

sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

Cortes named Pitcher of the Week

Eugene Emeralds relief pitcher David Cortes was named the "Northwest League Pitcher of the Week" for the seven-day span including August 5 through August 11.

During that span, Cortes earned his first professional victory and notched two saves in pitching in three games. In six innings of work, Cortes didn't allow a hit or a run, walking two and striking out seven.



On the season, Cortes is currently sporting a 0.53 earned run average and a 1-0 record with three saves. In 17 innings pitched, the righty has allowed just one run while striking out 19 batters.

Jerome Kersey Signs With Lakers

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Free-agent forward Jerome Kersey signed a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday. Teams were not revealed.

Kersey, 34, played in 76 games with Golden State last season, starting 58. He averaged 6.7 points, 4.8 rebounds and 1.2 steals in 21.3 minutes.



Originally a second-round pick of Portland in the 1984 NBA draft, Kersey played 11 seasons with the Trail Blazers, where he became only the second player in franchise history to register 10,000 career points and 5,000 career rebounds. The first was Clyde Drexler.

In 907 career games, the 6-foot-7 Kersey is averaging 11.7 points, 6.0 rebounds and 1.27 steals.

"We're thrilled with the addition of a quality veteran player to our extremely young team," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said. "Jerome will provide us with additional front-court depth, and is a player with an outstanding work ethic and playoff experience."

Hakeem Olajuwon Weds in Prearranged Marriage

HOUSTON — Following the Islamic custom of prearranged marriages, Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon and Dalia Asafi were married last week in a traditional ceremony.

"There is no dating process, no boyfriends and girlfriends in Islam," Olajuwon said in a statement Monday. "Families meet, talk, get to know one another. Then the marriage is arranged."



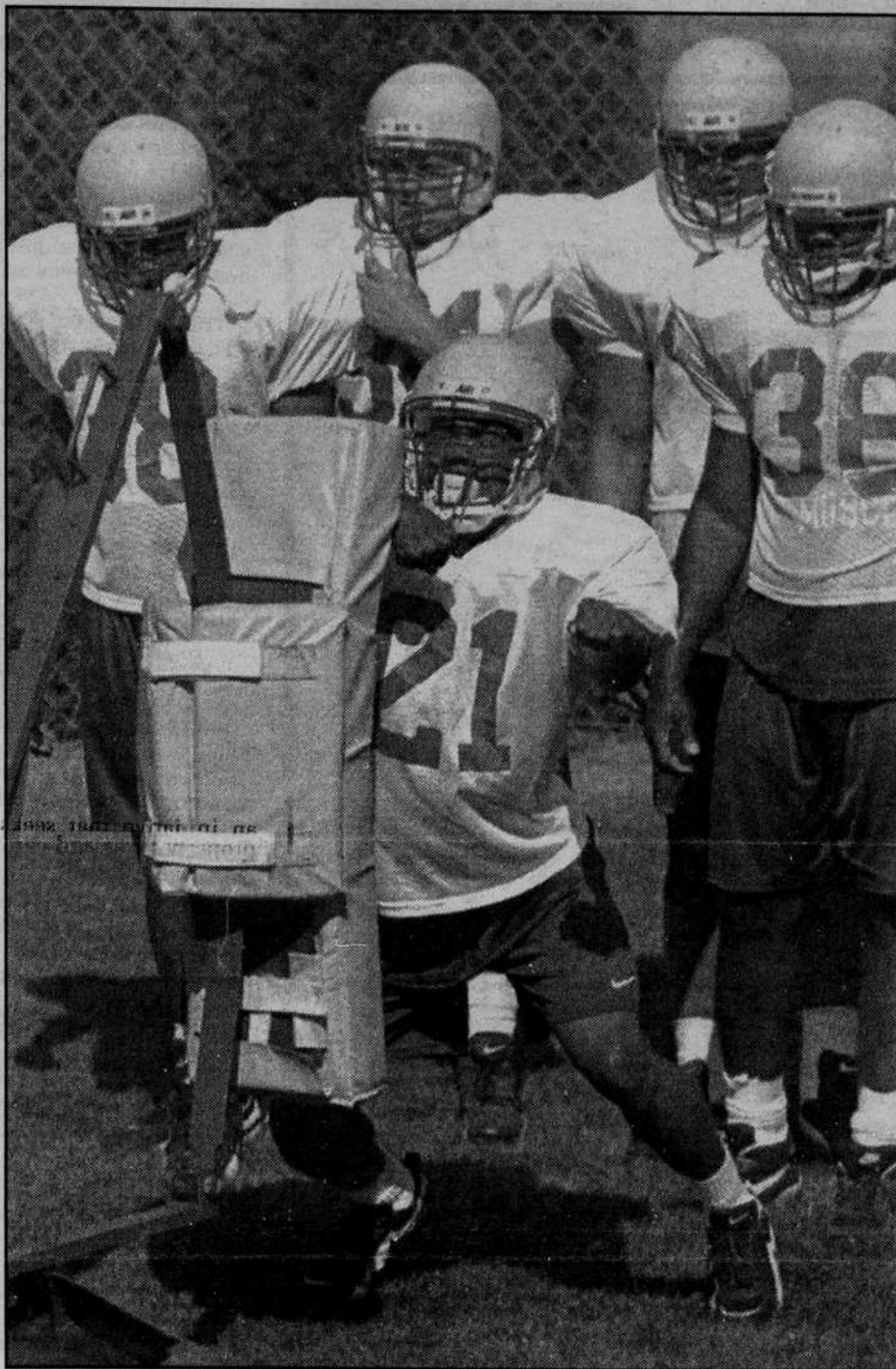
Olajuwon, a 33-year-old Nigerian who is now a U.S. citizen, worshiped for years at the same Houston mosque as the 18-year-old bride's father. But since men and women are separated when praying, he did not meet his future bride or her mother until a meeting was arranged.

