

# SPORTS



Benson players find themselves down by seven points against a talented Jesuit team with just over two-and-a-half minutes to play.



Benson Tech Boys Head Coach Troy Berry sets up a play with his players during a timeout in the team's 45-56 loss to Jesuit.

PHOTOS BY JAMES P. HILL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## High School Basketball

### PIL teams are Hawaii-bound

Benson (3-0) and Wilson (2-3) are both traveling to play in the 35th annual Punahou School Boys Basketball Tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii. Both PIL teams could play each other in the tournament championship in paradise.

Wilson Head Coach Scott Aker says, "It's a great opportunity to kind of bond while playing difficult competition. We've done this every other year for the past few seasons. It's an eight team tournament hosted at Punahou a great high school in Hawaii. Benson will be there playing in the other bracket and if we both win out we could face each other in the championship. That would be great for the PIL."

Mario Gill Wilson All-PIL Senior Guard says, "Our team chemistry grows a lot while we're in the Hawaii Tournament. We play three games in Honolulu. The first team we play is from Canada (Walnut Grove). The first game is very important to win and everybody will be watching. We just work real hard in practice and it just shows off in the games."

Benson Tech Head Coach Troy Berry says, "We have a lot of talent. We can be good if we just play together. Our Hawaii trip is a tremendous opportunity to experience a different culture. We get to see how different people live, and we get to play some basketball."

### Boys – recent games

Marshall 66, Silverton 60  
Lincoln 74, Southridge 95  
Aloha 53, Wilson 63  
(Top scorer: Mario Gill, Wilson, 23 pts.)  
Benson 77, Beaverton 74  
Cleveland 41, Parkrose 29  
Lincoln 47, Tigard 50  
Grant 80, White Rock 56  
Jesuit 56, Benson 45 (Top scorers, Jesuit -- Stephen Holt, 11 pts, Brenton Spickerman 10 pts; Benson -- Perry Dinyain 15 pts, Tyrone Phillips 9 pts.)



Grant High School's super freshman forward Krystal Forthan.

### Girls – recent games

Marshall 35, Sherwood 62  
Madison 60, Milwaukie 58  
Lincoln 59, Jesuit 49  
Cleveland 33, Glencoe 77  
Lincoln 25, Southridge 50  
Beaverton 55, Grant 41

## Roy Leads Blazers to 8th Straight Win

### Earns back-to-back player awards

(AP) -- Brandon Roy had 24 points and eight assists to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to their eighth straight victory, 88-76 over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday night. Portland (13-12) last won eight straight during the 2002-03 season.

Roy was also chosen as the Western Conference player of the week Monday for the second straight time, becoming the first Blazers player to win back-to-back player of the week awards since Clyde Drexler in 1987-88.

He shot 10-of-17 and made key baskets as Portland pulled away in the fourth quarter against the Hornets.

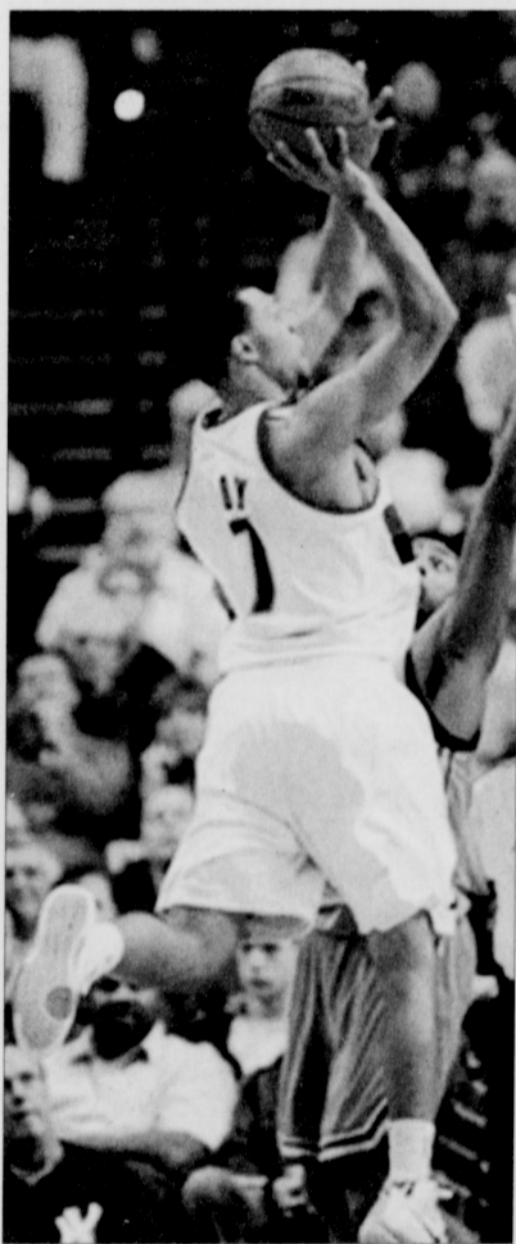
David West had 21 points and Tyson Chandler had 16 points and 19 rebounds for New Orleans, which lost for the fourth straight time at the Rose Garden.

