



RUFUS FERGUSON

Roadrunner awaits 'right deal'

by Ron Sykes

Rufus "Roadrunner" Ferguson, former running back of the now defunct Portland Thunder, in his days was first with the Storm and later the Thunder franchise -- Rufus was the franchise.

"Roadrunner" Ferguson was truly a delight to watch and provided football fans with some exciting evenings. The World Football League, despite all its problems had its share of pluses. The "Roadrunner" was definitely a plus to the team and the community. Anytime someone was needed as a speaker Rufus was ready. He is particularly interested in the youth and is always ready to help in that area.

Rufus has that certain charisma about him -- he meets strangers and makes them feel completely at ease, as if he has known them for years.

The former Wisconsin running back, and lovely wife Stephanie are making their home in Portland. About our city Rufus says, "I love the Pacific Northwest in general and Portland is so beautiful."

There's been a welcome addition to the Ferguson's in the form of a bouncing baby boy who answers to the name of Rhadi.

Rufus is currently employed as an insurance representative for Equitable Life. As far as football is concerned Rufus says, "I'm staying in shape and if the right offer comes along I'll give it a shot. I would love playing in the NFL with the big boys, but I've got too much going here to accept just any offer. It's got to be the right deal before I would leave my job or Portland."

With the popularity Rufus has in this area -- and with Seattle opening camp soon -- wouldn't it be something to see that famous "Roadrunner shuffle" once more.

Ali, Louis judged top boxers

NEW YORK -- Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis ran a close race for top spot among boxers in the "Greatest Athletes of All Time" poll conducted by Cutty Sark among over 500 sports editors, writers and broadcasters across the country. With the tabulations completed this week, Ali was named number-one man in boxing, with Joe Louis a close second, followed in order by Jack Dempsey, Sugar Ray Robinson and Jack Johnson.

Others among the "Greatest" according to results announced here by Edward A. Horrigan, chairman of the board of Cutty Sark, were:

Baseball's Babe Ruth was named the overwhelming winner in the voting, followed by: 2. Ty Cobb; 3. Joe Dimaggio; and 4. Willie Mays, Hank Aaron (tie).

In **football**, Jim Brown, the hard-hitting runner of the Cleveland Browns, was selected as top in his sport.

Next came: 2. O.J. Simpson; 3. Red

Grange; 4. Jim Thorpe; and 5. Johnny

Unitas.

Bill Russell, the offensive-defensive

thruster that brought the Boston Celtics

eleven of thirteen NBA championships

during their heyday, was hailed as the

greatest in basketball. Runners-up were:

2. Wilt Chamberlain; 3. Kareem Abdul

Jabbar; and 4. Jerry West, Bob Cousy

(tie).

Tennis's Bill Tilden earned top honors,

followed by: 2. Rod Laver; 3. Billie Jean

King; 4. Pancho Gonzales; and 5. Jack

Kramer.

The "Big Bear", Jack Nicklaus, who has

already earned the distinction of being

the all-time high money-winner in golf,

won in his field, followed by: 2. Arnold

Palmer; 3. Ben Hogan; 4. Bobby Jones;

and 5. Sam Snead, Byron Nelson (tie).

Gordie Howe, still active in the WHA,

was selected as hockey's leading player.

After Howe came: 2. Bobby Orr; 3.

Maurice Richard, Bobby Hull (tie); and 4.

Eddie Shore.

In **track and field**, Olympic champion,

Jessie Owens, was singled out. Runners-

up were: 2. Jim Thorpe (also a runner-up

in football); 3. Bob Mathia; 4. Rafer

Johnson; and 5. Roger Banister.

Winner of four Gold Medals in the 1972

Olympics, Mark Spitz was chosen as

greatest in swimming. Following Spitz

were: 2. Johnny Weissmuller; 3. Don

Schollander; and 4. Tim Shore, Buster

Crabbe, Debbie Meyer (tie).

The sports writers and broadcasters

polled also singled out A.J. Foyt as tops

in **auto racing**, and Pele as greatest

soccer player.

Horrigan said that Cutty Sark has

long been involved in the world of sports,

sponsoring purses for both tennis and

golf tournaments, as well as establishing

special prizes for various sporting events

around the country.

