

SPORTS

FORMER BLAZER LLOYD NEAL CARVES OUT SECOND CAREER

BY SUZETTE WASHINGTON AND
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It's easy to define Lloyd Neal as an athlete. After all, the former Portland Trail Blazer was one of the NBA's all-time best. His number 36 jersey hangs from Memorial Coliseum, the first Trail Blazer to have his number retired.

But Neal no longer is employed in sports. He has carved out a successful career in Portland at the Internal Revenue Service.

Seven years of playing professional ball gave Neal great stature in the community, but it took academic performance in school and ambition in life to find a career that would carry him into his later years.

Neal, 43, now looks down the road to a second retirement after he completes 20 plus years with the federal agency.

And he practices what he preaches about hard work paying off in life.

"Effort and preparation will make you succeed or fail," he explains.

When talking to youth, he stresses schools and capitalizing on opportunities, striving for produc-



Former Trail Blazer Lloyd Neal is employed with the Internal Revenue Service in Portland.

tivity and versatility without losing sight of your goals.

He said being marketable, trainable and getting his education are what got him where he is today.

As a successful college player and college draft choice in 1972, he almost didn't join the Blazers because he was discouraged by the salary they wanted to pay him. At that time the team was struggling.

But Neal assessed the offer and decided to try it. He's a big believer in carrying things out to the end and enjoying the finished product.

"I didn't want to go through the

rest of life wondering if I could play in the NBA or couldn't," he said.

Neal found it easy to get job interviews after retiring from the Blazers in 1979, but difficult to get hired. He was 27 at the time.

His first job offer was at First National Bank of Oregon. But he did not accept the position because it required him to travel and the salary was not acceptable.

He returned to the classroom at Tennessee State University and obtained his bachelor degree, graduating with health and physical education as a major and mathematics as a minor.

Neal began working for the IRS in 1982. He's an excellent public relations spokesperson for the agency, holding a position as an adviser in a special procedure unit.

Neal divorced in 1987. He has two daughters, Nikkina, 20 and Janelle, 16.

He enjoys golf, which he has been playing for the last three years, and he likes to cook for others. One of his favorite pastimes is watching classic western movies on his video cassette recorder. His favorite film is the three-hour epic "Once Upon A Time In The West."

He also is involved in helping charities.

Oregon Reign Ladies AAU Basketball Team 1994



Ladies Basketball State Champions, from Left To Right: Michelle Johnson (44), Erin Kate Barton (55), Shaquala Williams (#4), Sabrina Scott (#22), Hilary Reser (#32), Lindsey Yamasaki (#25), Lindsy Estep (#10), Natalie Jacksha (#14), Nikki Ferchland (#15), Cheryl Sorenson (#21), Christine Wilborn (#13), Kim Gainey (#34)

TOM ANSBERRY IN TRAINING FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Portland Distance Runner Fourth at Goodwill Games

The Home Depot, America's largest home improvement retailer, is helping Tom Ansberry, the Portland Distance runner who placed fourth at the Goodwill Games, start a career in business while training for this sport.

Ansberry, who was hired by the Atlanta-based company through the United States Olympic Committee's Olympic Job Opportunities Program (OJOP), works in the hardware department at The Home Depot located at 14800 S. W. Sequoia Parkway, in Tigard, Ore.

Ansberry was fourth in the 10,000-meter run July 24 at the Goodwill Games, with a time of 28:40.74--the best showing by a U.S. athlete in the event. The 30-year-old University of Arizona graduate was fifth in the 1992 U.S. Olympic Trials for the Barcelona Olympic Games.

When he is not training or working part-time at The Home Depot, Ansberry is pursuing a career in hydrology or other water resource-related opportunities.

OJOP is designed to provide athletes with a degree of financial security, an opportunity to progress toward a productive career, and the necessary time off for training and competitions. The program, co-sponsored by Ernst & Young, the leading integrated professional services firm, and The Olsten Corporation, a leader in the staffing service industry, is primarily aimed at athletes in their 20s and 30s who have the potential to participate or who have participated in the Olympic Games.

The majority of the athletes placed in the program are college graduates who have been unable to obtain continuing employment in their degree held because of their training and competition requirements.