Martell Webster had 13 points and Steve Blake had 10 for the Blazers, who started off slow, shooting just 34 percent in the first half. Chris Paul had 11 points and eight rebounds for New Orleans. Rasual Butler had 10.

New Orleans was coming off a big win over Phoenix on Saturday, in which Paul had his 12th double-double of the season, but he made just 5 of 15 shots against the Blazers.

Portland's win guaranteed its first winning month in 18 months. The Blazers, who were outrebounded 47-36, didn't really take control until New Orleans went scoreless for more than six minutes in the final quarter.

Both teams were missing starters they had hoped to have back. Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge has battled plantar fasciitis. Peja Stojakovic sat out with a strained left groin for the second game after reinjuring it.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy shoots over New Orleans Hornets guard Morris Peterson at the Rose Garden Monday. Roy led the Blazers with 24 points and eight assists to beat the Hornets, 88-76.

Roy, averaging 24 points during Portland's streak, put the Blazers up 71-66 with a 3 that beat the shot clock early in the fourth.

Channing Frye's tip-in made it 73-66 and gave Portland its biggest lead of the game at that point. Jarrett Jack made a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 10 with 4:28 to go.

Chandler's offensive rebound and monster dunk cut the lead to 78-71, but Roy countered with a driving basket for the Blazers.

## One on One with Brandon Roy

BY JAMES P. HILL  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS COLUMNIST

Second year Blazers star guard and last season's NBA Rookie-of-the-Year Brandon Roy makes playing basketball look easy. And after winning eight games in a row, Roy and the Blazers are once again red, hot, and rolling.

"We get after it. We talk about hard work. We just let wins and losses take care of themselves," Roy said. "And right now, we're playing hard and wins are happening for us."

In fact, Roy and his team of young Blazers are earning respect, gelling as a team, and showcasing their A game versus some of the NBA's best teams.

Roy grew up in Seattle where he played basketball at Garfield High school. He earned a college scholarship to play basketball for the University of Washington Huskies in his hometown.

On NBA Draft day in June 2006, Roy was traded from the Minnesota Timberwolves (Sixth pick overall) to the Trailblazers for Randy Foye (Seventh overall Pick) keeping the Northwest native son close to home.

"I've always paid attention to Portland just being from Seattle and they had great players. Clyde Drexler and Terry Porter are two of my favorites," Roy said.

In 24 games, Roy is averaging 37 minutes, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, and 18 points per contest. It's kind of scary to think about how good or even great Brandon Roy and the young Blazers can become.

"I know Greg has to wait, I'm trying to get more experience. I think LaMarcus (Aldridge) is doing a great job," Roy said. "If we can keep this team together I think in two years we can be good. Let's cross our fingers stay healthy and hopefully one day we can be one of the heavyweights in the west."



Brandon Roy

## Public Numb on Doping Report

(AP) -- After years of BALCO and Barry Bonds, fans are almost numb to news that yet another player took a pharmaceutical short cut. The Mitchell Report might have been bigger and more noteworthy, but its shock value wore off a long time ago.

From coast to coast, the public's reaction to Thursday's Mitchell Report was largely a shrug of indifference.

Baseball's two-year investigation simply confirmed what most fans had already assumed. If there was surprise about any

players, it was the ones not named in the 311 pages.

Even the news that Roger Clemens was accused of spending part of his stellar career shooting up failed to generate much outrage.

Perhaps worst of all, fans doubt the report, no matter how embarrassing, will change anything.

Baseball has been dogged by whispers and rumors about steroids for almost two decades now, with suspicions of performance-enhancing drug use rising right along with the number of home runs.



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Hope to see you there.

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