Cutty Sark, both here and in England,

is a key factor in the forthcoming Tall

Ships Race featuring more than thirty

"Class A" sailing vessels from countries

around the world on a trans-Atlantic race

from Portsmouth, England, to Newport,

Rhode Island, via Bermuda. The coveted

Cutty International Trophy will be

presented to the crew that best furthers

"international understanding," following

a vote of the 3,000 competing crew

members.

Campships available

Not everyone gets to go to summer camp.

But local youth-serving agencies might be able to help some youngsters see what camping is all about this summer. They can make referrals for Campship Scholarships to the Tri-County Community Council before April 9th.

Since 1933, the Tri-County Community Council (TCCC), a United Way agency, has collected funds to send low-income children to camp sponsored by several organizations in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Clark Counties. Last year, over 500 children, who may have never had a chance to go to camp, received scholarships.

Referrals for Campships can be made only by representatives connected with agencies which work with children, such as schools, community centers and area organizations. Campships are granted on the basis of family income and family situation. This could also be the first camping experience for the youngster.

Campers range in age from seven to eighteen years of age. Consent from

parents or legal guardians is required before referral can be made to the TCCC.

Youngsters will attend day camp and resident camps in nine locations near Portland. United Way agencies sponsoring camps include the YMCA, the Cascade Council Camp Fire Girls, Portland Area Council Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the YWCA and the Salvation Army. Another camp is sponsored by the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

The youngsters' camping experiences won't end when summer is over, however. TCCC officials hope that the youths can become involved with local youth organizations the year around.

"We want this to be an ongoing experience," says Billie Rosenblum, TCCC spokesman. "It enriches the child's life, and develops his self-identity."

The average cost of sending a child to camp for a week is \$50, so says Ms. Rosenblum, funds always are needed.

Referral applications can be sent to the Tri-County Community Council, 718 W. Burnside Street, Portland, 97209.



People once believed that tangles in the manes of horses were used by witches as stirrups.

Prep Profiles

by Ron Sykes



Kevin Pete, a Junior at Jefferson High School, spent last summer playing baseball on Pacific Northwest Bell's senior little league team. He was the number one catcher and was a near unanimous choice for the All-Star team that journeyed to Concord, California for the Western Region finals. "Making the All-Star squad was one of my biggest thrills. I'm just sorry we didn't make it to the World Series." Kevin is serving his second term as student body President at Jefferson.

Last summer he attended the national student council convention, held in Atlanta, Georgia. Kevin played quarterback on this year's Jefferson J.V. football team, where he threw thirteen touchdown passes.

Kevin enjoys all forms of athletics, but golf is his thing. The Pete brothers (Kevin, Brian and Jerry) will be vying for the top three spots on the Varsity golf team.

When asked about his biggest moment in golf he said, "beating Lew Motely in a challenge match." Congratulations to Jeff Hi's Kevin Pete.

Garlitz designs rear engine car

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Don "Big Daddy" Garlitz was no different than 99 percent of the men in the world about becoming forty years old. "I hated that day," he says emphatically.

But four years later he's saying life is "fun."

Believe it or not, but what made the difference was a stint in the hospital.

In 1970 while traveling down a drag strip in excess of 200 miles per hour, the engine on Garlitz' dragster exploded, cutting off his foot.

With nothing but time to think while recovering from the accident, Garlitz became convinced that a rear engine dragster was the only solution to assure that another driver wouldn't have to go through what he had.

"Before I got my foot cut off," Garlitz says, "I said it (the rear engine idea) was the most ridiculous thing I'd ever heard of."

Garlitz admits that, when he returned to the strips later that year to honor his commitments, he hated the thought of piloting that 1,500-horsepower dragster. "I remember at Fremont, California, the last race that year, saying to myself, 'if I get through this thing, I'll never sit in one (a front engine dragster) again.'"

He spent the entire winter at his shop in Seffner, Florida, designing the rear engine model that would become the dominant vehicle in the Top Fuel Division. In the last several years every major event winner in the division has utilized the rear engine dragster.

