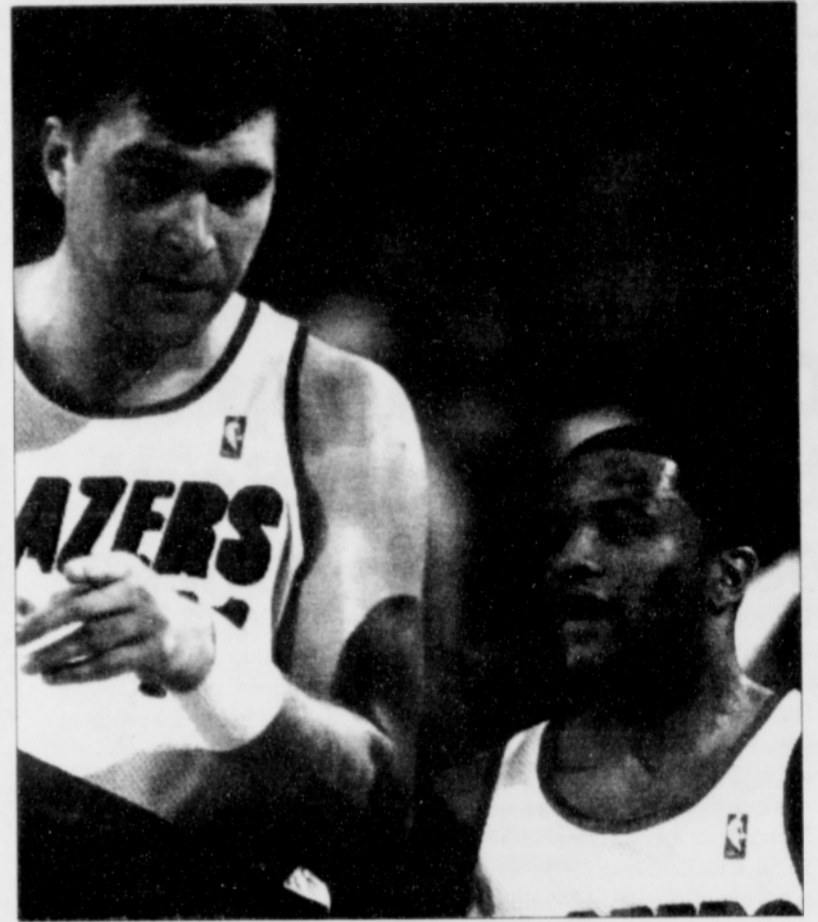
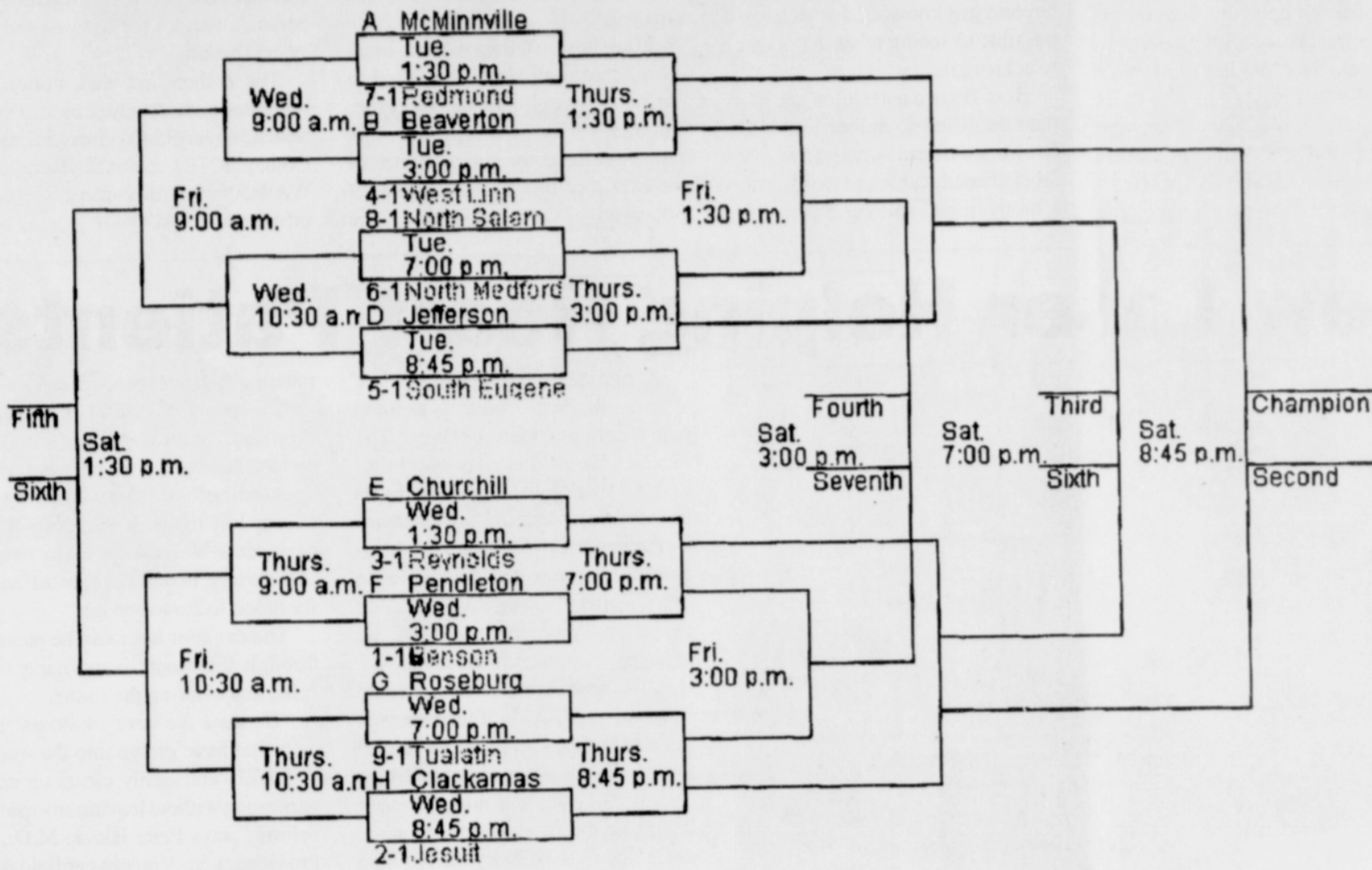


