

SECTION

B

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1994

SPORTS ETC.

1993-94 NBA STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	Home	Away	Conf.
Seattle	22	3	.880	--	13-1	9-2	13-2
Phoenix	21	5	.808	1 1/2	14-1	7-4	12-3
Portland	17	12	.586	7	11-5	6-7	10-7
Golden State	14	13	.519	9	6-8	8-5	10-9
LA Clippers	11	16	.407	12	8-8	3-8	5-12
Sacramento	9	19	.321	14 1/2	6-8	3-11	4-8
LA Lakers	9	20	.310	15	4-8	5-12	5-11

MIDWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	Home	Away	Conf.
Houston	24	4	.857	--	10-1	14-3	13-3
Utah	21	8	.724	3 1/2	12-2	9-6	9-5
San Antonio	19	11	.633	6	11-4	8-7	9-7
Denver	14	14	.500	10	10-3	4-11	11-9
Minnesota	8	20	.286	16	3-11	5-9	6-15
Dallas	2	25	.074	21 1/2	0-13	2-12	2-18

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	Home	Away	Conf.
New York	18	8	.692	--	11-4	7-4	11-4
Orlando	16	12	.571	3	9-4	7-8	9-8
Miami	13	13	.500	5	7-9	6-4	10-7
New Jersey	12	16	.429	7	8-6	4-10	8-9
Boston	12	18	.400	8	7-8	5-10	9-14
Philadelphia	11	17	.393	8	6-8	5-9	6-10
Washington	8	20	.286	11	5-8	3-12	7-11

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT.	GB	Home	Away	Conf.
Atlanta	19	7	.731	--	11-1	8-6	14-4
Chicago	18	9	.667	1 1/2	10-2	8-7	12-4
Charlotte	17	12	.586	3 1/2	12-2	5-10	13-8
Cleveland	12	15	.444	7 1/2	10-5	2-10	6-10
Indiana	10	16	.385	9	5-7	5-9	7-8
Detroit	8	20	.286	12	5-11	3-9	5-13
Milwaukee	8	20	.286	12	3-9	5-11	4-11

Chieftains Capture Title Of Pacific University Christmas Classic

Mychal Brown (6-0, Jr./Kent, Wa) scored 17 points to lead four Seattle University players in double figures as the Chieftains captured the title of the Pacific University Christmas Classic with a 63-54 victory over host Pacific (OR).

The Chieftains pulled away from a 36-36 tie early in the second half to take a 51-40 advantage with 10 minutes left. Pacific was unable to get any closer than seven the rest of the way.

Jared Robinson and Hugh Stephens added 11 points and Kenny Bush 10 as Seattle University won its third straight and improved to 8-5 on the year. Robinson was named the tournaments most valuable player.

Goeff Vernon led Pacific (3-5) with 19 points.

Upcoming Sonics Schedule:

January 5

@ LA Clippers

(KSTW 11, 7:30)

January 7

VS. Sacramento (7:00)

January 8

VS. Utah (7:00)

January 11

@ Portland (PSN, 7:30)



Helping Out. The Breakfast Group, an organization of African American business and professional men with a basic goal of being involved in programs and activities to enhance the quality of life in the African American community, lived up to that goal recently by obtaining, repairing, wrapping and delivering 1,000 toys to various community associations throughout the city.

Organizations benefiting from the toy distribution included Camp, Central Youth and Family Services, Employment Opportunity Center, Jackson Heights Community Center, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Neighborhood House, North Seattle Boys and Girls Club, Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, Rotary Boys and Girls Club, and Yesler Community Center. Shown in the photo are organizations.

If you would like to report scores and updates of your favorite teams (Little league, High School, College, ETC... Please call our Sports Department at 323-3070. Or Write us at: 2600 S. Jackson, Seattle, Wa 98144

Sonics Tops In NBA At 22-3

By C. Bernard Bennett
Staff Writer

The Seattle Supersonics are off to their best start ever, at 22-3. The last time that the Sonics had the best record in the NBA this far into the season (25 games) was during their 1978-79 championship season, when the Sonics were 19-6 after 25 games. The 1978-79 team finished the regular season with a 52-30 mark, and the rest was history as they won the NBA Championship four games to one over the Washington Bullets.

The Sonics 22-3 record also marks the best record the club has ever had after the beginning of a new year (January 1), the previous best of 23-8 was set by the 1982-83 squad which started off the season with an 12-0 mark. That year the Sonics finished with a 48-34 record and were swept in the first round of the playoffs by the Portland Trailblazers (2-0).

