

BLACK HISTORY MONTH and the American Experience



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Benson Girls Basketball team poses for a photograph after an exciting 56-46 win in overtime last week against Grant. The win put the Techsters in the sub-state tournament, but their season came to an end Monday with a 56-49 loss to Mountain View.

Highs and Lows for Benson Girls

The season came to an abrupt end for the Benson High School Girls Basketball team Monday in a sub-state tournament loss to Mountain View.

The Portland Interscholastic League, led 45-40 going into the fourth quarter at home, but the Cougers outscored them 16-4 in the final period to win the contest, 56-49.

Mountain View advances to the state tournament to play Central Catholic in southeast Portland on Thursday in a 7 p.m. contest.

In other playoff games Thursday, Sunset visits PIL Champion Franklin in a game beginning at 6 p.m.; Lincoln plays at Pendleton at 6:30 p.m. and Jefferson visits Jesuit at 7:30 p.m.

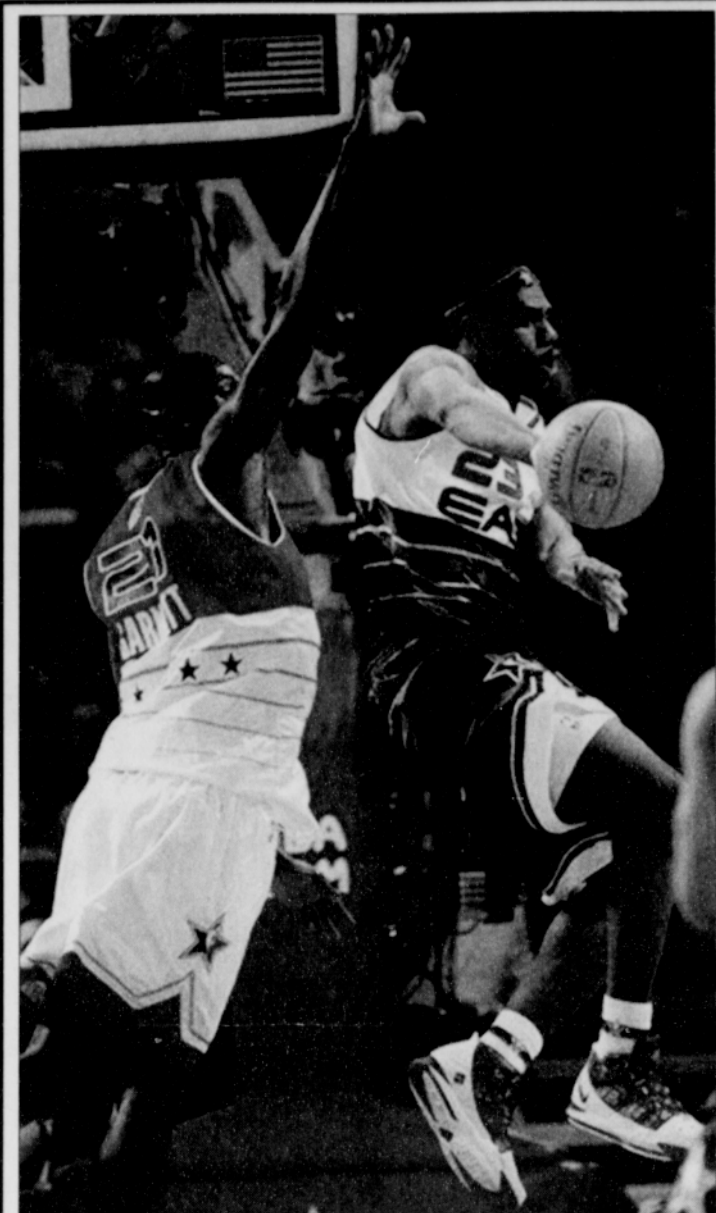
Telfair Fined for Gun

The Portland Trail Blazers has fined guard Sebastian Telfair after a loaded gun was found on the team's private jet at Boston's Logan Airport.

Telfair explained to local authorities that the gun belonged to his girlfriend and that he had inadvertently grabbed the wrong bag when leaving for the team's road trip.

The Trail Blazers say the handgun was found in a pillowcase belonging to Telfair as the team plane was being prepared for a flight from Boston to Toronto.

The team fined Telfair an undisclosed amount for violating league and team policy. The NBA is reviewing the matter.



