

# SPORTS BRIEFS

## BASEBALL

### Belle makes instant impact with White Sox

Major League Baseball opens its 1997 season Tuesday with a majority of the games at warm weather sites and indoor stadiums. Twelve games were on Tuesday's schedule, but one was postponed due to inclement weather. Tuesday's scheduled game between the Kansas City Royals and Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards has been postponed due to high winds, wind chill and dropping temperatures.

### Lankford, Honeycutt on disabled list

The St. Louis Cardinals pared their roster Tuesday by placing outfielder Ray Lankford and left-handed pitcher Rick Honeycutt on the 15-day disabled list. The disabling of Lankford was expected since the star outfielder is not expected to be in the lineup until May due to a rotator cuff injury.

## BASKETBALL

### Fortson to enter NBA draft

University of Cincinnati junior forward Danny Fortson, Conference USA's Player of the Year the last two seasons, will forego his senior year to enter the NBA draft. The 6-7, 260-pound Fortson averaged 21.4 points and nine rebounds to lead the Bearcats in both categories this season.

### Marc Jackson to enter NBA draft

Temple University junior center Marc Jackson will reportedly forego his senior year and enter the NBA draft. Knight-Ridder newspapers is reporting Jackson will hold a news conference at Temple within the next 48 hours to announce that he plans to enter the draft.

### Skinner agrees to three-year extension

Al Skinner, the men's head basketball coach at Rhode Island since 1988, has agreed to a new three-year contract with a one-year option with the school. Skinner led Rhode Island to the NCAA Tournament this past season. The Rams finished 20-10 and were beaten by Purdue, 83-76, in overtime in the first round of the Southeast Regional.

### NBA Player of Month

Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone, who recently moved into 10th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list, Tuesday was named NBA Player of the Month for March. Malone averaged 31.0 points, 9.0 rebounds and 4.2 assists while leading the Jazz to a franchise-best 14-1 mark. Malone, a 12-year veteran, surpassed Jerry West (25,192) on March 19th to move into the top 10 and is 294 points behind Alex English (25,613) for ninth-place. He also joined Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, Moses Malone and Elvin Hayes as the only players in NBA history to score 25,000 points and grab 10,000 rebounds.

### USA Women's Team Program coach

Nell Fortner, who coached Purdue to a share of the Big Ten title in her first year as a head coach, Tuesday was named head coach of the United States Women's National Basketball Team Program.

## HOCKEY

### NHL Player of Month

Center Mike Modano, the captain of the surprising Dallas Stars, was named Tuesday as the National Hockey League's Player of the Month for March. Modano had five goals and 13 assists for 18 points, in addition to a plus-13 rating, as the Stars went 8-1-2 and moved within three points of clinching the Central Division. Dallas has 98 points, three less than the league-best Colorado Avalanche in one less game.

# SPORTS

## PAMPLIN CONDUCTS YOUTH SUMMIT

Continued from Metro

He also talked about having friendly relationships with people today and not burning bridges, citing the example of his relationship with a middle school teacher who helped him when he became an adult.

Donald Dixon, Jefferson High School counselor and Portland Community College head basketball coach, Presented "Step Into the Future," a review of community colleges and how they help young people reach goals.

He stressed the importance of finishing high school, taking the right classes and preparing for college entrance exams.

Dixon explained that the first two years at a community college could be beneficial, both financially and in preparation towards a four year degree.

"A four year degree is a four year degree, regardless of how you get there," said Dixon, comparing the experiences of one student who started at a four year school, but returned to a community college before continuing on, and another student who started at the community college and was actually first to complete the four years of college.

"The things they talked about I can use in following my aspirations and goals," said Pamplin Fellow Shauna Dixon, a senior at Benson who plans to use some of her newfound knowledge when she goes to Atlanta, Georgia, for college in the fall.

"Helping to plan community events is what drew my attention," said Pamplin Fellow Tolu Sosanya, who sang the Black National Anthem to start off the events Saturday.

One student, Krystal Hayes, said she felt better prepared with "some of the tools I need to go to the next



An action packed Friday night March 28, 1997 basketball game between SEI staff members and Portland all star high school athletes was part of the Pamplin Fellows first annual youth summit. Dennis Nathan, Sr. Gresham High School up for shot and Steve Adams, SEI Coordinator and staff member - Humboldt Elementary School.

Photo by Neil Heilpern

level."

The Pamplin Project was founded in 1995 with the help of entrepreneur Bob Pamplin, and now includes 45 students from Benson, Jefferson and Grant high schools. They are learning how to use their natural abilities to persuade peers to make positive decisions in life.

