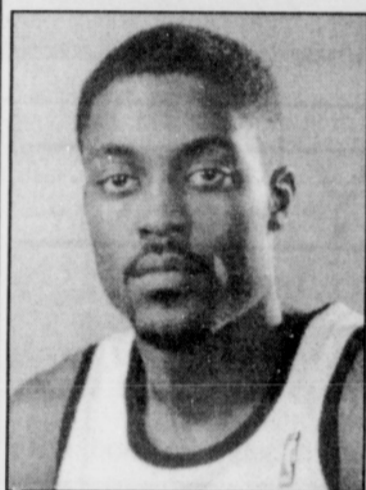


SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Blazer Guard Holdout Ends



Rod Strickland

Portland Trail Blazers point guard Rod Strickland has returned to the National Basketball Association team after a six-game suspension for repeated team rules violations.

Strickland was involved in several trade rumors prior to the deadline on Feb. 22, but instead was suspended by the team. He was reported to have been headed to the Denver Nuggets for guard Jalen Rose and swingman Reggie Williams, but the deal never happened. "I think it's just a matter of me coming in here and not being a distraction and just going there and playing and understanding that this is a team and to just take care of business," Strickland said at practice Monday. "It just came to me, why waste the season? You work so hard to get in this position."

Strickland, who lost approximately \$168,000 in salary during the suspension, has quarreled with Coach P.J. Carlesimo over the past two seasons. He is enjoying the best season of his nine-year career, averaging 19.3 points and 9.5 assists per game. He has 24 double-doubles and ranks third in the league in assists and 27th in scoring.

The Blazers went 2-4 during Strickland's absence. They host the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.



Seniors Reshawn Lewis (left) of Benson High School and David Jackson of Wilson High are named Portland Observer Players of Year and members on the Observer's first team All-City Basketball Boys and Girls Teams.



(Photos by Michael G. Halle)

ALL-CITY TEAMS

Portland Observer Honors Basketball Players

Girls First Team				Boys First Team			
Sarah Green	Benson	Senior	6'2" C	David Jackson	Wilson	Senior	6'4" W/G
Reshawn Lewis	Benson	Senior	5'6" G	Tyrone Manlove	Wilson	Senior	6'3" W/G
Martina Gill	Benson	Senior	5'6" G	Shawn Murray	Benson	Senior	6'4" W/F
Scarlet Chamberlin	Lincoln	Senior	6'0" G	Amos Allen	Cleveland	Senior	6'0" G
Christy Novitsky	Madison	Senior	6'0" G	Timmy Owens	Grant	Junior	6'4" W/P
Ikeya Hillman	Jefferson	Senior	5'9" G/F	Demetries Hardin	Jefferson	Senior	6'2" G/F
Girls Second Team				Boys Second Team			
Lakesha Jones	Jefferson	Soph.	6'0" C	Vernon Cropper	Benson	Senior	6'3" W/F
Cindy Benton	Grant	Junior	5'4" PT	Mark Tomas	Benson	Senior	6'6" C
Tawna Cotton	Cleveland	Senior	5'11" F	Jermaine Thompson	Wilson	Senior	5'11" G
Nichole Pace	Franklin	Junior	5'6" G	Tyrone Hammick	Jefferson	Senior	6'6" F
Leslie Dukart	Madison	Senior	5'7" G	Basil Duncatell	Wilson	Senior	6'4" W/P
Christie Lacy-Kirtz	Lincoln	Senior	5'6" G	Craig Lewis	Benson	Soph.	6'2" W/G
Girls Honorable Mention				Boys Honorable Mention			
Tami Fitzpatrick	Grant	Senior	5'10" F	Scott Millage	Roosevelt	Junior	6'4" F
Jenny Marcoe	Marshall	Junior	5'7" G	Barron Lase	Marshall	Junior	6'3" F
Billie Williams	Madison	Junior	5'7" F	Brad Erlandson	Franklin	Senior	6'4" F
Latoya Gix	Jefferson	Senior	6'0" F	Rocco Washington	Benson	Senior	6'2" W/F
Michelle Lee	Jefferson	Senior	5'7" G	Michael Marion	Wilson	Junior	6'6" P/W
				Brett Dungeon	Grant	Junior	5'11" PG
				Terry Foster	Jefferson	Senior	5'8" G
				Joe Coleman	Jefferson	Senior	6'3" F
				Jeff Scholz	Franklin	Soph.	5'11" G
				Mike Diamond	Cleveland	Senior	6'3" F/C
				Joey Gerber	Grant	Senior	6'4" P
				Gower Skinner	Marshall	Junior	5'5" C
				Dyon Spencer	Benson	Senior	5'10" PG

