

SPORTS

Driven by Volleyball, Academics

Henley headed to Jackson State

When Amy Henley was a freshman at De Le Salle North Catholic High School, she could barely serve a volleyball. Now four years later, to say she has improved would be an understatement.

A first team selection in the Northwest League and a most valuable player for top rated teams at De Le Salle North, Henley's talents are not only recognized on the local level but also by the head volleyball coach from Jackson State University in Mississippi.

After graduating this year, she plans on attending the university on both athletic and academic scholarships. A middle blocker on her volleyball team, she will major in elementary education or mass communication. Jackson State is part of the Southwestern Athletic conference and a NCAA Division I school.

Henley is part of the first graduating class from the De Le Salle North, which opened four



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local student Amy Henly holds the colors of her new school, Jackson State University. The De Le Salle North Catholic volleyball standout earned both athletic and academic scholarships.

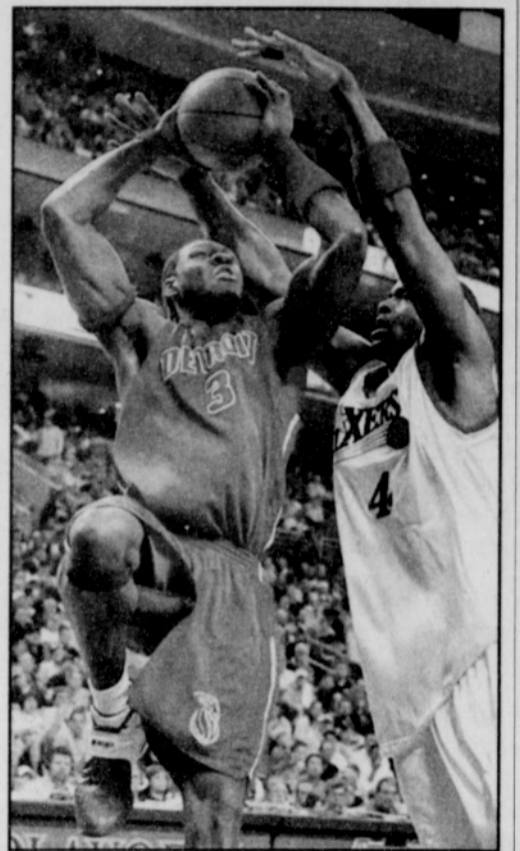
years ago.

Along with volleyball, she maintains a 3.0 grade point average, is very involved with

campus activities like yearbook and black student union, and serves as vice president of Christian Youth Fellowship.

Her coach Dennis Carline and parents Mytris and Clarence Beal said they very proud of her accomplishments.

Detroit Pistons' Ben Wallace (3) is guarded by Philadelphia 76ers' Chris Webber (4) in their Eastern Conference first-round game Sunday in Philadelphia. (AP photo)



NBA Defensive Best Again

(AP) — Pistons center Ben Wallace won the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year award for the third time in four years Monday.

Wallace also won it in 2002 and 2003.

During the regular season, he ranked fifth with 2.38 blocks per game, second with 12.2 rebounds

a game and 23rd with 1.43 steals a game. The 6-foot-9, 240-pound Wallace ranks second in the playoffs with three blocks a game.

Philadelphia coach Jim O'Brien has marveled at Wallace's ability to pressure players rebounding the ball, then harass the point guard as he dribbles up the court.

Portland Observer Auto Review

Vehicle News and Reviews

Tested vehicle information: Price \$18,494; Engine: 2.0L DOHC 16 Valve I-4; Transmission: 4-speed automatic.

The Foreza emerged in 2004 market as a four-door notchback sedan. Suzuki added the five-door wagon version for 2005. It has room for five passengers with plenty of legroom to stretch. Suzuki believes that the Foreza will compete with Mitsubishi, Volkswagen, and Subaru in the compact wagon market. Pininfarina, who has designed some of the most beautiful cars in the world, designed the Foreza. The base price of the Foreza S is \$13,949,



2005 Suzuki Foreza Wagon EX ABS

LX is \$15,849, and EX is \$17,449.

There are three trim levels — S, LX and EX, each level of trim offers more. Standard on all are four-wheel disc

brakes, speed-sensitive power steering, heated exterior mirrors, a tilt steering wheel, power door locks and windows, plus a stereo with CD and eight speakers.

The Suzuki Foreza wagon comes loaded with features at affordable price with an exterior full of Italian styling.

The Foreza Wagon EX is a luxury compact vehicle that had a great feel to it. It was very comfortable to drive. The lumbar of the buckets seats hit just right. It maneuvered around whining road with ease. This wagon is another reason why the Japanese auto makers are rising in U.S. sales market.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER BRINKMAN/BRINKMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

John Benenate of Portland and the cyclists in Team Marshall, the African-American women's team he helped coach.

Breaking the Color Barrier in Cycling

continued ▲ from Metro

had a house fire.

"I wanted to appear to be rising like a Phoenix, you know... out of the ashes," Benenate jokes. "I hate when people feel sorry for me. It's common in the paraplegia business, you know?"

Soon Benenate had arrangements with Portland State University's Dalton Miller-Jones, head of the Black Studies Department, and Grant Farr, head of the Sociology Department to travel to Bloomington and for college credit, write a book about the "place" of the bicycle and the legacy of the turn-of-the-century black world cycling champion Marshall "Major" Taylor.

Healing from second degree burns and managing the details of the insurance claim and the ensuing remodel of his home was a demanding job, but in response he moved to downtown Portland and became a student at PSU.

When Benenate finally arrived in Bloomington in March, his presence became a boot camp. Side by side, he helped teach the young women the basics of racing techniques; drafting, pace lines and time trials. At the end, the team had their competitive edge.

The Little 500 is a relay race and is similar to a track relay race. One person at a time, around a 444 meter track 'handing off' to the next rider by touching elbows

or hands in their 'pit' so the next rider can take off.

For 100 laps, the cyclists pedal hard and fast with speeds up to 25 mph, drafting, trying to stay in the front. Falling off the back and riding alone in the wind can be brutal, and usually marks the end of any hopes for the win.

The race was founded by Indiana University Student Foundation, and has always been a fundraiser for student scholarships. The competition has become fierce with 32 women's teams competing this year.

Laughter and nervous energy were prevalent at the family lunch before the race. As they rode off to the event, formed in a pace line, the excitement and anxiety rose,

as Team Marshall's dream of being the first all African-American team to complete was about to come true.

Benenate was the first wheelchair driver to coach and Team Marshall head coach Autumn Drew was the first woman to coach at the "Little 5." All the way around, they were a team of firsts, however number 22 is the place they finished. The rest is history.

Jennifer Brinkman of Portland traveled to Bloomington, Ind. to write about and photograph the race. She is a professional photographer and owner of Brinkman Photography, 813 N. Russell St. She can be reached at 503-287-7405 or by visiting brinkmanphoto.com

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