

Portland **Metro/Sports** Observer

New Court at Irving Park

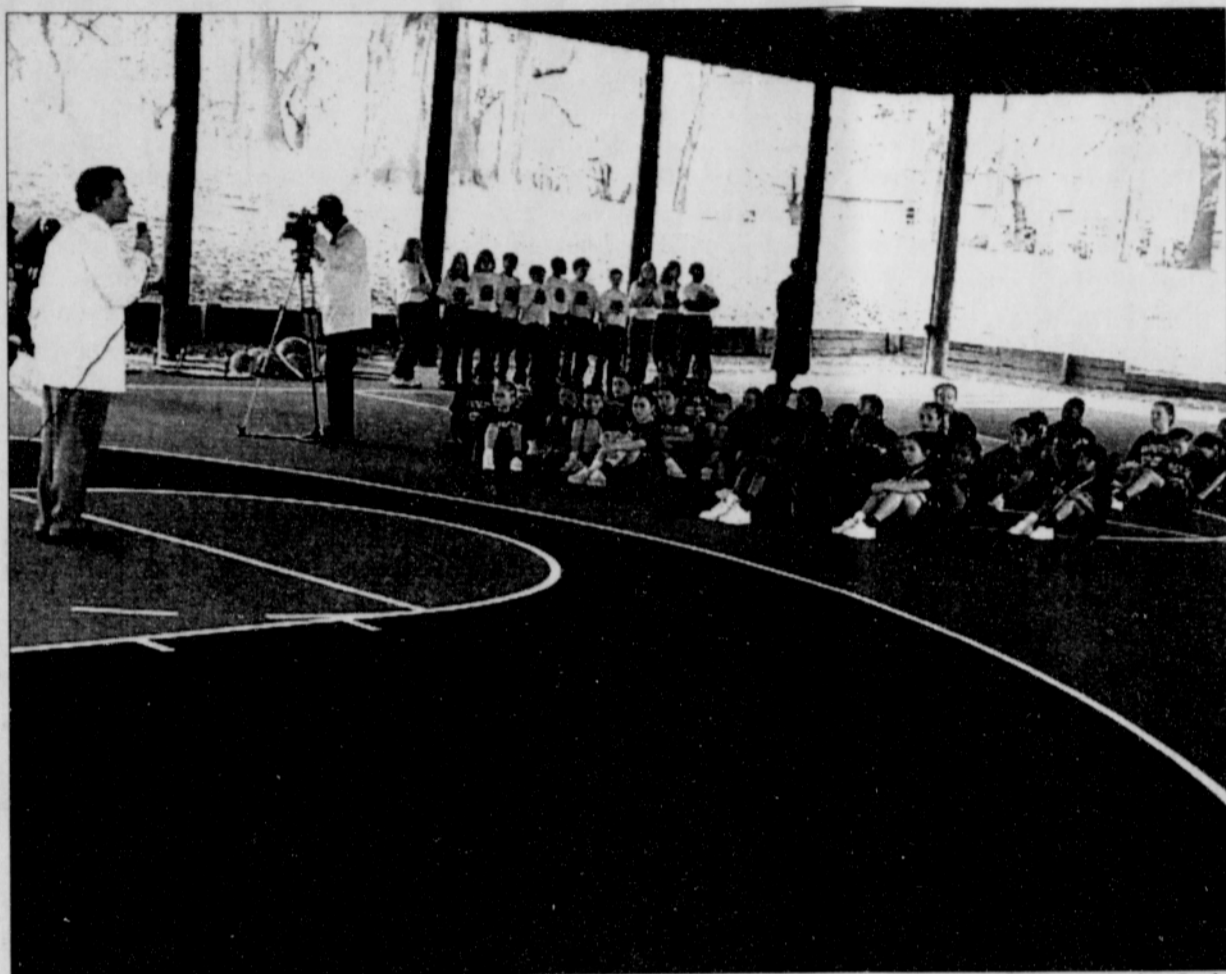
The Irving Park covered basketball court reopened Friday with students from Irvington Elementary School jumping up and down in anticipation.

The school's jump-rope team and chorus joined Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi and representatives from the Portland Trail Blazers and Union 76 to dedicate the refurbished court.

This project has been made possible with \$10,000 from the 76 Points for Parks program, collaboration between Union 76, the Trail Blazers and Portland Parks and Recreation.

Every time the Blazers make a three-point shot during a televised broadcast, Union 76 donates \$50 toward building or refurbishing inner-city basketball courts. This is the seventh park to benefit from the program.