**Congratulations
Portland High
School Athletes**

FANS SUPPORT RELIEF

The Portland Trail Blazers and their fans contributed more than \$31,000 in support to the American Red Cross for victims of the recent flood.

At the Portland/Denver game on Thursday, February 22, Blazers fans were asked to make a donation to the American Red Cross. Fans contributed more than \$8,000 to the "Give a Buck" campaign and the Blazers organization matched the fans contribution with an \$8,000 corporate donation. In addition, the Blazers are donating \$15,000 worth of clothing to the Red Cross for victims of the flooding.

"People and organizations from all over the region have come together in an effort to assist the flood victims in putting their lives back together," said Bob Whitsitt, Blazers president. "Trail Blazers fans and the Blazers organization felt it was important to play a role in that recovery effort as well. Hopefully this cash and in-kind clothes donation will help out a whole lot of people in need."

Trail Blazers team captain Buck Williams served as the spokesperson for the "Give a Buck" campaign. Williams appeared in a public service announcement on KGW Northwest Newschannel 8.

WINNERS IN "WRITE-ON" ESSAY COMPETITION

The Portland Trail Blazers, Avia Group International, Bank of America and The Oregonian believe it is important to encourage good writing skills among today's youth. That's why they developed the Write-On essay competition as part of the Blazers/Avia Scholastic Improvement Concepts (BASIC) program.

This year's essay contest was broken up into two age divisions with grades 1 through 6 challenged with the topic, "What I Like About Myself" and grades 7 through 12, "Why We Must Learn To Resolve Conflict". More than 19,000 students in grades 1 to 12 accepted the challenge of the Write-On competition.

Sierra Hess, 1st grade, Gates Elementary, Gates; Mark Beck, 2nd grade, Nyssa Elementary, Nyssa; Maggie Crawford, 3rd grade, Oakridge Elementary, Oakridge; Collin Drovdahl, 4th grade, Lacamas Heights Elementary, Camas, Washington; Erin Richardson, 5th grade, Juniper Elementary, Bend; Jeffrey Barram, 6th grade, Chehalem Valley Middle School,

Newberg; Drew Sage, 7th grade, Ophir School, Ophir; Julie Mason, 8th grade, Columba Middle School, Irrigan; Melissa Westermeyer, 9th grade, Tillamook Adventist School, Tillamook; David Nguyen, 10th grade, Camas High School Camas, Washington; James Allen, 11th grade, Powder Valley High School, North Powder; and Katherine Adams, 12th grade, Milwaukie High School, Milwaukie are the 1995-96 grand prize winners in the BASIC Write-On essay competition.

Special recognition certificates were awarded to all essay program entrants.

Regional first place winners selected by their respective Educational Service Districts each received a pen & pencil set. The grand prize winners at each grade level received hotel accommodations, attend the Trail Blazers vs. Detroit Pistons game on February 25th at the Rose Garden and was hosted to a pre-game reception. Winners were also presented with a host of other prizes including Avia athletic shoes, and Avia bag and an autographed Trail Blazers basketball.

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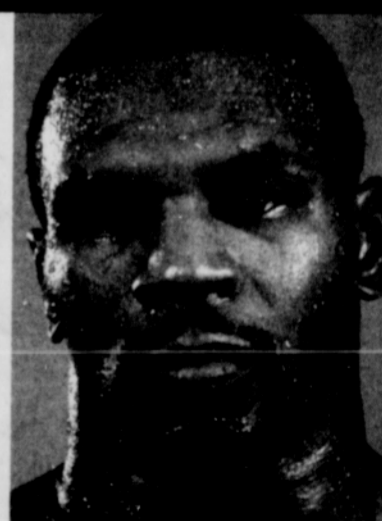
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