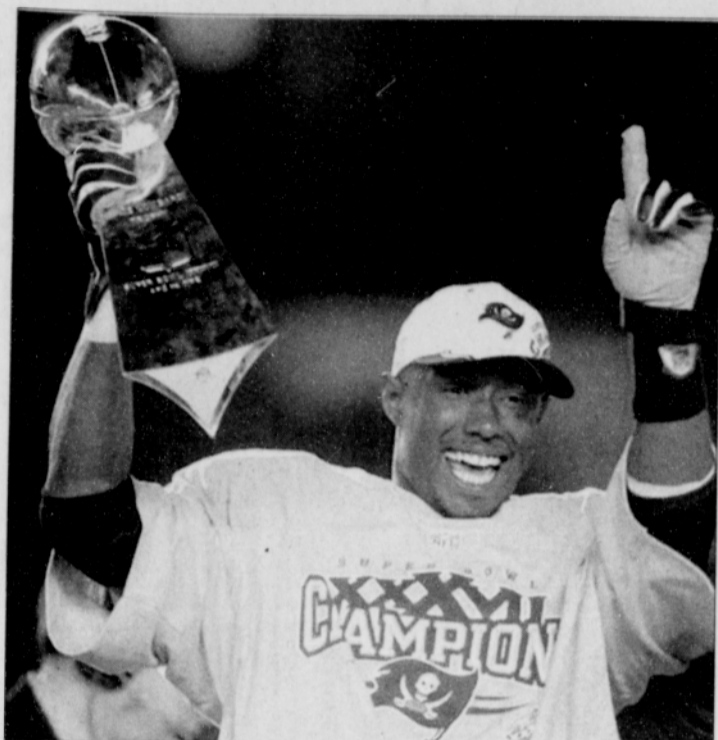


# SPORTS

## BUCCANEERS WIN SUPER BOWL



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Dexter Jackson, the most valuable player of Super Bowl XXXVII, holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Bucs beat the Oakland Raiders 48-21. (AP photo)

### Tampa Bay defense tightens when Oakland makes late run

(AP) — Just defense, baby! The Tampa Bay Buccaneers didn't need much more - for most of the game, anyway. Coach Jon Gruden and his Bucs won the Super Bowl on Sunday, routing the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the first matchup of the NFL's best offense against its best defense. The Tampa Bay defense won by a mile, shutting down the Raiders for three quarters and holding on as they made a belated comeback attempt. Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson had two interceptions, as did Dwight Smith, who returned both of his picks for touchdowns, including a 50-yarder to finish off the game. Derrick Brooks also returned an interception for a touchdown. Simeon Rice had two of the Bucs' five sacks as Tampa romped to a 20-3 halftime lead then scored two quick third-quarter touchdowns.

That rendered futile a late comeback by the Raiders that included a touchdown on a blocked punt and 48-yard TD pass from league MVP Rich Gannon to Jerry Rice.

The Tampa Bay offense did its part, too, led by Michael Pittman, who ran for 124 yards on 29 carries. Mike Alstott had a 2-yard TD run and Brad Johnson added two TD passes to Keenan McCardell, the second an 11-yarder after an 89-yard drive that ate up almost eight minutes of the third quarter.

Just 43 seconds later, Smith grabbed the ball away from Jerry Rice and took it to the end zone to make it 34-3.

Oakland owner Al Davis' slogan "Just win, baby!" wasn't going to work this time.

How good was the Tampa Bay defense?

Oakland had just 62 total yards in the first half, second-lowest total in Super Bowl history. And the five interceptions of Gannon were the most he had in any game this season. He finished 24-of-44 for 272 yards and two touchdowns.

Credit the win also to the 39-year-old Gruden, who left Oakland a year ago for Tampa Bay.

