

BLACK HISTORY MONTH and the American Experience

PCC Basketball Grows with New Gymnasium

Focus on academics adds to success

LaMarcus Stewart has praise for his grandmother and Portland Community College's basketball program for helping him "better" his life.

Stewart has dominated the court as a 5-foot, 8-inch point guard this season. But success has not come easily for the northeast Portland native. He has had to overcome the challenges of growing up without his mom and dad who were in jail because of the bad decisions they made.

In 2002, Stewart graduated from Helensview High School, an award winning alternative program in Multnomah County. While at Helensview he played basketball for Roosevelt High School. He's taking general studies at PCC's Cascade Campus with plans to make a career out of his interest in business.

PCC Coach Wayne Mendezona says Stewart is becoming a leader on the team because he is listening and accepting responsibility and has gained confidence in



LaMarcus Stewart defends the lane during a basketball game at Portland Community College's new gymnasium on the PCC Cascade campus on North Killingsworth Street.

his academic abilities.

Stewart's story resonates with many on both the men and women's basketball teams. While PCC is building a reputation on the basketball court, coaches and the athletic director have launched a targeted effort to emphasize academic success as well. Demanding that players thrive in education goals has been matched by a commitment of staff to monitor their progress, including specialized tutors to insure success. It is working.

Players from southwest Portland like Avery Rosen on the men's team and Leah Davidson on the women's team model what coaches would like to see from all of their athletes. Rosen graduated from Cleveland High School. Attending Joliet Junior College in Illinois last year and part of the team that went to the Nationals where they lost by one point, Rosen returned to Portland for family reasons. He now has found more success not only on the basketball court, but also in the psychology classroom.

Davidson's energy as a shooting guard on the court is expected to propel her into a strong career as a personal trainer or physical therapist. Fitting directly within the goals of the program, she expects to move into a four-year

program at a local college or university once she gets the career requirements out of the way.

Portland area students have a wide range of possibilities for college. Because of that the PCC program put extra effort into the new coaches and facilities. A \$5 million dollar, two-story athletic building along North Killingsworth Street has become a jewel in the program with both the men and women's teams playing to strong audiences in the gym.

The coaches, Wayne Mendezona for the men and Rob Pridemore for the women, focus on a revitalization of the program and expanding it. The goals are straightforward. They, and athletic director Karl Eastorp, believe that a strong athletic and academic program will bring in more students to PCC and an ever increasing quality of players. And they believe it helps the students, the college and the community, providing a path for many students who would not otherwise have access to higher education and skilled jobs.

They also like the idea of seeing good basketball with enthusiastic players and spectators from throughout the community. With players like Stewart, Davidson and Rosen, the program expects to grow substantially over the next few years.

Focus on Community HomeTown Buffet builds bridges



HomeTown Buffet employees and neighborhood leaders gather in the spirit of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., recognizing his philosophy of nurturing a "Beloved Community," during the restaurant's grand re-opening at 10542 S.E. Washington. Pictured (from left) are Pastor Robin Wisner, Rizq Mesid of HomeTown, Vanessa Gaston of the Urban League of Portland, Maureen Edington of HomeTown, Lovell Jones of the Urban League, Michelle Miller of HomeTown and Sharon Smith of the Healthy Birth Initiative.

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Portland attorney and former Democratic State Rep. Joe Smith brings a message of equality and justice to members of the King Elementary School Choir at HomeTown Buffet's community awareness event.

PHOTOS BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Peninsula Little League 2006

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-15)
visit our website at: www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague



Softball Program

Level	Ages
Minor	7 - 9
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 15

Questions contact
Mark Washington ~
503-901-1722

Saturday, January 21, 2006
Saturday, January 28, 2006
Early Bird Sign-ups (\$10.00 discount, thru 1/28/06 only)
Saturday, February 4, 2006
Saturday, February 11, 2006
Saturday, February 18, 2006

Peninsula Park Community Center

700 N Portland Blvd
10:00 am - 2 pm

Portland Observer 4747 NE MLK Jr Blvd

Hours: 10 am - 5 pm (Mon - Friday)

Participation Fee - \$85.00 (per player), \$65 for T-ball
\$150.00 Family Maximum (2 or more children)
The fee includes prepay of fundraiser.

Baseball Program

Level	Ages
T-Ball	5 - 6
Farm	7 - 8
Minor	7 - 9
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 15



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Player Fee

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