

Blazer locker room quite a joke

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Editor

The Portland Trail Blazers' appearance Saturday at McArthur Court was a study in amateurism.

Not by the Blazers, but by the "press."

After the game, Portland's locker room was filled with kids, autograph-seeking reporters grossly abusing their privileges as members of the press.

Eugene radio-TV-Storm Kennedy sidekick-man, Dennis Nakata, went from player to player with a tape recorder, microphone and a sheet of cardboard.

After asking a player one or two questions, he would ask the player for an autograph.

Most of the younger players

obliged happily, but seasoned veterans like Terry Porter and Cliff Robinson were noticeably annoyed by this type of tactic.

Nakata was not the only offender. One reporter approached Robinson for an autograph and Robinson responded verbally.

"Another reporter asking for an autograph," he said. "What's the deal with this?"

Robinson then answered a couple questions with one-word replies, and the reporter left, realizing Robinson was not pleased.

Besides the reporters seeking autographs, about 20 kids flooded the locker room after the game seeking autographs, making it nearly impossible for reporters to get to the players until they had signed 10 or so John Hancocks on shirts, shoes and cards.

One kid even had the gall to come into the locker room with a Chicago Bulls T-shirt. Porter did not let the kid get away easily with his autograph.

"Hey, Duck," he yelled to

Kevin Duckworth. "This kid's got a Bulls shirt on. You probably rooted for the Bulls last year in the playoffs, huh?"

The kid was obviously embarrassed and left the locker room soon after his pen ran out of ink.

Getting autographs is one thing, but allowing kids into the locker room after the game is another. The players have enough problems dealing with the press after games. In defense, this is Eugene, and for many kids, this is their only opportunity to get an autograph from an NBA player.

But the reporters who were asking for autographs should be ashamed. The fact is that they were taking up the players' and reporters' time by trying to get autographs. Very amateur.

Most of Portland's players left the McArthur Court locker room smiling and laughing.

It wasn't because they just won a game, it was because they were laughing at the joke of a "press" who approached them after the game.



Reporter's Notebook

BLAZERS

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ering the Blazers have two all-stars starting in the backcourt and two proven NBA players as backups at the guard position.

Elie was acquired from Golden State in the off-season, and Strickland came to Portland from San Antonio. Both have guaranteed contracts with Portland and will see substantial playing time.

Strickland showed his speed and uncanny driving ability Saturday, scoring 16 points in 19 minutes.

Porter said he's glad the Blazers picked up a solid backup at his position.

"Strickland definitely brings a lot to our ball club," he said.

As far as whether the Blazers will opt to keep a fifth guard on the roster for the regular season, Porter said he had no idea.

"I can't predict that," he said. "I'm not management."

The game was also Terrell Brandon's first return to McArthur Court since he starred for Oregon two years ago.

Brandon, a guard for the Cavaliers, entered the game in the first quarter to a standing ovation from the crowd. He played 21 minutes and scored 10 points with six assists.

"I was real excited," Brandon said. "It was nice to see the faces again and still have the support that I've always had here."

Blazers reach deal for new 20,000-seat arena

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers and the city announced Thursday on construction of a 20,000-seat arena.

The \$205 million project also includes three restaurants, parking structures, a public plaza and refurbishment of the existing Memorial Coliseum.

The cost is \$35 million more than anticipated when the idea was proposed more than a year ago.

"Having brought the Trail Blazers to Portland 23 years ago, you can imagine the personal pleasure it is for me to know that this new home for the Trail Blazers assures that we will remain in Portland for at least the next 30 years," Blazers president Harry Glickman said.

Paul Allen, the Microsoft co-founder who owns the Blazers, is to pay for more than \$170 million of the cost. The city is to provide \$34.5 million for site improvements, including parking lot and road construction.

The arena is to be built next door to Memorial Coliseum, across the Willamette River from downtown Portland.

The city could spend another \$2.5 million for improvements to Memorial Coliseum to meet earthquake standards.

The city's share is to come from fees, parking revenue and other income generated by the project. No taxpayer money is involved.

Ground-breaking is set for April, at the earliest. The target date for completion is August or September 1995.

City Commissioner Mike Lindberg said he is optimistic the agreement will be approved when the City Council votes on it Thursday.

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DEAD line is Oct 28, 1 PM. It's sure to be a *howl* of a good time!!

100 BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

♥♥ Upperdinger ♥♥

It's time to awake, your cake is now baked! It's birthday time dear, seems too soon to be here! I will keep this one short, so just let me retort Happy Birthday my Freddy From Thelma, (your steady!)

103 GREEK HAPPENINGS

ΓΦΒ Natalie Under the Sea so you shall be Part of my family in Gee Phi Bee ♥ YBS

103 GREEK HAPPENINGS

Women of U of O Sororities. Proofs for orders are back from Spring Term. Order now before the negatives go to the archives. Love, Wally.

ΑΦ Congratulations to Sarah G. for the new TRIBUNAL CHAIR!! Your sisters are proud of you.

ΑΦ Greeks. Today is the day to turn in order envelopes for last weekend parties. Sincerely, Wally.

105 PERSONALS

Joanna, I'm glad I met you and I look forward to this year with you. Love, your Little Calvin.

ΤΤ Drink one glass of Kaeopetate with your micro bar and call me in the morning.

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