

SPORTS

Beavers Plan Friday Night Fireworks

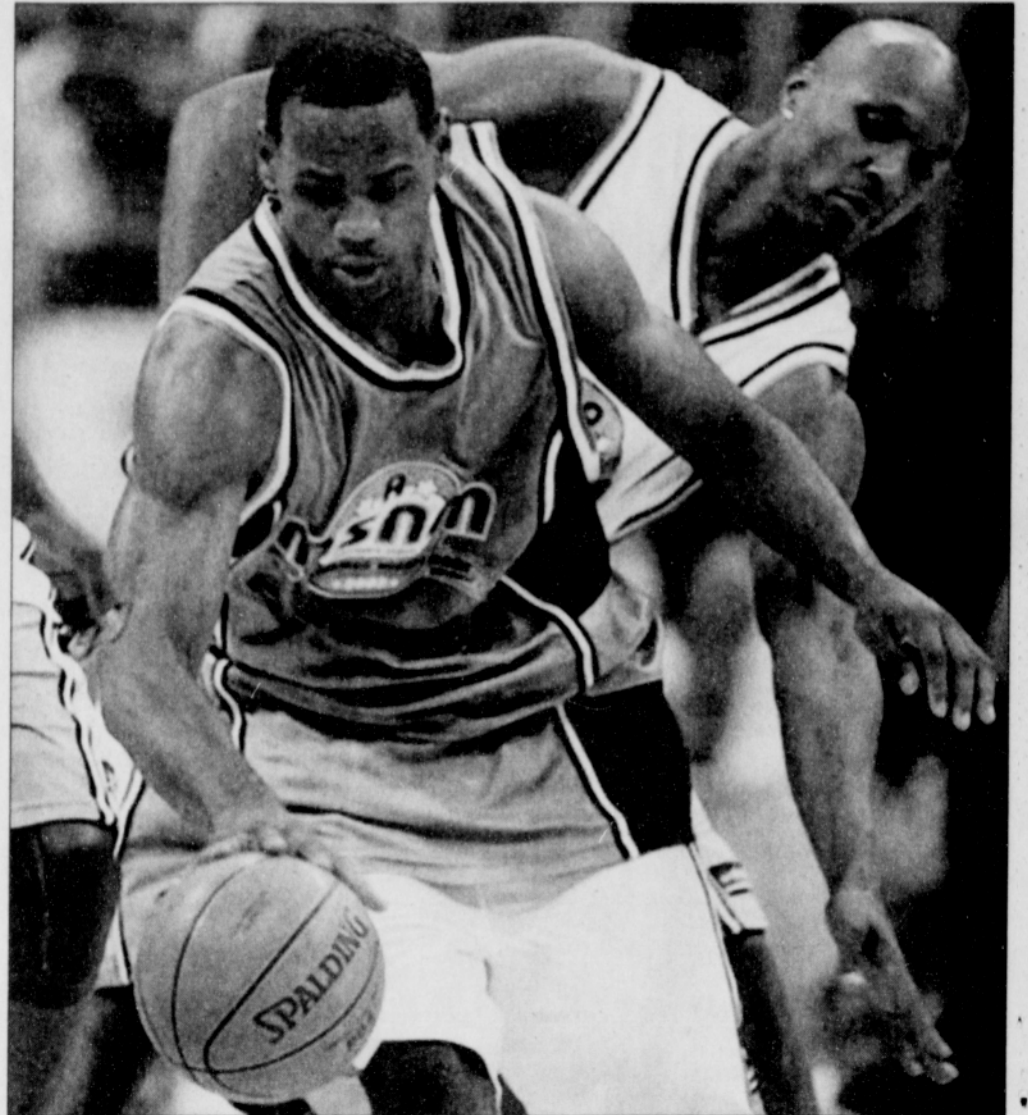
As the Portland Beavers continue to battle for the North Division title in the Pacific Coast League, the action continues to heat up off the field as well with Tuesday's announcement that Friday home games through the end of the season will be followed by a great fireworks show.

"In a survey of our fans, it is clear that people really enjoy post-game fireworks and would like to see more shows like the one that followed the

July 4 game at PGE Park," said Mark Schuster, president and general manager of the Beavers.

The fireworks shows, will begin approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of each game.

