

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASEBALL

Raiders To Oakland?

According Oakland Coliseum board president George Vukasin a deal to return the Los Angeles Raiders to Oakland this fall is close.

Vukasin however cautions that even though the deal could still fall through, it still could be made as early as this week.

McCallum Released

Napoleon McCallum the Los Angeles Raiders running back who severed an artery in this right leg in the 1994 season opener, has been released by the Raiders.

Not Interested

Former all-pro Lawrence Taylor has indicated that he is interested in coming out of a 14 month retirement and return to playing football.

However neither the New York Giants nor former Giant coach and current New England Patriot coach Bill Parcells expressed much interest in seeing the 36 year old line backer back in uniform.

BASKETBALL

All NBA Team

San Antonio's David Robinson beat out Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal as the first team center. Other first team players were Utah teammates Karl Malone and John Stockton, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and Orlando's Antwan Davis.

Malone led the voting by a nation wide media panel with 519 points.

The second team consisted of O'Neal, Phoenix Charles Barkley, Sacramento Mitch Richmond, and Seattle's Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton. Clyde Drexler of Houston was named to the third team. Rod Strickland was the only Portland player to receive votes.

Returning Home

Kevin McHale who starred at the University of Minnesota before a 13 year career with the Boston Celtics, became vice-president of basketball operations for the Minnesota Timberwolves last Thursday. McHale succeeds Jack McCloskey who is retiring.

Comebacks

Lennox Lewis made a resounding return to the ring in his bid to make a comeback. Lewis stopped the sluggish Lionel Butler with five seconds in the fifth round.

Michael Moorer kept alive his hopes of a rematch with George Foreman with his unanimous 10 decision over out classed Melvin Foster.

Soccer In The Streets

By DANNY BELL

This past Saturday a group of soccer activists and concerned parents joined together to celebrate the graduation of a 100 inner-city children in "the Soccer In The Street" program.

The Portland program is the outgrowth of a national program which originated in Atlanta under the guidance of Carolyn McKenzie Edwards. It was Ms Edwards perception that inner-city youth were not familiar enough with the world's most popular sport. Consequently she organized a soccer program in Atlanta.

Her concept caught on nationally now there are 30 plus cities involved in the program.