Cleveland's LeBron James passes the ball away after Minnesota's Kevin Garnett blocks his way to the basket in Sunday's NBA All-Star game in Houston. (AP photo)

LeBron Obvious All-Star MVP 'Chosen One' leads big comeback

(AP)—"The Chosen One" was an obvious choice for All-Star game MVP.

that gave the East a chance after it trailed by as many as 21 points early in the period.

LeBron James led a big second-half comeback by the East on Sunday night, taking a victory away from the West and probably the MVP award away from hometown favorite Tracy McGrady.

James finished with four 3-pointers and shot 12-for-21 from the floor.

James finished with 29 points in the East's 122-120 victory while showing the all-around skills that have made him perhaps the NBA's most talented young player. The 21-year-old Cleveland star became the youngest MVP of the game, surpassing Oscar Robertson, who was 22 when he won the award as a rookie in 1961.

He trails Kobe Bryant and Allen Iverson in the NBA's most exciting scoring race in years, with all three averaging more than 30 points. Both had already been MVPs of the All-Star game, so perhaps it was James' turn.

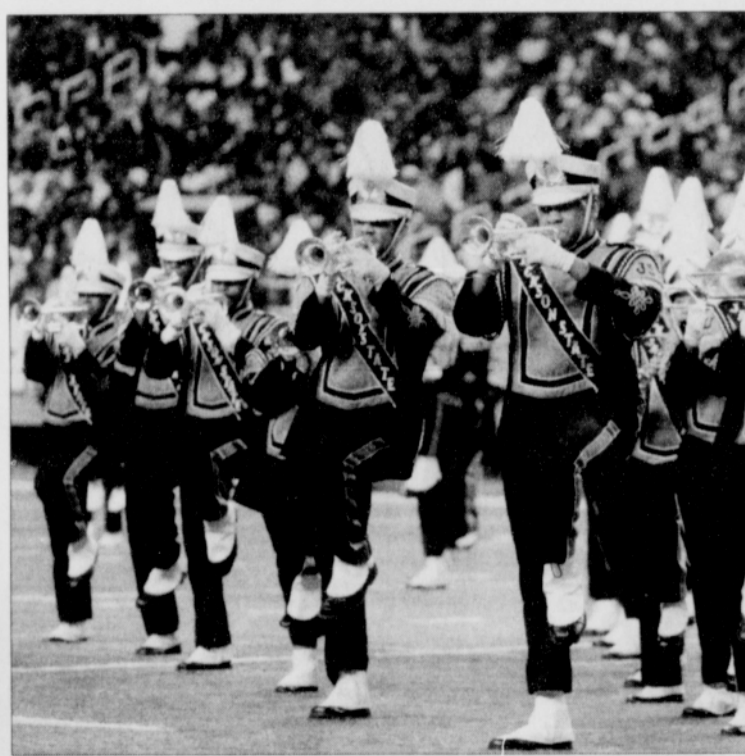
"LeBron and the rest of the East put on a great show," West coach Avery Johnson said.

James was expected to be an NBA superstar even in high school, when he was featured on a magazine cover with the title "The Chosen One." He went on to be the No. 1 pick in the 2003 NBA draft out of high school.

The West was seemingly in control of the game before James took over in the third quarter. He did nearly everything in a 10-0 run

On Sunday night, he proved those expectations were deserved.

"He's a great player," Shaquille O'Neal said. "He's the future of this game."



Battle of the Bands

The Jackson State University "Sonic Boom of the South" marching band takes to the field at the 4th annual Honda Battle of the Bands. The sold out event on Feb. 10 in Atlanta, Ga. was a testament to the tremendous community pride in historically black colleges and universities.

Olympic Gold Medal Winner

Shani Davis became the first African-American man to claim an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history Saturday, winning the 1000m speed skating race. "I'm one of a kind," Davis said, fully aware of how much he stands out in the mostly white sport.



Nike Honors Negro Leagues

As part of Black History Month, Nike is celebrating the accomplishments, heritage and history of Negro League Baseball with its "Untold Truth Collection."



The new line of sportswear showcases six legendary teams of the Negro Baseball Leagues: Chicago American Giants, Kansas City Monarchs, New York Cubans, Memphis Red Sox and Philadelphia Stars.

A Kansas City Monarchs replica jersey is part of a new Nike apparel and footwear line that pays homage to the teams of the Negro Baseball Leagues.

The apparel was created in conjunction with the Negro League Baseball Museum to pay homage to extraordinary athletes.

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