

SPORTS

Stoudamires: An All-Star Family

Portland is Heartland For NBA Rookie

Home Is Where The Heart Is - and tucked away in the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon (centrally located in the Pacific Northwest) is home to a family called Stoudamire.

The name Stoudamire is synonymous with success in the Rose City. The talented and young NBA Star Damon Stoudamire, sporting his Mighty Mouse tattoo, recently made a trip home in hopes of stealing a win against the Portland Trail Blazers.

It was his only official game stop in his home town this year, as he begins his NBA odyssey in his rookie year. His team, the Toronto Raptors didn't win their game, but Damon successfully scored 15 points to go along with 10 assists.

On hand was his mother, Liz Washington, a strong and loving mother who takes great pride in what her son Damon has been able to accomplish in his young basketball career. Howard Avery is very proud of him also; he help fine tune Damon's game.

Damon has been named NBA's Rookie of the Month for his contribution to the game in November. His competitive ability helped make the Toronto Raptors, an expansion team, very competitive in its first year.

When you look at the Grizzlies another expansion team in Vancou-

ver, B.C., which recorded 19 straight losses recently, you can tell the impact that Damon is having on the league.

His mother Liz says he has always focused on a basketball career. Damon knew what he wanted to do; and with the athletic ability that runs in his family his skills were enhanced.

Yes, when you think of the name Stoudamire, basketball and sports surely come to mind. Damon's father, Willie Stoudamire was an excellent basketball player. He was an All American at Portland State University, and along with his brother Charles, helped stage some of the most exiting basketball games in PIL history.

Yes, Willie is having a great time watching his son play professional basketball. He spends as much time as he can attending games when he's not directing his program to enhance the lives of young people. The program, People Are Beautiful (PAB), is based at Mallory Avenue Church. "People Are Beautiful" could describe the Stoudamire family; Damon's uncle, Charles, was drafted by the Detroit Lions and NFL team.

For many years Charles worked in upper management for the American Red Cross, he now serves as Director for the Oregon Commission Of Black Affairs. He spends most of his



Former Portland prep star Damon Stoudamire, now a Toronto Raptor, is a leading candidate for Rookie-Of-The-Year in the NBA. (Photo By Michael G. Halle)

time in Salem lobbying for grassroots causes that help human service agencies; which provide the much needed services for the community.

The Stoudamire family is a fixture in this community. Damon's uncle Anthony, is a social service worker at the Children Services Division; he too was a fine athlete in his own right. His aunt, Tia Dorsey is Vice President of Human Resources for Blue Shield of Oregon. Cardell Mathews works at the Portland Ship yard as a welder, Donald Matthew is currently working with Damon's father at People Are Beautiful and his aunt Caroline, spends her time making people beautiful at Broadway Hair Weavers, so this story is not just about the success of our Rookie of the year candidate. This story is about the Stoudamire legacy as a family working, living and doing so many things to better serve the community and city they call home.

In the future there may be another Stoudamire playing in the NBA, Antoine, who attended the University of Oregon by way of Georgetown University. He has already played professional basketball and could have slid in this year if it had not been for the NBA strike. By the way, Antoine is the son of Charles Stoudamire.

You might say its in the genes, fate or maybe even destiny, as Damon competes for "Rookie of the Year". The Stoudamire's could well be the family of the year for helping and caring about people in the community. If home is where the heart is, I'm glad home to the Stoudamire family is Portland, Oregon.

TYSON CONTINUES COMEBACK WITH WIN OVER BUSTER MATHIS JR.

Former heavyweight champion of the world Mike Tyson continued his comeback last Saturday with a third-round knock-out over Buster Mathis Jr. in Philadelphia before an estimated 8,000 fight fans. Tyson, who will receive a cool \$10 million for 8 minutes and 32 seconds of work, looked a little flustered by Mathis and

his tactics. It was just a matter of time for Mr. Mathis as Tyson's wild but powerful punches started connecting in his second fight since being released from prison. Tyson, whose only fought less than four full rounds in 4 and a half years, will step into the ring with WBC champion Frank Bruno on March 16th.

"I'm looking forward to fighting anybody, said the confident feared fighter from Catskill N.Y. "I don't care who it is. I'm not afraid of anyone. I'll fight anywhere."

No stop right there Mr. Tyson, you well fight where ever Don King tell you is next, and of course that's the MGM Grand in Las Vegas where

the thing that truly rules boxing lies, the money. It's pretty safe to say, more money was lost when Tyson finally KO'd Mathis in the third with a whole two punch combo, than poor Mr. Mathis gained with his \$600,000 for showing up. And Tyson's fight

with Bruno will undoubtedly be on a pay-per-view basis and bring Don King and company quite a bigger haul than when Tyson stopped Bruno in the fifth Feb. 25 1989. Mike Tyson is still one of the most popular figure in sports and his fight on free TV Satur-

day will just add to the revenue and draw of his fight with Bruno in March. Seems to be a whole lot of money when your talking about a fight for survival in seconds when it comes to a Tyson fight.

