

SPORTS

Girls find mentor in Carline

Continued from Metro girls."

Carline arrived and the girls were soon in a circle, hearing his pep talk about exercising during the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Don't just sit around for four days eating turkey sandwiches, or the next team will kill you," he said. Carline urged them to "be thankful, not just for the material things, but the friendships, your coaches, everything."

"Now, let's work hard today," he said, quickly leading various exercises and small groups working off each other's energy and skills.

"I teach the girls that if they keep their grades together and work hard, there are opportunities out there for them," Carline told The Portland Observer, pointing to a "string of successes," former Benson players who now play major college ball.

Some won scholarships right away, he tells the girls, while others walked on after earning good grades and winning a spot on the team and a scholarship.

The Benson plan has worked so well, several graduates are playing college basketball now and Carline keeps hoping for college recruiters to show up in the Benson stands more often.

Some have won scholarships, like Mfon Udoka (class of '94) and now a senior basketball star at DePaul University, Chicago. (She

has been tagged by USA Today as the nation's top rebounder in women's basketball. And she is one of five players in DePaul history to have 1,000 points, 700 rebounds and 100 steals.

When Sarah Green was at Benson, she led the state in scoring in her senior year and won a scholarship to the University of Portland.

Persistence is as important as grades, Carline tells his girls, noting Reshawn Lewis, who "had great grades and good basketball skills, didn't get recruited, but walked on at the University of Oregon and made the team."

He also recalled Monica Watts who played on a junior college basketball court for two years before transferring to Oregon State University, walking on the court, earning a scholarship, and now averaging 13 points and 8 rebounds a game.

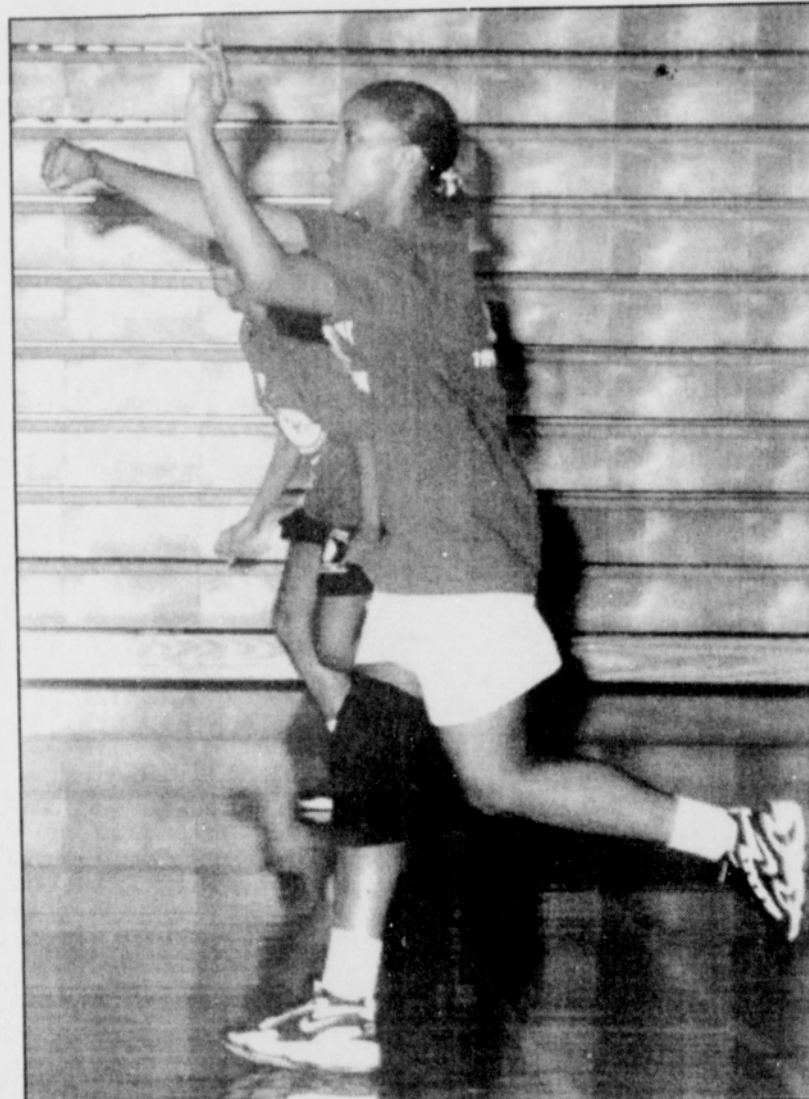
Similarly, Kim Green, Sara's sister, was getting good grades at the University of Portland, where she is a senior, walked on to the basketball court, and played so well in her freshman year, they gave her a scholarship for the next three years.

"We expect the kids to have at least 2.0 grade point average to try out for the team," he said. "But our goal is to get them to a 2.5 or better by the end of the year."

With a combined roster of 38 girls on the varsity, freshman and junior varsity teams, "our saying this year is 'Winning with Teamwork' and that includes players, coaches, parents and teachers," said

Carline. "Everybody is involved. 'I'm so happy with these girls, a great bunch of kids," he said. Al-

though not as tall as some teams, "they are quick, have good skills and are hard workers."



Benson freshman Serena Washington makes the pass as Coach Carline's team goes through practice.

Each practice is a bit different, with weight training on Tuesdays, jump rope on Wednesdays, and constantly asking "Are you having fun yet?" then telling them, "I'm having fun too."

"If you do stuff like that, the winning will come," he notes. "But you have won already, the way you act and carry yourself."

Carline often talks about "sportsmanship, how to handle different situations, being scared, having intensity and all the things you need on the court to be successful - that carries into the classroom."

This is his 12th year at Benson, where he also serves as drug and alcohol coordinator.

