

SPORTS

Local Team to Host All American Tourney

Top players from around the country slated for weekend play



The Inner City Players use basketball as a motivational vehicle to prepare them for the ultimate game: life.

Inner City Players are hosting an all-American basketball tournament this weekend in addition to an achievement banquet fundraiser.

The tournament at Grant High School will feature some of the top basketball talent in the country.

The Players are a mentoring program founded by Canaan Chatman in 1997 to help local youth build basketball skills for the college level and develop good character and academic achievement.

The local team will play the Houston Superstars and Oakland Soldiers at the Rose City Showcase basketball tournament, tipping off at 5 p.m. Friday and continuing through Sunday, June 15.

Other games will feature the Portland Elite Legends, Atlanta Celtics,

ICA Panthers and Seattle Rotary Styles.

Tickets to the tournament are \$5 daily and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Inner City Basketball program.

The team's Achievement Banquet fundraiser takes place at 6 p.m.

Thursday at the Center for Self Enhancement, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

The event highlights players in the 2003 graduating class, includ-

ing Jefferson High School's Thomas Gardner, who will play for Missouri; Jefferson's Jerae Nelson, who will play for Weber State; Jefferson's Jonathan Jackson, who will play for Eastern Washington; J.R. Moore from Worcester Academy who will play for Rhode Island; Carl Appleton from Jefferson, who will play for Weber State; Jefferson's Isaiah Allen, who will play for Coffeerville College; Marcus Broussard from Benson High School, playing for Cascade College; Aaron Collins from Lake Oswego, who will play for San Diego; Tyler Monk from Benson who will play for Bakersfield College; Michael Richmond from Jefferson, joining Western Oregon State; and Quincy Sanders from Benson who will play for Prairie View.

The banquet keynote speaker is Quin Snyder, men's basketball head coach from University of Missouri.

Tickets to the fundraiser banquet are \$75 and can be purchased by calling 503-282-4073.

Robinson Says Best of NBA Finals to Come

(AP) — David Robinson says the best is yet to come in the NBA Finals.

"I just don't think two teams who are this good can keep playing like this," the San Antonio Spurs' center said Monday before the team's workout at the New Jersey Nets' training complex.

The 14-year veteran, who's set to retire at the end of this season, acknowledges the lackluster quality of the finals to date, but he's sure there are plenty of memorable moments coming soon.

"I'm pretty sure the quality of play is going to improve. Back in '99, we didn't play some of the prettiest games, but nobody remembered that when we won it all. When it gets down to the final games and it gets tense,

that will bring out the best in both teams."

The Spurs lead the Nets 2-1 in the best-of-seven series, with Game 4 set for Wednesday night at New Jersey.

San Antonio's combination of Tim Duncan's inside play and Tony Parker's outside scoring has been too much for the Nets to handle. While Duncan's dominance isn't surprising, Parker - the Spurs' 21-year-old French point guard - managed to outplay Jason Kidd in both of the Spurs' victories.

So far, the Nets seem stuck on the same step they took last season: good enough to beat everyone in the East, but struggling against the West powers.



New Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin (center) and Jason Kidd (right) sit on the bench during Game 3 of the NBA Finals. (AP photo)



Sosa Appeals Corked Bat Penalty

Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa gives a thumbs up to the fans as he leaves the dugout before a game against the New York Yankees Friday. Major League Baseball gave Sosa an eight game suspension for using an illegal bat in a game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, but he is appealing the suspension. "He understood he made a mistake," Chicago Cubs General Manager, Jim Hendry, said. "He knew there was going to be a suspension, and I think he feels it's worth the appeal to try to have it reduced." (AP photo)

Expansion Team Named Bobcats

(AP) — Charlotte's NBA expansion team will be called the "Bobcats," a nod to the owner who spent \$300 million for the franchise. The

Associated Press has learned. Bob Johnson selected Bobcats over "Flight" and "Dragons," a source familiar with the process

told the AP on Monday on condition of anonymity.

The dominant color in uniforms and logos will be orange.

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REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

2003 Mazda Protege5



Price tested.....\$20,955.00
Engine.....2.0L DOHC 16-valve I-4
Transmission.....5speed manual

The Protege5 is even more appealing with a host of new options. Mazda continues to build fetching cars that have that zoom-zoom appeal. It has a dazzling little sporty look and is available in seven colors. The young at heart will enjoy driving this vehicle zipping around the city streets. It looks like a shorter version of the Subaru Legacy GT. The engine sounds very solid when dropped. The act of shifting is made easy by the uncommonly agreeable coordination of the clutch, throttle and shifter. It is very user friendly. The aerodynamics is good. It handles sweet and tight but rough road is felt throughout the vehicle. It's always responsive and spirited. The interior of the vehicle has touches of aluminum. It looks small but it has plenty of roomy space for all inside. Everything falls into place for the driver. The child seat anchors consist of the latest system with this system the child seats can be secured without using the seatbelts. There's a lot of value in the new Protege5-in its efficiency, utility, looks and sporty performance. The zoom-zoom spirit will embody the driver. It's an option for the sporty family that does not want an SUV or mini-van.

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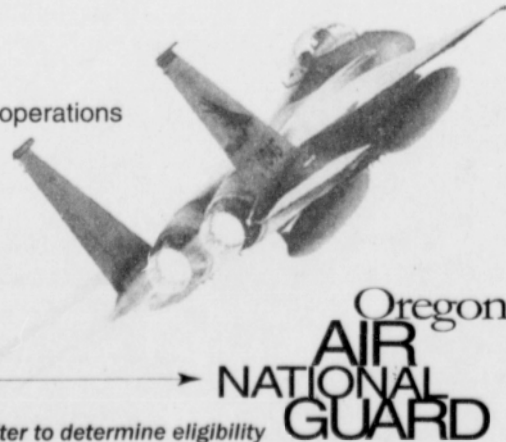
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