



TAKING FROM THE CREAM OF THE CROP

By JOY RAMOS

After placing 4th in the State Boys 4A basketball tournament, Jefferson high school's individual placements in state rankings at best was an honorable mention. That was a "hard blow" for them after defeating all three #1 teams throughout the state.

None of Jefferson's team members were represented in the rankings of 1st, 2nd or 3rd All Staters. This is difficult to conceive considering that these players have good college playing potential.

It was another insult among many against Jefferson high school. The less obvious has been the "dirty" practice of coaches luring Jefferson's best athletes into their school's sports program. Typically, athletes are given promises of more playing time and a "better" education.

An estimated 1800 Jefferson students have transferred out of their attendance boundaries. Of that number, many were athletic instead of academically-related transfers.

Olivia Collier, one of Oregon's best track runners transferred out of Jefferson to Benson High School in her senior year. Normally, any student beyond their sophomore year is not allowed to transfer to Benson. Officials at Benson had to make Collier an exception and "bend" the rules for her to play sports.

The systematic dispersal of Jefferson high school's outstanding athletes has been a longstanding problem that reveals a corrupt athletic system supported by the school district. Jefferson has had its best and brightest athletes stripped from the school, conspiracy-style for the past twenty years by way of desegregation and busing laws. Even Jefferson's attendance area has changed. Close to the campus are Shaver and Commercial St. which are now a part of Grant high school's boundaries.

Athletic transfers out of Jefferson have occurred for years like "quiet" transactions. It has only been a localized phenomena.

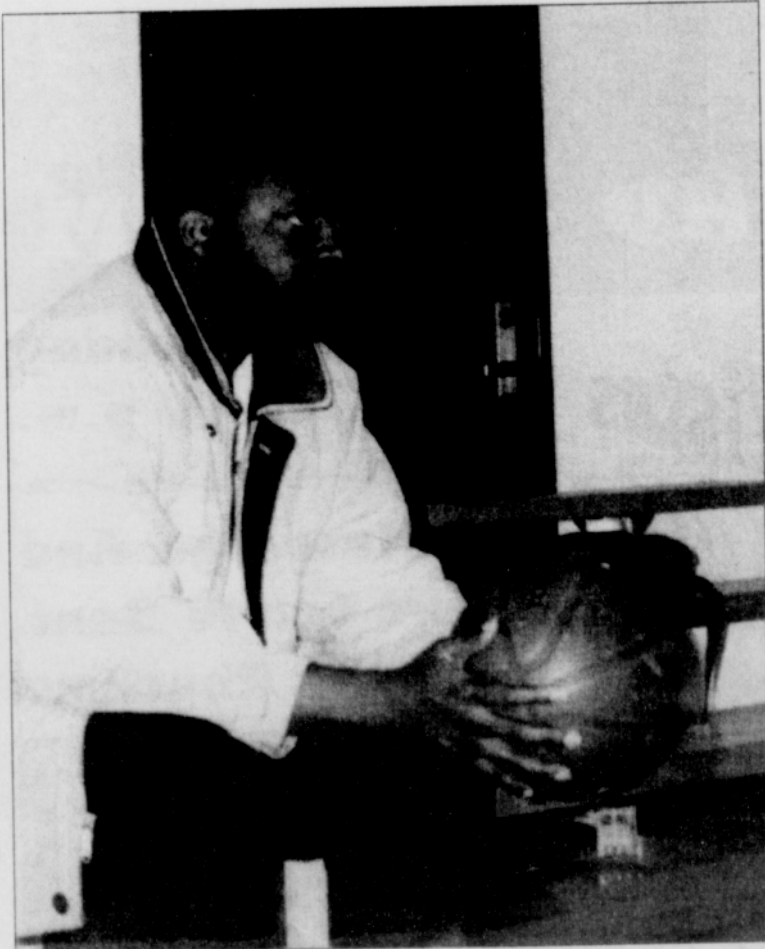
There is no other school district within Oregon that allows athletic recruitment by coaches like Portland has.

If Jefferson was able to keep their talented pool of basketball athletes from transferring out to other Portland Area high schools, the 1999 Men's Basketball All League would read differently. It would consist of a "Dream Team" of players - making Jefferson an unbeatable force throughout the state.

The academically-poor students who transfer for athletic reasons are potential victims of a system that may not look out for their future and well-being. This is especially true in schools that grant sport privileges to athletes with low G.P.A.s. Not all schools provide the tutoring, after-school and Saturday school programs for these academically challenged athletes. Tragically, this leaves them ill-prepared for higher education.

The lax attitude by the Portland Public School System concerning this issue is part of the problem. Correcting it would involve two things: discouraging athletic transfers and requiring athletes to meet basic academic standards to play.

If these basic policies are applied "across the board", it would prevent athletes from being used or using an irresponsible athletic school system that does not truly serve them.



Marshall Haskins is the head coach of Jefferson High School's Varsity Boys Basketball team.

PGE - Enron Foundation presents

The Jefferson Dancers

Concert A	May 6 & 8	8 PM
	May 8	2 PM
Concert B	May 7	8 PM
	May 9	2 PM & 7 PM

Newmark Theatre
Portland Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets Available at the
PCPA Box Office, 1111 SW Broadway
All Fred Meyer Food & Outlet, 774-7777
\$16.50 / 14.50 / 10.50
All Seats Reserved
Tickets Subject to PGE Purchase

The 10th annual Rainbow Coalition INNER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 10, 1999, 6:30 - 12:30
Crystal Ballroom, 14th Avenue at West Burnside

"SWINGING THE BLUES"

Lily Wilde and Her Jumpin' Jubilee Orchestra
Norman Sylvester Band with LaRhonda Johnson,
Renato Caranto, and Sonny Hess.



Bill Rhoades and Alan Hagar
The Jim Mesi Band with Mel Solomon
The Linda Hornbuckle Band
The Lloyd Jones Struggle
Shoehorn



Tickets: \$12.00 advance - \$15 door
Restaurant - Snack Bar - Full-Service Bar - 21 & over

Tickets at Music Millennium, Geneva's, House of Sound, Reflections, Crystal Ballroom Box Office

A benefit for the Portland Rainbow Coalition, co-sponsored by the Cascade Blues Association
CBA members receive \$1 discount

