

Sports

The Print introduces new columnist

What better way to introduce everyone to our newest columnist, Jerry Ulmer? The Print is giving you a sneak preview. In the future editions of The Print, look for "Sports Off Campus." Here are the first two.

Sports off campus

Ulmer rates best and worst

by Jerry Ulmer
Staff Writer

It is easy for the sports media to sucker punch sports figures, because they know they can't get hit back, at least not in print. As a service to our local sports figures, it's now time to rate the local sports media:

THE BEST

1. Steve Duin, columnist, "The Oregonian"- The writer's writer. Superbly educated, informative, clever, and often humorous. Often disliked for writing the truth. Steve writes for an educated audience. Heavily cynical, his greatest asset is his ability to see all sides of a sport. Can be counted on to provide entertaining and necessary research information, usually in that order. Able to poke fun at his loyalties and biases. Big future, despite being a Wake Forest grad. Probably can't dunk.

2. Darrell Aune, "OSU sportscaster," KEX radio- What Bill Schonely should try to be, on top of every play, the game is much slower than his mouth. Crowd

cheering corresponds with play description. "Holy jumping-up-and-down-Martha" is starting to wear thin. Colorful, just like the guy sitting behind you with the OSU booster cushion. Seldom confused. Accounts for every pass. Various tones of voice used effectively.

3. Scott Lynn, sports anchor, "KGW-TV 8"- Despite having the charisma of Judge Wapner and the flair of the Emergency Broadcast System, easily the most informative of all the anchors. Could get a job doing conference calls for Federal Express. Can really give the scores, which are updated-to-the-minute. Best highlight package this side of cable. Keeps golf and tennis in their place. Gives NHL scores.

4. David Kahn, sportswriter, "The Oregonian"- Makes sure the NBA rumor mill visits Portland, not very opinionated in print. Potentially another Peter Vescey (New York Post). Likes to write about ex-Blazers. Excellent job of finding interesting anecdotes, even though some come from "Sports Illustrated" or

"The Sporting News." Doesn't have a knockout punch, yet.

It's now time to rate the local sports media

THE WORST

1. Bill Schonely, "voice of the Blazers"- Schonzy has been around so long we don't know how bad he really is. He must assume that all listeners are watching on TV, because he tells everybody to watch the replay. Falls behind a lot, either that or fans at Memorial Coliseum frequently cheer for the visiting team. Leaves descriptions unfinished for the listener to figure out over a period of time; like half an hour. Doesn't give the score after every hoop, and when he does he doesn't say who's winning, whines about the refs too much. Always confused.

2. Rick Metsger, sports anchor, "KOIN-TV 6"- Some time ago, someone at Channel 6 thought it was necessary to get in touch with the community. Covering 10-year old ice skaters and strolling at Clackamette Park is a way to get in touch, but it is also very boring. And who cares if the guy who just won on the probowlers tour attended the fifth grade in Beaverton? Just give us some scores and highlights, Rick. And lay off the bicycle motorcross stories. Channel 6 "Sportscall" (778-6006) epitomizes this attitude, as it frequently avoids baseball scores or gives them a day late.

3. Steve Jones, Blazer Broadcasting- Someone should put Steve Jones and Bill Russell in a room and see if they could laugh each other to death. Had a mediocre playing career, which is reason enough to doubt his strategic suggestions, sentences wander: "Well, you know Steve Johnson had that big first quarter, and Wayne Cooper sits to take the tape off his fingers so T.R. Dunn comes

out." Acts like he's fed up with his colleagues.

4. Terry Frei, columnist, "The Oregonian"- Why did the chicken cross the road? I don't know, but I do know this: Terry Frei should go back to Denver where he belongs. Cannot write a story without some mention of Denver. Terribly homesick, loves to write about U of O also, being an alum. Actually picked the Broncos to beat the Giants.

Dishonorable mention

1. George Pasero, "The Oregonian"- George, forget about Oregon's 0-0 tie with USC's "Iron Men" in 1933 at Multnomah Stadium.

