

Portland Observer **Metro/Sports**

Jefferson, Benson rivals will play at bigger facility

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Jefferson vs. Benson boys basketball series is moving to the Chiles Center.

In a move to accommodate larger crowds, the Portland Interscholastic League will play both games this season between the undefeated, top-ranked Democrats and No. 5 Techmen at the 5,000-seat facility on the University of Portland campus.

The first game will be played at 7:45 p.m. on Friday January 21.

The other league game is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Tickets, priced at \$5 adults and \$2 for students, will go on sale at each school later this week, and at the Chiles Center ticket office Friday night, said Greg Ross, PIL athletic director.

"We tried to do this last year, but it didn't work out," Ross said. "We knew their games with each other would sell out, but then we couldn't find another place to play."

Last season's two games sold out early, drawing estimated crowds of 1,800 at Benson and 1,850 at Jefferson, Ross said.

This season, "We waited to see how Jefferson was drawing — and they have been drawing big crowds right from the start — and to see what kind of team Benson had. Benson was ranked fifth, so we figured we better find another place to play."

About a month ago, Ross said he began trying to find a larger neutral site. The Chiles Center was the first choice, "since it's a great place for a high school game, and it's also convenient," Ross said.

When University of Portland officials last week agreed to play host to the two games, both PIL teams were excited, Ross said.

"The only hesitation was if only one game would be played there, and that meant giving up the home advantage to one team," Ross said. "But with both games there, neither has an advantage or disadvantage."

Both Jefferson-Benson games will be preceded by a girls game, starting at 6 p.m.

Jefferson's game at Grant on Friday was a sellout, forcing the PIL to sell tickets days in advance. An earlier Jefferson game at Lincoln drew a near-capacity crowd.

Portland's WNBA team, 'Fire' unveils logo

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On January 14, 2000, the look of the city's newest team was revealed in a special celebration at the Rose Garden. Choosing a name which represents the energy, intensity and emotion the franchise intends to bring the city, Portland's WNBA expansion team revealed the logo and look of the team which reflects those characteristics.

"FIRE is what I look for in a player and it's what all fans will see in this team," Head Coach and General Manager Linda Hargrove promises. "I can't think of a better word to describe the intensity I expect this team to bring to the floor every night."

Support for the WNBA by the Portland community has been unparalleled and will likely continue to grow as the franchise builds on its new identity.

"FIRE describes not just the intensity of the team, but also the fervor of our fans, who have been extremely supportive of our local sports teams for many, many years," added Harry Hutt, Trail Blazers' Senior VP of Marketing Operations.

Participants in the event include Linda Hargrove, FIRE Head Coach/General Manager, Coquese Washington, the FIRE's fifth round pick in the 1999 expansion draft (and a former Portland Power player), Sandi Bittler, FIRE Vice President of Business Operations, Harry Hutt, Trail Blazers' Senior VP, Marketing Operations, Kari Shanklin, Fire Prevention Specialist from Gresham Fire Department, and Commissioner Jim Francessconi, a city council member since 1996.

The celebration will be held for the approximately 6,500 season ticket holders, sponsors and special guests who helped bring the franchise to Portland. Shooting contests, video

highlights, autograph sessions, and other interactive events will build

excitement prior to the unveiling and will continue after the identity is revealed to create an exciting, fun-filled event for everyone in attendance. A public logo unveiling is scheduled to take place later this month.

The new FIRE mark consists of the distinctive WNBA

two-tone basketball represented in white and gold with stylized red flames licking the ball. The typography sizzles with its strong and powerful font with internal accents of red and a gold drop shadow.

The FIRE joins the Seattle Storm, Miami Sol, and Indiana Fever as the WNBA's four expansion teams this summer. Portland and Seattle will compete in the League's Western Conference, while Indiana and Miami will play in the Eastern Conference. All Portland home games will be played at the Rose Garden.



