

Sideline

SPORTING NEWS

Warriors sign Kersey to one-year contract

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Golden State Warriors have signed veteran forward Jerome Kersey to a one-year contract, the team announced on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-7-inch Kersey, who spent all of his 11 years in the NBA with Portland, will be in uniform when the Warriors host New Jersey on Sunday.

Kersey, 33, is one of only two players to have totaled more than 10,000 points and 5,000 rebounds for Portland. Clyde Drexler is the other.

He averaged 8.1 points last season in 63 games with the Trail Blazers.

Selected by Toronto in June in the expansion draft, Kersey was released Oct. 4 because of the NBA salary-cap limitation.

Stallone no match for pro-am golf tournament

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — Sylvester Stallone has beaten all-comers in the Rocky movies, but it looks like he has met his match in the wind-swept Old Course at St. Andrews, the home of golf.

After a day's practice, Stallone admitted he was frightened by the thought of playing in pro-am tournament at the famous course, especially in the weather conditions.

"I've never played in a pro-am before. I'm scared," said the actor Tuesday as strong winds raced across the fairways. "Scotland should be the world leaders in kite-making. You could fly the whole country in this wind."

Stallone was due to pair with World Match Play champion Ernie Els in Wednesday's pro-am but, with movie fans as well as golf followers lined up to watch, there was no sign of Stallone.

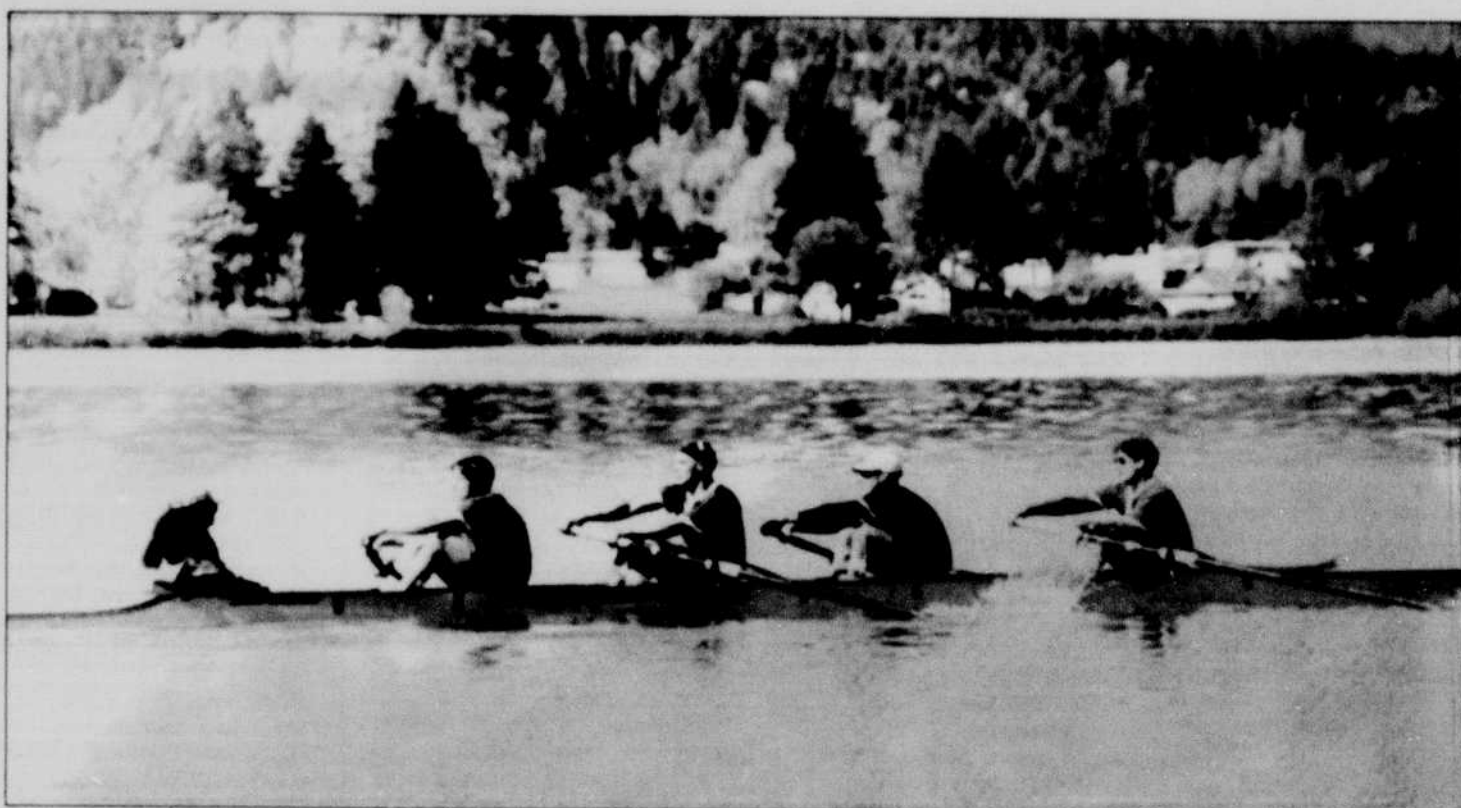
Tournament organizers sought an explanation but discovered he had pulled out without giving a reason.