SPORTS

4A Boys High School Basketball

The Blazers are riding high on top of the league



L to R: Arvydas Sabonis and Damon Stoudemire of the Portland Trail Blazers. With 15 games behind them and a 12-3 record of attestation, the Blazers would appear to be the team to beat.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Not too late to sign up for Peninsula Little League! Pick-up your applications at The Portland Observer for more information call Mark Washington At 288-0033 or 529-9242

Woods fires 'Fluff' as his caddie

Tiger hires veteran Williams to replace colorful Cowan Associated Press CLEVELAND, March 8 — Tiger finally pulled the trigger. Ending two weeks of speculation that began when Tiger Woods asked an old school buddy to carry his bag in a \$5 million tournament, Woods said Monday he has ended his 2 1/2-year relationship with caddie Mike "Fluff" Cowan.

Broncos trade QB Lewis to Panthers for draft picks

(March 1, 1999) — Jeff Lewis, once considered the heir apparent to John Elway, was traded by the Denver Broncos to the Carolina Panthers for two undisclosed draft picks. The picks will be in the 1999 and 2000 drafts. Lewis was passed on the depth chart this year by 1998 draft pick Brian Griese.

In Tennis

In Grand Slam Cup News, finals, Marcelo Rios defeated Andre Agassi in the mens event over 5 sets. With Venus Williams defeating Patty Snyder in the womens in 3 sets.

Marcelo Rios is the 1998 Mens Grand Slam Cup Champion, with Venus Williams winning the inaugural womens competition.

Silas takes over as Hornets coach

Assistant replaces Cowens, who quit team Sunday in salary dispute Associated Press FORT MILL, S.C., March 8 — Paul Silas took over as the Charlotte Hornets' new coach Monday, pledging to try to revive a franchise beset by poor play, weak leadership and injuries.

NCAA in \$54.5 million settlement

Entry-level coaches to be compensated for restricted salaries

The NCAA agreed Tuesday to pay \$54.5 million to entry-level coaches who had sued because they were not being paid enough. The governing body of college sports also agreed to drop its appeal of a judge's ruling in favor of about 2,000 Division I assistant coaches who had come under the "restricted-earnings" plan.

"This has been a long and unfortunately - divisive issue," said Charles Wethington, NCAA executive chairman. "It has pitted employee against school and sometimes friend against friend."

The settlement was reached through mediation and both parties had been trying to agree on a settlement figure since February 24.

Next step for the NCAA is deciding how to allocate the \$54.5 million in damages among the 302 Division I schools. Attorneys' fees will come out of that figure.

Executive Director Cedric Dempsey said the NCAA will contribute about \$22 million from cost-saving measures the next three years, leaving the schools responsible for \$32.4 million. He would not speculate on what the school-by-school allocation might be.

Dempsey pointed to two possible plans an NCAA committee is considering - one, dividing the total equally among all Division I schools, the other based on division of revenue to the size of the school.



1999 NCAA TOURNAMENTS



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