

Blazers take 14-under AAU title

SPORTS SHORTS

The Concord Blazers won the 14-under N.C. AAU basketball championship by beating the Triangle Knights 73-64.

The Blazers roared to a 44-16 lead at halftime and coasted to their 15th win in as many games. In earlier tournament games, Concord beat the Wake County Sting 77-54 and the Greensboro Gators 66-55 in the semifinals.

The Blazers will play in the Hall of Fame Classic in Knoxville, Tenn. Friday before hosting the Blazers Invitational Tournament June 10 in Concord.

• Joy Newsome and Victory Christian Center's girls basketball team made school history this year.

Newsome averaged 22 points per game in the postseason to lead VCC to the N.C. Independent Schools Athletic Association and National Association of Christian Athletes championships. Newsome, a 5-7 forward, averaged 16.5 points through the Southern Piedmont Athletic Association tournament, then improved to 22 points, 4 assists and 10 rebounds in the postseason. She also averaged four steals a game for VCC, which finished the season 26-5.

• Jim Dent Jr. won the Ridgewood Golf Club's tourna-



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ment in Columbia, S.C., last week.

Dent fired a two-round total of 151, four shots better than Wanda Green and six strokes better than Robert Whetstone in the championship flight.

Bill Barrett topped the seniors flight with 157. Stanley Foggie was second, also at 157 and Ben Dawson was third at 159.

Suzann Kemp won the ladies flight with 200, nine shots better than Linda Jones.

Results from the Ridgewood Golf Club tournament at Columbia, S.C.

Championship flight: Jim Dent Jr. 151; Wanda Green 155; Robert Whetstone 157.

Senior flight: Bill Barrett 157; Stanley Foggie 157; Ben Dawson 159.

Ladies flight: Suzann Kemp 200; Linda Jones 209; Eva Hannon 212.

First flight: Curtis Wilson 156; Everne Carr 160; Virgil Wynn 160.

Second flight: Thad Washington 165; Wyatt Blackmon 165; Doug Blackwell 166.

Third flight: Paul Hampton 174; Blue Abney 174; Les Bradstreet 174.

Fourth flight: Murray Wood 181; David Hill 186; Ceven Liverman 187.

Aggression pays for Portland in Game 2

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they used in Game 1, but with much different results. They lost the opener 109-94 Saturday.

"We added a little bit more aggression," said Brian Grant, whose defense on Shaquille O'Neal resulted in the Lakers center getting 23 points, 12 rebounds and two fouls.

The Blazers scored the game's first eight points, punctuated by Pippen's slam dunk off a steal by Steve Smith. That quieted the crowd of 18,997 at Staples Center. But Portland played its

best in the third quarter, outscoring the Lakers 28-8, which tied the Los Angeles franchise playoff record for fewest points in a quarter.

"We all knew we were all going to come out with attitude. Everybody had attitude in different areas," Grant said. "We were able to post up and kind of get them rattled. Whoever was posting up, we just wanted to go at them hard."

Portland scored 17 points off the Lakers' 14 turnovers, while committing just seven miscues

that resulted in no points for Los Angeles. Rasheed Wallace had 29 points and 12 rebounds in 46 minutes, proving how costly his ejection after 16 minutes was in Game 1.

"Everyone went out there enthusiastic and in an attack mode," he said. "Coach D (Mike Dunleavy) just wanted us to try our inside shots and rebound well."

Sting nursing wounds

Continued from page 16A

the next year. As soon as the WNBA season wraps up in August, she's off to Sydney, Australia with the U.S. women's team for the Summer Olympics. When that wraps up in early October, Staley starts her first season as head coach of Temple's women.

"I haven't had a summer off for quite sometime so my plate is kind of always full," she said. "It's probably a good thing for me because now I know I have the WNBA, I have the Olympics, then I have Temple, so I have three things. I've kind of narrowed everything down to three things and I'm not going to be all over the place, I'll know where I'll be - in either Charlotte, Sydney or in I'll be in Philadelphia."

When Staley's healthy again, she knows she'll be back on the floor directing the Sting's offensive and defensive attack. Staley plans to take even more of a leadership role this season especially since power forward Vicky Bullett was traded in the off-season.

"I think we've got a lot of young players here, a lot of players who may have not played in the WNBA, so they're definitely going to need some leadership," Staley said. "I'll be more assertive than I was last year."

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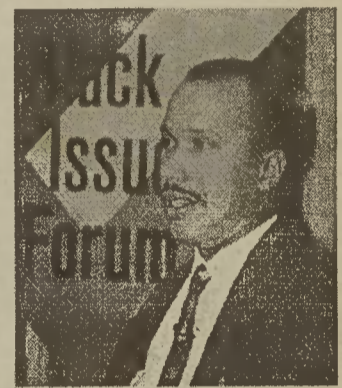


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