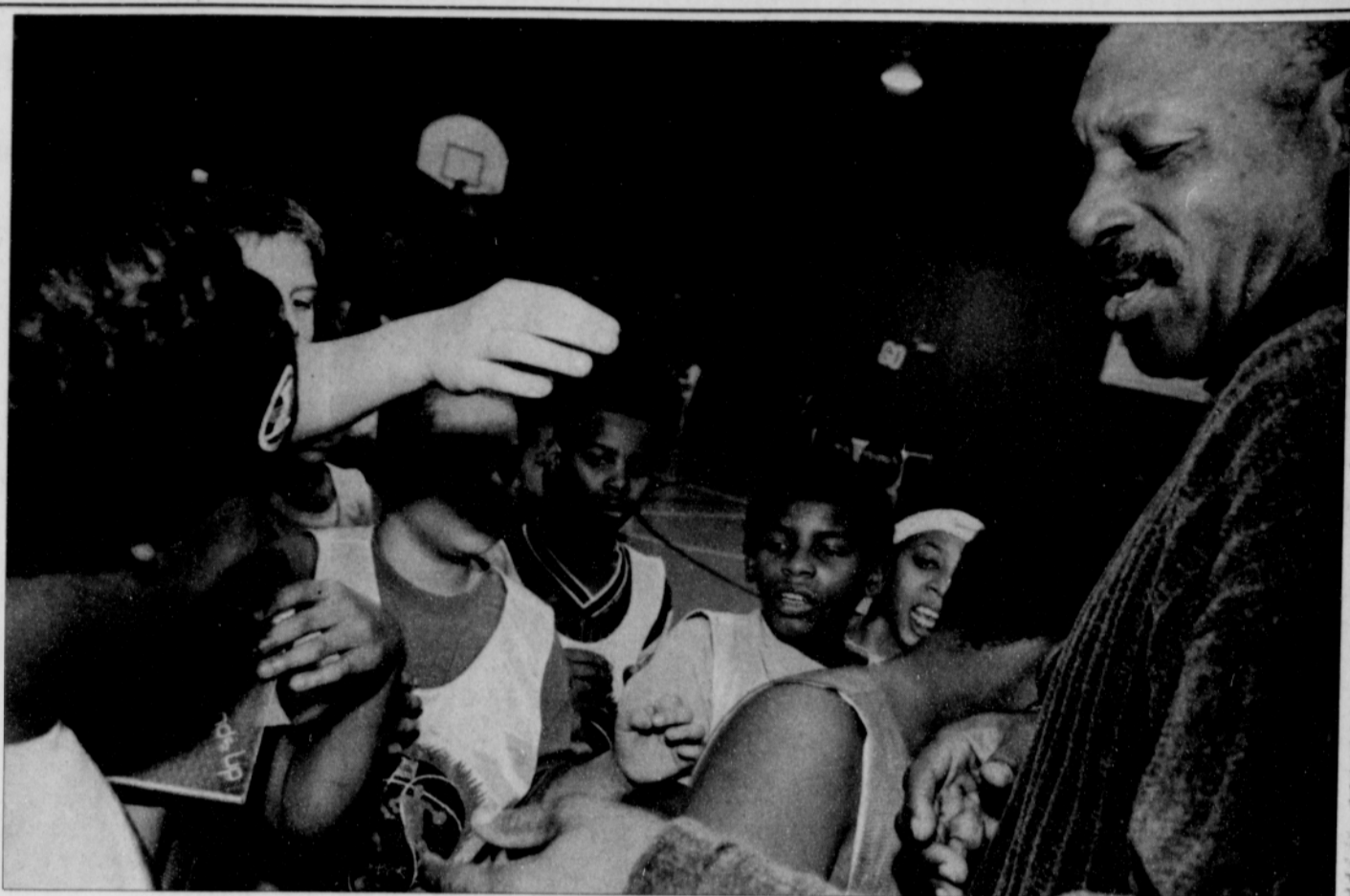


PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Good Neighbor League Opens

Portland Trail Blazer Ambassador Nick Jones hands out prizes for correct answers during halftime entertainment at a league opening game featuring the North Portland and Blazer Boys and Girls Clubs. The State Farm Good Neighbor League is sponsored by State Farm Insurance, the Blazers and radio station 95.5.

## Little League Sign-ups Scheduled

The Riverside Little League, serving northeast Portland, has scheduled sign-ups for the upcoming spring and summer season on Thursday, Jan. 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Ainsworth Church on Northeast 30<sup>th</sup> and Ainsworth.

