

# The



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'City of Roses'



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# Shaking Up Sports



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marshall Haskins is excited about his new post as athletic director for Portland Public Schools. Less than a month into the position, Haskins has already proposed several ideas to raise the profile for a successful sports program that advances education as well.

## Haskins looks to re-energize school programs

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Public Schools recently named community fixture Marshall Haskins the new athletic director of the district and he has already come through the door shaking things up. Less than a month into his post he put forth some radical proposals that however unofficial and unlikely to be put into play, create the thing Haskins desires most at the moment; dialogue.

The proposals that aren't going to be implemented? No

sports at Benson High School; and Jefferson and Roosevelt teams merging. Those were just a few of the ideas that put the new athletic director on the hot seat when they became public last week.

Haskins, 50, says the ideas were only mentioned to raise the profile of sports in Portland's schools while also increasing the educational successes of local students.

Tuesday, he told the Portland Observer that the proposals were never intended to be pursued.

"Part of my job is to open the conversation about what

we can do to improve," he said.

Working to raise the visibility of athletics in the city, Haskins is hoping to create a mutual and positive relationship between sports and education.

"There are skills that kids learn in athletics that are just as valuable as what they learn in a classroom if not more," Haskins says.

Haskins recently succeeded Greg Ross as athletic director

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