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SPORTS

Peninsula Season Ends at Regionals

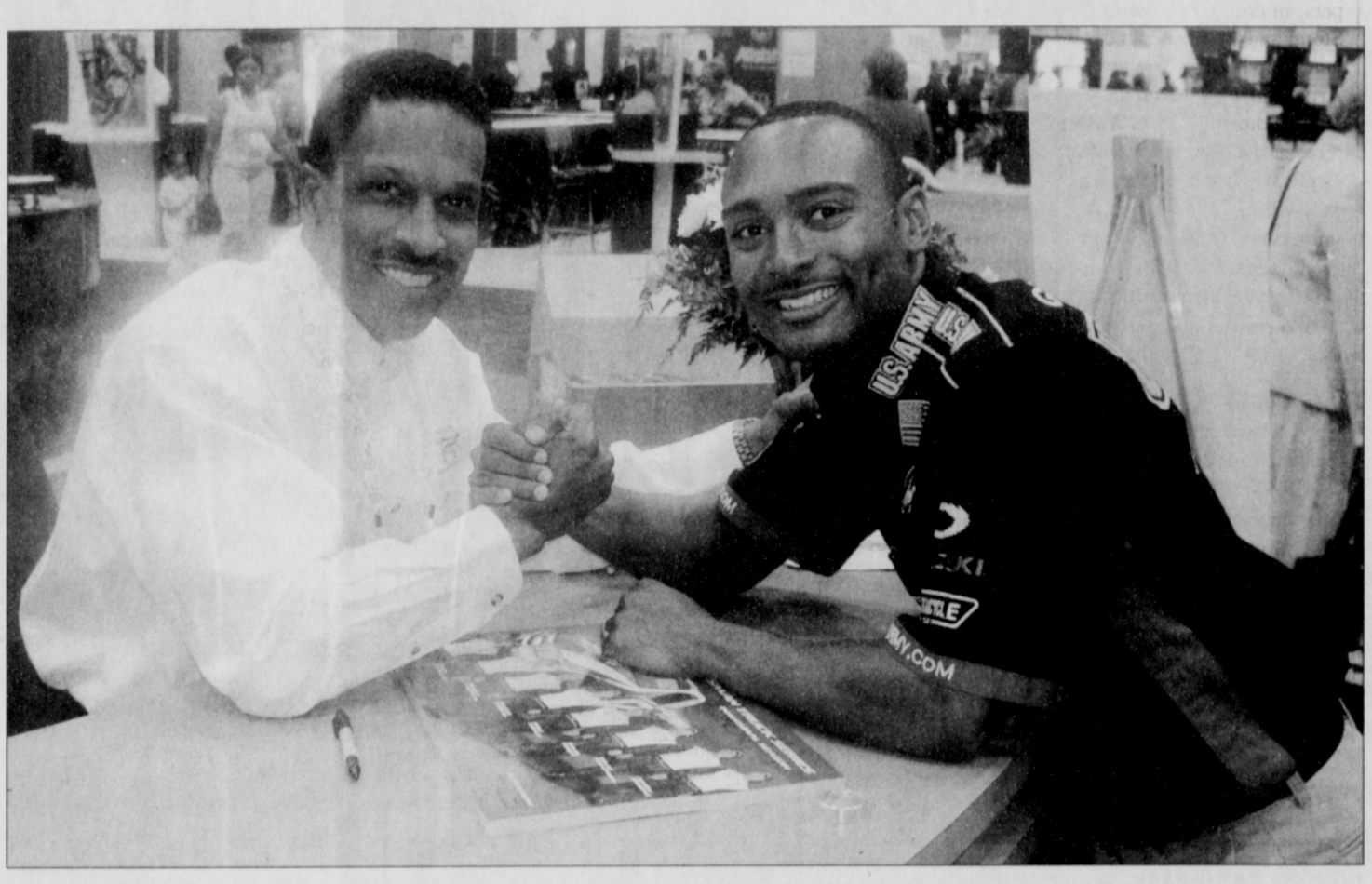
The quest for a Little League World Series bid by the Peninsula boy's junior all-star team ended with fierce competition against teams from Nevada, Hawaii, Southern California and Arizona.

Peninsula, representing kids from north and northeast Portland, came up short in the regional multi-state championship games in Forest Grove.

"The playoffs proved to be a challenge we weren't quiet prepared for," said head coach Bryan Butcher. "It was great that our guys got the opportunity to come face to face with some of the best teams on the West Coast. The competition was great and even though we didn't win, we still came out on top as first class winners."

A highlight of the tournament included a rally game against team Hawaii with a tie score of 1 to 1 until the last inning when the opposing team scored a shocking 10 runs.

