

stuff shots

# Bombs away— here comes the 3-point play

by MARK FLOYD  
Sports Editor

World War III may be well on its way. If so, the bombs may start dropping as early as next year. Or, at least they'll be fired as early as next year — if past performances are any indication, only about 25 percent of the bombs will be dropping.

The battleground will be the basketball courts of the National Basketball Association. The ammunition for the battles will come from NBA coaches and general managers who took the first step in reinstating the 3-point-play last week. The overall vote was 30-12 in favor of the novelty shot.

The 3-point-play was the biggest thing the defunct American Basketball Association had to offer, except perhaps for colored basketballs. And even though it is a rather playgroundish rule, the 3-point-play is sure to stir up some excitement which the NBA feels it needs.

The NBA rules committee will be responsible for deciding exactly what constitutes the 3-point shot but in the ABA, three points were awarded for shots longer than 22 feet from the corner and 23.9 feet from straight away.

Basketball aficionados who try to downplay the importance of the 3-point play should re-evaluate their thinking. The 3-point-play will have a definite effect. It may even propel Lloyd Free into the MVP position. Then again, think of how many more rebounds Moses Malone will get off Rick Barry's 25-foot misses.

For the most part, offensive — and defensive — strategies will not be changed all that much. The ABA proved that. There were a few that gained their fame with the 3-pointer, such as Louis Dampier, but for the most part, play went on as usual.

The difference will be down the stretch, those last two minutes of the game. A team that trails by a few points can get back into the game a whole lot quicker shooting 3-pointers, especially if the other team is matching it basket for basket.

No longer would teams ahead by three points be able to play matador defense and concede a basket so that they could win by one point.

The 3-point-play is kind of like the 2-point conversion in the old American Football League. It was there all along but nobody really took advantage of it until late in the game.

Of course, there are a couple of guards in the league who already shoot from the 3-point range. Free and teammate Randy Smith could conceivably add another five points a game to their scoring average — and another 10 points to the team's total.

Other teams would not be so lucky. Portland has only fair shooting guards, so coach Jack Ramsay is not pressing for the rule change. But as badly off as Portland is, consider the plight of the Washington Bullets.

The Bullets have been haunted for two seasons by the no-guard syndrome. The 3-point shot would be non-existent at the Capitol Center — unless Elvin Hayes or Bob Dandridge were to shoot them.

There has already been a lot of talk about the change, so perhaps the NBA is making a wise decision. Building up interest in basketball has been its main goal this season.

The 3-point-play. It shouldn't change the overall strategy of basketball greatly, but there could be a few new wrinkles. Watch for Free, Smith, Calvin Murphy and Fred Brown to fire a few bombs next year and watch for Moses Malone to wait and scoop them up. Some things never change. Let World War III begin.