"The Olympic Job Opportunities Program has become a vital support program for our Olympic athletes and an attractive opportunity for organizations to participate in the Olympic Movement," USOC President Dr. LeRoy T. Walker said. "It allows athletes the opportunity to

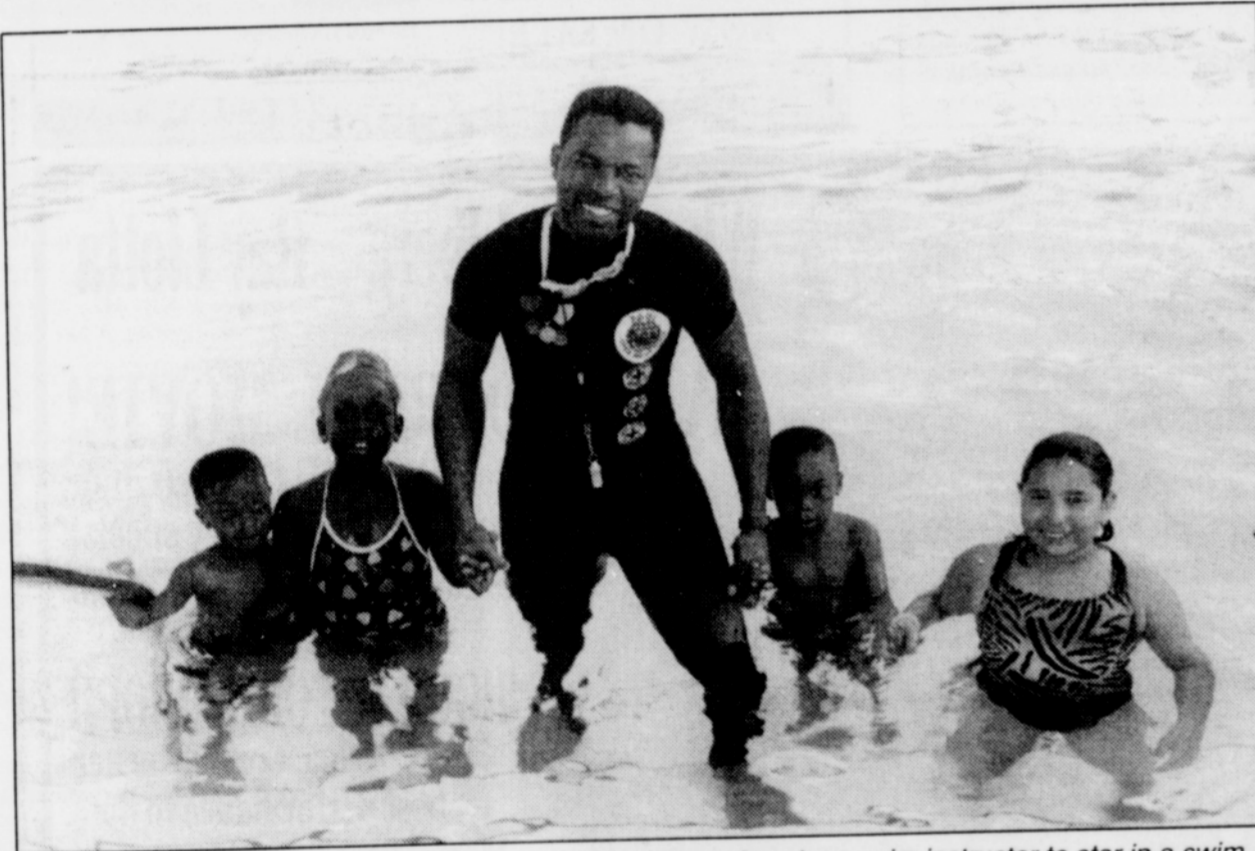
continue their competitive careers while furthering their professional experience, and it provides employers with hard-working, dedicated, goal-oriented employees.

"It is incredibly difficult for an athlete to train for the ultimate in athletics competition--the Olympic Games--because of financial and time constraints. Through OJOP, corporate America has answered the call of our elite athletes," Walker added. "The Home Depot is representative of companies making a tangible contribution to the Olympic Movement and our Olympians."

"Organizations participating in the Olympic Job Opportunities Program are making the impossible come true: allowing athletes to reach the ultimate dream--The Olympic Games--and furthering their chosen professional careers simultaneously," Walker added.

Ansberry was among the first group of Olympic veterans and hopefuls hired by The Home Depot under OJOP. The company expects to be one of the largest OJOP employers by the 1996 Olympic Games, with 60 athletes in the program.

SWIM TEACHER PRODUCES VIDEO



Lee Pitts, a water safety instructor, may be the first African American swim instructor to star in a swim lesson video.

To his many students, he is known as General Lee. Although Lee Pitts, 33, never commanded an army, he has taught hundreds of adults and children to swim over his long distinguished teaching career.

Now he has put his lessons on videotape.

Pitts, a highly-decorated and nationally-recognized certified swim instructor and scuba diver, is writer, director and producer of the award-winning instructional video Waters: Beginner's Swim Lessons For Adults and Children with Lee Pitts.

"It's part of my dream to educate all people, especially African-American, on swimming and water safety and hopefully decrease our

high drowning rates," says the Talladega College graduate. National drowning rates show that black males drown at twice the rate of white males, and Pitts says he's out to change that.

Because swimming could become an avenue of escape, slave owners often tried to ensure that blacks never learned to swim. And when corpses of drowned escapees were retrieved and displayed, blacks became convinced they should stay away from the "unfriendly waters."

