

Roy Cements Blazer Deal

All-star negotiates \$80 million contract

(AP) -- Trail Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard called Brandon Roy a pillar of the franchise at a press conference Friday during which he formally announced Roy's multiyear contract extension.

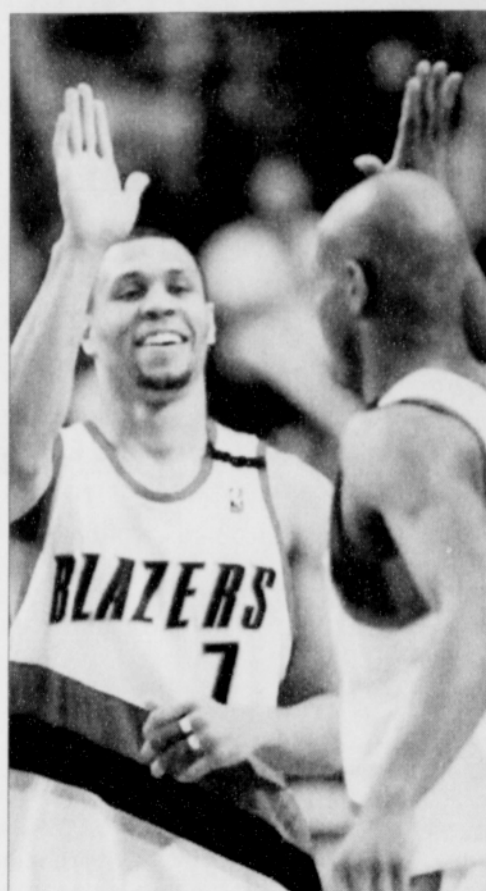
Pritchard said it was "an amazing day" and that he looked forward to Roy's future with the team.

He recalled going out to watch Roy in a workout before he was first signed to the team.

"I remember driving back from that workout thinking this is our guy, and he's going to be a pillar of our franchise," he said. "Brandon is a leader. He's a guy who cares about his teammates."

The Trail Blazers have declined to release contract terms, but Roy's agent said it's a five-year deal which could be worth more than \$80 million. The fifth year, ending in 2015, the agent said, is at Roy's option.

The two-time All-Star, who grew up in Seattle, said he never had any reservations about signing for the long-haul



NBA All-star Brandon Roy has signed a new contract with the Trail Blazers estimated at more than \$80 million.

with team, despite free agency and the salary cap.

"From my first year in this organization, I knew where I wanted to be," he said. "I couldn't imagine being anywhere but here in Portland."

The 25-year-old Roy led the Trail Blazers with 22.6 points and 5.1 assists per game last season. He's been instrumental in helping the team win back a fan base that had been alienated by the so-called Jail Blazers of the past.

Contract negotiations took longer than Roy had hoped, he said. It was frustrating, but it "is something that's part of the business."

When his agent called to tell him the deal had finally been completed, "I just had this huge smile on my face — of relief," he said.

Now, he says he's "chomping at the bits" to get the new season started.

"Being the best team at the end of the season is my ultimate goal," Roy said. "I'm chasing the championship."

The Trail Blazers are still working on an extension with the team's second-leading scorer, forward LaMarcus Aldridge. Roy said he hopes a deal gets done soon.

Refugee Community Focuses on Youth

Helping arrivals adjust to new culture

Over 200 youth from African refugee and immigrant families living in the greater metro area congregated at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization for the 6th annual African Youth Leadership Conference.

The July 18 gathering was organized by a committee of 30 African youth chaired by Fatuma Mohamed, an 18-year-old from Somalia who graduated from Cleveland High School in June.

The committee members got leadership experience as they determined topics for workshops and keynote speakers, identified and invited speakers, developed the program and timeline, recruited attendees, ordered food and worked with the budget.

Often these youth feel caught in a tug-of-war between their parents and the culture they are trying to preserve from their home countries and their American peers and the American youth culture of their new

home. This can lead to identity confusion or even feelings of lost identity.

Additionally, when they are placed in school in the grades consistent with their age, but speaking no or little English, they struggle academically and sometimes see no benefit to staying in school.