NBA Standings

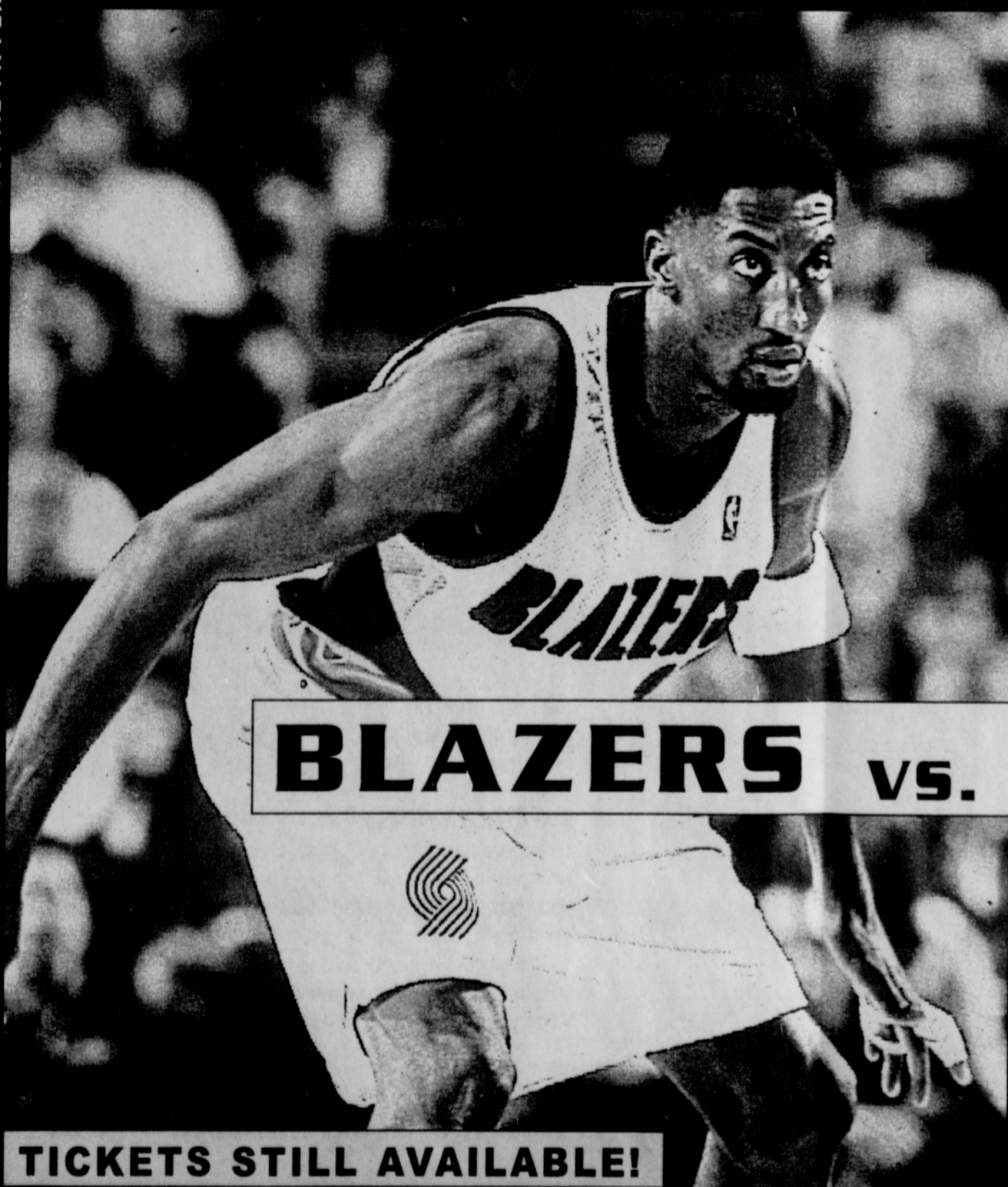
Western Conference

PACIFIC DIVISION										MIDWEST DIVISION									
W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.		W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.	
LA Lakers	32	7	.821	-	8-2	L-1	18-3	14-4	21-5	Utah	24	11	.686	-	8-2	W-2	15-3	9-8	15-6
Portland	28	9	.757	3	8-2	L-1	13-3	15-6	18-6	S. Antonio	25	14	.641	1	6-4	W-1	14-3	11-11	15-8
Seattle	25	13	.658	6 1/2	7-3	W-5	12-6	13-7	19-8	Minnesota	19	16	.543	5	7-3	W-1	12-8	7-8	11-11
Sacramento	23	12	.657	7	8-2	W-5	15-2	8-10	15-6	Denver	17	19	.472	7 1/2	3-7	L-4	14-7	3-12	9-12
Phoenix	21	15	.583	9 1/2	4-6	W-1	16-5	5-10	9-14	Houston	13	24	.351	12	3-7	W-3	6-11	7-13	10-14
LA Clippers	10	27	.270	21	1-9	L-5	7-10	3-17	5-18	Dallas	12	25	.324	13	3-7	L-1	7-10	5-15	8-16
Golden State	7	30	.189	24	1-9	W-1	4-16	3-14	3-20	Vancouver	10	27	.270	15	4-6	L-3	5-14	5-13	5-18

Eastern Conference

ATLANTIC DIVISION										CENTRAL DIVISION									
W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.		W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.	
Miami	24	12	.667	-	7-3	W-2	12-5	12-7	12-7	Indiana	25	12	.676	-	7-3	L-1	15-2	10-10	14-7
New York	23	14	.622	1 1/2	6-4	W-2	11-4	10-10	17-9	Detroit	21	16	.568	4	8-2	L-1	13-5	8-11	17-11
Phila.	22	15	.579	3	8-2	W-3	13-7	9-9	16-8	Milwaukee	22	17	.564	4	6-4	W-2	13-6	9-11	16-12
Boston	17	20	.459	7 1/2	6-4	W-2	13-6	4-14	12-11	Charlotte	19	17	.528	5 1/2	3-7	W-1	14-2	5-15	12-10
Orlando	16	23	.410	9 1/2	1-9	L-7	7-11	9-12	10-15	Toronto	20	18	.526	5 1/2	4-6	L-2	12-8	8-10	12-12
New Jersey	15	22	.405	9 1/2	6-4	L-2	11-10	4-12	11-15	Cleveland	16	21	.432	9	5-5	L-1	12-8	4-13	11-16
Washington	12	27	.308	13 1/2	2-8	L-4	7-12	5-15	8-19	Atlanta	13	23	.361	11 1/2	2-8	L-2	10-9	3-14	10-15
										Chicago	5	29	.147	18 1/2	3-7	L-3	4-13	1-16	5-16

SCOTTIE PIPPEN



ARRIVE EARLY TO THE NETS GAME!
FIRST 10,000 FANS TO ENTER THROUGH THE NORTH OR SOUTH ENTRANCE WILL RECEIVE A LIMITED EDITION SCOTTIE PIPPEN BLAZERS BUDDY COURTESY OF



BLAZERS vs. NETS

ROSE GARDEN
MONDAY, JAN. 24TH
7:00 PM

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!

TUESDAY, FEB. 1ST 7:00 PM vs. BULLS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ROSE QUARTER TICKET OFFICE AND TICKETMASTER LOCATIONS

SERVICE CHARGE APPLY ONLY AT TICKETMASTER LOCATIONS



The Rose Garden is accessible to people with disabilities. For Accessible Seating, call 503.231.8000/TDD 503.231.1101

CALL 224-4400

