

# SPORTS

## Team Earns State Championship

### Donations for tournament requested

Northeast Portland's Oregon Reign basketball program, a 10-and-under girl's Amateur Athletic Union team, is preparing for regional and national tournaments after winning a state AAU championship April 17 in Eugene.

The girls will move up to the Pacific Northwest Championships in Yakima, Wash. in May and end the season with a trip to Orlando, Fla. in June to compete for a national AAU championship.

The competition brings the daunting task of raising \$25,000 to cover travel, lodging and meals. The Reign have raised over \$8,000 through several fundraising events including a shoot-a-thon, candy sales, car washes and donations from Dale Davis of the NBA Indiana Pacers and former NBA Guard Terrell Brandon. But they still are far from their goal.

"Like other nonprofit organizations, the Oregon Reign girls basketball program needs financial re-



The Oregon Reign from northeast Portland is headed for regional and national tournaments after winning the state championship for girls 10 and under in the Amateur Athletic Union league.

sources to help achieve its goals," says coach Bryon Sheng. "The team has worked extremely hard this season and now need the help of our friends, supporters and the Portland community."

If you wish to make a financial donation, make checks payable to Oregon Reign Basketball and mail

them to 7311 N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97211.

The program provides a top quality environment for aspiring young female athletes to enhance their basketball skills beyond that which they might achieve participating in recreational leagues.

The team works with the young

players to be competitive, but also want them to enjoy the game and have fun. The program emphasizes teaching the life lessons learned through sports, like teamwork, communication, leadership, friendships, responsibility, and building a strong work ethic.

Call 503-539-7514 for information.

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## Blazer Goes 'Through the Fire'

Film tells Sebastian Telfair success story

(AP) - Sebastian Telfair was at Jay-Z's Manhattan nightclub with his family, watching TV and waiting for the announcement from the Madison Square Garden podium that would send him across the country and change his life.

The Brooklyn point guard with a dazzling mix of smarts and skills was selected by the Portland Trail Blazers with the 13th pick in last year's NBA draft.

That moment is captured by director Jonathan Hock and cinematographer Alastair Christopher in "Through the Fire." The documentary made its world premiere last week at the Tribeca Film Festival - a mere subway ride away from the Coney Island housing project where Telfair grew up - and chronicles the soul-searching of

one of the most publicized high school players to come out of New York.

"I'm not a pro basketball scout, but he's a basketball prodigy," Hock said. "They've been talking about him since the sixth grade."

Telfair was the fourth high schooler drafted that year, the latest in a growing line of abundantly gifted players ready to tangle in the NBA with no college interruption, a trend the NBA would like to halt with a minimum age limit of 20.

This was no easy choice and no easy time for Telfair, a 6-foot, 160-pounder who led powerhouse Abraham Lincoln High School to three New York City public league titles and one state championship. NBA scouts tracked his every point and assist during his senior year. A

sneaker deal was thrown at him by Adidas. He made it to the cover of Sports Illustrated.

And always present, like a great weight, there was the decision: Go pro or attend Louisville and play for Rick Pitino? His cousin Stephon Marbury of the New York Knicks spent a year at Georgia Tech before he was selected fourth in the NBA draft. His half brother, Providence's Jamel Thomas, dreamed of NBA stardom but wasn't chosen.

Hock originally planned a short piece about high school players heading directly to the NBA - like



In this photo from Hock Films, Blazer rookie Sebastian Telfair is photographed for a March 2004 Sports Illustrated magazine cover, in a scene for "Through the Fire." (AP photo)

Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and LeBron James - for HBO's "On the Record With Bob Costas." What he found was a more compelling story.

Telfair, who turns 20 in June, always believed he was ready to play with the big boys, but admits he still has a lot to learn.

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