The basketball courts at Irving Park are some of the most intensely used in the city and regulars have anxiously awaited completion of this project, which put the covered court out of commission over the winter. But the improvements have been worth



A new basketball court, made from the latest and most durable playing surfaces, is celebrated Friday at Irving Park in northeast Portland. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

the wait. First, crews removed and replaced cracked and uneven portions of the court and improved drainage around the perimeter. Then Atlas Track and Tennis, a leader in court

surfacing systems around the northwest, installed a three-layer surface.

They topped it off with Plexipave, and acrylic color finish, providing a colorful, du-

table, and long-lasting play surface. Following the dedication ceremony, the Blazer Stunt Team ran Irvington students through some basketball drills.



Ring Rage VII

Jeremy Morrison (left) scores a Technical Knock Out against James Brock at Multnomah Greyhound Park Friday. The Oregon Trail Promotions Ring Rage VIII professional boxing card was without Portland's Reggie Davis who for the second time in recent weeks was unable to fight because of circumstances beyond the control of promoters. Fight officials say Reggie's pro-debut will take place in the very near future. (PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNGS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Korean Snaps Kenya Streak in Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AP) — Lee Bong-ju of South Korea won the 105th Boston Marathon on Monday, snapping a 10-year victory streak for Kenya.

Catherine Ndereba made sure the Kenyans weren't shut out, however, winning the women's race for the second consecutive year.

Lee raised his fist to salute the crowd as he came down Boylston Street to finish in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 43 seconds. Silvio Guerra of Ecuador was second, 24 seconds behind, and Kenya's Joshua Chelang'a came in third, 46 seconds behind the winner.

Rod DeHaven, of Madison, Wis., was sixth in 2:12:41 — the first top 10 finish for an American since 1994. The United States, which hasn't had a Boston winner since Greg Meyer in 1983, placed two runners in the top 15 and nine among the top 31.

"I'll be back," said Josh Cox, of El Cajon, Calif., who led near the midpoint of the race before finishing 14th. "And I think the Americans will, too."

Italy's Gelindo Bordin, in 1990, was the last non-Kenyan to win the men's race. The last Korean to win was Kee Yong-ham in 1950.

"I knew I was running alone against many Kenyans, but the marathon is competing by yourself," Lee said. "I focused on competing by myself and not paying attention to the others."

Lee stayed with the pack the entire race as it dwindled from 24 at the half-marathon to a dozen and then to four by the time the runners came out of Heartbreak Hill, with Boston in their sights. It quickly became three: Lee, Chelang'a and Guerra.

Chelang'a dropped off the pace in the 25th mile, just before Lee made his move on Guerra. "I was a little bit wor-

ried, because I was expecting my teammates to be with me, to assist," Chelang'a said.

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Ndereba finished in 2:23:53, almost three minutes ahead of Poland's Malgorzata Sobanska.



Lee Bong-ju crosses the finish line to win the Boston Marathon.

Lyubov Morgunova of Russia was another 36 seconds back, in third. Ndereba's repeat deprived Ethiopian Fatuma Roba of an unprecedented fourth Boston women's title. Roba, who won from 1997-99, finished fifth. The lead pack of about 10 women stayed together for the first 16 miles before Ndereba and Roba finally broke away, with Kenya's Lornah Kiplagat about 50 yards back. Roba faded in the last five miles.

Earlier, South African Ernst Van Dyk won the men's wheelchair race in 1:25:12 to end a seven-year Swiss hold on the event. Australia's Louise

Sauvage won the women's wheelchair race in 1:53:54, outsprinting Edith Hunkeler of Switzerland over the last 600 yards to win by four seconds and take her fourth victory.

Van Dyk finished six minutes ahead of Franz Nietlispach, who won in 1995 and 1997-2000. Heinz Frei, the '94 and '96 winner, was 35 seconds back, in third. A field of 15,606 runners and 47 wheelchair racers left the Hopkinton starting line at noon. A half-million spectators were expected along the 26.2-mile route to Copley Square, where a laurel wreath and a prize of \$80,000 awaited the

fastest. The field, the third-largest in the event's history, included the last three men's champions and the winners of the last four women's races. Cloudy skies with temperatures in the low 50s greeted the runners and early morning winds had stilled — good marathoning weather. With 10 consecutive victories, Kenya was looking to break the record for any country set by the United States from 1916-25, although the 1918 race was a relay because of World War I. Last year, Ndereba completed the sweep when she became the first Kenyan to win the women's race.

Senior Softball Program Seeks Players

The Vancouver Senior Metro Adult Softball Association is seeking men age 60 and older to participate in its 2001 slowpitch league. Teams will form this month, with weekly games played between May and late August. All games are played on the association's field, located on the Clark College campus in Vancouver.

To register or get more information, contact; Joe Raabe at 360-571-9952 Joe Irwin at 360-896-0890 or Gary Bradbury at 503-253-1654.

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