



# SPORTS/METRO

## Techsters Keep Championship Drive Alive



Benson's Liddy Poindexter makes a move to the basket in a 54-36 win over Grant on Thursday. The victory keeps the Techsters in a tie for first place with archrival Jefferson. Both teams have just one loss for the season.

PHOTO BY DAVE GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

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## SPORTS briefs

**Mariners, Padres to Play in Portland**  
 Some Portland area kids and their parents will have the chance to enjoy spring break this year with a Major League Baseball game. For others, the game has already been sold out. The Seattle Mariners have scheduled an exhibition game against the San Diego Padres on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Portland's PGE Park. The game will take place at 1:05 p.m., during Spring Break week.

**Jordan, Pippen to Meet**  
 The Portland Trail Blazers will televise the March 16 home game against the Washington Wizards on KGW Channel 8. It will be the first time that Blazers forward Scottie Pippen and Wizards guard Michael Jordan make an appearance in Portland since their championship run with the Chicago Bulls. The two NBA all-stars will meet for the first time as opponents on Feb. 27 when the Blazers visit Washington, D.C. The Blazers host the Wizards in the Rose Garden in a 7 p.m. matchup. The Chevy Trailblazer Pregame show starts at 6:30 p.m.

**Seahawks Plan 2002 Schedule**  
 The National Football League has released the Seattle Seahawks 2002 opponents for their inaugural season as members of the NFC West division and first season in the team's new downtown stadium. Seattle will have home-and-home games versus division opponents Arizona Cardinals, San Francisco 49ers and St. Louis Rams. The Seahawks will have home games versus the Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles from the NFC East, while traveling to play the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys.

## PATRIOTS, RAMS MATCH UP



New England Patriots' Troy Brown (80) returns a Pittsburgh Steelers punt 55 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter of the AFC Championship game Sunday in Pittsburgh. (AP Photo)

(AP) - The plucky New England Patriots will face the St. Louis Rams' high-octane offense in the Super Bowl Sunday after both teams won their respective championship games.  
 Drew Bledsoe replaced an injured Tom Brady and led the New England Patriots to the Super Bowl game in New Orleans with a 24-17 upset over the Steelers in the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh. Bledsoe got plenty of help from Troy Brown, who returned a punt 55 yards for a touchdown and was the middle man on a 60-yard return of a blocked field goal that put New England ahead 21-3 early in the third quarter.  
 Bledsoe threw 11 yards to David Patten for a touchdown shortly after Brady injured his left leg late in the first half, putting the

Patriots in position for Adam Vinatieri's fourth-quarter field goal, and allowing New England to hold the ball enough to avoid constant pressure late in the game.  
 New England, which went from 5-11 in 2000 to 11-5 this regular season, heads to its third Super Bowl. The Patriots also went in 1986 and 1997, losing both times.  
 The Rams earned their second trip to the Super Bowl in three years with a 29-24 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in St. Louis.  
 The trip south didn't look likely early in the game as the Eagles' stingy defense kept the Rams off-balance. But in the second half, Kurt Warner, the league's MVP; Marshall Faulk, a three-time Offensive Player of the Year; and Isaac Bruce, Warner's favorite

receiver, were too much.  
 Things turned in the third quarter when the Rams dominated the clock and scored 10 points. They ran 22 of the 28 plays in the period, getting Jeff Wilkins' third field goal, a 41-yarder, and Faulk's 1-yard touchdown run.  
 With his helmet ripped off on the play, Faulk fell into the end zone and the raucous crowd sensed the Eagles were through. So did the St. Louis defense, which forced a second and third straight three-and-out series.  
 McNabb did lead Philadelphia 48 yards and run for a 3-yard touchdown with 2:56 to go. After forcing a punt, the Eagles had one last comeback try, but All-Pro cornerback Aeneas Williams got his sixth career playoff interception.

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