Problems with seats delay Blazers' debut

PORTLAND (AP) — Seat-installation problems at the new Rose Garden arena have forced a one-hour delay in the tipoff for Wednesday night's exhibition game between the Portland Trail Blazers and Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Blazers issued a terse news release under the heading "URGENT!" at 3:30 p.m., blaming the problem on the Irwin Seating Co., which supplied the 21,300 seats for the arena.

Tipoff was set back to 8:10 p.m.



Five members of the Oregon crew team will compete at the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston this weekend. COURTESY PHOTO

Ducks head to Boston for national regatta

■ **CREW:** Some members of the Oregon crew team will compete at a prominent competition

By Jason Lewis-Berry
Freelance Reporter

Five members of the Oregon club sports crew team will travel to Boston today to participate in North America's biggest crew regatta.

The Head of the Charles is an English-style, international

regatta featuring skill levels ranging from junior to Olympian. This will be the first time a team from Oregon has competed in the event.

Coxswain Tara Bloom, rowers Scott Jones, Dave Neevel, Joel Ramsey and Steve Park will compete in Sunday's races



on the historic Charles River. The team has been training and raising money for this event since mid-summer. While the preparation and fund-raising have been a lot of work, Bloom said it will be worth it.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Bloom said. "It's an amazing event ... This regatta has such a tradition."

Crew is the University's most popular club sport, boasting 35 varsity athletes and 45

novice members. The varsity team is coming off a successful season last year in which they qualified for nationals but could not afford the trip.

At last year's championship races in Sacramento, two Oregon novice boats won gold and silver medals, and one varsity team won a silver medal. The team kicks off this season at the Portland Loop on Nov. 4 before traveling to Seattle for the Head of the Lake regatta on Nov. 12.

TNN, QVC don't offer the possibilities of ESPN2

Spectator sports mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people. Some people live their failed athletic careers vicariously through their favorite teams or alma maters, while others watch snippets of sports to escape from the hectic activities of day-to-day life.

Still others just follow the world of sports because they like athletics whether it be the Super Bowl, minor league baseball, or monster truck racing. Some people will watch anything to get their daily fix of sports.

Whatever the reason, sporting events are some of the most sought after happenings in the world today. As sad as that may seem to some people, it is the truth.

I am no different. On any given day I wake up to ESPN's Sportscenter and fall asleep to CNN's late-night sports recap. I am a sports junky.

Now, in Eugene, my television tunes into the three major and another four secondary network stations, two Turner-based channels, a handful of

pay-movie stations, three oriented channels, countless miscellaneous-garbage stations and the bizarre and useless Network 1, which comes in on channel 92 on my TV set.

But that same television tunes into only one and a half sports channels — Prime Sports only counts as one half of a channel because half of its programming is on over, and over and over.

So it was only natural that I finally started a quest

to get my cable company to add the one sports outlet that I am missing in my life: ESPN2. I have heard numerous stories about people calling their cable companies every day for unthinkable periods of time in an effort to make their favorite cable stations made available, so I figured it was time that I started showing that kind of dedication to my cause.

No big deal. I wasn't calling

to yell at anyone or to demand that the cable company decide right there on the spot between adding ESPN2 or losing my business — I knew very well that neither of those tactics would come anywhere close to accomplishing my goal and I wasn't about to give up my cable TV. But I thought it was time that I exercised my right as a paying customer to get the programming that I wanted.

So I called up my cable company, and after several failed attempts to reach a customer service representative, I got my chance to plead my case in favor of adding the second edition of the all-sports channel. But to no avail.

It seems that unless cable companies are run through fiber-optics — which many are not — they only have the capabilities for a certain amount of cable stations. That seems reasonable. Drop TNN, CSPAN or QVC, and I am on my way to making a living out of watching sports on the couch.

But things are not quite that simple.

I don't know, maybe the

cable companies think that the tree-hugging, environmentalist hippies of Oregon would rather watch weeds grow than another all-sports cable station. I like trees; I have nothing against the environment, but dammit, I want ESPN2.

Or maybe cable companies truly believe Oregonians really, really value their all-country programming or their home shopping networks. But dammit, I want ESPN2.

I was told that to get my request addressed, I had to send a petition to the cable company outlining how I think my problem could be solved — namely, which channel should be dropped so ESPN2 can be added. I guess that means I have to start an anti-TNN or anti-Lifetime campaign to have my meager request granted.

No matter, though. Because I just can't fall asleep to country music television and I certainly can't wake up to the home shopping network.

Trevor Kearney is the sports editor for the Emerald.