"I've wanted to coach since seventh grade in Los Angeles," said Carline, who earned a physical education degree and played at Pacific University, Forest Grove, then started coaching middle school children in basketball, track and volleyball.

He attributes his own success to parental motivation that "put me on the road" and inspiration from his junior college coach Jim Thompson.

But in the end, "I did all the sprints, ran the relays, did the triple jump and long jump and played basketball," he said.

Carline, 41, and wife, Debra have been married for 14 years. They have four children: Denise (14), Daedra (8), Delissa (7), and Dennis Jr. (2).

Sprewell spars with PJ Draws 10 game suspension for 'attack'

Latrell Sprewell has been suspended indefinitely for what the team said was an attack on P.J. Carlesimo during practice, and the star guard reportedly threatened to "kill" the coach.

"We aren't going to tolerate the conduct that was displayed on the court," general manager Garry St. Jean said at a Monday night news conference.

Sprewell, leading the Warriors with a 21.4 scoring average, is suspended without pay for at least 10 games, starting with Wednesday's home game against Cleveland. A 10-game suspension would cost the three-time All-Star guard \$935,000 of his \$7.7 million salary.

Carlesimo, saddled with a 1-13 record in his first year as coach at Golden State, said he and Sprewell argued twice during a drill in practice Monday.

"I asked Spre to leave practice. He didn't, and words kind of escalated to some physical contact," he said, refusing to say how he got a scratch on his neck.

O'Neal looks for Good Samaritan

Jermaine O'Neal of the Trail Blazers would like to thank the man who got him out of his car after a hit-and-run accident last week, but the man is nowhere to be found.

"My mom said the guy was an angel. It makes you wonder," O'Neal said. "Nobody else but me saw him, and when I turned around, he was gone."

O'Neal's mother, Angela Ocean, is certain.

"It was an angel; that's why they can't find him," she said Sunday from her home in Columbia, S.C. "I

always ask God to take care of my children, and he does."

O'Neal found himself trapped in his Lexus after another vehicle knocked it into a ditch about 1:30 a.m. Thursday near his home in west Portland.

O'Neal was returning from Portland International Airport after a game in Minneapolis. He was treated for a bruised left shoulder and a bruised shin and given six stitches for a cut near his left eye.

The driver of the other car, Brian Christopher Wolfe, 25, of Canby,

was arrested about a half-hour after the accident. He will be charged with hit and run, assault and reckless driving, the Washington County sheriff's office said. Investigators said Wolfe ran away, but left a wallet in his GMC Yukon utility truck.

Minutes later, a deputy was dispatched to a fight nearby. There the deputy found Wolfe and Frank Rodela, 35, who lives near the accident site.

Rodela had chased Wolfe, wrestled him to the ground and screamed for help.

Edwards leads Glory

Teresa Edwards scored 25 points Sunday to lead the Atlanta Glory to a 74-67 victory over the Portland Power in an American Basketball League game played at the University of Georgia.

Edwards, the Glory's player-coach, scored nine points in the fourth quarter as Atlanta (8-9) broke away from a 51-51 tie at the end of three periods. It was the Glory's fifth win in its last six games.

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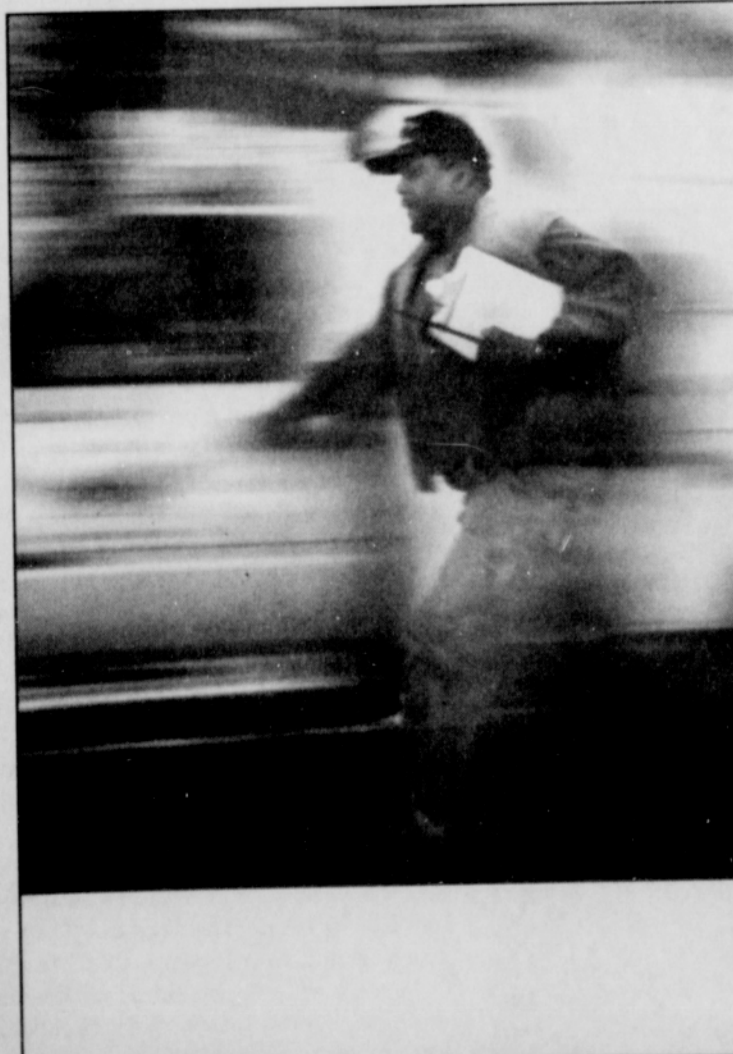
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