2. Blazer Broadcasting- They always cut to the floor camera behind the basket in the midst of a fastbreak, causing the viewer to lose his place. Show replays at inopportune times, missing important pieces of action.

3. Tauna Vandeweghe, Blazer Broadcasting- Not even worthy of criticism.

NCAA recruiting battle tough as making final four

by Jerry Ulmer
Contributing Writer

The closest most of us came to the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four in New Orleans March 28-30 was eating Cajun Spice Ruffles potato chips. The closest another west coast team will come to a future Final Four probably would be best explained by Carl Sagan.

UNLV, seemingly the west's only hope for national respect, went into the loser tank courtesy of Indiana in the semifinals. The Hoosiers dared to run with the team deemed fatal to run against. With Steve Alford and his hair popping bumpers from behind screens that revealed USC's look like just another Big ten team, a mo-

tion suspected a week earlier when Iowa raced to a huge halftime lead on the Runnin' Rebels. One couldn't help but infer that UNLV's industrious record (37-1) was amassed against a sea of weak western opponents. The Rebels cannot attribute this loss to poor play, as big guns, Freddie Banks and Arman Gilliam, both made excellent showings. They were just outplayed, or more aptly put, outcoached. The Rebels are a very good team, but they have many equals east of the Rockies.

The reason the quality of play between east and west has grown apart over the past five years is obvious: television. Cable TV has brought all the eastern teams into

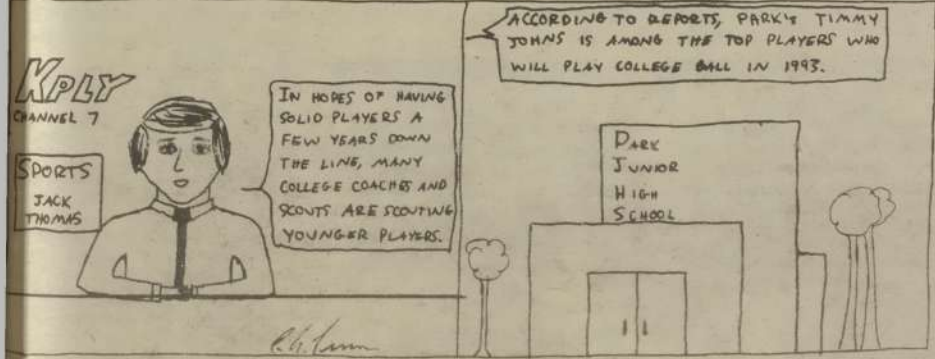
western living rooms. Unfortunately, vice-versa is not true. The time difference makes it a bit awkward for eastern viewers. To watch a west coast game, a viewer in the eastern time zone (the bulk of the population) would have to stay up until 12:30 a.m. Thus, the imbalance in exposure creates an imbalance in recruiting power. Each game is like an advertisement for two universities. This is mostly why eastern schools are stealing growing numbers of western recruits.

The Final Four is the biggest advertisement. A high school recruit tuning in to hear Brent Musberger's game-show host imitation in front of 65,000 rabid fans is impressed, Indiana coach Bobby Knight, who may suggest

a movie be made about HIS "Hoosiers," and Syracuse coach Jim Boheim, who would easily win a Bob Weiss look-a-like contest, have brilliant recruiting futures ahead of them, and that creates a snowball effect.

The west is in trouble, their best recruiter, Jerry Tarkanian of UNLV has been under NCAA scrutiny for many years. Tark's godfather appearance and Las

Vegas stigma arouse suspicion. It isn't difficult to imagine Tark having a run-in with Dan Tanna in a parking garage. But the truth is he produces a team capable of competing back east, year after year. Las Vegas is an oasis in the desert. And unless western coaches find a recruiting tool, UNLV will be the only oasis in the Sahara we call west coast basketball.



THE PRINT encourages support of Clackamas Community College sports. Whether it's baseball, softball, track, or intramurals, the players are there, you can be too.