"In the Islam faith, it is customary for a girl to marry much younger than they do in America, at age 15 or 16, for instance," Olajuwon said. "Dalia may be 18 in terms of age, but because of her background, beliefs and religious understanding, she, like many other Islamic young women, possesses a maturity, knowledge and wisdom beyond her years."

They were married Thursday in Houston. Olajuwon has an 8-year-old daughter, Abisola, from a prior relationship.

Football Practice Begins

Daily Double Trouble



Tailback Jerry Brown participates in late afternoon blocking drills and in the process takes out his aggression on the blocking dummy.

Two-a-day practices may be tough, but the Ducks are taking them in stride as they prepare for their season-opener on Aug. 31

By Chris Hansen
Freelance Reporter

With the midday sun beginning to beat down upon the Oregon football team's practice field, the players finally are released from drills — two and a half hours after they started.

Still exhausted from the last set of wind sprints, the players, all 102 of them, walk towards the exit that will take them back to the Casanova Center across the street, slowly shedding the shoulder pads and helmets that in 90 degree heat can be suffocating.

Undershirts, shorts and entire bodies soaked with sweat, the players reveal in the fact that practice is over, but at the same time, they know that their day is only half over. In little more than four hours they will be back in the same spot, pads on and helmet strapped, to do it all over again. For 11 more days.

Welcome to fall camp. Welcome to two-a-days. Daily doubles. Or as most of the players on the team would say: Welcome to hell.

"Your legs don't want to move anymore," senior offensive tackle Paul Wiggins describes. "You don't move as quick, you're in pain everywhere and you just have to do things psychologically."

"I don't like anything about it, I really don't," claims junior cornerback Kenny Wheaton who then reconsiders, "[I do like] the three meals a day. But that's about it."

But according to head coach Mike Bellotti, fall camp is not without reason.

"The main objective is to teach our offensive and defensive scheme," Bellotti said. "And secondly to evaluate personnel. And the third is to prepare to win our first games."

And this is something the players understand, if not begrudgingly.

"It's hard, but we need it," Wheaton said. "If it takes once a day, twice a day or three times a day that's what we need to do."

Wiggins agreed.

"Two-a-days are a test of how prepared

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Patriots spank Cowboys 31-7 in preseason play

By Denne H. Freeman
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Thirty-six years after they came into existence and 26 years after the AFL-NFL merger, the New England Patriots finally beat the Dallas Cowboys.

Hason Graham returned the second-half kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown and the Patriots beat Dallas for the first time in franchise history, 31-7 in an exhibition game Monday night.

Dallas has beaten the Patriots all six times they have met in the regular season and once in an exhibition game.

New England coach Bill Parcells, whose team faces the Cowboys again on Dec. 15, said the Patriots shouldn't be overjoyed by the victory.

"It's a win, but it's just a preseason game," he said. "I looked out there and didn't see Emmitt Smith playing for Dallas, but I'm glad we moved the ball against their defense. We still did too many dumb things."

Said Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe: "We ran the ball well and that is a good sign. The Cowboys are a better team than they showed. When we play in December it will be a different game."

The Cowboys, who lost 32-6 to Kansas City last Mon-

day night, dropped to 1-2. New England evened its preseason mark at 1-1.

The Patriots built a 10-0 halftime lead, driving 49 yards in nine plays the first time they had the ball and scoring on a 3-yard pass from Drew Bledsoe to tight end John Burke, who beat linebacker Jim Schwantz. Adam Vinatieri kicked a 39-yard field goal for the Patriots in the second quarter.

Graham, a second-year wide receiver from Georgia, rode a wave of good blocking down the right sideline for the touchdown that broke the game open.

Jimmy Hitchcock's interception of a pass by Wade Wilson at the Dallas 31 positioned New England for a short drive capped by Dave Meggett's 2-yard run, and Corey Croom scored from a yard out for the third touchdown of the third period for the Patriots, making it 31-7.

Dallas coach Barry Switzer wasn't happy.

"Tonight's performance was not indicative of a world champion," Switzer said. "We didn't strike fear in anybody's heart the way we played."

Dallas linebacker Darrin Smith said the Cowboys need to start getting serious about preseason games with the regular season not that far away.

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■ NFL: New England picks up first win in franchise history over 1996 Super Bowl champs