"They developed a paranoia which led to the myth that blacks were inherently non-swimmers," states Pitts, who has authored 25 published articles on swimming and water safety. "Sure, all my life I had heard white people tell me that blacks

couldn't swim. But I also heard blacks tell me this too. But I tell you that over my 20 years of teaching swimming, I have taught hundreds of people of all races and ages. To this day, I have not observed any credible evidence that one race is superior to another in learning to swim.

Pitts said the two primary ingredients in the learn-to-swim recipe are the patience and the desire. Keep in mind that there is no microwave speed method of learning to swim, he said.

The video is for ages five and above, runs 50 minutes with 15 swim lessons and can be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$21.95 to Lee Pitts, PO Box 2662, Fort Myers, FL 33902-2662 or call (813) 936-7979.

STRIKE BALL BOXING

Due to the Major League baseball player strike, ESPN will replace its programming for the national pastime with boxing.

Top Rank, Inc., which over the last 14 years has produced the longest running boxing series in television history, will make a pinch-hit appearance to help fans forget that other sport.

A five-fight bout card will take

place on Sunday, September 4, at the Grand Olympic Auditorium, and will be televised live on ESPN at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT.

With the purchase of a fight ticket, Top Rank and Seidman Productions will give away free boxing memorabilia, such as posters, programs, calendars and boxing cards.

Ironically, one of the hottest hit-

ters in boxing---NABF flyweight champ Danny (kid Dynamite) Romero---will bat cleanup and look to score another impressive hit. Romero (18-0, 16 KOs), from Albuquerque, defends his crown against Maroos Pacheco of Mexico. Romero won the title earlier this year by a second-round knockout over Brian Lonon at the Grand Olympic Auditorium.

Top Prospects Pro-Am Summer Classic completed its second year of summer play crowning a new champion, led by Portland's own Cleveland Cavalier, Terrell Brandon. The talented Cavs, who are complimented by former Oregon stars Antoine Stoudamire and big Eric Dunn, a slow start in this year's Pro-Am Summer Classic and finished the season on a 9-0 win streak

after a 2-3 record. The defending champion Lakers, led by the Portland Trailblazers Jerome Kersey's 27 and NBA veteran Ricky Lee's 26 points, didn't go down without a fight. In fact, Kersey and Lakers led most of the game but down the stretch it was Brandon's 40 along with Antoine Stoudamire's 27 points that guided the Cavs to victory. The Cavs won it's first Pro-Am championship defeating the Lakers 69-62. Congratulations to the Cav's Terrell Brandon, Eric Dunn. Antoine Stoudamire, Tim Pittman, Aaron Bell, Charles Green, and Anthony Butler for a championship well-deserved.

This year's talent laden eight team Pro-Am Summer Classic again entertained a number of young and old basketball fans in the community. Prior to last week's championship game, the Cav's Terrell Brandon scored 64 points in the Cavs final regular season game, setting a new Pro-Am Summer classic scoring record and securing back-to-back



scoring titles with a 36.2 points per game average!

The Pro-Am Summer Classic provides an outlet for local professionals and top amateur players to practice and enhance their skills in the off season. It also provides an opportunity for inner-city youth, who might not be able to afford the high cost of a professional game, to learn first hand from the pro's at no cost. To further enhance competition, the league became NCAA-sanctioned this year to allow several top student-athletes to participate and improve their skills. This year's league featured top local collegians such as University of Portland's 1st Team All-West Coast Conference player Canaan Chatman, Montana State's Nico Harrison, Oregon's vastly improved Orlando Williams, and Arizona's Final four floor general and All-American Damon Stoudamire, also finished 2nd on this year's Pro-Am Summer Classic scoring chart with a 31.5 points per

game average! Professionals who played this year included, Portland Trailblazer's Cliff Robinson, Jerome Kersey, James "Hollywood" Robinson, and Mark Bryant. Cleveland Cavalier, and Pro-Am Summer Classic Two-time scoring champion Terrell Brandon, as well as former Trailblazer's Kevin Duckworth and Darnell Valentine.

Top Prospects wishes the best of luck to the professionals and collegians who competed in this year's Pro-Am Summer Classic. We would also like to express special thanks to the Salvation Army and league co-sponsors Ted Peterson, Mid-K Beauty Supplies, and Selby Bridge for their contributions to this year's Pro-Am Summer Classic.

Hats off to Top Prospects Pro-Am Summer Classic's Executive Director Tim Pittman, and Executive Advisor Keith Jackson for another entertaining summer! Stay tuned...next year get's even better.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- 1994 Summer Classic Champions Cavs 11-3
- 1994 League MVP; Terrell Brandon
- 1994 Scoring Champion; Terrell Brandon 36.2 ppg *64 (H)
- 1994 Collegian of the Year Damen Stoudamire 31.5 ppg 43 (H)
- Pro-Am Summer Classic Record