -- Late Registrations Forms must be delivered to 6204 No. Moore, Portland, Oregon 97217. 284-4805 Keith Edwards, President; 287-7382 Chuck Washington, Vice-President; 289-8306 Corrine Porter, Vice-President of Softball; 287-4400 Marilyn Britton, Secretary; and 289-3406 Shirley Beers, Team Player Agent.

REGISTRATION FEES: \$15.00 per child) THESE REGISTRATIONS FEES
\$25.00 per family) ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR CHILD(REN)'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!