

PROFILE **+** Brian Parrott

From bobsleds to pop stars and back to tennis

Brian Parrott is keeping pretty heady company these days. It's not everyone who gets to rub shoulders with the Jamaican national bobsled team. Or the white Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin.

Parrott, the 42-year-old Portlander and long-time USPTA member, is no longer employed by Louisiana-Pacific Corp., for whom he served as director of sports staging during much of the 1980s. During that time, he staged three Davis Cup ties—including U.S. vs Australia matchups in 1981 and '84 in Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

A new era has begun for the Bird Man. Last spring, Parrott formed his own company called "America's Best, Inc." (The phone number: 224-BEST.)

Parrott intends to put his vast experience to use as a sports and entertainment promoter and agent.

"I finally decided to hop off 'Some-day Isle,'" Parrott says, "and go after this idea that had been in my head for some time. I've accumulated a lot of interest and knowledge in the area of promotions and event stagings.

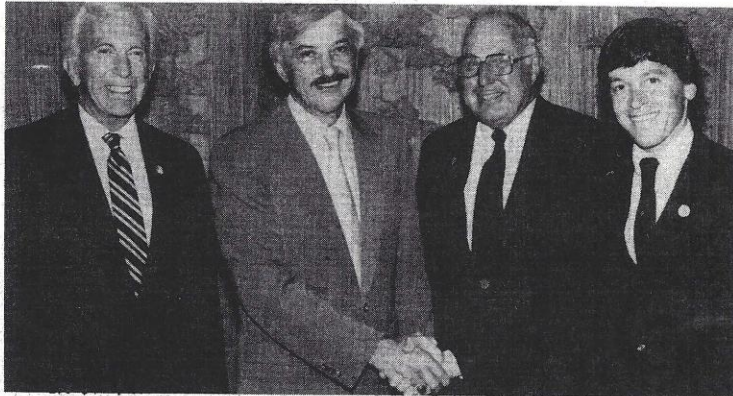
"With the possibility of L-P moving its headquarters out of Portland—I wouldn't want to move from my hometown—I decided now was the time. I'm extremely happy I've done this."

Parrott already has a pretty good line on things. He has already promoted a U.S. national team volleyball tour, with matches against the Japanese in Portland and Spokane on the schedule. He is helping Portland State with a college all-star wrestling meet in February and will aid Nike in a tennis spectacular next spring.

Brian is agent for the singing Ostrom sisters of Seattle, Kirsten and Heather, whom he dubs "the white Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin." They can belt out a tune, and if they make it big professionally, Parrott will have a hand in it.

Parrott's other hold card lies with the Jamaican national bobsled team—and don't laugh, he won't next be working with the water-skiing unit from the Yukon.

The Jamaicans surprised everyone with their first crack at the 1988



On January 26, 1984, Brian Parrott (far right) sealed the deal to bring U.S. Davis Cup play to Portland for three years. Also pictured are (from left) Gordon Jorgensen, chairman of U.S. Davis Cup Committee; Louisiana-Pacific President Harry Merlo; and Hunter Delatour, then-USTA president.

"I'd like to go to another national convention and help us win the Battle of the Divisions. I know I could make a contribution in the goldfish collecting and singing contests."

Winter Olympics, finishing an impressive 30th among 42 nations in the two-man bobsled at Sarajevo. They are currently training for the 1992 and '94 Games and are looking for sponsors, and through a tennis connection—Will Maloney of Seattle, who has lived in Jamaica the past 10 years—that's where Parrott comes in.

"We've already made a presentation to a Portland-based company, Columbia Sportswear," Parrott says. "We're waiting to hear from them. They'll be competing in a major international meet in Calgary next year, and if things work out, we'll be putting on a big party for them at Mt. Hood Meadows in February, with reggae bands and everything."

Parrott tried to bring Davis Cup back to the Northwest and into the Kingdome for the 1989 finals. The Seattle Seahawks were a major obstacle, however, with a home game on Sunday that the NFL insisted couldn't be moved. He'd like to try again and set an

all-time attendance record, perhaps for the 1990 semifinals.

Parrott—a teaching pro in the Portland area for 15 years—still has the old enthusiasm for his favorite sport. The father of four boys, he's contemplating taking one of his Parakeets, 12-year-old Jeremy, to LaJolla, Calif., for the National Father/Son Tournament in December. "It would be my first exposure to who's hot in the world in father/son tennis," Brian says.

A member of the Portland Tennis Council and president of the Oregon Youth Tennis Foundation, Parrott has established an annual "Bonfire Award"—given to a junior boy and girl for sportsmanship and hustle—in honor of his late father, Harold, a former executive director of the PNTA.

"I'm soliciting nominations," he says, "written or over the phone. Every nomination will be printed in Northwest Sports Report."

Meanwhile, Parrott misses his past involvement in the USPTA and sounds like he wants other members to spring to their knees and beg him to fire up again.

"I miss seeing the guys," he says. "I'd like to go to another national convention and help us win the Battle of the Divisions. I know I could make a contribution in the goldfish collecting and singing contests." ◀