The project is administered by Self Enhancement, Inc.

A basketball game in SEI's new

gymnasium Friday night pitted SEI staff members against a team of all star high school players from Portland schools. The more experienced SEI staff was ahead by 14 points at one time, but a concerted fourth quarter drive by the students was only able to come within a point at the final buzzer.

The game was offered to entice Portland youths to attend the Saturday session as well.

## NEGRO LEAGUES 'LIVING LEGENDS'



Left to Right: Merle Porter, Negro Leagues' Player (NLP); Nate Holden, Los Angeles City Councilman; Luther Branham (NLP); Andrew Porter (NLP); "Buck" O'Neil (NLP); Don Motley, Executive Director of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; Ross Davis (NLP); Lonnie Summers (NLP). Seated: Francis Mathews (NLP); Sammie Haynes (NLP).

Coors Brewing Company served up honors for the "Living Legends" of the Negro Baseball League at a February reception.

The event demonstrated Coors' ongoing support for Black History Month and other contributions to the African American community. Coors announced in January a three-year alliance with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum to highlight the achievements of black baseball stars and to celebrate African American culture.

Honored were legendary players Sammie Haynes, Lonnie "Carl" Summers, Lou "Sweet Lou" Johnson, Andrew "Pullman" Porter, and John "Buck" O'Neil. All, except O'Neil, lived or played in the Los Angeles area.

Haynes, who has lived in Los Angeles for 47 years, was one of the premier players of the early 1940s, leading his Atlanta Black Crackers to a pennant in 1942. He was both a player and manager before glaucoma prematurely curtailed his playing career.

"Carl" Summers was a perennial all-star catcher in the late 1930s and 1940s. He had the ability to hit for power during his playing days in both the Tampico Mexican League and for the Chicago American Giants of the Negro American Baseball League.

Johnson was known to his fans as "Sweet Lou" for his dramatic home run in Game 7 of the 1965 World Series that drove the Los Angeles Dodgers to a World Series victory. He also was instrumental in leading the Dodgers to the National League pennant the following year.

## SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

The NCAA Tournament has come and gone. It won't be remembered as one of the most exciting tournaments in history, but the finale sure was special. Arizona's incredible run highlights the 1997 Tournament — one which featured a few lasting memories:

It took Lute Olson four times to notch a win in the Final Four, and once he did gain a victory he got a little greedy — he got two! It was a season of firsts for the Arizona Wildcats. The school won its first men's basketball national championship, \$4-79, in overtime over defending-champion Kentucky. The Wildcats became the first team to defeat three No. 1 seeds and will go down as the first fourth-seeded squad to cut down the nets. All this after finishing in fifth place in the Pac-10, the lowest finish for Arizona in the Lute Olson era.

The most historical moment of the Tournament occurred in the second round, when North Carolina beat Colorado, 73-56, giving Dean Smith victory No. 877, moving him ahead of Adolph Rupp as the NCAA's all-time winningest coach. To get a full appreciation of what Smith has accomplished in his coaching career, one has to look beyond the championship banners hanging in the building named after him and take note of the number of former North Carolina players and coaches who made their way down to Winston-Salem, N.C. to celebrate the monumental victory with their mentor.

While the national championship game will go down as the most exciting of the Tournament, the Stanford/Wake Forest tilt in the sec-

ond round of the West Regional was equally as dramatic. Although there was no trophy at stake, the playing careers of two of the last great remaining seniors were on the line. Wake Forest center Tim Duncan, who garnered every Player of the Year award this season, and Stanford's All-America point guard Brevin Knight engaged in as much of a one-on-one battle as can exist without two players guarding each other. Duncan's career would come to a premature end, as the Cardinal advanced to the Sweet 16 with a 72-66 win. Knight's career would only be prolonged for one more game, however, as his collegiate career concluded against Utah in the Regional semifinals.

It's hard to imagine a 35-2 season being a disappointment, but that's how many college hoops fans are going to view the plight of the 1996-97 Kansas Jayhawks. Roy Williams has won more games in his first nine seasons than any other coach in NCAA history, but he's still got that gorilla hanging to his neck. Roy will get his national championship one day, but Williams knows that's not the most important part of being a coach. The Dean Smith protege had tears in his eyes after his team lost to Arizona, 85-82, in the Southeast Regional semifinal, but they were almost tears of joy. He knows the short-term pain of not winning a title will disappear soon enough, but the memories of being part of such a great team will last forever. His post-game speech, in which he said he wouldn't trade places with any other coach in the game, gave us an indication of just how genuine the KU coach is.

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