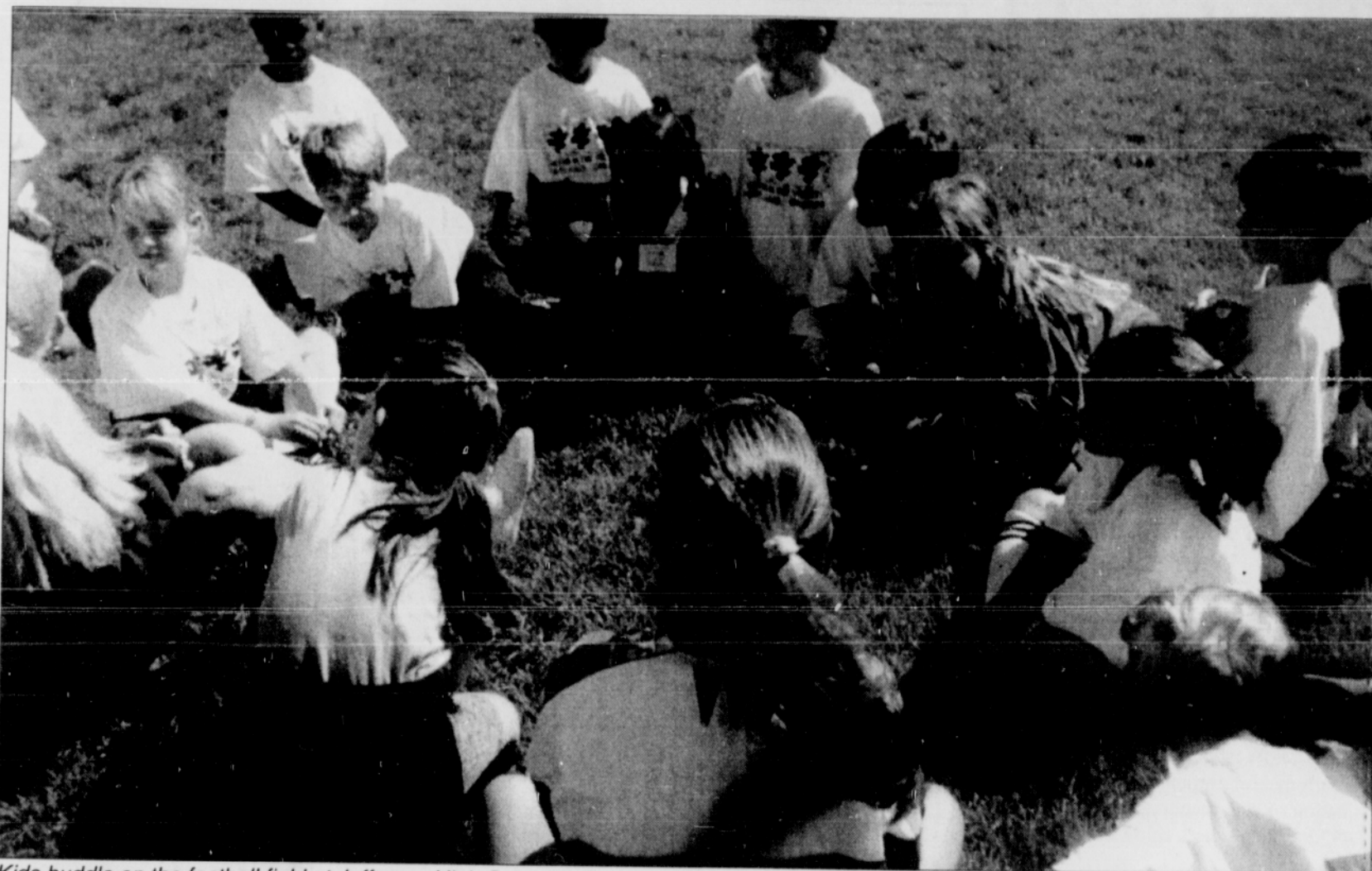
The program is rooted in the philosophy that kids gain meaningful athletic, social, and educational experiences while playing sports.

Another interesting facet of "Soccer In The Streets" is that it is geared for youth six to eight years old. A by-product of this has been the high number of girls who participate in the program, which to date is coded.

The programs motto is Let's Kick Drugs and Crime out of our Communities.

The local program was organized by Paul McCoy, Art Morlund and Rich Miller. Miller became involved after hearing about the program.

His love of the game combined with the fact that he had coached girls third through seventh grade soccer compelled him to get involved with "Soccer In The Street," which focus on youth who are economically or socially disadvantaged or deprived.



Kids huddle on the football field at Jefferson High School in Portland's Soccer In the Streets program.

(Photo By Danny Bell)

This year was the inaugural season for the program, it entailed five weeks of basic instruction in the areas of ball handling skills, rules, team work and commitment. Miller said that after conferring with Harvey Lockett who he had gone to law school with, that he and his friends were able to institute a program in inner N/E Portland.

"This is the only neighborhood that does not have a real good established soccer club" said Miller. "Harvey said that you got to get the parents involved and Roy Pittman (Portland Park Bureau) said that for this to be a success, your going to have to depend on the kids word of mouth. If we get those two things, then we got a pretty good chance to

succeed.

After graduation from the program, the kids will compete on a weekly basis with other teams for one more month. This summer the program recommences with training and games. Miller said that if there is enough participation that he would like to see the program reinstated in the Jefferson Cluster during next falls school year.

Nike was instrumental in providing balls, shin guards, jerseys, shoes and P.L.A.Y (Participate in the lives of America's Youth) T-shirts for the program, other sponsors were Legacy Emmanuel Hospital and Health Center, Portland Youth Soccer Association, Portland Public Schools, Portland Housing Authority, Holy Redeemer and others.

