

**Metro/Sports**

# All Star Game Turns to Stunning Performances

WASHINGTON (AP)—A stunning fourth-quarter comeback led by Allen Iverson. A thrilling final-minute shootout between Stephon Marbury and Kobe Bryant.

The ball in Bryant's hands for the last shot. A pass that no one expected. A last-second miss. A postgame celebration worthy of June. Yes, it was quite an All-Star game.

Iverson, Marbury and their Eastern Conference teammates transformed what looked like a blowout loss into an improbable 111-110 victory Sunday in a performance befitting the 50th anni-



Allen Iverson gets by Jason Kidd in the NBA All Star classic.

versary of the game.

"It was like a championship game out there," Dikembe Mutombo said. "I've been in the All-Star game the last seven years, and I've never seen anything like this."

It was the kind of game that might stop people from bashing the NBA as boring, or dismissing the East as far weaker than the West, the kind of game that might make the casual fan appreciate the heart and determination of some of the younger stars trying to seize the spotlight in the post-Jordan era.

Mostly, it was kind of game that any fan of any sport would prefer to see—a riveting one.

Iverson scored 15 of his 25 points in the final nine minutes, and Marbury hit two 3-pointers in the final 53 seconds as the East came back from a 21-point deficit.

Bryant, the NBA's leading scorer, could have taken the last shot. Instead, in a shock to everyone sitting in the building and watching on television, he threw a pass that resulted in a last-second miss by Tim Duncan.

"Everybody was saying we couldn't

win because of our size. It's not about size. It's about the size of your heart," Iverson said. "Coming into the fourth quarter, we were all sitting on the sidelines saying 'Why not us? Why can't we be the ones to come back from a 19-point deficit (after three quarters) in an All-Star game?'"

Turns out they could. While presenting the MVP award to Iverson, NBA commissioner David Stern, with a sly grin on his face, told Iverson that great basketball "can be wrapped—if you pardon the expression—in very small packages."

## ESPN to Showcase Portland Grand Prix a Track Meet

Portland's international track and field meet, the Adidas Oregon Track Classic, has been selected to join the IAAF Grand Prix Circuit. The 11th-annual competition

will be held on Sunday, June 3 at Mount Hood Community College. The meet will be televised nationally by ESPN as a part of the USA Track & Field Golden Spike Tour.

It will be one of 28 worldwide track meets where athletes can earn points to qualify for the 2001 IAAF Grand Prix Finals on Sept. 9 in Melbourne, Australia.

## Rose City to Host Slowpitch 'B'

The Portland Metro Softball Association has been awarded the men's slowpitch B ASA/USA Western National Championships for Sept. 20-23. The

tournament will be played at the William V. Owens softball complex at Delta Park. The winner of this tournament will qualify for the USA National Champi-

onship to be played in Oklahoma City, Oct. 20-21. For more information, call the Delta Sports Complex at 503-823-3112.

## Trail Blazers to Televis Sacramento Game

The Portland Trail Blazers announced Monday that they will televise Thursday's home game against the Sacramento Kings on BlazerCable.

"We are very pleased to be

able to add this game to our BlazerCable schedule. It will allow our many fans to be able to see the game which features the two top teams in the Division," said Harry Hut, Blazers executive


vice president and chief operating officer.

The Blazers host the Kings in the Rose Garden in a 7 p.m. match-up. The McDonalds Pre-Game show starts at 6:30 p.m.

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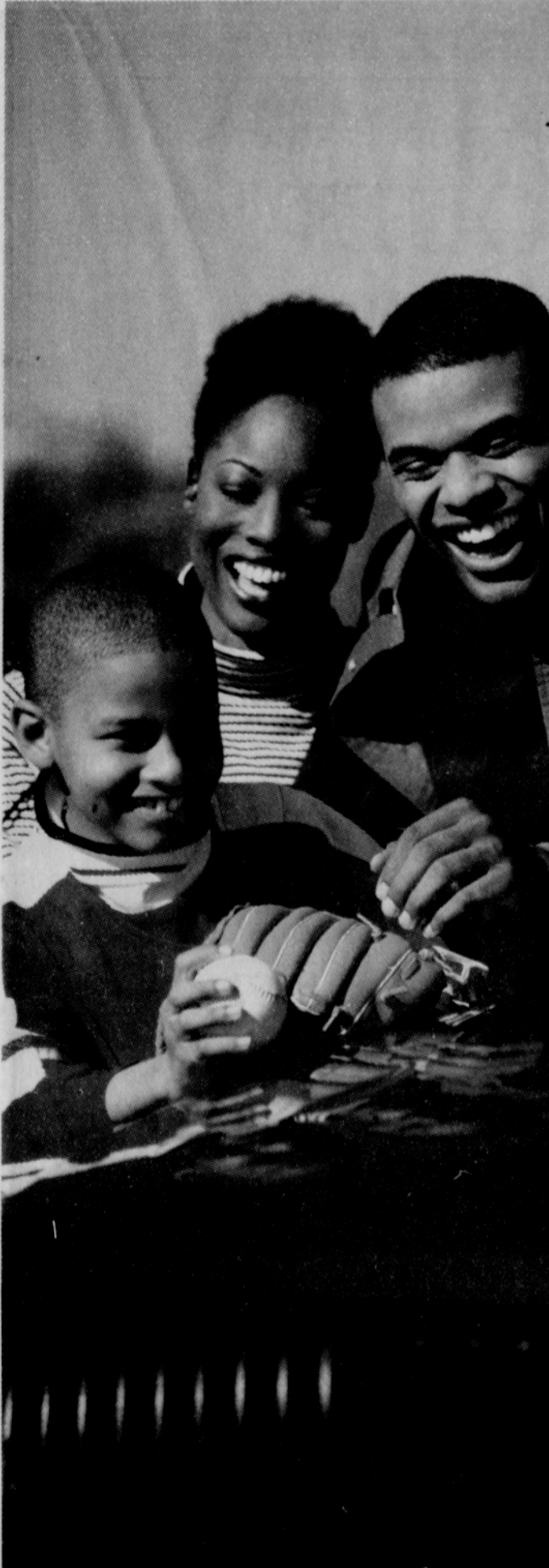
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