

# SPORTS



## SKIES OPEN UP *for* HOOPS

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Elijah Owens shoots as friend Deshawne Howard tries to block in a game of hoops at King Elementary in northeast Portland. The two were taking advantage of Sunday's break in the clouds after a long string of rainy days. Clear skies are expected to continue through the end of the week.

### MLK Holiday Invitational

presented by  
G.I. Joe's and Albina Community Bank

at Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kerby

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Grant vs. Mt. Tahoma at 6:00pm  
Battle Ground vs. Mt. Zion at 7:30pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Lake Oswego vs. Prairie at 5:00pm  
Battle Ground vs. Mt. Tahoma at 6:30pm  
Jefferson vs. Mt. Zion at 8:00pm

Tickets available January 5th - January 9th  
at the Delta Park G.I. Joe's Ticketmaster  
1140 N. Hayden Meadows Dr., Portland, exit 3068 off I-5  
Phone: (503)283-0318

Adult	\$6.00
Students/youth (18 and under)	\$4.00
<b>Tickets at the Game</b>	
Adult	\$8.00
Students/youth (18 and under)	\$6.00

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THE SPORTS & AUTO STORE Albina Community Bank

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**Fish Dinner — \$10<sup>00</sup>** SATURDAY

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## SABONIS PROPELS BLAZERS IN WINS

Portland Trail Blazers' Arvydas Sabonis shoots over New York Knicks' Michael Doleac during first half action at Madison Square Garden in New York on Sunday. Portland won the game 92-89, with Sabonis' play being instrumental to the team's 10th victory in the last 11 games. (AP photo)

## Stoudamire Benched; Blames Whitsitt

(AP) — Damon Stoudamire's certain that he's warming the bench at the behest of Blazers' team president Bob Whitsitt.

He's sure even though Coach Maurice Cheeks says the decision was made by him and him alone.

Whitsitt, too, says he would never tell his coach who should play.

But Stoudamire says he's fed

up, so much so that he says he wants to play for any other team, as long as Whitsitt's not in charge.

At Sunday's game against the Knicks, a fan yelled to Stoudamire, "You've got to get traded. You can stay at my house."

The disgruntled Stoudamire replied, "I'd live in your dog house to get out of this."

## Museum to Tell Story of Muhammad Ali

A two-floor exhibit at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ken. will tell the story of the boxing great — from childhood to heavyweight champion to globe-trotting humanitarian.

## Jeff Hoopsters to Host Nation's Best

Invitational pays tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson High School in north Portland will host the first ever Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Invitational basketball tournament Friday and Saturday, featuring teams from around the country.

Jefferson Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Marshall Haskins said similar tourna-

ments have sprung up across the country as a positive activity to honor the MLK holiday in a spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood.

"We're doing our part to realize Dr. King's dream," said Haskins. "Basketball is a perfect opportunity for that."

The invitational pits Grant against Mt. Tahoma at 6 p.m. Friday. Battle

Ground takes on Mt. Zion at 7:30 p.m. Saturday's action has Lake Oswego taking on Prairie at 5 p.m.; Battle Ground playing Mt. Tahoma at 6:30 p.m.; Battle Ground up against Mt. Tahoma at 6:30 p.m.; and Jefferson playing Mt. Zion at 8 p.m.

Mt. Zion has consistently been ranked in the top five nationally and has produced such greats as NBA superstar Tracy McGrady. Haskins

sees the game as an opportunity for his guys to match skills.

"If you're trying to be a top team in the country, you try and play the other top teams

to be a top team in the country, you try and play the other top teams," he said.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Jefferson High, Cisco Kids and the Portland Interscholastic League. Haskins said the tournament was made possible by generous donations from G I Joes and Albina Community Bank.

"Albina Bank and GI Joes are doing something very positive in the community here," said Haskins.

*If you're trying to be a top team in the country, you try and play the other top teams*

— Marshall Haskins, Jefferson High School basketball coach and athletic director.

## Rose Bowl Victory



Oklahoma Sooners pose for a group photo after their 34-14 win over Washington State in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on New Year's Day. Signaling number one in the center is coach Bob Stoops and to his left is quarterback Nate Hybl (8), the game's most valuable player. (AP Photo)

The center is expected to open in downtown Louisville in late 2004. Design work on the exhibits is about 40 percent complete, said Mike Fox, president of the center.

The tribute to the Louisville native will feature six "portals," each spotlighting a trait the designers attribute to Ali: charity, confidence, dedication, spirituality, respect and conviction.