

## Timbers win Portland opener

by Brad Small

The Portland Timbers opened their 1976 home season Saturday the same way they ended last year's home season, against St. Louis in a downpour. When it was over the Timbers were the victors, 3-1.

A crowd of 22,147 braved the wet and cold to see the fight marred contest.

The Timbers were much more aggressive and organized than they were in their previous game in Seattle's Kingdome. Without the big striker in the middle, the Portland offense this year is much more spread out. The wings and strikers kick the ball around until an opportunity presents itself. Now that they've gotten to know their teammates better, there is more precision in their passing. In the Seattle game, passes were going way too far and were off the mark.

Newcomers Ike McKay and Malcolm Smith were impressive in front of the goal, but were unable to score. It was up to team captain Pat McMahon to get the first goal. Winger Paul Hendrie centered the ball to McMahon, who rifled a header past diving St. Louis goalie Len "James" Bond. Bond was kept busy all night, as was the rest of the St. Louis defense. The Stars were obviously tired from their loss in Vancouver on Friday, and played rather sloppily. Defenders John Carena and Roger Verdi were cited often for fouls.

Portland goalie Jim Cumbe was unoccupied most of the night, so the only entertainment the crowd got from him was one of his booming, length of the field kicks. The kick was almost converted into a goal by Tony Betts, but he got tangled up and lost control.

Cumbe has been getting a lot of practice trying to stop penalty kicks, and Saturday's game was no exception. St. Louis midfielder Alan Trost blasted



Jim Cumbe blocks a goal.

one into the right hand corner of the net, but not before Betts and Chris Dangerfield had scored one apiece for Portland. St. Louis had only a couple other good chances, the best being a shot that hit the crossbar.

Two scuffles broke out in the second half, the first one between Portland's Brian Tiler and the Stars' Danny Vaninger. Both were ejected from the game. Shortly afterward a fight broke out that emptied both benches. St. Louis' Gary Rensing and Pat McBride were booted, as was Portland's McMahon, who was cut on the head.

Besides scoring once, Dangerfield picked up an assist on Bett's goal, and was named Offensive player of the game. Hendrie picked up two assists. Portland's Ray Martin was named defensive player of the game.

The Timbers' next home game is this Saturday against Dallas.

## Will Warriors repeat win?

by Ron Sykes

The Golden State Warriors defending champs of the NBA will find their chances for repeating a very difficult one. Only two teams -- the Boston Celtics and Minneapolis Lakers -- have won two or more titles in a row since the NBA was formed in 1946. The Lakers did it twice, winning in 1949 and 1950 and again in '52, '53 and 1954. The Celtics also did it twice, when they dominated the league after the emergence of Bill Russell, from the mid-1950's until the late 1960's. The mighty Celtics ran off eight consecutive league titles -- one of the most amazing team accomplishments in pro sports. Only the UCLA Bruins can match off this complete dominance of a team sport.

Since then only one other team has won two championships -- that being the New York Knicks winning in 1970 and again in 1973.

So then the question arises, "Why can't the Warriors repeat?" They certainly have the players -- no other team can boast such an abundance of talent. They have but one superstar -- in Captain Rick Barry, but many talented players, such as: Phil Smith and C.J.

Johnson at guards, Barry and Jameal Wilkes at forward and Clifford Ray. Golden States' main ingredient is togetherness, they function like a well oiled machine and totally as one unit. Nevertheless, Rick Barry, the Warriors' only acknowledged star, confessed this season: "This is not a great basketball team by any stretch of the imagination."

What it is mainly is a team with a lot of good basketball players and one great one -- Barry. Jameal Wilkes states, "the attitude is not who does it, but does it get done."

And believe me -- this year the job has been done as evidenced by their 59 wins and only 28 losses. Last year the Warriors astonished the world -- completely dominating the formidable Bulls. Everyone -- including myself looked upon their marvelous achievement as a mere fluke. So after destroying Detroit and now threatening to do the same to Phoenix -- only one question comes to the front, "Can they now do what only two teams in the history of the NBA were able to do?" My answer is plain and simple. Yes.

## Former slave ship enters race

A former slave ship, La Amistad, will sail with an all-Black crew in the Cutty Sark International Trophy Race this summer commemorating the American Bicentennial.

A major portion of the Black community has been reluctant in its enthusiasm for the Bicentennial, but La Amistad, a 137-year-old schooner that doubles as a museum of Black history has received large support from Black leaders in the U.S. La Amistad therefore becomes a project of major significance in the two-hundredth birthday celebration of the nation.

Thirty-nine young Blacks between the ages of 15 and 26 will sail La Amistad in the final leg of the race which includes 86 other vintage sailing vessels from twenty countries representing every continent. A total of 3,000 young people will sail from London to Bermuda to Newport, Rhode Island, in what will be the largest race of sailing ships in history.

