

# Cliche carnival breaks out in Laker-Utah series

Right after John Thompson made his comments about the Blazers' role in rehabilitating Arvydas Sabonis, the bandwagon starting forming against Thompson and since then has turned into a freight train. In the most shameful example of American sportsmanship since Bobby Knight pulled his Indiana team off the court in an exhibition game against the Soviets, Thompson blasted the Blazers for helping a man that he should hope is healthy come Olympic time.

C'mon, John. Put the brass knuckles away, the season's over. If you want the U.S. to be the best, you must beat others while they are at their best. Certainly, John, you aren't one to walk in the back door. Nothing against you beating the American drum loudly, but you sound much better when you're ripping some of our own boys for refusing invitations to the Olympic Trials. I just hope you didn't happen to catch Rocky IV on CBS the other night. This is not nuclear war. It's basketball.

Blazing a similar subject, will the Blazers trade Kiki Vandeweghe to move up in the draft? Bucky Buckwalter recently shirked the notion that Portland needs an enforcer-type forward and indicated a need for a scorer. This suggests that Vandeweghe is history. It also implies that the Blazers' most basic need will once again go unfulfilled.

Almost every Blazer, excluding Kevin Duckworth, has been ripped for his playoff effort. Was it strange coincidence that almost every Blazer coasted in postseason? Of course not. This is a team that landed four players on "The Sporting News" all-underpaid team. Actually, I think they were just sick of practice. You know, they'd rather let other teams work their butts off while the Blazers hit the golf course and play air guitar in their convertibles. Are you buying any of this? How about Utah played fantastic basketball? Ask Pat Riley.

For all of you cliche fans out there, here's a brief synopsis of the Laker-Utah series:

In game one, Utah just couldn't cut the mustard. They were a half step slow and just couldn't get any breaks. Anyone would have bet the farm on the Lakers. Game two was another story. The Lakers took the Jazz lightly and the Jazz took the Lakers out of their game. While Utah took it one game at a time, L.A. proved that on any given Sunday a team can rest on their laurels and lose. But still Frank Layden would rather sell the farm than admit that stranger things have happened. No doubt Pat Riley wishes he had that one back.

The Lakers took what the

**"There were more crotch shots in that fight than in a David Lee Roth video."**

defense gave them and won at Utah in a game closer than the final score indicated. L.A. snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in game five to take a three to two series lead. But Utah, with their work cut out for them and their backs to the wall, showed they weren't going to roll over and die and proved that the opera isn't over 'til the fat lady sings in game six. The Lakers knew that's the way the ball bounces and it's not over 'til it's over, but nobody said it was going to be easy. Tied at three and three the series couldn't get any closer than this.

In game seven, the Jazz gave L.A. all they could handle. But the Lakers played their game and the better team won. History was on L.A.'s side, and you've got to take your hat off to them. For Utah, it just wasn't meant to be. Learning the hard way that close only counts in horseshoes and handgrenades, they bought the farm.

The recent NFL draft lacked excitement but an unparalleled event went seemingly ignored by the media in the second round. The Cincinnati Bengals picked running back Ickey Woods from Nevada-Las Vegas. With Boomer Esiason holding the Bengal quarterback job firmly, Cincinnati is about to become

the first team in NFL history to have an Ickey and a Boomer in the same backfield.

With the Tyson-Spinks fight nearing, the safe and sensible prediction is for Tyson to win by either a late TKO or a unanimous decision. Spinks doesn't have a chance, unless he resorts to biting, butting or low blows. It's terrible to see low blows in a big fight. Remember Duran-Leonard II? There were more crotch shots in that fight than in a David Lee Roth video.

Yankee announcers Hawk Harrelson and Bobby Murcer are jokingly promoting a sprint-off between Rickey Henderson and Bo Jackson. Harrelson says he'll take Henderson in the 50 and Bo in the 100. Anyone who saw Bo sprint 90 yards down the sideline at Seattle last year would wager on Jackson on both.

## Sports off Campus



by Jerry Ulmer  
Staff Writer

Mouse Davis once again popped into the news with the formation of a new league, the World Indoor Football League. There can't be enough room for more than one indoor football league. But this is the WORLD Indoor Football League. I guess that leaves it open for overseas expansion. Surely they'd love it in Bangkok. Hey, America fell for indoor soccer, which has an entertainment value slightly higher than the pay binoculars at Sea Lion Caves. Why doesn't someone bring Australian Rules Football to the states?

Hockey's image received a nice little shiner during the New Jersey-Boston series. Referees refused to do Game 4 in protest to the presence of Jersey Coach Jim Shoenfeld, who got a court order to delay his suspension for blasting referee Don Koharski after Game 3 with insults like "Why don't you go eat another donut, you fat pig?" Rumor has it that hockey people were so

As Bruce Springsteen rocked the Tacoma Dome on May 6, two fans managed to get on stage to say howdy to The Boss before security corralled them. How did they get past security to begin with? A friend of mine suggested that the security was provided by the Seattle Seahawk secondary. Here's the Top Ten fishing lures or sports agent nicknames:

**"Why don't you go eat another donut, you fat pig?"**

embarrassed by the situation that in the next Friday the 13th movie, Jason will be sporting a football helmet.

Realizing it's way too early to do my superior dance, a look back at "The Print" of April 6 has me picking the Yankees, A's, Mets, and Dodgers as division winners. A check of the May 31 standings has all of these teams atop their divisions. Almost Nostradamian, isn't it?

10. Professor Boogiebug
9. Yellow Humpty-Dumpty
8. Bubble-Busting Wiggle Wart
7. Steelie-Eyed Zombie Boss
6. Bucktail Frog Popper
5. The Clip-On Bandito
4. Wing-Tipped Reaper
3. Double-Breasted Woggie
2. Dr. Jiffy Death
- (Tie) 1. Flat-Bottomed Redneck/The Worm

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