BOXING IN PORTLAND

BY ERIC NOON

Talking with Thad Spencer, who was the former #1 heavyweight contender in the world and lives in Portland, there's is nothing bigger in the world of sports than a heavyweight title fight. Spencer, who tries to promote boxing in Oregon, would love to see a title fight in the Rose Garden but former Governor Neil Goldsmith appointed a man to regulate boxing and wrestling in Oregon and Bruce Anderson has brought both sports in Oregon to a halt.

In Mr. Anderson's reign as boxing and wrestling regulator, he has been consistently unproductive at

working with local promoters like Spencer, Paul Brown, Don Ownes, Sandy Barr and anyone else who tries to bring boxing or wrestling to Oregon. Apparently Mr. Anderson was somewhat self-appointed as head man and receives a healthy wage for keeping the two sports stagnant. This man's job is to regulate not stifle every attempt to promote two sports, the public should decide if it wants to attend.

The state of Oregon needs to step up and hold this man accountable for his position and have some kind of system to get these kids who fight out of what little clubs are left be able to host their own fight cards. Sure boxing and wrestling are sports with their share of problems, but that's why Mr. Anderson is in office, to regulate, but by not working with local promoters he's not only cheat-

ing the state's fan's but many people out of their livelihood.

The University of Portland men's basketball team is off to it's best start since 1978-79 at 6-0, defeated Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Saturday 91-70 before a disappointing crowd of only 1,256 fans. The Pilots, who were probably one win short of making the NCAA tourney last year, lost a lot of talent to graduation and continue to succeed with head coach Rob Chavez. The Pilots are pressuring the ball and playing strong heads up defense with Dionn Holton running the show on offense. The Pilots become the lone unbeaten team remaining in the West Coast Conference with the home win. For some of the best basketball you can see in a great arena, support the Pilots on their run at the tourney this year.

NEGRO LEAGUE ATHLETIC CLUB

Established in 1920, the premier sport and social club better known as the "Negro League Athletic Club" is a fraternal organization consisting of 40 charter members.

The Negro League Athletic Club was established and created by Negro businessman, property owners and civil employees. The annual income of this group of Negro men averaged between two and three thousand dollars.

To gain membership one would have to be cultured, a sportsman and sponsored by an active member. During this era Negroes were making great strides culturally and economically while building a community we proudly refer to as a "Black Utopia."

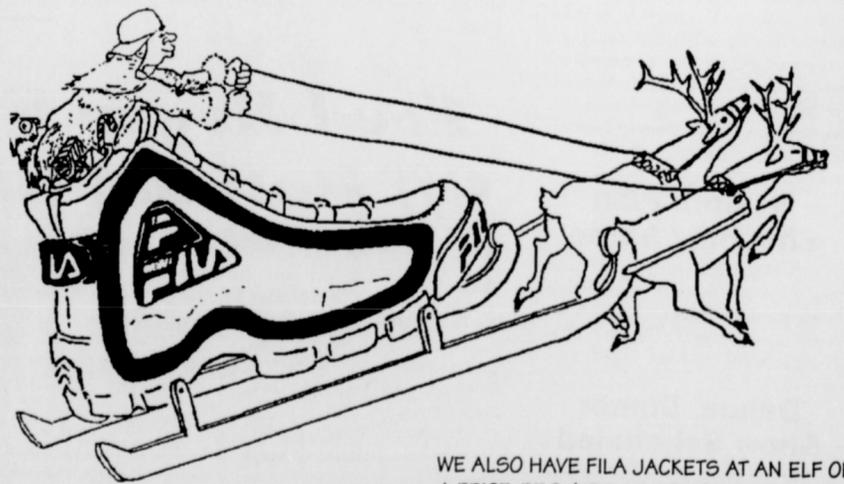
The renaissance period gave birth to an awakening built on self reliance and strong community spirit. The N.L.A.C. had chapters

in New York, Chicago and New Orleans and members were known to frequent the Negro League Athletic Club while visiting from other cities in which they were a member.

The Negro League Athletic Club also provided networking and business opportunities while serving it's main purpose as the premier sport and social club.

The exclusive Negro League Athletic Club was a place of fellowship for like minded men pursuing their piece of the American dream and achieving this while moving smoothly and confidently within their on orbit. Negro League Athletic Club members and their families enjoyed their choice of tennis, croquet, snookers, yachting parties and moonlight sails on the Hudson River. It was truly a prosperous and romantic period in the lives of many people of color.

Negro League Athletic Club
EST. 1920, classic sportswear



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