

SPORTS

Benson Girls Are Still Rolling

Benson had two easy wins last week-75 to 32 over Marshall and 55 to 28 over Cleveland. Center Mfann Udaka scored 21 points in the win over Marshall. Forward Kim Green had a season high of 16 points against the Warriors.

Wilson stayed one full game behind Benson with two wins over Roosevelt, 55-44 and 53-36 over Grant. Rachel Ferguson's 15 points paced the Trojans over the Rough Riders, who were led by Amonda Campbell's 16 points. Again it was Ferguson with 18 points in the win over the Generals. Jefferson won one and lost one last week. The loss came from Lincoln 57-52 in overtime. Jennifer Wilson led the Cardinals with 10 points. This weeks Observer "Player of the Week", Kenoris Blackman scored 23 points. Blackman also added 24 points in tech 61-24 win over Madison.

Lincoln also won over Marshall

47-23 behind Jennifer Stout's nine points and upped it record to 6-5.

Franklin is also at 6-5 after losing to Roosevelt 52-46 and beating Cleveland 45-40. Campbell again led Roosevelt with 25 big points, and Melanie Rose led the Quakers with 12 points. Michelle McDade's 12 points led the win over Cleveland. The Warriors Julie Grahn scored 25 points in a losing effort. Both Benson and Wilson won two games last week to stay tied for the lead in the P.I.L. with 8 and 2 records.

Benson beat Marshall 75-69 on Thursday is Richy Briggs scored 23 points for the techmen. Rob Buen led the Minutemen with 21. Tech came back the next night to win in overtime at Cleveland 67-66. Jeff Nailar was the high scorer for Benson with 21 points. Jamain Branch scored 22 for the Warriors.

Wilson kept pace with Benson after beating Roosevelt 81-46. The

Trojans' got 17 points from Tyron Manlove. While the Rough Riders were led by David Feris' 13 points. On Friday the Trojans just got by Grant 75-73 as Derrick Geas had 18 points. The Generals were led by the Observer "Player of the Week, K J Dawkins' 20 points.

In other games Jefferson improved to 5-4 with wins over Lincoln 75-40 and over Madison 92-60. The Demos were led by Mitchell Jackson, 27 points and Denmark Reid with 23 points. Joel Greene was the high man for the Senators with 17 points.

Grant beat Madison 76-53, as Dawkins again led the way with 16 points. Tim Conklin's 19 points led the Senators. Cleveland got a season high 27 points from Brandon Maye in a 111-63 beating of Franklin. The Quakers were again led by Nate Williams, who scored 18 points. Williams had 19 points that led his teams win over Roosevelt 76-51.

HighSchool Basketball Highlites



photo by Veronica Green

Left - #20 Brandon Moye for Cleveland goes up for the slam dunk during last Friday's match up with Benson. Benson beat Cleveland in overtime 67-66.

Right - It was a fierce competitive battle between Tubman and Portsmouth last Saturday with Tubman winning 48-43. Smooth shooting forward Kendall Smith sank about four long range shots to help his team win.

P.I.L. Basketball Scores for Boys

Jan. 29, 1993	Jan. 30, 1993
Boys	Boys
Grant 76, Madison 53	Jefferson 92, Madison 60
Wilson 81, Roosevelt 46	Benson 67, Cleveland 66, OT
Cleveland 111, Franklin 63	Marshall 44, Lincoln 33
Benson 75, Marshall 69	Wilson 75, Grant 73
Jefferson 75, Lincoln 40	Franklin, Roosevelt 51

An Open Letter To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Super Bowl XXVII - No-Freedom-Bowl"

Dear Dr. King:

"The more things change, the more they remain the same." On Monday, January 18th, the nation celebrated your 64th birthday. Dr. King, in 1947 Jackie Robinson integrated Major League baseball, in 1952, Earl Lloyd became professional basketball's first Black to play in an NBA game. In 1989, Al Davis became the first NFL owner to hire a Black Coach, when he hired Art Shell. Now 46 years after Jackie Robinson, we found Jesse Jackson in Dallas meeting with baseball owners, to express concerns about minority hiring. In New York City, directors of 3 player unions met to discuss ways to encourage minority job advancement, that in itself is a sad commentary on behalf of professional sports.

The NBA is 75% Black, of the 27 teams, there are only 5 Black head coaches, 3 hired in the last month. The NFL is 62% Black, has only 2 Black coaches. Dr. King, would you believe that Major League baseball is only 17% Black, Jackie Robinson must be turning over in his grave.

Sports arenas around the country are the field of play for thousands of Black athletes, at the professional sports level. History reports as early as the 17th century, that we were America's first professional athletes. The plantation owners who had become fat and rich as a result of slave labor, decided there was a need for excitement and recreation to fulfill

their lives. During those times, the plantations were divided into two divisions, NFC South and AFC North. The NFC was known as the Negro Farm Conference and AFC was the African Farm Conference. All the players were Black, and the owners, general managers, coaches and team doctors were all white. The players carried the colors of the plantations on to the playing field, in the plantation verses plantation ball games. Some of those players were such great athletes, they were given their freedom, after playing for the NFL championship (Nigra Fun League).

Dr. King, 25 years ago you gave your life in an effort to free your people, but the struggle for freedom continues today. The Super Bowl XXVII was played in Pasadena, California, the NFC met again for pro football's biggest prize, the NFL championship. Three centuries later, there has been little change in the decision making and power structure of the NFL. The team owners and general managers are still all white. "The more things change, the more they remain the same." The NFC is now the National Football Conference, AFC stands for American Football Conference and NFL, the National Football League. The names have changed, but the game remains the same. The best example: A recent settled labor dispute between team owners and players, over free agency. As a result some players will be given their freedom

since Superbowl XXVII is over, sound familiar? The sad part of this scenario, the players actually think they are free.

Despite the racial strife in professional sports, which many say is a reflection of our society, Dr. King, your dream is still alive. But it is on a life support system, thanks to the events marking your birthday and President Clinton's inaugural in Washington, D. C., which should have brought a smile to your face, when our new President Bill Clinton reached out and hugged all of America's people, giving us all a reason to dream again. What a great day and way to celebrate your birthday, by keeping hope alive. I find it ironic, that our new President is from a little town in Arkansas called "Hope." Dr. King, I must confess, this is the first time since your death, I have felt the urge to celebrate.

Someday we will all be free, Happy belated Birthday Martin.

Sincerely,
Harold Bell
Inside Sports
(Harold Bell has a sports talk show on WUST-FM Radio in Washington, D.C. and writes for the Washington New-Observer in the D. C. area.

Harold has been a very close friend of mine for many years and I wanted the readers of the Portland Observer to see his Talents. He is a very gifted speaker and writer, and I'd like to thank him for his many years of support.

John Phillips, Portland Observer

Observer Male Athlete Of The Week



K.J. Dawkins
Grant High School

Observer Female Athlete Of The Week



Kenoris Blackman
Jefferson High School

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