

# SPORTS

## Iverson Leads East to All-Star Win

### O'Neal adds big dose of personality

(AP)—Allen Iverson took Most Valuable Player honors as the East beat the West 125-115 at the NBA All-Star game Sunday night in Denver. But if there was a Most Vibrant Personality award, Shaquille O'Neal would have won that.

Iverson had 15 points, nine assists and five steals. O'Neal finished with 12 points, six rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals.

For the second straight year, O'Neal made people laugh, applaud



West center Yao Ming (left) tries to defend as Shaquille O'Neal goes for a slam during the NBA All Star game in Denver. (AP photo)

and appreciate his oversized way of doing everything, infusing an otherwise nondescript game with just the right amount of precociousness.

Primping, preening, playful and preposterous, The Big Entertainer gave a supersized dose of personality - though he wouldn't go so far as to do it while wearing a shoe phone. The 360-pound, 7-foot behemoth was making his 12th appearance in the league's showcase event.

He danced as he was introduced, struck a pose before missing a foul shot and goofed with the rap stars and hip-hop artists who lined the front-row seats across from the Eastern Conference bench.

O'Neal's display of showmanship came after he unveiled his

size-22 red and white shoe phone in the locker room before the game. An actual working telephone mechanism is built into the sneaker, and an antenna pops out near the toes.

LeBron James and Iverson teamed up on the prettiest play of the first quarter, an alley-oop dunk by the 20-year-old Cleveland guard who became the second-youngest All-Star starter in NBA history.

Kobe Bryant wowed the crowd late in the second quarter by reaching behind his head to catch an alley-oop pass from Steve Nash and slamming it through. Bryant had 16 points, seven assists, six rebounds and three steals.

The West never pulled close, and the game ended with O'Neal getting to attempt a 3-pointer.

### Open House

Most Worship Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & A.M. of Oregon invite all in celebration of Black History Month.

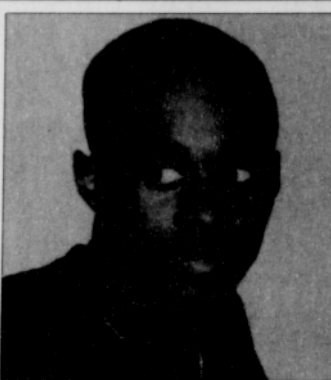
**Location:** Prince Hall Grand Lodge at 1622 N. Lombard.

**Time:** Between 1 pm and 4 pm

**Date:** February 27, 2005  
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### Happy 21st Birthday

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### Black History in Sports: Althea Gibson's 1950 Win

Althea Gibson's barrier breaking appearance in 1950 in the U.S. Championships was voted the most influential moment in black tennis history by a panel organized by the U.S. Tennis Association. Gibson was the first black woman allowed to play in the tournament that became the U.S. Open. She died in 2003 at 76.



Althea Gibson

Ranking second on the USTA list was the 1916 founding of the American Tennis Association, the first black sports organization in the USA. Third was the winning

of the 1968 U.S. Open title by Arthur Ashe, the first black man to win the tournament.

### PSU Magic Number Is One

The Portland State Vikings travel to Montana this week for the final two Big Sky Conference season games with a magic number of one.

One win by the Vikings or one loss by Montana State will give PSU its first-ever Big Sky Conference regular season title and the opportunity to host the Big Sky Tournament on Mar. 8-9.

Thursday night's game at Montana State will be the biggest in the

nine seasons since PSU brought basketball to the Park Blocks. The Vikings then travel to Montana for a game on Saturday.

The Vikings have already earned a spot in the Big Sky Tournament. If Portland State is able to win the Big Sky Conference regular season title, the Tournament semifinals and finals will be played at the 12,000-seat Memorial Coliseum.



### Golf Legend Honored at Nike

Portland Pastor Mark Strong (left) meets Golf Hall of Famer Charlie Sitton during a recent Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration at Nike in Beaverton. Sitton, 82, started his golf career as a caddy, played as the first black PGA member in 1961 and became the first black winner on tour in 1967.



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