

Dave Magnuson

Duckworth likes his Portland home

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

It was the beginning of something new for me.

Sure, I had met new acquaintances before, but this one was no ordinary new acquaintance. This one was strikingly different: Tall and dark. Sensitive but strong. Qualities I liked, but I was unsure about this one. Still, I had to take that compelling one and only chance.

I followed the figure out of the echoic room. We both stopped at the counter where numerous thirst quenchers were laid out. I watched as my new acquaintance easily downed several cups.

I suddenly came up with the ice-breaker.

"So," I said, with a seemingly pleasing smile on my face, "how do you like Sandy?"

The tall figure stopped drinking and turned to face me, quickly responding, "Who?"

That's how it was Tuesday afternoon with Kevin Duckworth, the person I had come to see at the Sandy

High School gym for the second annual Jerry's Suburban Ford Basketball Clinic.

Duckworth is a 6-foot-11 center for the Portland Trail Blazers. Not only did my new acquaintance talk to me about the clinic, but he also gave me a small glimpse of who Kevin Duckworth is.

Kevin Duckworth is a man who earns his keep. While attending Eastern Illinois University, Duckworth's college basketball coach told him that there was little chance he would be drafted.

He was. The San Antonio Spurs drafted him 33rd overall.

Because he weighed about 290 pounds at draft time, there was skepticism whether Duckworth could make it in the National Basketball Association.

He could. But he was traded to Portland on Dec. 18 in exchange for Walter Berry.

When he arrived in Portland, there was again skepticism about whether Duckworth could fill the role as a Trail Blazer.

He could. Not only was he praised

by coaches and players but he also quickly became a favorite with the crowd.

The question now is: Is there a bright future for Kevin Duckworth?

Well, if determination and hard work are any factors, which of course they are, there most certainly is a bright future.

"My goal overall in my career (is) I don't want to be an average center," Duckworth said. "I want to be one of the best or the best."

Duckworth added that as soon as Tuesday's clinic was over, he was going straight to the weight room, where he sweats through a 2½-hour workout six days a week, taking Sundays off.

"It's paying off: the hard work, the dedication of time," Duckworth said. "I'm a person that will never take more than a week off. I'll take a week off, then I'll get right back on it."

Duckworth's short-term goal is to lower his body fat level, which, in turn, will lower his body weight. To do that, he is working out with weights. He would not say what his weight was now, but he is estimated

to have lost at least 15 pounds since coming to Portland.

When he first came to Portland, Duckworth said he was unsure of what to think. But he added that his former San Antonio teammate Mychal Thompson helped him to deal with the move.

"He's the kind of person that, when you were down, he would find some way of cheering you up," Duckworth said of Thompson, the former Blazer who now plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. "He'd crack jokes and just joke around with you."

"When I was traded here, Mychal told me, 'Duck, down in Portland, they really appreciate basketball. The fans'll love you if you put out the effort and the hard work.' When I got here, I found out it's true."

He added that he would like Portland to be his home for the rest of his NBA career.

After finding out that Sandy was not a "who," but the city he was in, Duckworth said he liked it.

"It's a nice little town, a pretty nice town," he said. "This is the first I ever heard of it — until today."

Legion tournament will open this Friday

Eight American Legion baseball teams open competition Friday in the second annual Paola's Pizza Barn Invitational at Mt. Hood Community College.

The 9:30 a.m. game features Hillsboro against AP Legion, which is the Barlow Junior State team. At 1 p.m., Alpenrose Dairy (Portland's Wilson High School) battles The Dalles.

The 4 p.m. game is Roseburg against I-5 Towing of Salem and Paola's meets Richey's Market of Corvallis in the 8 p.m. game.

Friday's four winners meet Saturday as do the four losers in the double-elimination tournament. The two winners on Saturday will meet Sunday in the championship game. Games times are the same each day.

The Yakima Beetles of Washington captured the tournament last year when they defeated Paola's 6-3 in the championship game. Roseburg grabbed third place and Alpenrose took fourth. Corvallis nabbed seventh and The Dalles finished eighth a year ago.

Tickets are \$2 for each day of the tournament.

Paola's met Aloha in a late game Tuesday night and battles Canby at 6

tonight at MHCC. The squad entered Tuesday's play with an 8-7 overall record.

In its Mount Hood League opener Monday, Paola's fell 6-4 to Taylor Electric (Putnam High School). Taylor Electric tallied five runs in the third inning and held off Paola's for the win.

Rob Bachofner started on the mound and suffered the loss. He was relieved in the third inning by Aaron Miller.

The top hitters for Paola's were Derek Lasko, a solo homer and a single; Louis Nasuta, who had three singles; and James Dinette, who ripped two singles.

Paola's won its first four games, but has lost seven of the last 11.

Miller and Dan Carlson lead the pitching staff with 3-1 records while Bachofner is 2-1.

Mark Schultz, a third baseman and outfielder from Centennial, is the leading hitter through 15 games with a .464 average. He has two homers and 16 runs batted in. Nasuta, a catcher and designated hitter from Reynolds, is batting .442 with two homers and 13 RBI while shortstop Kevin Goodman is hitting .356 with three homers and 16 RBI.

Four other players also are batting above .300. Brian Booth is at .346, Bachofner and Jason Shuler are hitting .333 and Ron Sams is batting .308.

Round Table Pizza loses again — Gresham High School's American

Legion team dropped to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in league when The Dalles clobbered Round Table 11-3 Monday.

The Dalles ripped 10 hits Monday and Gopher pitchers walked eight batters, with seven of those batters eventually scoring runs.

Outdoors

Continued from Page 1.

plan to ladder Lake Creek Falls on the Siuslaw River, and an open session to discuss general business.

Columbia Sockeye Season Proposed — A proposal calling for a one-day commercial sockeye salmon season fishing season on the lower Columbia River will be reviewed by the Columbia River Compact during the Friday meeting in Portland.

A preliminary report of the combined staffs of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fisheries forecast a summer sockeye run that will likely support a brief gillnet season.

There is no firm method for predicting the sockeye run, but

available indicators point to a run that will exceed 130,000 fish and possibly go as high as 350,000 over Bonneville Dam.

Last year, only 59,900 sockeye passed Bonneville after three successive years of runs over 100,000 fish. The 1986 season included a one-day lower river evaluation fishery and a three-day season in the treaty fishery above Bonneville Dam.

The 1987 joint staff recommendation calls for similar initial fisheries during the fourth week of June, to be followed by further evaluation of run size and possibly additional fishing time.

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attained without cooperation.

"Success comes through good relationships," Enriques said. "A good relationship builds programs, builds athletes and is a success in itself."

"If you're successful in that end, you create team unity, comradeship, then winning," he added.

"You have to build the base of your pyramid, with winning being way at the top. You need to build at the bottom (of the pyramid) and make the kids feel they're important, just to satisfy their basic needs."

"Then you move on to the next tier of the pyramid. State championships then just fall in line, they're the top of the pyramid, the last thing you think about," he said. "But it's always in the back of your mind."

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Track meet set July 4

The Sandy River Hawks Track Club will host an all-comers track meet on July 4, beginning at 11 a.m. at Pop Rannow Stadium.

The meet will be for boys and girls from preschool age up to the age of 18.

A \$1 entry fee will be charged.



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