

SPORTS

CLASSIC FETES PROS AND PROSPECTS

Damon Stoudamire of Portland, an all-american with the University of Arizona, leads all scorers after the first weekend of the Portland Top Prospects Pro Am Summer Basketball Classic.

Ray Ross of the University of Portland was named player of the week with a 29 point scoring average.

The results after week one:

Saturday, June 17

Spurs 78, Knicks 91
Ray Ross 30
Damon Stoudamire 41

Hawks 68, Lakers 65
Tony Hampton 19
Darnell Valentine 18

Sonics 80, Cavs 58
Robert Key 24
Mike Doleak 12
Kevin Duckworth 17

Hornets 78, Suns 85
Cannon Chatman 25
LaVon Vann 21

Sunday, June 18

Suns 78, Spurs 76
Lavonn Vann 21
Kzell Wesson 19
LaRon Bristol 17

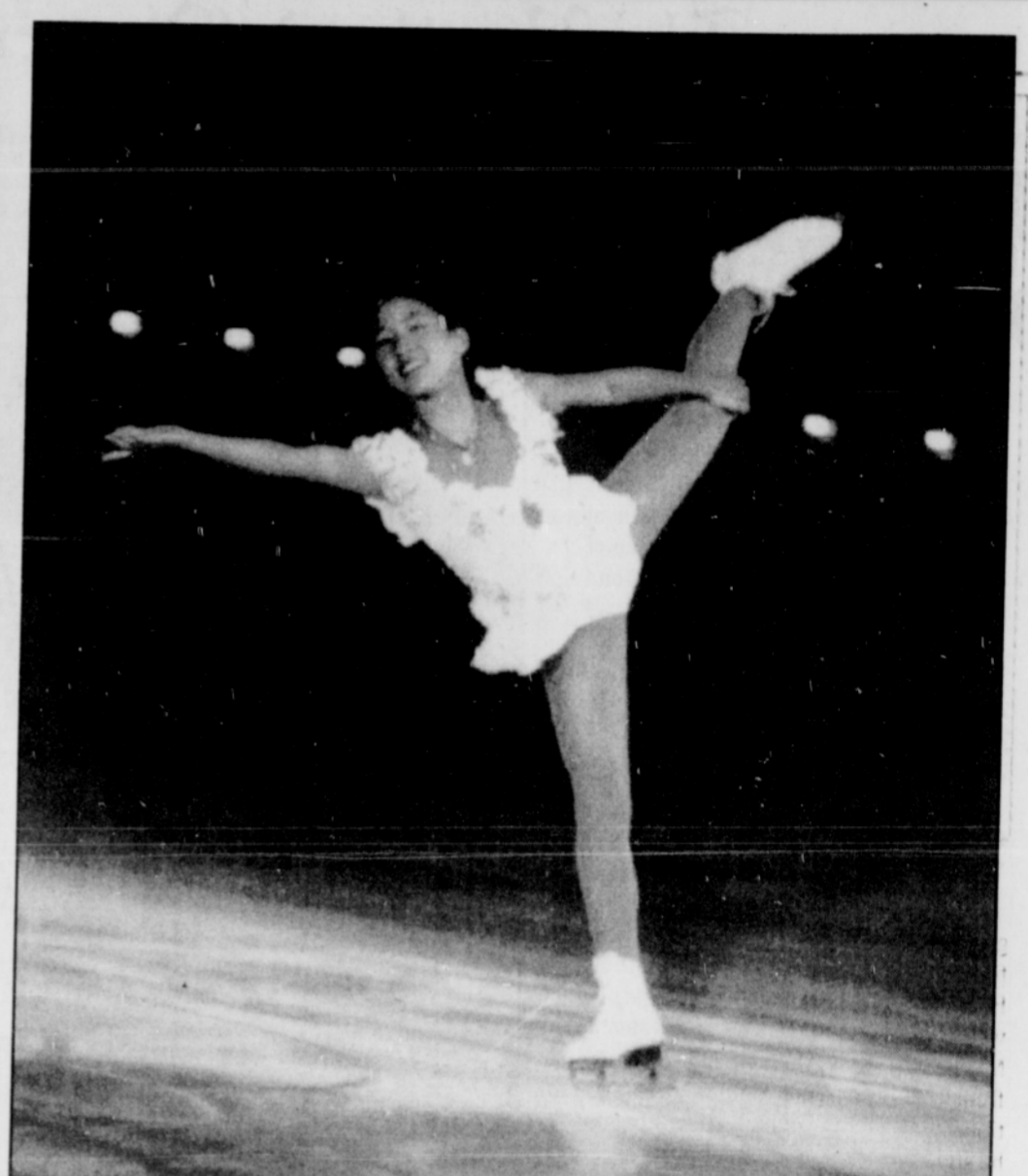
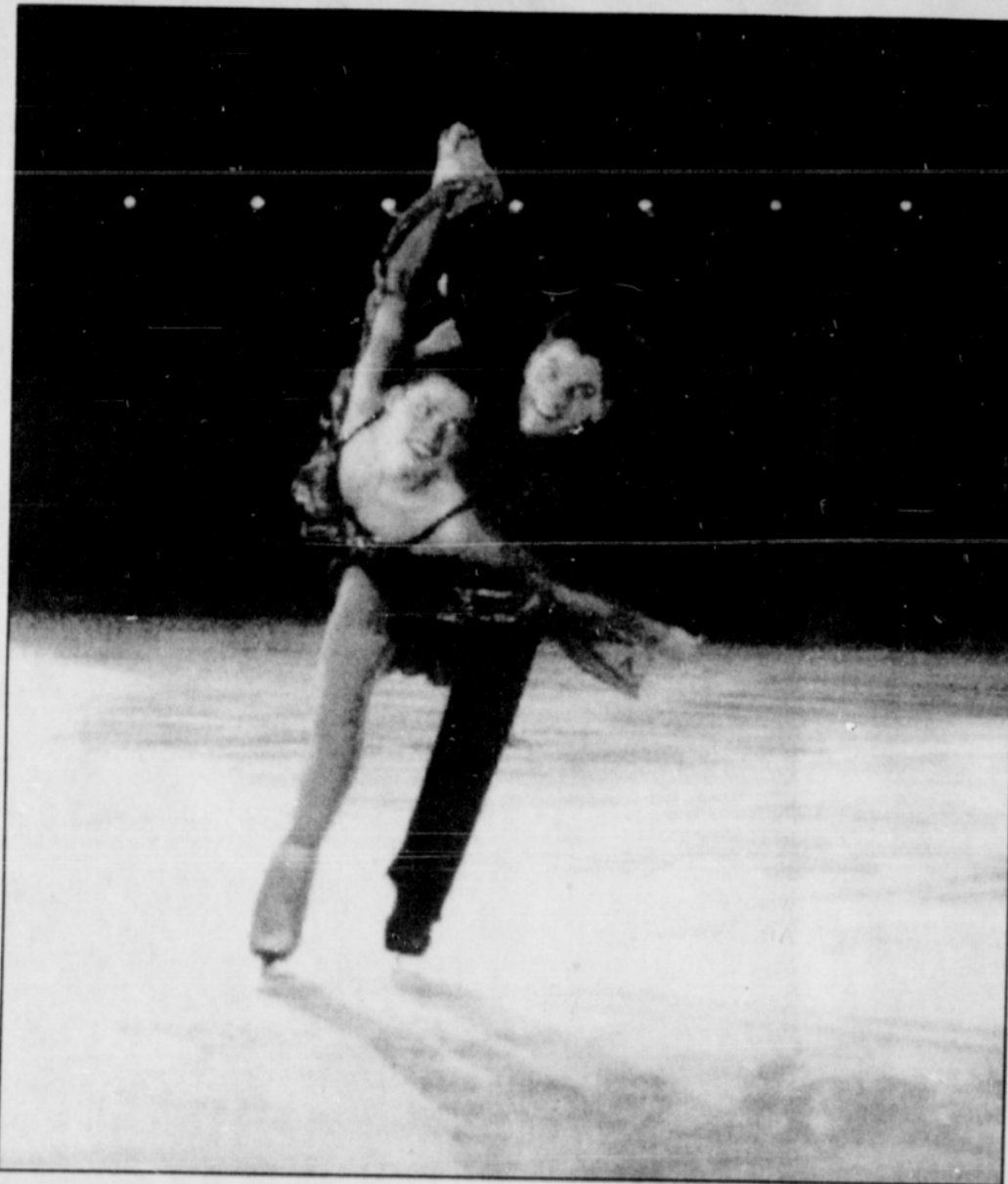
Hornets 61, Knicks 82
Denmark Reid 23
Cannon Chatman 21
Ray Ross 28
Erin Cowen 24

Cavs 75, Hawks 82
Antoine Stoudamire 22
Anthony Butler 21
Tony Hampton 15
Nico Harrison 20

Sonics 90, Lakers 60
Charles McKinney 26
Robert Key 19
Darnell Valentine 19

Standings

Hawks	2-0
Knicks	2-0
Sonics	2-0
Suns	2-0
Cavs	0-2
Hornets	0-2
Lakers	0-2



Olympic medalists Nancy Kerrigan and Paul Wylie (left) return for the 22nd annual broadcast of An Evening Of Championship Skating, airing Wednesday, July 26 at 8 pm ET on PBS (check local listings). This popular figure skating exhibition also features 1995 U.S. Ladies Silver Medalist Michelle Kwan.

BOYS OF SUMMER RETURN TO CIVIC

For one night last week, Portland was a big baseball town, and for the 19,658 who managed to make it to Civic Stadium, they saw the Portland Rockies bring back a game this town will again have the opportunity to grow on.