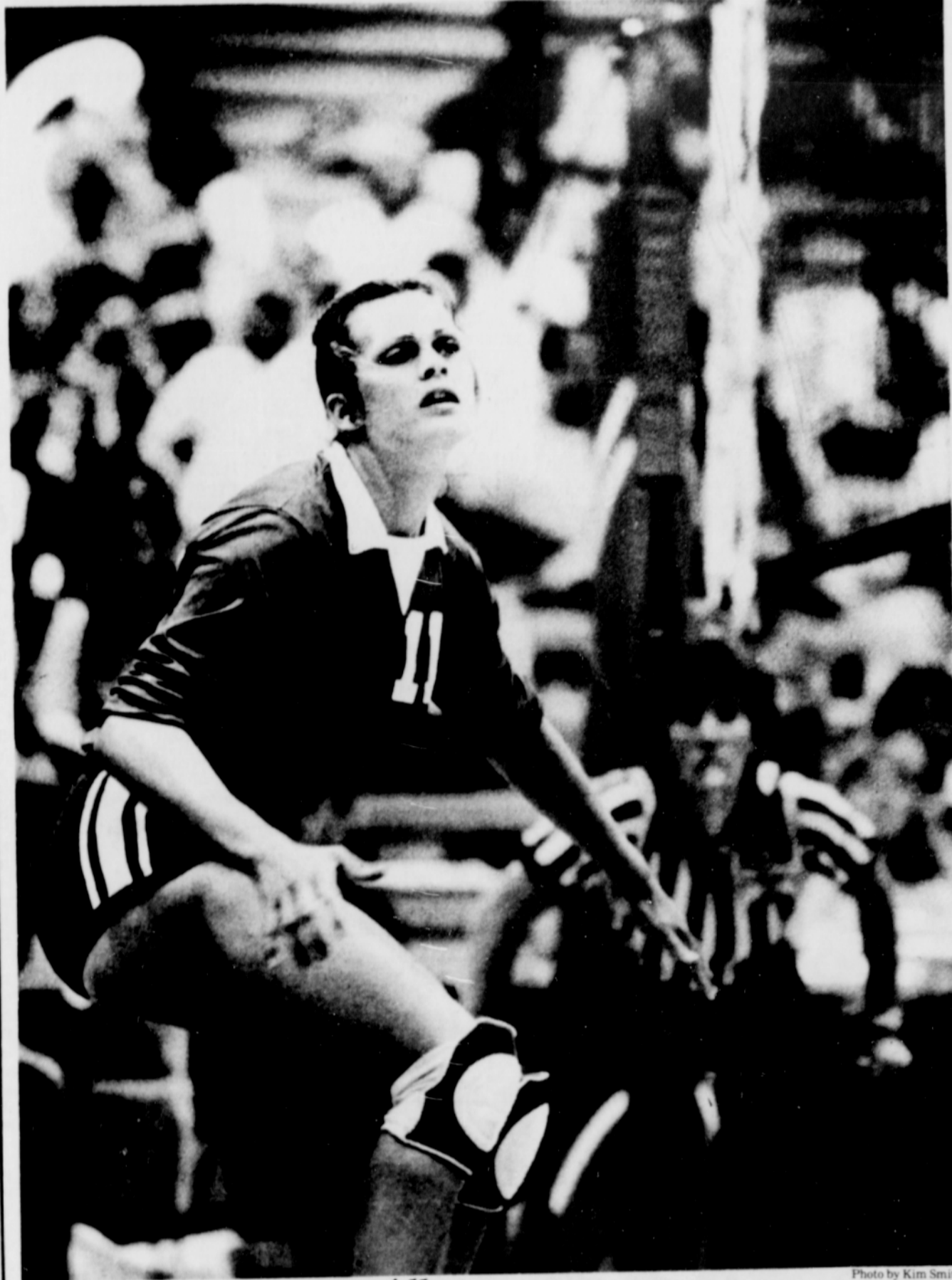
## Bowling tourney slated

Male professional bowlers from across the country will vie for shares of a \$50,000 purse this week in Portland as the Professional Bowlers Association makes a summer tour stop for the second City of Roses Open at Timber Lanes.

Among the top bowlers expected to be in the fight are Bowler of the Year Mark Roth; Medford's Marshall Holman; Washingtonian lefty Earl Anthony; always-colorful Ernie Schlegel, who last week listed Vancouver, Wash. as his hometown after using "U.S.A." for some time; and veteran Nelson Burton Jr.

The lanes are located at Southeast 40th and Halsey in Portland; onstreet parking is expected to be minimal, as it was last year.

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All-star netter

Esme Jensen moves into position on the net during the State-Metro All-Star volleyball match at Lewis and Clark College. Jensen and Sandy High teammates Julie Colt and Jeanne

Duff were a vital part of the Metro team which blasted the State team in three straight games.

Photo by Kim Smith

# Satch—the greatest pitcher of them all

The grand old game of baseball and its chroniclers almost needed smelling salts not long ago when one pitcher worked in 13 straight games.

What would they say of one who pitched in 169 straight games?

Everyone gasps at the fact Hoyt Wilhelm pitched in 1,070 games lifetime.

What would they do over someone who lost track after 3,000?

So, Walter Johnson struck out 3,503 batters in his career. What about a guy who struck out that many in three years? The same guy who went around the country with a sign: "Guaranteed to strike out the first nine home town batters or your money back?"

The modern ballplayer complains about the ar-



by JIM MURRAY

duousness of travel. His longest trip is 4½ hours by jet. He travels in air-conditioned comfort, dines on steak and lobster. If he's a star, he makes upwards of 200 grand a year. Even if he's not, he stays at the best hotels, gets chauffeured everywhere. When he retires, his pension can reach \$2,500 a month and more.

worked for less money a day than these guys get in meal money? That he went around in a three-wheeled bus, air-conditioned only when someone broke a window?