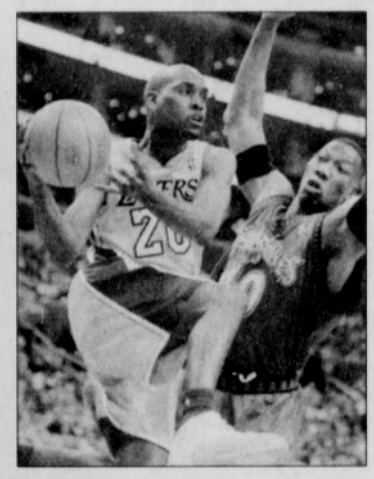
"We're thankful for the experience we had to play and for all the support we got from parents and families. The team has definitely become better ball players because of it, " said Butcher.



NASCAR Drivers Support Urban League

Two of the most successful African Americans in motor sports, NASCAR truck series driver, Bill Lester (left) and National Hot Rod Association motorcycle drag racer Antron Brown attend the recent National Urban League's Annual Conference in Detroit.

Payton, Fox Traded to Boston



Los Angeles Lakers' Gary Payton drives toward the basket around Minnesota Timberwolves' Ervin Johnson in the NBA Western Conference Finals.

(AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers resumed their makeover by trading Gary Payton and Rick Fox to the Boston Celtics for Chucky Atkins, Marcus Banks and Chris Mihm.

The Celtics also received a conditional first-round draft pick and cash in the deal and sent a second-round pick to the Lakers.

The teams were once among the NBA's fiercest rivals, but Boston has fallen on hard times since winning its 16th championship in 1986. Since then, the Lakers have won five titles and lost three times in the Finals, including this year's upset by the Detroit Pistons.

The Lakers then traded Shaquille O'Neal to Miami and replaced coach Phil Jackson with Rudy Tomjanovich. Derek Fisher left for Golden State and Vlade Divac, Los Angeles' center from the early '90s, was brought back for another stint.

A nine-time All-Star who averaged 18.3 points per game over his first 13 seasons, Payton averaged 14.6 points - his lowest since the 1992-93 season - and a career-low 4.2 assists in the regular season last year.

The former Oregon State great was selected to the NBA's all-defensive team eight times and was voted the defensive player of the year in 1996. He is fifth on the league's all-time list with 2,243 steals and sixth with 8,039 assists; he needs 44 points to become the 29th player in NBA history to score 20,000 points.

Olympics Opens in Greece Friday

(AP) — The Greek premier and head of the International Olympic Committee say Greece is ready for the games to begin. Now, they just want more people to show up.

Preparations by Athens dragged after the IOC awarded the games to Greece in 1997. IOC officials worried when construction ran behind schedule.

The delays are being blamed for sluggish ticket sales, with just slightly less than half of the 5.3 million tickets still unsold. Organizers hope to sell 3.4 million before Friday's opening ceremony.

"I call upon the Greek public to come to the venues and to cheer for their teams and to cheer for the other teams," IOC president Jacques Rogge said Monday after a tour of the main Olympic complex with chief organizer Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki.

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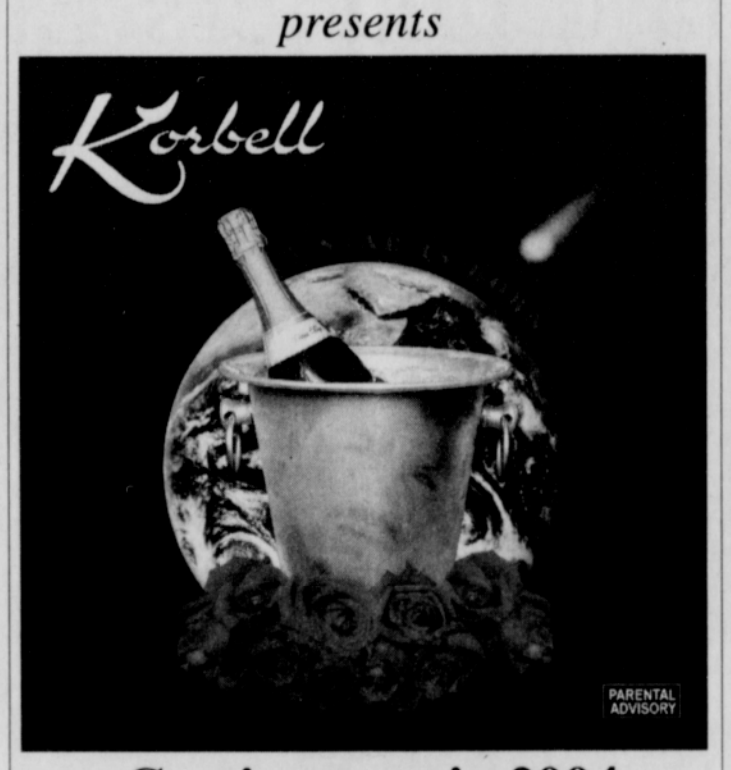

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