Kentucky's Gaffney Stars As Clown Prince for Globetrotters

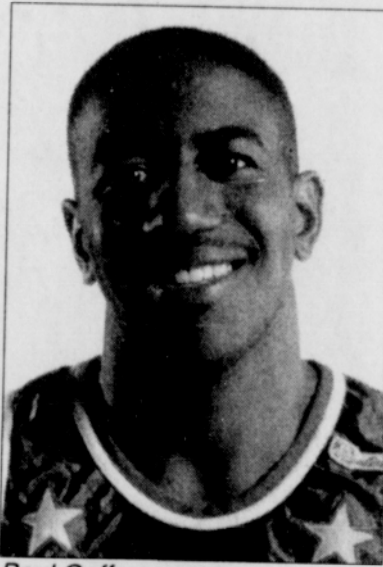
A New Clown Prince For A New Generation

Paul "Showtime" Gaffney opened the blinds of his hotel room and let the morning Spanish sun creep in.

"Just another day on the road," he sighed, and then flashed his grin which has already become known to hundreds of thousands of thousands of people around the world.

A hotel room in Madrid is many miles from the town of Benham, Kentucky, where the Harlem Globetrotters young clown prince grew up. It was in Benham when Gaffney, 27, first saw the Globetrotters.

"I started playing basketball when I was eight-years-old and that was about the same time I went to my first Globetrotters game," he said. "That first Trotters game real-



Paul Gaffney

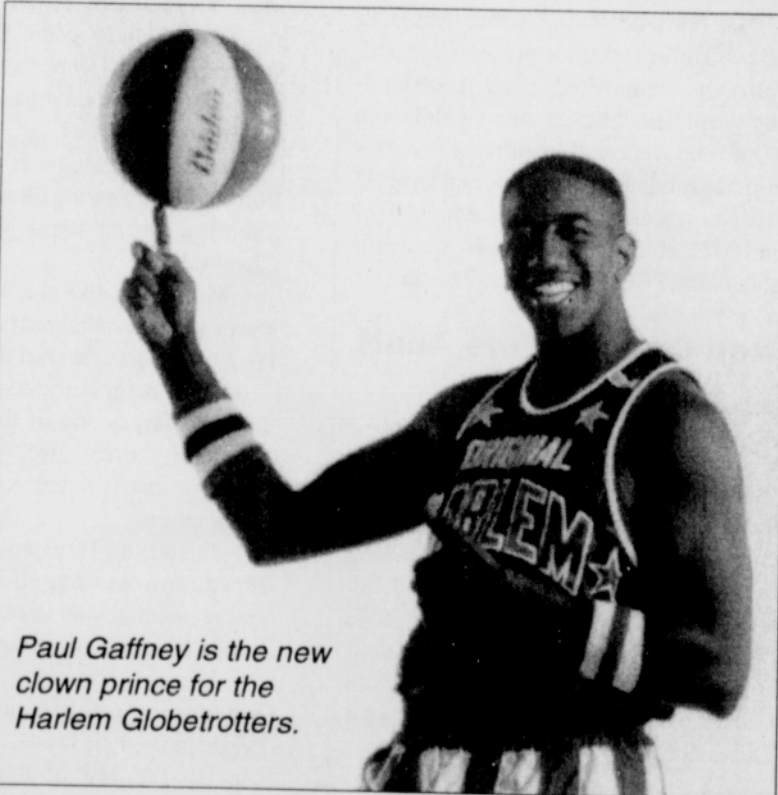
ly turned me on to the sport. I was hooked."

Gaffney was handed the role of the team's new clown prince prior to

the start of the team's 1995 world tour. And while this is only Gaffney's second year as a Globetrotter, the show didn't miss a beat.

"I've tried to keep elements of the show that really worked with all of the clown princes in the team's history. I watched "Sweet" Lou Dunbar all of last season and of course I've watched the tapes of "Goose" Tatum, "Showboat" Hall, Medaowlark Lemon and Geese Ausbie. I've taken parts of their greatness and combined it with my own personality quirks. I've updated a lot of the show with references to current TV shows and cartoons that I think kids will really respond to. I think it has worked well," Gaffney said.

