

Portland **Sports** Observer

Honoring Oregon's Athletes of Color

Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Six Athletes

By JOY RAMOS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Six top Oregon athletes of color were officially inducted at the first Oregon Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony early this month. The event at Atwaters Restaurant was organized as a fund-raiser where the proceeds will go towards erecting a new museum.

Attendees were treated to an elegant affair filled with good food and music by local music artists. According to the organization's founder, Thad Spencer, a former World Heavyweight Contender, he believes that having a Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame is the start of something big that will carry itself nationally. His plans are for the creation of other statewide chapters. Spencer's greatest intent is to recognize outstanding athletes of color who have received little recognition for their achievements. Within this state, the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame has only 18 people of color out of 264 athletes as members.

Emceeding the induction ceremony was Billy Ray Moore, a former collegiate basketball player. He briefly introduced each sports star and later handed them a plaque of honor. First in line to receive an award was Freeman Williams, a record setting basketball player for Portland State University who averaged 35.6 points per game. Freeman was unable to attend the ceremony. Accepting the award on his behalf was Ralph Nickerson from Portland.

Denny Moyer, a former Junior Middleweight Champion of the world who boxed Sugar Ray Robinson twice was the second athlete recognized but could not attend. His father, Harry



Harry Moyer (from left), Woodrow Green, Jim Jarvis, Ray Lampkin and Mel Renfrow are among the athletes honored at the Oregon Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame's first induction ceremony at Atwaters.

Moyer was on hand to receive the plaque.

Woodrow Green, a former Jefferson High School and Arizona State football player who went All-American twice mentioned during his induction that whenever he was making last minute plays on the field, he was always going against the clock. This time however, he explained, "When the clock ends tonight, I'm on the winning side."

A loving tribute was given to Ray Lampkin, a former Lightweight boxing champion who fought with Roberto Duran in 1975. It was a historic moment for this boxer who fought in a 15-round match for the champion-

ship where he was narrowly defeated. Lampkin received a call that same evening from President Gerald Ford to say that he was proud of him for being an American. At home, Lampkin is also considered a local hero. His photo can be seen proudly displayed at the Matt Dishman Center in northeast Portland.

Jim Jarvis was also inducted for his involvement as a former Oregon State basketball player. He recalled his personal history of playing at the World University Games in a team of 6 white and 6 black athletes at a time when the Watts Riot broke out. For all players, it was a racially tense situa-

tion. He commented on how far we've come in race relations, especially in the sports arena.

Next in line to receive an award was Mel Renfro, a Jefferson High School, Oregon All-American and a Dallas Cowboys All-Pro football player. Renfro played an integral part in co-creating the Oregon Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame. He proudly explained the significance of the evening's event that sets the precedence for other future inductees.

The dream of having a museum for the Oregon Multi-Cultural Sports Hall of Fame is getting closer to reality. Supporters of this project are cur-

rently reviewing buildings to buy like the Pine Street Theater in southeast Portland. As Mel Renfro has said about the organization, "This is a birth. Five years from now, a museum!"

Family Fun Night

King Elementary School students, families, community members and business partners are invited to Family Literacy Fun Night, Tuesday, Dec 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria at 4906 N.E. 6th Ave.

The idea is to improve student performance by giving children a fun opportunity to learn and play together with other families.

Fun Night events include Caribbean Story Telling, math games, the King School Choir, and door prizes. A pizza party will be given for the class with the most kids participating.

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Cycling Group Celebrates Season

The kids of Northwest BIKE, a non-profit children's outreach program that develops competitive biking skills, recently celebrated a big season with 8 state championships and \$40,000 in sponsorships.

They gathered for an elegant night at the Serratto restaurant in northwest Portland.

Serratto Owner Stephen Gomez was presented a plaque for his "Vision and Faith," in taking a keen interest in the group. Gomez gave his own money to pay for the team's jerseys on behalf of Serratto Restaurant. A former executive at NIKE, Gomez also helped secure a \$10,000 grant from the NIKE foundation.

David Guettler, owner of River City Bicycle at Morrison and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, was also given praise for his financial support over the last 3 years. This year, Guettler called friend Rod Jewett at Bianchi USA and negotiated a donation of \$10,000 worth of new Bianchi bicycles.

After dinner, Northwest BIKE Director John Benenate told the story of a team that finished 4th in Oregon among 133 teams. He emphasized the team's strength in diversity, not just a group of children or elite adults.

Northwest BIKE is a component of the competitive cycling program Cyclisme, which has been developing racers in Portland since its inception at Portland State University in 1993.



John Benenate of Northwest BIKE presents Anissa Cobb, 13, of Whitiker Middle School, with the "Best New Rider" trophy for her accomplishments in the group's competitive cycling program for kids.

Wallace Leads Blazers Past Nets

(AP)—Worn out from their longest road trip in nearly 22 years, the Portland Trail Blazers were happy to let Rasheed Wallace carry the load for one more game.

Wallace scored 25 points and drove the baseline for a key layup with 1:41 left as the Portland Trail Blazers won their fourth straight, beating the New Jersey Nets 86-84 Saturday night.

"You put him in the same position as a Tim Duncan or KG (Kevin Garnett), and ask him to do those things night in and night out," Blazers point guard Damon Stoudamire said of Wallace. "He's just as good or better."

Wallace, who averaged a career-

high 16.4 points last season, is up to 20.3 this season. He was nearly impossible to guard early against the Nets, scoring 13 points in the first eight minutes. He scored just three points in the fourth quarter, but they helped Portland seal the win.

The Blazers led by nine with 7:22 left, but New Jersey cut the lead to one point three times in the final 4 minutes. After Evan Eschmeyer's free throws pulled the Nets to 83-82, Wallace made the first free throw but missed the second. Dale Davis grabbed the rebound and got the ball to Wallace, who spun around Aaron Williams for the easy basket and an 86-82 lead.

"That's typical of the way he's been delivering," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said.

Kendall Gill cut the lead to 86-84 on a layup with 1:17 left and the Nets had a chance to tie in the final minute, but Stephon Marbury missed a 22-foot jumper. After Portland's Damon Stoudamire threw the ball away at the other end, Gill missed a 19-footer with 1.7 seconds left.

"We got two good looks," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "Steph was wide open, and 75 percent of the time he's going to make that shot. Gill came up wide open, and most of the time he makes that shot."

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