

SPORTS

PEAK PERFORMANCE



Notre Dame forward Jacqueline Batteast drives the lane around Colorado State guard Elizabeth English in route to a 46-45 Irish victory Monday in South Bend, Ind. Batteast scored 18 points and had 10 rebounds. (AP photo)

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PENINSULA LITTLE LEAGUE

Application for Board, Committees & Manager/Coach Positions
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Looking for a few dedicated people!

The Peninsula Little League of Portland is now accepting applications for Board members, Committee members, managers, and coaches to oversee the 2003 baseball and softball season.

Applications are being accepted for all League positions. If you are interested in being considered, please complete the following and return it to Peninsula Little League, P.O. Box 11581, Portland, Oregon 97211 or by fax to 503-284-1910

Name: _____
Address: _____
State/Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____
Occupation: _____
Organization affiliations: _____

I am interested in serving on the Peninsula Little League Board/Committee/Manager/Coach or Umpire because:

My primary community interests are:

For more information call 503-702-7043 or visit our web site www.peninsulalittleleague.org and complete our volunteer application. Thank you for your support.

Major League Baseball Door Opens

(AP)—Major league baseball is still on the wish list of many Oregon lawmakers and political leaders this holiday season.

Officials in Portland and the Washington, D.C., area were contacted last week as Major League Baseball considers relocating the Expos. The team is the collective property of league owners, who want to sell it and move to another city by the 2004 season.

Portland Mayor Vera Katz said she would get "directly involved" with any effort to bring the team to the city and would revive a stadium

financing bill.

State Sen. Ryan Deckert, D-Beaverton, who spearheaded an effort to bring a team to Oregon in 2001, said he would lead a similar fight when the 2003 Legislature opens Jan. 13.

Deckert said he has met with baseball backers the last few days and the proposal would be the same as the one that fell short in 2001 — a revenue bond backed by income taxes to be paid by future major leaguers in Portland.

Katz said she would work with the Oregon Sports Authority after

the holidays to bring the Expos to Portland and persuade the Legislature to approve the financing — all by Major League Baseball's "soft" deadline of late February.

But she emphasized the cost would be a key factor.

"I've said loud and clear we will not sacrifice city services," Katz said.

Any use of other taxpayer money is "not in the cards," Deckert added.

He argued that the proposal would result in a net gain for the state budget because the jobs created by the stadium construction project

would boost income tax revenue in a state that depends heavily on personal and corporate income taxes.

The recruiting effort would stand a better chance if it was backed by a wealthy investor, supporters say, but attempts to attract a big corporate name have failed in the past.

Tim Grewe, Portland's chief administrative officer, said the city doesn't know yet if the baseball proposal is realistic.

"The mayor's got an open mind on this issue," he said. "But until we look at the numbers we won't know."

Another \$100,000 for Spring Sports

The Oregon Sports Authority Foundation has announced a \$75,000 pledge to help save Portland Interscholastic League spring sports programs.

An additional \$25,000 is earmarked to develop a workable, long-term solution to ensure that a viable plan for school sports programs throughout Oregon is in place prior to the next school year.

The support marks the largest single donation in the history of the foundation and puts the PIL in position to successfully complete its spring sports fundraising campaign.

Portland native and NBA player Damon Stoudamire earlier pledged to donate \$250,000 for spring sports, nearly half the amount needed to save Portland Public School's athletic department budget in the current year.



Robert Johnson

Executive Buys NBA Expansion Team

black majority owner in major sports.

The league officially announced last week that Johnson was its choice to buy the NBA's newest expansion team, selecting him over a group that included Larry Bird.

"You can't be competitive anywhere in this world if you ignore good, quality talent," Johnson said. "That decision was made some 50 years ago when Branch Rickey brought Jackie Robinson into baseball."

The 56-year-old Johnson is the billionaire founder of Black Enter-

tainment Television. Pending approval of the 29 NBA owners, he will pay \$300 million to become the owner of the league's 30th team, which will begin play in the 2004-05 season.

"Bob Johnson deserved to get this franchise based on who he is, not what he is," Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo said when Johnson was introduced as the man who will bring the NBA back to North Carolina.

The new team, not yet nicknamed, will replace the Hornets, who left Charlotte for New Orleans last summer.

Fight Draws Suspensions, Fines

(AP)—Golden State Warriors forward Chris Mills is suspended for three games without pay by the NBA after fighting with the Trail Blazers' Bonzi Wells.

Officials say Mills went after Wells in the locker room, and blocked the Blazers' bus after Friday night's game.

Mills' suspension began with last night's game at Sacramento. He will also miss games against Toronto and the LA Clippers.

Wells was suspended for two games for throwing a punch at Mills, which the Blazers won 113-to-111.

Rasheed Wallace has been fined 15-thousand for trying to go after a fan who had thrown a wad of gum at him.

NBA senior Vice President Stu Jackson says a review of the videotape showed that Wells was the only participant who threw a punch.

Trainperson

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