And Gaffney is right. Fans across the U.S. and Canada who watched Gaffney lead his team during the



Paul Gaffney is the new clown prince for the Harlem Globetrotters.

1995 tour were impressed. Roaring applause and laughter was heard from Saskatoon to San Diego.

"Showtime" has a surprisingly

fresh quality in his role as clown prince," said Mannie Jackson, Harlem Globetrotters Chairman and Owner.

1995 TOP PROSPECTS ENTER THIRD SEASON

Top Prospects, a non-profit entity committed to both community development and sports involvement, is heading into its third year of operating Portland's Pro-Am is now officially called the KOIN TV/Top Prospects Pro-Am Summer Classic as a result of KOIN's title sponsorship during the past year. We anticipate this season being the best year ever with the KOIN partnership. In addition to KOIN's partnership, Nike will outfit the league.

Brief History of Pro-Am Summer Classic

The brain thrust behind Top Prospects is Director, Timothy Pittman. Mr. Pittman has competed in basketball and track & field on every level except professionally and brings extensive knowledge and undying enthusiasm to his role. Top Prospects was established in January 1993 out of Mr. Pittman's long time passion to develop a competitive

league for professionals and amateurs to practice their skills during the off-season. It has been his vision that has provided so many players with an opportunity to play in a team atmosphere and take advantage of improving their skills. He has been the key person responsible for strategic planning and daily operations of the summer league. Advisory assistance has been provided by Keith Jackson, JC All-American and University of San Francisco All-Conference basketball player. Additionally, Ted Peterson, Certified Public Accountant has also provided his expertise.

During the summer months of June through August, a ten week scheduled takes place that also consist of other entertaining activities including an All-Star Game, Dunk Contest, and Three-Point Shoot-out. The All-Star Game features top talent the league has to offer. With

contributions from local sponsors, the inaugural Top Prospects Pro-Am Summer Classic attracted various NBA player including Cleveland's Terrell Brandon, and Portland Trailblazers' Jerome Kersey, Kevin Duckworth, and Mario Elie. In addition, former Trailblazer Darnell Valentine played for the league-champion Lakers. During the second year of competition, additional professionals played such as Cliff Robinson, James "Hollywood" Robinson, and Mark Bryant. To further enhance the competition, the Summer Classic became NCAA-sanctioned to allow several top student-athletes to enhance their skills. Notable entries included upcoming NBA lottery-pick Damon Stoudamire (1994 Collegian of the year), All West Coast Conference Player Canaan Chatman and University of Oregon star Orlando Williams.

Beginning June 17, 1995, eight

top professional-amateur, NCAA-sanctioned teams will compete for the 3rd Annual Pro-Am Summer Classic title. The league will compete at Concordia College, adhere to NBA rules and regulations, compete for 10 weeks and feature and outstanding All-Star Weekend, July 29-30, as well as the 1st Annual West Coast Shoot-out July 22-23. This mid-season tournament will host four of Seattle's top Pro-Am teams against Portland's Pro-Am Summer Classic's mid-season top four.

As we strengthen the image of the KOIN-TV/Top Prospects Pro-Am Summer Classic, each team will have 1) a designated non-player coach, and 2) uniform the finest professional and top amateur basketball players in the city of Portland. Teams will consist of a maximum of 10 players per team which will be selected by designated team captains and Top Prospects.

The 3rd Annual "May Invitational" league try-outs will begin Monday, May 1, 1995, and run each Monday night through May 29th from 7 to 9pm at Portland Community College (Cascade Campus). This time frame will be reserved exclusively for Pro-Am players. Here potential players will get a chance to play, and net-work with team captains to secure a position on a team, and also enter their name in the draft that will take place on Monday May 22, 1995, one week prior to the conclusion of try-outs. Returning professionals will automatically have a spot reserved on a team in this year's Summer Classic.

We look forward to an exciting season full of big league competition and fun! If any question should arise before hand feel free to call at 284-3341 or leave a voice message at 796-4335.