You look at the record book and it says that Leroy Paige, a right-handed pitcher, won 28 major league games, struck out 290 major league batters, and had an earned-run average of 3.2. What the record book doesn't tell you is that Paige was almost as old as baseball when he did these things. A dubious birth certificate shows he was 48 in his last full season in the major leagues. I say, "dubious" because there are those who remember walking to school with Satchel Paige in the year it says he was born.

There are those who say the Paige page in baseball history shouldn't count, that the big league is the standard of prowess in baseball, and the fact Satchel didn't get in one till he was at least 42 or at most 48 is

unfortunate but beside the point.

The argument carried some weight in the days when ballplayers in "Negro leagues" might be said to be "unproven." In the light of what's happened since, the only thing that might be said to be unproven about them was how much better they were than the white ones.

Just imagine Henry Aaron, Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente, Bob Gibson, Reggie Jackson, Rod Carew and Richie Allen in one league, and we rest our case. The weight of the evidence is that Satchel Paige did what he did in a bigger league. Besides, every time he hooked up with a barnstorming, white big-league team he usually struck out 17 or so a game.

I caught up with this patriarch of the pitch the other day at lunch.

I asked the venerable right-hander what he thought of Mike Marshall pitching in 100 or so games a year. "I was in 169 straight," snorted Satchel. "Won all of them. In 1953. They had turned me loose from Cleveland and from St. Louis that year. They had took me in the big leagues when I hadn't started a game in 15 years and I pitched two shutouts. I got old but my arm stayed 19."

What did he think of today's hitters? "Josh Gibson was the greatest hitter who ever lived. He couldn't play in those ballparks with the roof on 'em. He would have hit 'em through the roof."

Would he like to be pitching today? "Ain't seen nothin' changed. The plate's the same. The ball's the same. You got to pitch strikes is all. They used to plant two bats six inches apart and I'd throw it between 'em. Across the label. Mr. Ted Williams wouldn't hit nothin' but strikes. These players today will hit anything."

"If anyone had told me in the 1920's that coloreds

# Mountain Festival busy with sports

There will be a heavy accent on sports at the 1979 Sandy Mountain Festival.

Sporting events of many kinds are on the agenda and are open to participants of all ages.

One of the more unique events is the snowshoe baseball game July 3. Believe it or not, the players will be required to wear snowshoes while they play but relief will be near—beer will be provided for all participants. The teams will be comprised of whoever brings along snowshoes. The game is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the lot across from the LDS church on Bluff Road.

The Bike Derby is also scheduled for July 3. Youngsters ages six to 12 will be competing in feature races and a bicycle decorating contest beginning at 10 a.m. at the Upper Grades School track.

One of last year's most popular events, the arm-wrestling competition, will be repeated this year. Action will begin at 7 p.m. July 6 in Pioneer Square—entrants should call 668-5900 to register.

Also on July 6 is the Pet Rock Race. The fourth annual event will begin at 3

p.m. in the lot on Pioneer Boulevard across from the Sandy post office. Special races and the championship heats will begin at 7 p.m.

The Sandy Jaycees and the City of Sandy Recreation Department are co-sponsoring a softball tournament July 6-8. The invitational tourney will follow ASA rules — registration information can be obtained by calling 668-5569.

The Almost 10-Kilometer Run will be held for the first time July 7. The run, which is open to competitors of all ages, will originate in the parking lot of Paola's Pizza Barn. Runners will leave the lot at 10 a.m., run down Highway 26 to Orient Drive, follow Orient to Kelso Road; run down Kelso to its intersection with Bluff Road; go south on Bluff until Hood Street and follow it until they reach Heritage Square. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded and each runner will receive a T-shirt. All proceeds will be returned to the Mountain Festival.

The final sporting event scheduled will be the Long Rifle Rendezvous July 7-8. Contestants will use muzzle-loading rifles in a number of different events. A variety of prizes will be awarded.

# Boring course sets junior golf

Mountain View Golf Course's junior program gets under way Thursday for boys and girls aged 10-18.

Participants will be schooled in their golfing skills by club pros Jack Beaudoin and Stuart Smart.

Juniors who elect to join the course's juniors club will receive six weeks of free golf lessons. Registration begins at 9 a.m. There is a small fee.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Mountain View at 663-4869.

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Jim Murray is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

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## 7-mile run set

The Galleria Rose Garden Run will take participants on a 7-mile jaunt through Washington Park Sunday, July 1, beginning at 9 a.m.

Entries for the run will be limited to 1,000. The deadline for early registration is June 20. Entry forms are available at the Galleria, local sporting goods stores, or by calling 223-3177.

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