The Sonics have been able to put together the league's best record to date by playing great defense, and by virtue of not having to rely on anyone player every night. The Sonics force opponents into committing a league high 21.9 turnovers per game, while they are also on a record pace for steals by a team in a single season. The Sonics had 310 steals in their first 23 games, an average of 13.48 per game. The 1977-78 Phoenix Suns hold the NBA record with 1,059 steals, averaging 12.9 per game. The Sonics Nate McMillan is the league leader in steals with 3.48 per game, while his partner in crime Gary Payton is eighth with 2.26 steals per game. McMillan is on pace to record 285 steals this season, which will break the all-time Sonics record held by Slick Watts (261), and place him third on the NBA's all-time single season list (Alvin Robertson holds the league record with 301, 1985-86).

The Sonics claimed the leagues best record with a convincing win over Houston last week, at home. "I think



Sonic Guard Ricky "Big Money Daddy" Pierce has been a very effective and efficient scorer for the Sonics. Pierce is averaging over one point per minute played, and continues to be terrific as the Sonics "go-to guy" down the stretch of tough ball games.

people were starting to doubt us," said Sonic co-captain Nate McMillan, after the win over Houston. "We needed to beat these guys" said McMillan alluding to the fact that many people thought that the Sonics hadn't really beat any quality teams.

The Sonics might have the best record in the NBA as of right now, but they haven't let all their success this season go to their heads. "As far as I'm concerned Phoenix is still the team to beat, and until we prove ourselves and win our division, all this talk about being top dog doesn't really make any difference" Said McMillan.

Last week the Sonics had two wins and no losses, as the defeated the Houston Rockets and the Los Angeles Lakers. Here's a recap of last weeks games:

Seattle 112, Houston 97

Hakeem Olajuwon and the Houston Rockets came to town, in a clash between the teams with the top two records in the NBA. Michael Cage started in place of

Shawn Kemp, who did not start because he was suffering from the flu, and got the Sonics off to a 4-0 start as he made an 18 foot jump shot and got a dunk on the Sonics first two possessions. The Sonics raced out to a 30-19 first quarter lead as they shot 52 percent from the field, during. The Sonics extended their lead to 66-42 at the half as they got 14 second quarter points from Ricky Pierce, and 12 from Shawn Kemp.

But the Rockets answered back in the third quarter as the held the Sonics two 35 percent shooting from the field, as the Rockets front-line of Olajuwon, Horry, and Thorpe went to work on the inside, and cut the Sonics (who had led by as many as 30 points) lead to 8 going into the final period.

During the final quarter Olajuwon hit a 12 foot jump shot to bring the Rockets within three points, at 84-81. But then Ricky Pierce hit a 15 foot jump shot to ignite a 9-0 Sonic run, that was capped off by a Gary Payton three-point shot with time running off the shot clock to give

(Continued on page 2B)

TACOMA-TO-SEATTLE COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT
ARE WE ON TRACK?

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

The Regional Transit Authority is coming to your community to hear your opinions. You're invited to a series of open houses about a proposed commuter train using existing railroad tracks to link Tacoma and Seattle, and several points in between. With voter approval, commuter trains could begin running as early as 1997. But we need to hear from you before moving ahead.

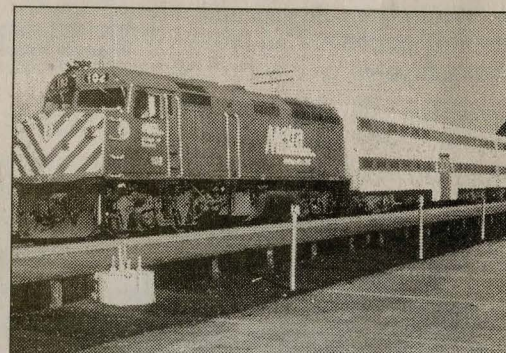
WE'LL ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS

"Where will I be able to catch a train?
How much will it cost to build? What
effect will it have on the environment?"

AND WE'LL LISTEN TO
YOUR IDEAS

We're collecting comments about the commuter rail proposal as part of our environmental review. Tell us what you think.

Please let us know in advance if you need a sign language interpreter or have other special needs. For more information, call 1-800-201-4900 or 689-3116 (TDD).



WHERE AND WHEN

Monday, January 10

Auburn
Auburn High School Library
800 Fourth St. N.E.

Tuesday, January 11

Puyallup
Kalles Junior High School Cafeteria
515 Third St. S.E.

Wednesday, January 12

Kent
Kent Public Library
212 Second Ave. N.

Sumner

City Council Chambers
1104 Maple St.

Thursday, January 13

Tukwila
(Open house begins at 6:30 p.m.)
City Council Chambers
6200 Southcenter Blvd.

Wednesday, January 19

Renton
Renton Senior Center
211 Burnett Ave. N.

Tacoma

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

Tuesday, January 25

Seattle*
Bush Asia Center
409 Maynard Ave. S.

Except where noted, all open houses
will be from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

* Held in conjunction with City of
Seattle's Intermodal Terminal Scoping.

