

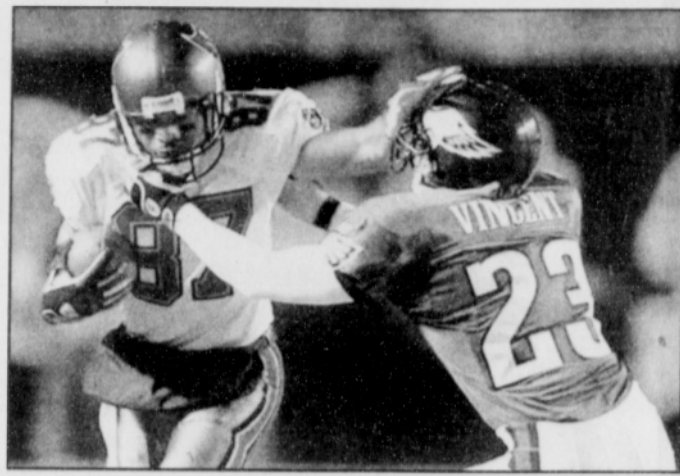
SPORTS

Urban League Basketball Championship

The third annual Alternative School Basketball City Championship sponsored by the Urban League of Portland will take place Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army at 8426 N. Lombard.

Students from across north and northeast Portland have been working hard to participate in the league.

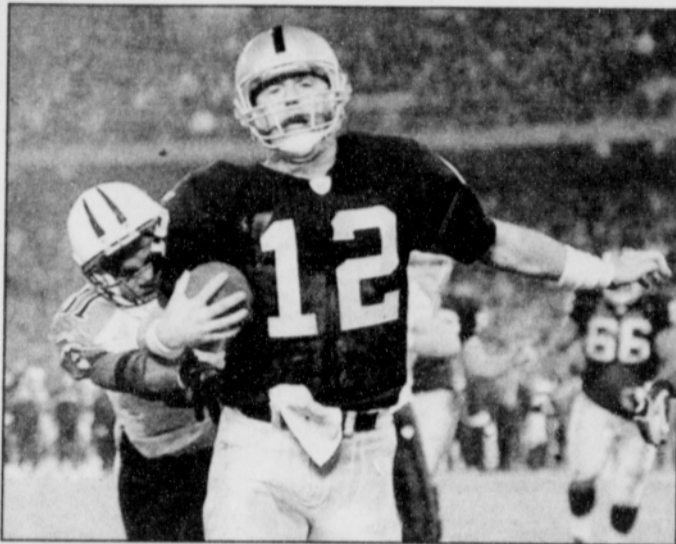
Team rules require kids to attend an alternative school in north or northeast Portland and achieve an 85 percent attendance rate, a 2.5 grade point average, and undergo two hours a week of after school tutoring.



Philadelphia Eagles Troy Vincent is straight-armed as he tries to tackle Tampa Bay Buccaneers receiver Keenan McCardell in the NFL Championship game at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Sunday. Tampa Bay, who yielded the fewest yards and fewest points in the league, won the contest 27-10. (AP photo)

Raiders, Buccaneers Prepare for Superbowl

High-powered offense matches up against stifling defense



Oakland Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon runs for a touchdown out of the grasp of Tennessee Titans safety Lance Schulters in a 41-24 victory in the AFC Championship Sunday in Oakland, Calif.

who beat Philadelphia 27-10 for the NFC championship, yielded the fewest yards and the fewest points in the league.

"We're good and I'm not afraid to say it," said Ronde Barber, whose 92-yard interception return with 3:12 iced the win in Philadelphia.

The Oakland and Tampa Bay franchises have unique — but highly different — pasts.

Led by their maverick owner Al Davis, the Raiders were among the NFL's elite teams in the 1970s and early 1980s, winning three Super Bowls as they adhered to Davis' slogan of "Just win, baby!" They became a powerhouse again when Gruden arrived.

The Buccaneers were once the laughingstock of football — entering the league in 1976 and losing their first 26 games. They were miserable through most of the 1980s and early 1990s, but started making strides in the last five years.

Now they're in the Super Bowl — and their coach knows all about his opponent.

(AP) — The Oakland Raiders have a high-powered offense and professional football's Most Valuable Player. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have a stifling defense that seems to get better each week.

The contrasting styles will be on center stage in San Diego on Sunday when the two teams play in the Super Bowl — a matchup that will feature plenty of intriguing storylines and familiar faces.

Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden was the coach of the Raiders for four seasons, but left Oakland a year ago after a highly publicized courtship by the Buccaneers. Tampa Bay paid Oakland \$8 million

and provided four draft picks to get Gruden.

The Raiders gave their head coaching job to Gruden's former assistant, Bill Callahan.

"We've got a tough team coming up, Tampa Bay," said Oakland's Jerry Rice, the NFL's all-time leading receiver. "And it's going to be a little unusual facing Gruden. But this is an opportunity of a lifetime and I am just looking forward to the challenge."

Rice is one of several aging veterans who make up the core of the Raiders, including quarterback Rich Gannon, who was the league's MVP as he led one of the most prolific offenses in recent memory.

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Los Angeles center Shaquille O'Neal goes for the basket and is blocked by Houston Rockets center Yao Ming in the first matchup of the biggest players in the NBA Friday in Houston.



NBA BENCHES PORTLAND STAR

Portland Trail Blazers forward Rasheed Wallace was suspended Saturday for seven games without pay for confronting and threatening a referee outside the Rose Garden in Portland.

Referees mentioned the confrontation in a routine report filed after Portland's 100-92 victory over Memphis on Wednesday night.

NBA Vice President Stu Jackson said while there was no physical contact between Wallace and referee Tim Donaghy, the penalty was appropriate for Rasheed's actions, which was apparently a heated verbal exchange.

Wallace scored a season-high 38 points and had 10 rebounds against Memphis. Donaghy called a technical foul on him with 9:45 to go in the third quarter. The call appeared to be for the way Wallace returned the ball to another referee after he was called for a foul. Jackson said Wallace's prior indiscretions were taken into account in determining his new punishment.

"The actions here were com-

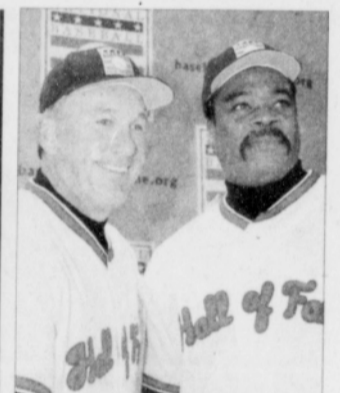


Rasheed Wallace

pletely out of bounds, and they were not appropriate and will not be tolerated," Jackson said.

Wallace, who is signed through the 2003-04 season, is making \$16.2 million this season and will lose \$1.26 million due to the suspension. The power forward has led the Blazers in scoring the past three seasons, making the All-Star team twice, and he leads the team again this season at 17.4 points per game.

He was fined \$15,000 last month for his actions following a post-game brawl between the Blazers and the Golden State Warriors. Wallace allegedly tried to go after a fan who threw a wad of chewing gum on him.



Carter, Murray Join Baseball Hall

Gary Carter (left) and Eddie Murray, the 2003 inductees into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, are photographed during a news conference in New York formally announcing their induction on Thursday. Carter and Murray, who played together for Los Angeles in 1991, will be inducted in a ceremony on July 27 in Cooperstown, N.Y. (AP Photo/Ed Bailey)

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