

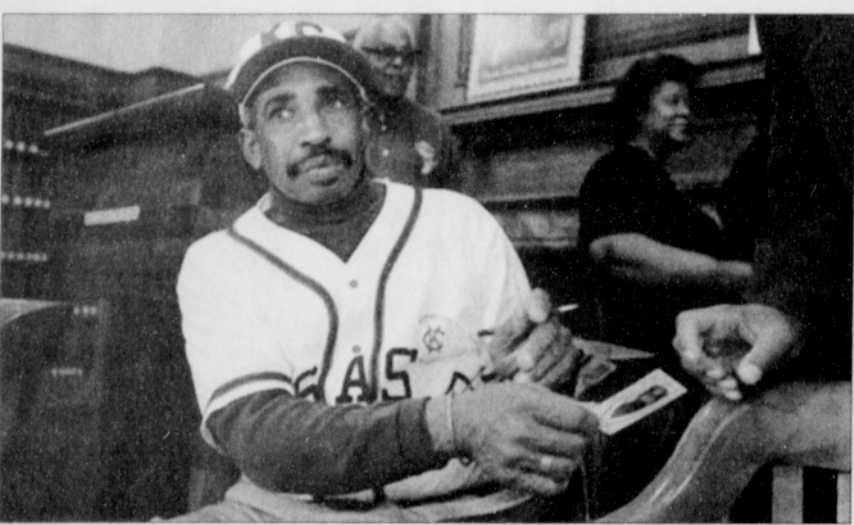
SPORT



PHOTO BY SHAY WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Crusading to Victory

Fresh off a first place victory at the Oregon City Tipoff Classic, Portland Disciples 6th graders are gearing up for this weekend's Hoop Tournament in Vancouver.



Former Negro League player Sam Allen of the Kansas City Monarchs.

Black Baseball Players Honored

Negro Leagues museum and shrine plans groundbreaking

(AP) — Veterans of the Negro Leagues swapped stories and showed off old gloves, uniforms and photos last week, promoting a new hall of fame to be built in the nation's capital honoring early black baseball players.

Al Burrows wore the same New York Black Yankees jersey he wore 49 years ago — no high-priced throwback copy for him.

On the table lay a weathered glove that had been worn for eight years by the late Satchel Paige. He had eventually traded it to a friend for a pair of knee-high fishing boots.

Recently discovered artifacts nearly a century old were scattered throughout the room — box scores,

ledgers, photos and letters. Preserved unknowingly for decades in someone's suitcase, they are the remnants of the less organized days of the so-called Colored Leagues, a period that even the old-timers couldn't remember.

Many of those will find a permanent home in the new Negro League Legends Hall of Fame, a shrine and museum to be built in Washington. Groundbreaking is scheduled for next year, with opening day set for 2006.

"We need this," said Sam Allen, who played for the Kansas City Monarchs, Raleigh Taggers and Memphis Red Sox in the late 1950s. "I've got grandchildren, and I can sit them down and tell them, but then they want to see the proof. With this museum coming up, they'll be able to come here and see my name and my picture. It's a long time coming."

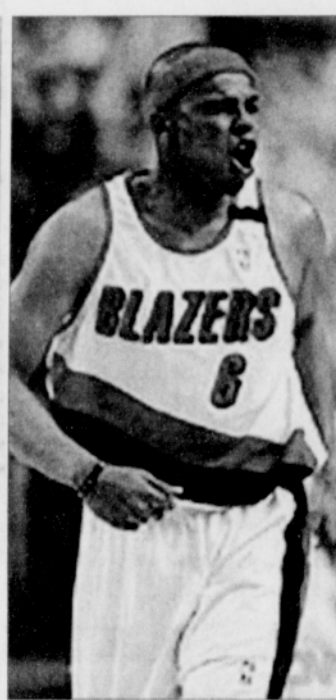
There already is a Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo., and the history of black base-

ball is well documented in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. The new Hall of Fame will supplement those, focusing more on individual players.

"It gives the average player a chance to be recognized," Allen said. "When you talk about Negro Leagues, black baseball, the first thing is Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson. But you had a lot of other good ball players. The Negro Leagues were loaded."

The discovery of some pre-Negro Leagues history fascinated those gathered at Howard University. Detailed records once belonging to Rutherford Hayes Jones, who owned a team called the Washington Giants in the early 20th century, had been found in a suitcase and turned over to Dwayne Sims, founder of the new Hall of Fame.

"He kept the box scores, how much he paid the umpires, the players, the receipts, everything," Sims said.



Memphis Grizzlie Bonzi Wells

Wells: 'I'm done with Portland'

(AP) — Bonzi Wells, who earned a reputation as a bad boy while with Portland, scored 16 points in his first game against his old team to help the Memphis Grizzlies win 93-79 Sunday. The loss dropped Portland to 0-6 on the road.

Portland drew four technical fouls for arguing with the officials in the closing minutes of the game. Coach Maurice Cheeks was ejected after picking up two.

Wells, who was traded to Memphis last Wednesday, said he's looking to start over with his new team. In Portland he was known for arguing with fans, officials and coaches.

"I'm definitely different. I'm a Grizzlie now," Wells said. "I'm done with the Portland chapter of

my life and I'm ready to start the Memphis chapter of my life."

The Grizzlies, who have won five in a row, are now 6-6 against Western Conference competition. At 11-8 overall, Memphis is above .500 in December for the first time in franchise history.

Portland had a 15-point lead in the second period but Memphis erased it in the third and put the Trail Blazers away in the fourth.

Wells scored 10 points in the final quarter to help put his former team away.

"It was just a bad second half," Cheeks said. "They beat us in every facet of the game. Everything we did to them in the first half, they did to us in the second half."



ADULTS:

Alcohol is the #1 drug of choke for kids

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

Talk to them about the dangers of drinking.



www.orpartnership.org

Nike BorderClash Olympians and medallists Suzy Favor Hamilton (from left), Katie Leary, Galen Rupp and Bernard Lagat pose with honors.

PHOTO BY STEVE DIPAOLA/COURTESY OF NIKE



Local Runners Win Honors

Two local high school runners came home champions after the top 160 high school runners in Oregon and Washington competed at the Nike BorderClash.

Central Catholic High School senior Galen Rupp won the boys' race and Zuber Ahmed from Benson High School finished sixth.

Runners competed for \$15,000 in footwear donations to the winning state's coach's association. A representative from Washington State Cross Country Coaches Association accepted the donated footwear to be distributed to student athletes that don't have resources to purchase quality shoes.