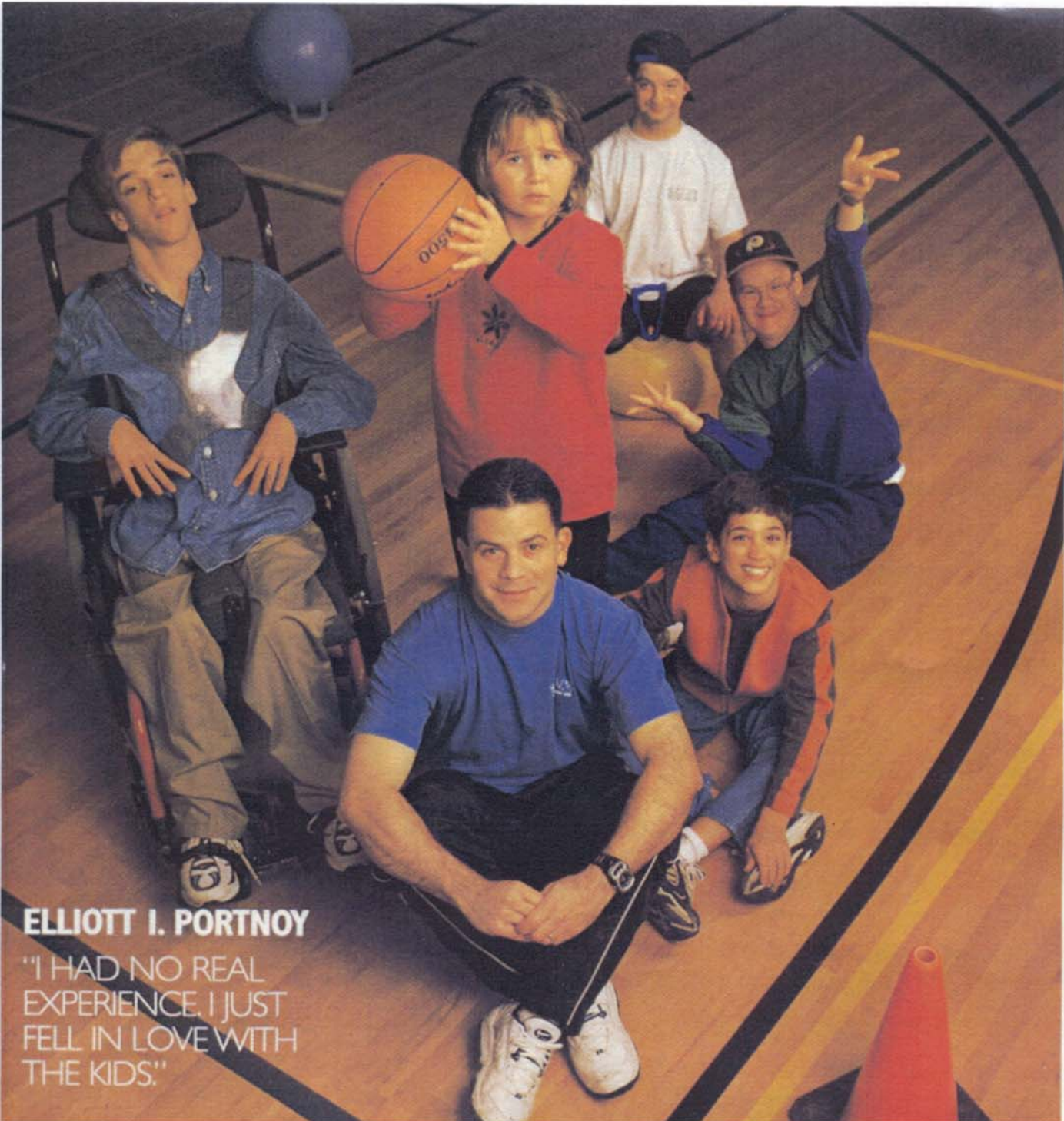


Nineteen Ninety Nine Washingtonians of the Year By Leslie Milk, Ellen Ryan



ELLIOTT I. PORTNOY

"I HAD NO REAL EXPERIENCE. I JUST FELLED IN LOVE WITH THE KIDS."

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When parents call Elliott Portnoy to ask about his sports program for children with disabilities, he often hears resignation in their voices. If their children have severe or multiple disabilities, the parents expect they'll be rejected.

They are in for a surprise. Elliott Portnoy's KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) program has never turned away a child. With one or two volunteers for every athlete, lots of activities to choose from, and his own enthusiasm, Portnoy finds a way to get every kid into the game.