This year's conference was designed to address those feelings and to encourage and inspire the youth to remain in school, stay out of trouble and look to a successful future that requires a good educational base.

The first keynote speaker was Hanae Said, a 21 year old Benson High School graduate who is now a junior at the University of Oregon. She shared her own experiences but urged attendees to follow a 5 point pathway to success.

Her five points were focus on your education and good grades; balance classes with positive extracurricular activities; utilize available resources, such as IRCO programs, Upward Bound programs, and mentors; communicate with your parents, who have sacrificed much to give you a better

life in America and really do have your best interests at heart, even though they may not understand much of the cultural clash you experience; and the importance of associating with the right people — people who have strong success goals and will share and support you in your success-oriented choices.

Yema Maesho was also a keynote speaker. Now a lawyer with her own firm in Corvallis, Maesho came to this country from Ethiopia just 16 years ago. She urged the youth to believe in themselves and follow their dreams, no matter what anyone else thinks their limits are. She offered encouragement by stating that they can contribute greatly not only to this country but also to their communities back home.

She encouraged the youth to explore their background and history and keep in touch with where they came from so that they can be the link between the past, the present and the future.

Lunchtime entertainment was provided by Somali Bantu Infiniti, a rap group of five young men who perform in the Somali language of Mai.



Hanae Said

Beaverton Hosts World Series

The Little League Softball World Series begins Thursday, Aug. 13 at Alpenrose Stadium, located at 6149 S.W. Shattuck Rd.

The 2009 field features four international teams and six teams from the U.S., including

girls from Beaverton who qualified as the host team.

"This year's field should be very exciting to watch," said Sue Seaver, head of the local organizing committee for the event. Admis-

sion is free to all tournament games.

The semi-finals on Aug. 18 and finals on Aug. 19 are once again televised live on ESPN.

The Portland tournament is the girl's softball equivalent of the popular boy's baseball tournament held each August in Williamsport, Penn.



Ask Deanna!
Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

After a few years of dating I decided to leave a relationship and go back to an old one. This was a mistake. The woman I went to lied to me, has a crazy ex-husband and was pregnant when we got together. I left this relationship immediately and tried to go back to first woman. She has forgiven me but said she will only take me back after I have a DNA test. In the meanwhile, she said if she finds someone else, then it's over. Am I wrong for still wanting her? --Hopeless; On-Line Reader

Dear Hopeless:

You're a selfish man living in your own fantasy world. You broke up with this woman for a reason and got more of the drama that caused you to leave in the first place. You're lucky the first woman didn't skin you like a cat. The universe has a way of righting itself so you shouldn't be surprised if she decided to take the risk and move on without you. Regardless of the outcome of the DNA test, you should prepare yourself to be alone or look for another love.

Dear Deanna!

I broke up with my boyfriend over something silly and now I regret my actions. I thought he was cheating on me with my best friend but they were actually buying me a gift. I said some horrible things to both of them and they're not speaking to me. I want to get back with him but I think he is looking at my friend because she seems more mature than me. What should I do if they start dating? I know it's my fault but it's going to tear me apart. --Made a Mistake ;Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mistake:

You obviously have trust issues if you can't feel secure with your mate or your friends. Your foolish tongue has caused you to lose your relationship and your friend. The only thing you can do is apologize to both parties and ask your boyfriend for another chance. If he says no and goes with your buddy, then you learned a valuable lesson and if they'll do this in your face, you didn't need them anyway.

Dear Deanna!

I think I'm in a relationship that is one-sided. In the beginning my boyfriend and I shared a lot, communication was good and we talked about our goals. Now we don't do anything recreational unless I make a suggestion and pay for everything. I keep trying to love him, support him and find out what's going on. He won't respond but he won't be rude nor leave the house. I'm very confused and these mixed signals make it worse. How do I get through to him? --Going Crazy; Toledo, Ohio

Dear Going Crazy:

Your boyfriend has simply fallen out of love with you. He thinks he's being nice and respectful but he's really being dishonest with you. He has some pent up feelings and thoughts that will only come out if you ask direct questions. You should ask him to share his feelings about the relationship, find out where you stand and if he wants to be with you. Don't make assumptions but rely on his direct response and actions and be willing to take the good with the bad.

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Observer thank the community for
their support.