The Rockies opened their 1985 Class A Northwest League season with big league class, as the young men in pinstripes squeaked by the Eugene Emeralds in front of a truly invigorated crowd, by a single run 3-2.

It wasn't just the nearly 20,000 people that made opening night so special, it was much more.

Baseball is a sport of atmosphere and a certain electricity that the game and stadium present. Jack and Mary Cain, owners of the Rockies and their great staff put on quite the show. It was a brand of baseball more than a few people in attendance must have fallen in love with for the first time.

"We're thrilled, said Jack Cain, on the success of opening night. "It's just that were a little in disbelief right now."

From the hilarious San Diego Chicken, the raccoon mascot or just chewing seeds in the stands and watching America's pastime presented in a quality fashion,

the fans seemed to love every minute.

There was advertising everywhere, but the way the Rockies tied the promotions to the game itself was very classy. Remember folks, this is Class A Baseball being marketed in a growing metropolitan area that hasn't supported the sport for many years.

It takes a big league effort to bring the kids and mits, families of four and the disgruntled major league fans to the park to watch a game whose players are just out of high school and college and who are just starting their dream.

The Rockies bring back to Portland a brand of baseball where the players are really hungry and they play the type of baseball, us folks that can't even imagine, can really grow found of.

These players do have dreams of finding the big leagues someday and their love for the game is very strong at this stage in their careers.

The players were undoubtedly playing in front of the biggest crowd of their lives and they really showed some enthusiasm.

Many things made this night special.

The clouds parted as the players took infield before the game, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," was sung by standing fans and a spectacular fireworks show followed the game.

But maybe it was just the fact that baseball is back and being part of something so close to the heart, breeds excitement.

This is a new beginning for Portland and with the Rockies putting out a quality and inexpensive product, the future for the boys of summer and the fans of a game that brought us so many heroes, is shining bright.

Houston Was Worthy Of Coveted Crown

By DANNY BELL

This was an improbable year for the NBA champion Houston Rockets.

Ending the season with a 47-35 record, the defending champions entered the playoffs sixth seeded in

the West and having to play a mini-series against Utah, a team having one of its best seasons ever.

Utah promptly went up 2-1 and the writing was on the wall. Yet somehow Houston persevered and won. The Rockets advanced to the next round against Phoenix.

Against the Suns, they proceeded to dig themselves into a 1-3 hole.

Charles Barkley was confidently predicting Phoenix would advance to meet San Antonio.

But Houston found a way to win three straight, beat the Spurs and advance to the NBA finals.

But the general consensus was that Orlando had too many weapons for an aging Houston Rocket team. The Magic's young legs, exuberance

and hunger for a league ring would dominate a team whose chemistry was suspect and who would rely heavily on Hakeem Olajawon. Although Clyde Drexler was a proven superstar, no one could figure out how he worked into the equation.

What the prognosticators failed to recognize was that Olajawon was having the most impressive playoff performances in the history of the game and Drexler was turning in consistent stellar performances averaging over 17 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists a game.

But more important, was the play of their supporting cast. Throughout the playoffs, a third and sometimes fourth player, stepped up, be it Charles Horry, Kenny Smith or Sam Cassell.

Clyde Drexler Deserved It

Congratulations to Clyde Drexler. Forever the proverbial gentleman, Drexler was calm and cool even in victory.

His most emotional statement: "How sweet it is," Drexler said, as the NBA trophy was presented to the Houston Rockets after eliminating the Orlando Magic, 4-0.

For 20 years of organized basketball, Drexler had been a bridesmaid at least five other times, in high school, twice in college and twice in the NBA finals with the Portland Trail Blazers.

But it took an uncharacteristic display of discontent and a providential trade to realize an elusive prize, the ring of a championship in the NBA.

Admittedly, Drexler should have several productive years ahead of him and this is not the end of his career. He is however, a deserving

candidate to receive this honor after all his other achievements.

And too, in a way, Drexler vicariously brings home a ring for Portland. He has long been our sports figure favorite son.

Drexler quickly made it a point to recognize that his ring was for Portland as well as it was Houston. He also commented on how he intends to keep a residence in Portland because of the way he feels about Portland.

Drexler's play was instrumental in the Rockets winning the series. He proved a lot of his detractors wrong. Yet always low-key and deflecting accolades, Drexler was gracious to all concerned in victory, not showing bitterness for past mistreatment or defeats.

Clyde the Glide is a class act and deserves our best wishes and support.

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The NBAs

Terrell Brandon

Wants U

at his 4th Annual Free Basketball Clinic

Saturday, July 29, 1995
10am- 4pm
Irving Park
corner of NE 7th
& Fremont

Registration
Forms:
Williams Street Market
House of Sound
Records
Doris Cafe

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