The ships will race for the Cutty Sark International Trophy, to be awarded following a vote of the competing crews to the one which most encourages international understanding. Crew of the Russian four-masted windjammer, Krusenstern is the most recent recipient of the Trophy.

The significance of La Amistad to American Blacks began in 1829 when 52 Africans were loaded aboard the ship for transport to slavery in eastern Cuba. Ironically, the ship's name means "friendship," in Spanish.

When out at sea, the Africans revolted against the crew, killing all but two, whom they let live for their navigational knowledge. The Africans knew only that returning to their homeland required sailing into the sun so they steered during daylight. At night, however, the wily Cubans steered

northwest hoping to reach slave territory in the U.S.

For more than two months La Amistad zig-zagged across the Atlantic Ocean, ending up near Long Island. The Africans were taken into custody there by the U.S. Coast Guard brig, Washington, and escorted to New Long, Connecticut, and charged with murder and piracy.

News of the capture spread throughout the states. In the interest of his re-election, President Martin Van Buren tried to have the Africans turned over to the Spanish Government. But Lewis Tappan, a wealthy silk merchant and a number of others risked money and reputation to support the Africans in their three-year fight for freedom through the courts.

The case reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1841, when Tappan persuaded ex-president John Quincy Adams to take the case, even though the former chief executive was then 73, ailing and had not argued a case in thirty years. Adams won, and a year later the group, Friends of La Amistad, was able to return the 39 surviving Africans to their original home.

Friends of La Amistad continues today, working to chronicle Black history in America through the support of leading American Blacks throughout the U.S.

Following the Cutty Sark International Trophy Race, La Amistad will take part in a massive parade of sails with the other competing ships, July 4th, in New York called Operation Sail 1976.

La Amistad and its crew will then sail along the eastern seaboard and along the Gulf of Mexico opening its archives of Black history to the public at major sea coast cities.

## NFL takes eight Tigers

Its southerly neighbors are obliged to concede that action and suspense are the hallmark of Grambling football, but the Tigers are also guilty of a suffocating adherence to form in the annual National Football League draft.

Eight football players from Grambling were selected in the recent NFL draft of college stars.

Only two schools -- Ohio State and Nebraska with twelve choices each -- had more selections than Grambling, which ranked third this past season in active pro players among the nation's universities and colleges.

This year's draft marked the second consecutive year that Grambling has had a player taken in the first round of the draft. Grambling's defensive back, James Hunter, picked by the Detroit Lions, was the tenth player selected. Last year the San Diego Chargers tabbed defensive tackle Gary "Big Hands" Johnson in the first round.

The G-Men's Junius "Buck" Buchanan was the first player selected in the 1962 American Football League draft.

In 1972 two G-Men were chosen on the first round -- defensive end Richard

Harris by the Philadelphia Eagles and wingback Frank Lewis by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Hunter, who played both offensive defense, is expected to be used as a defensive back and kick return specialist with Detroit.

Samie White, the second leading scorer in Grambling's history with 46 touchdowns, was picked in the second round by the Minnesota Vikings.

Richard St. Clair, a native of Cleveland, was taken in the fourth round by the Cleveland Browns, and tight end Ron Singleton was chosen in the same frame by the San Diego Chargers.

Wide receiver Dwight Scales was a fifth round choice of the Los Angeles Rams and middle linebacker Robert Pennywell was carted off in the sixth round by the San Francisco 49ers.

Offensive tackle Bobby Simon was selected in the ninth round by the Houston Oilers and offensive guard Art Gillians became a tenth round selection of the Denver Broncos.

At least three other Tiger players are expected to sign with pro clubs as free agents.

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## Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes



QUESTION: I've often seen in the box scores the term "team rebound" can you explain this to me?

ANSWER: A team rebound is when the ball touches the floor before actually being controlled by a player. When this happens it's credited as a team rebound.

### THE BEAT GOES ON!!!

UCLA might lose the services of All-American Richard Washington and Marques Johnson via the hardship route but things don't look too bad down south.

REASON: Coach Gene Barton has allegedly signed some of the first preps in California, including Dorsey High's co-All-City player of the Year, James Wilkes; Lynwood High's Darrell Alums; and Redondo Beach High's Gig Sims.

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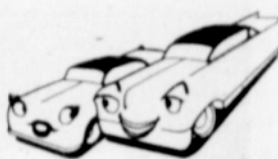
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John Graham is a Manager Trainee at Zale's Jewelry. Graham has been an employee of Zale's for a year and has worked himself up to this position.

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Graham states that he is concerned that more Black people shop Zale's since their business is sought by the management. The Observer congratulates Mr. Graham and Zale's and encourages our readers to patronize Zale's.

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