LeBron Victory Stance



LeBron James attempts to keep the ball away from Lamar Odom on Sunday in Los Angeles. The recent high school graduate had 28 points helping the rookies to a 127-123 victory. James was selected 1st overall in the 2003 Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers. (AP Photo)

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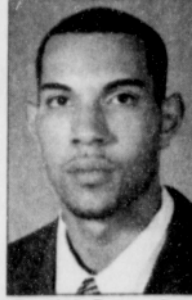
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Baylor Coach Reflects on Player's Murder



Patrick Dennehy

(AP) — Ever since one of his players vanished six weeks ago and a former player was charged with murder, Baylor University's basketball coach has been wondering if he missed any signs that such a tragedy was about to unfold.

"What you do is you second-guess yourself," coach Dave Bliss said Monday. "Were there things that had indicated to us that this situation may have the opportunity to occur?"

The decomposed body of Patrick Dennehy, a 6-foot-10 center, was found last Friday night in a field 3 miles south of town and was identified Sunday.

Carlton Dotson, who played basketball at Baylor last season, was arrested last week in his home state of Maryland. Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bond, awaiting extradition to Texas.

Investigators recovered a 9mm pistol, shell casings and what appeared to be Dennehy's shoes near his body.

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Blazer Critic Negotiates to Sideline Boycott Threat

Team president pledges new commitment to diversity

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Trail Blazers narrowly avoided a boycott and backlash of negative publicity when President Steve Patterson met with Blazers' critic R.C. Burke to address accusations of racial exclusion.

Controversy sparked when the Blazers hired John Nash as the team's sixth general manager, overlooking a list of African-American candidates, including ex-Blazer Maurice Lucas.

Burke began his crusade for diversity in the Blazers' front office by reaching 60,000 people in three weeks with an Internet petition studied with signatures of former professional athletes, actors and African-American leaders.

"I get 1,500 emails a day, many from season ticket holders," said Burke.

Burke took his petition a step



Blazer President Steve Patterson

further by announcing a boycott or "economic sanction" against Blazer home and away games until more African Americans are hired in decision-making positions.

But the petition and the boycott are on hold since Patterson agreed to keep race in mind when making future hiring decisions.

Burke said he's willing to give Patterson a chance to turn around the Blazers workforce by hiring more African Americans in leadership positions.

"Mr. Patterson sees that he needs to change the Blazers whole nega-

tive image from the Blazers side and the business side, to build a bond between the community and the Blazers," said Burke.

Burke said he does not have a specific demand or timeline to hold Patterson to his word.

"You can't change 10 years of exclusion overnight," Burke said. "As long as I got people talking and thinking, I've got to give the man a chance."

In a conversation with Nash, Patterson even called the Blazers organization "too white," but said that it reflected the Portland community at large, according to a Blazers spokesperson.

"The Blazers are 100 percent committed to hiring a diverse workforce," said Mike Hanson, communications director for the Blazers. "We believe our hiring practices mirror the demographics of the city of Portland and are reflective of the community at large. In fact, more than half the Trail Blazers management team is made up of women and minorities."

To contact Burke or sign the petition, send e-mail to MauriceLucasforBlazersGM@hotmail.com.

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Polluted Sites Targeted for Cleanup

continued from Front

selected by a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Of the grants awarded in June, the PDC received a clean-up grant for \$200,000 for the Grant Warehouse site at 3368 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The property, owned by Erwin Grant, has \$1 million abatement lien against it, in favor of the Environmental Protection Agency.

For the past 20 years, the property was used to recover precious metals from liquids, ore and process waste and may have been used to extract lead from batteries. The EPA determined that the property posed an imminent threat to human health and the environment. Sample of dust and air col-

Polluted Sites Targeted for Cleanup

lected at the site and blood samples from a homeless encampment occupying the building tested positive for high concentrations of heavy metals and lead.

Other properties, such as the Seven Corners Disabled Housing site, near the intersection of Southeast 20th Avenue and Division Street, will begin decontamination assessment as early as September.

The Grant property won't be touched until Grant permits the city to decontaminate it or until the eight-year-long lawsuit is resolved in federal court.

Losing this grant would be a major defeat for residents of northeast Portland who have seen the Grant Warehouse as a community eyesore for more than 20 years.