But it was far from an immediate success, for Garlitz recalls, "As the start

of the season drew closer and closer, I remembered what I had said at Fremont and I began to think I may have to quit to live up to my word. Things were just not going well."

But Garlitz, whose innovative mind has probably come up with more revolutionary ideas than anyone else in the sport's history, worked out all of the kinks.

And the success he's had since borders on the unbelievable.

In 1975 alone, his 25th year of drag racing, he won both the International Hot Rod Association and the National Hot Rod Association championships and over \$250,000, including \$35,000 in point money from Winston cigarettes and NHRA.

In the NHRA Winston-Challenge series, he put together a five-event winning streak -- a feat never before accomplished in the division which he has dominated since the first day he hit the strip. For the year, he won six of the eight national meets.

And he was just as successful on the NHRA circuit, capturing four of the seven national Winston World championship series events he entered.

As a climax to the year, he piloted his Wynn's Charger to a world record of 5.63 seconds at a speed of 250.69 miles per hour in the Winston World Finals at Ontario, California. Both marks still stand.

"It's a pleasure now," says Garlitz, whose 58 career national titles are more than double what anyone else has achieved. "I really love speed -- the faster, the better. I love to race, but I don't care anything about risking my life."

After a quarter of a century of racing and at an age where retirement from driving would seem to be a logical thought, Garlitz says, "It's in my blood. There's no doubt about it."

"When my reflexes falter or I can't see, then I'll hang it up. They could last until I'm fifty."

And on that day there will be no bitterness about reaching that milestone in his life.

Concordia seeks coach

Norm Brauer, head basketball coach and instructor at Concordia College, has resigned to accept a position as PGA tour representative for Ping Golf Equipment of Phoenix, Arizona.

In his two years at Concordia College, Brauer has compiled a record of 41 wins and 19 losses. In 1975, his team won the

Pacific Northwest College Conference league championship and finished third in the nation in the National Little College Athletic Association.

Applications are now being received for the position. Write to Dr. John Buuck, Athletic Director, Concordia College, 2811 N.E. Holman Street, Portland, Oregon 97211.

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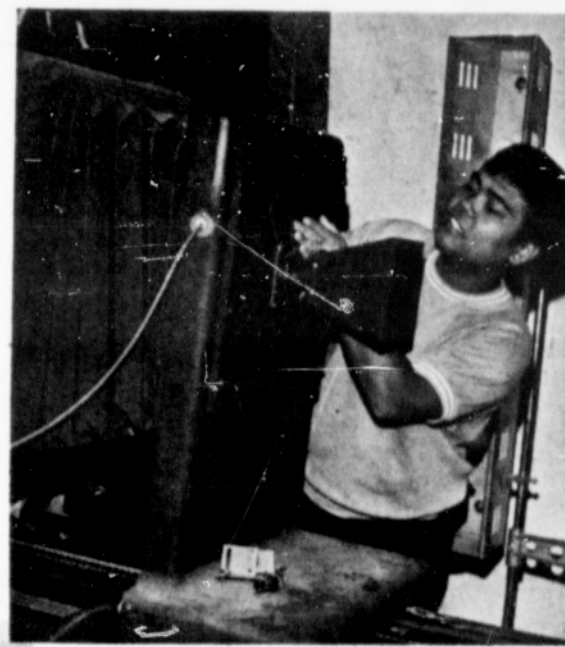
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Citizen of the week



Lloyd Labason was born and raised in Kaiku, Maui. After graduating from Maui High School in 1967 he came to Oregon to attend college.

He graduated from the University of Portland, with a major in elementary education and a minor in business marketing. After graduation he worked at Northern Specialties and the Sheraton Motel, Kon Tiki room as Maitre'd, waiter and host.

He met his wife, Judy, an R.N. at the University.

Labason has been employed by the U.S. Postal Service since 1974, currently serving as a retail sales analyst and staff photographer for the "Postal Window," the employee newspaper.

Labason is a self taught photographer of excellence and is currently doing special photographic work for the Oregon Black History Project. His other hobbies includes playing and singing Hawaiian music, riding his motorcycle, and participating in the Hawaiian Club at the University of Portland.

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