The league sponsors teams for boys and girls, ages five to 18 years old as of Aug. 1, 2003.

The cost involves a \$65 registration fee per player who doesn't participate in a general fundraiser and \$35 per player who does participate in the fundraiser. Scholar-

ships may also be available under the second option.

On-line registration is available at [www.eteamz.com/riversidelittleleague](http://www.eteamz.com/riversidelittleleague).

For more information, call Gary Bailey at 503-289-6986 or Mark Turner at 503-280-0925.

## Timbers Set 2003 Season

The Portland Timbers will open the 2003 A-League soccer season at PGE Park Thursday, May 1 against the Seattle Sounders.

Portland travels to Seattle the following day, Friday, May 2, for its first road match. For the second straight season, the first two games against the Sounders serve as qualifiers for the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

The Timbers, who posted a 13-12-3 record before falling to Vancouver in the A-League playoffs last year, are again slated to play a 28-game schedule with 14 home matches and 14 road matches in 2003.

The Timbers play host to El Paso on Friday, Aug. 29 at PGE Park to conclude the regular season. The playoffs open the following week with the conference semifinals and wrap up with the A-League Championship Saturday, Sept. 20.

## Trail Blazers Survey: Team Ranks Low in Value to Fans

(AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers may be second and gaining in the West Coast conference, but the team's almost dead last in another group of rankings.

Three MBA students at the University of Oregon's Warsaw Sports Marketing Center helped ESPN Magazine put together its so-called "Ultimate Standings," which ranked professional sports

teams nationwide in terms of fan value.

The survey uses eight criteria to measure "which teams do right by their fans, and which put the hurt on their loyal followers."

The Blazers ranked 110th out of 121 teams overall, placing them slightly ahead of hockey's Atlanta Thrashers, baseball's Tampa Bay Devil Rays and

football's Cincinnati Bengals.

The Blazers fared poorly in the Affordability, Coaching, Stadium Ambiance, Number of Championships and Ownership categories, and stunk up the joint with last-place finishes in Fan Relations ("ease of access to players, coaches and management") and Players ("effort on the field; likability off it").

## Thad Spencer Announces The Third Annual Sports Hall of Fame

### Induction & Dinner

February 16, 2003  
Doors: 6 p.m.  
Dinner: 7 p.m.  
Ceremony: 8 p.m.

Performance by Kirk Green & a Meet to Greet to follow

Mucho Grande Restaurant  
(located at the Ramada Inn)  
10 North Weidler, Portland, Oregon

## Peninsula Little League 2003

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For more information contact:  
Lynn Mangum @ 503-888-8754

### Minor Softball

(District Champs 2000 & 2001)

### Challenger Program

(All ages with special needs)

For questions contact:  
Michael Mangum - 503-493-2848

### Softball Program

Minor - ages 7-9  
Major - ages 10-12  
Junior - ages 13-14  
Senior - ages 15-18

For questions contact:  
Mark Washington - 503-288-0033

### Girls & Boys ages 5-18

### EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION

(\$10 off)  
February 1, 2003  
9am - Noon

### REGISTRATION (\$65 per player)

February 8 & 15, 2003  
9am - Noon

### Peninsula Park Community Center

700 N Portland Blvd

&

B and B T-shirts and More

204 N Killingsworth

503-284-1810

(and 10 am - 6 pm (Mon - Friday))

### Tryouts

10 am - 2 pm  
February 15 & 22, 2003  
Peninsula Park

### Things to bring when you sign-up

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Address  
i.e., Oregon Drivers License/Utility Bill
- Name & Number of Doctor
- Name & Number of Insurance Carrier
- Player Fee \$65

[www.peninsulalittleleague.org](http://www.peninsulalittleleague.org)

### Minor Baseball

(2002 District 1 Champs)

### Major Baseball

(District Sportsmanship Awards 2001)

### Tee-Ball

5 & 6 years old

For questions contact:  
Michael Mangum - 503-493-2848

### Baseball Program

Farm - ages 7-8

Minor - ages 7-9

Major - ages 10-12

Junior - ages 13-14

Senior - ages 15-18

For questions contact:  
Michael Mangum - 503-493-2848