

SPORTS



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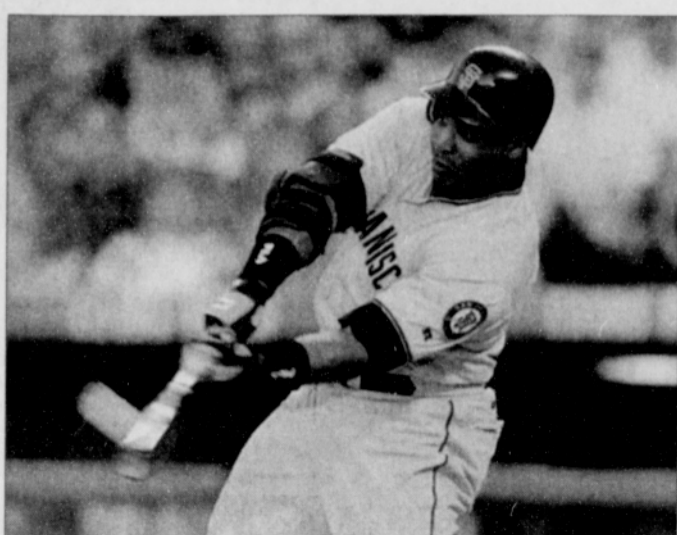


Shortstop Wins MVP Award

Texas Rangers shortstop Alex Rodriguez makes a running throw to retire Atlanta Braves' Rafael Furcal in this June 4 photo. Rodriguez won the American League Most Valuable Player award in American League voting announced Monday. (AP photo)

Bonds Earns Sixth MVP Award

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds connects for a solo home run on a pitch from Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Darren Oliver in this July 10 photo. Bonds won his record sixth National League MVP award Tuesday, becoming the first player to get the honor in three consecutive years. (AP photo)



Whitaker Champs 11-0

The Whitaker Warriors went undefeated, 11-0, in route to their Nov. 9 championship in the Police Activity League's 7th and 8th grade division of youth football. The northeast Portland team's record was incorrect in last week's edition. We regret the error.

Bonzi Wells Suspended

The Portland Trail Blazers suspended guard Bonzi Wells Tuesday for two games without pay for conduct detrimental to the team and taken away his title as co-captain.

Blazer President Staeve Patterson said the penalties were a result of Wells' most recent actions during the third period of Monday's 105-98 loss at Dallas.

"We have said all along that we expect our players to conduct themselves in a responsible and professional manner both on and off the court," Patterson said. "Respect for the fans and fellow employees is essential conduct for all members of the Portland Trail Blazers. We will hold players responsible for their behavior and we believe this is the appropriate course of action at this time. Further violations will result in stiffer penalties."



Bonzi Wells

A published report indicated that Wells swore at Cheeks, prompting the coach to bench him for the remainder of the Mavs game.

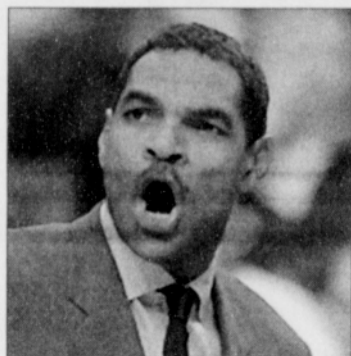
"I'm just getting tired of it," Cheeks told KGW after practice Tuesday. "I'm fed up with it."

Blazers Extend Cheeks' Contract

The Portland Trail Blazers last week announced the signing of Head Coach Maurice Cheeks to a one-year contract extension through the 2005-2006 season.

"Maurice is an essential member of the Trail Blazers and the Portland community," said Blazers President Steve Patterson. "As this organization moves forward, it is important to ensure that Maurice is our head coach. We are excited to have Maurice be a part of the future of this franchise."

Cheeks was named Portland's 10th head coach on June 27, 2001, after having served seven seasons as an assistant coach with the Philadelphia 76ers. He recently earned his 100th victory as a head coach and owns a 103-68 record in just over two seasons at the helm of the Blazers.



Blazer Head Coach Maurice Cheeks

"I'm very happy to extend my contract with the Blazers," said Cheeks. "Obviously, it's nice to know the organization has confidence in my abilities as coach. I'm excited about our future as a team and an organization and I'm looking forward to being a part of it. Portland is a great place to coach and live."

He entered the NBA coaching ranks after a long and distinguished career as player in the league. The first 11 years of his 15 as a player in the league was with Philadelphia, before going on to stints with San Antonio, New York, Atlanta and New Jersey. He retired in 1993 as the league's all-time steals leader and was fifth on the career assists list. Cheeks led the 76ers in assists in all 11 seasons he played in Philadelphia and also topped the team in steals in each of his first 10 years. He shares the NBA Finals single-game record for most steals in a game with six, and he shares the single-game playoff record for most steals with eight. He was selected to the NBA's All-Defensive Team four times and played in four All-Star games. He was a member of the 76ers 1983 World Championship team.

