

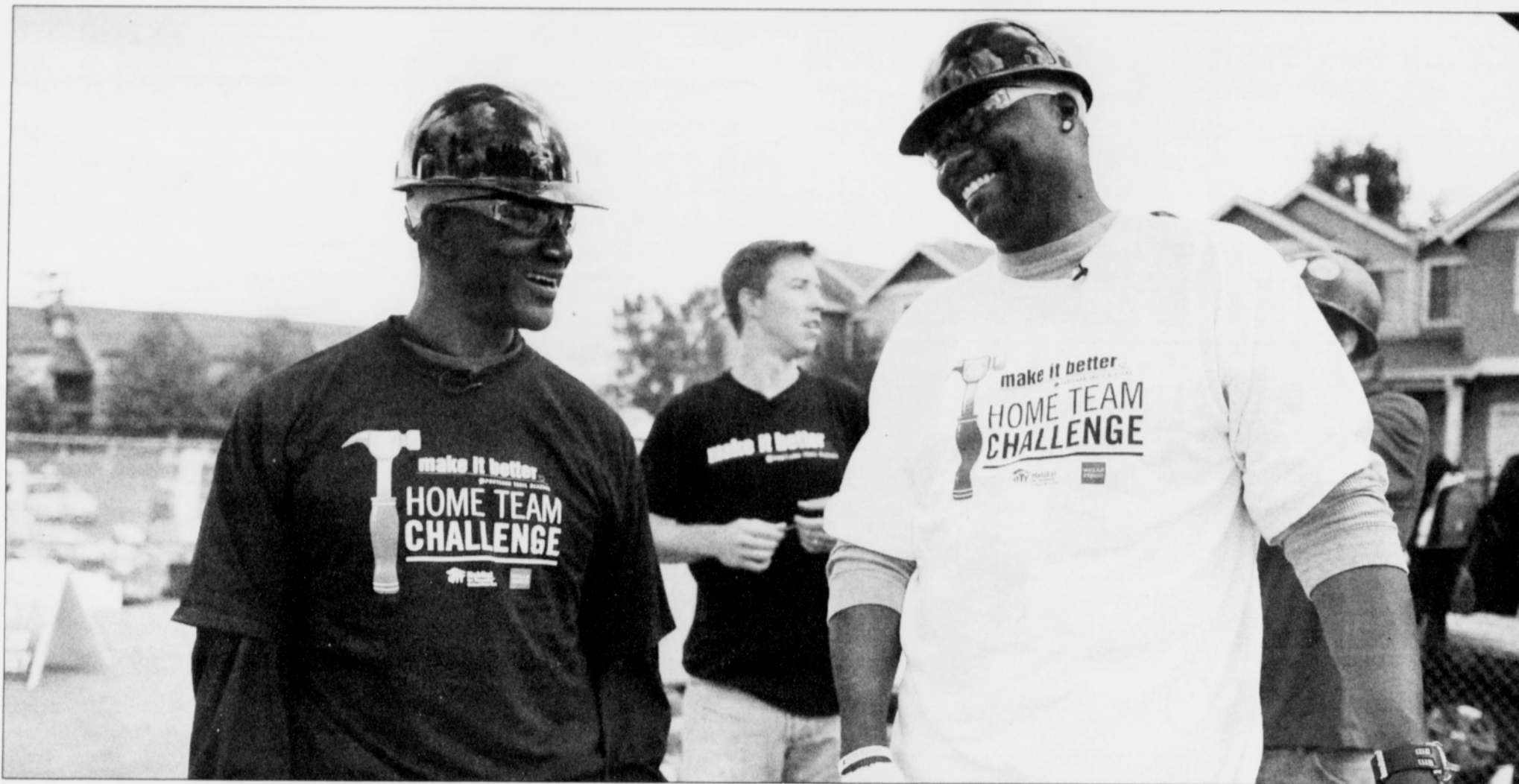
East County Habitat Builds Homes

Blazers team up with other volunteers

The Portland Trail Blazers and corporate partner Wells Fargo teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to tip off the 'Home Team Challenge' in Gresham.

A team of 150 volunteers worked together last month to begin the framing and fencing for eight houses, which will become home to over 40 people. It was the largest one-day build in Habitat's 30-year history.

"The Habitat program works because we don't have to pay people to build these homes," said Habitat's Executive Director Steve Messinetti. "We sell these homes to families at our cost. Thanks to the donations that we get from folks like Wells Fargo and the Trail Blazers, we are able to provide the



Retired Portland Trail Blazers and current team ambassadors Terry Porter (left) and Jerome Kersey pitch in to help build a home for the non-profit Habitat for Humanity.

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family with a zero percent interest mortgage to make it affordable for the life of their loan."

Among the volunteers were Trail Blazers Head Coach Nate McMillan, his coaching staff, and team ambassadors Terry Porter, Jerome Kersey and Dale Schlueter.

"The Trail Blazers mission is to make it better, helping kids and families live, learn and play in the community," said Porter. "Wells Fargo has always been very good partner of ours, and they've done a great job helping us work with Habitat for Humanity on this project."

First Two Weeks of NBA Sliced

The NBA announced Monday that it has canceled the first two weeks of the 2011-12 regular season because a new collective bargaining agreement has not been reached with the National Basketball Players Association. This cancellation includes all games originally scheduled to be played through Nov. 14, including four home games for the Portland Trail Blazers.

"Despite extensive efforts, we have not been able to reach a new agreement with the players' union that allows all 30 teams to be able to compete for a championship while fairly compensating our players," NBA Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said.

Refunds plus interest are available for all NBA season-ticket holders for all preseason and regular-season games that are canceled.