Coach Fired After Losing 10 Straight Former Blazer Johnny Davis to take Magic reigns

(AP)—Doc Rivers was fired as coach of the Orlando Magic, off to its worst start in its 15-year history.

Rivers said general manager John Gabriel informed him of the decision Monday night in a meeting at

the team hotel in Salt Lake City after Orlando lost to Utah 90-88.

The Magic won its season opener but then lost 10 straight games, the NBA's worst record this season.



Orlando Magic coach Doc Rivers looks up at the scoreboard during his team's 90-88 loss to the Utah Jazz Monday in Salt Lake City. Rivers was fired after the game. (AP photo)

"It is part of sports," Rivers told The Associated Press Tuesday.

The team has named Johnny Davis, a Magic assistant coach and a former Portland Trail Blazer as interim coach.

The Portland Observer
World of Autos
REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

2003 Ford F350 4x4 Crew Cab

Price tested \$45,590
Engine 6.0L V-8 Diesel
Transmission 5-Speed Diesel Automatic

The Ford Super-Duty trucks are still number one in sales over Chevrolet and Dodge combined. Ford is adding new option packages for the F350, such as an FX4 off-road package, King Rancho package and a 6.0L diesel engine. The standard package for the F350 starts at \$35,855 plus destination charges.

The new 6.0-liter diesel engine is cleaner, more efficient and brings more power and reduced emissions. It is more power than the 7.3-liter diesel engine. Though smaller, the 6.0 diesel is rated at 550 pounds per foot of torque at 2000 rpm while the 7.3 liter engines brings 525 pounds per foot of torque at 1600 rpm. Ford has added spice to the pot with a new five-speed automatic as an option to the standard six-speed transmission on other Ford Super Duty trucks. These new and revised power trains are first-class. However, GM and Dodge still offer a better chassis with newer designs.

Ford has always had a great exterior look that catches the eye. The running boards made it easy to get in and out of the cab. The Crew Cab offers plenty of space for head and legs that could easily accommodate a family of five or six. Its leather interior and trim added a touch of class for those moments that you don't need a serious big rig. Although it is not the family sedan, it is a great option for the ever-changing active lives of a family's needs.

The F350 handles great on the freeway without a lot of bouncing of lanes. There was little vibration going over bumps or railroad tracks. The steering is precise but with the length of the truck it was hard to maneuver in tight spots.

Ford Super Duty trucks continue to dominate the truck market because of the great look and capabilities.

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Community Livability Begins At Home

continued ▲ from Metro

Corp., recently visited Rance Spruill, director of the Albina Youth Opportunities School, to discuss his concerns on the Mississippi corridor.

To Spruill, trash in alleyways and rental properties were major problems in his neighborhood.

Spruill and Taylor discussed how more public trash bins and educating property owners and holding them responsible for the appearance of their property could solve some of those problems.

"There needs to be a system in place and not just a once-a-year cleanup," said Spruill.

PACE partners say that education is as much a part of their program as taking soil and air samples.

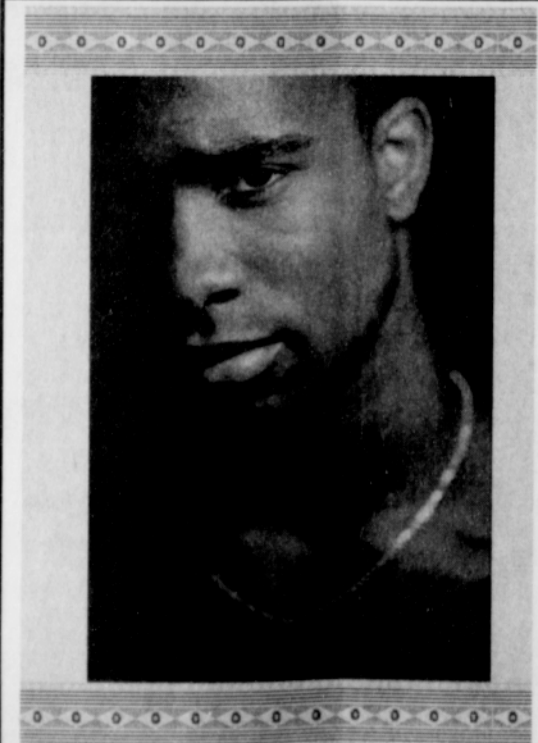
"We want to have tools that are

science-based and will have a long term analytical capacity but will also match the community," said Wickham. "There are a lot of ways you can measure community livability and environmental health. We're involving the community because we want the results to be meaningful and scientifically and culturally competent."

The assessment team is slated to collect data over the next several weeks and analysis is expected to take as long as six months.

"Our approach comes from the grassroots community level with the belief that we will have longer-lasting, sustainable solutions by involving the community instead of the solution going away when the grant is gone and the money goes away," Wickham said.

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Se habla español los Martes
For more information on HIV and testing
Call the Oregon AIDS Hotline 1-800-777-AIDS

Multnomah County Health Department