

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes Sports Editor



## Seattle

With "Fat" Freddy Brown shooting the eyes out of the basket Seattle's Sonic are always tough. Looking for Portland and Seattle to wage an all-out war to avoid the Pacific Division cellar with the Blazers winning it... the cellar that is. Bill Russell seems to always have the strategy to undo Portland.

Seattle is weak at forward and hasn't been able to shore up that spot. Russell tried for Sidney Wicks, but the Trailblazers nixed all deals for Sid in the Pacific Division. (I wonder why?)

LaRue couldn't hang on so it seems as though Tom Burleson must find a way. Mike Green, ex-ABA, is the likely choice to back up Burleson, also will see action at forward.

Bob Wilkerson, 6'7", guard from Indiana, Seattle's #1 pick will get considerable playing time. Predicted starting five: Slick Watts and Fred Brown, guards; Tom Burleson, center; Len Gray and Talvin Skinner, forwards. Seattle should have adequate depth.

## Los Angeles

Any team with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the middle will have to be reckoned with. Jabbar is just the best in the business. The acquisition of ABA stars Mack Calvin and Don Chaney should help immensely. Marquette's Earl Tatum will help at the forward position, which has been weak for years. If Luscious Allen's knee holds up and he can avoid other injuries L.A. will be tough. Jerry West and Jack McCloskey should form, perhaps, the weakest coaching tandem in the division.

The Lakers will be much improved barring injury to key personnel, despite weak coaching this year.

Jerry West doesn't seem to want to take control. He must assert his authority early to avoid a disappointing season. Los Angeles will come on strong after January. Predicted starters: Cazzie Russell and Don Ford, forwards; Kareem, center; Chaney and Allen, guards. Look for Earl Tatum to move Cazzie Russell by mid-season.

## Golden State

The best team in the division and should have won last year if Rick Barry had not chose the playoffs to post. With a happy Barry there should be no stopping the Warriors. They've simply got too much depth for the rest of the league. Robert Parish, is showing that he should have been the #1 draft pick in the NBA. He will play and Clifford will sit.

Marshall Rogers, who led the nation in scoring last year, seems to be hanging in there and doing what he does best, shooting like mad. Predicted starting lineup: Keith Wilkes and Rick Barry, forwards; Robert Parish, center; Gus Williams and Phil Smith, guards. And a plethora of talent rushing off the bench. Such names as Clifford Ray, George Johnson, Charlie Johnson, Derrick Dickey, Charlie Dudley, and Marshall Rogers.

Corky Calhoun, placed on waivers Monday by Los Angeles, is on his way to Portland for a try-out. Since Calhoun is a big forward, does that mean he's more highly regarded by Blazer brass than Malone?

What happened to that wide open offense Oregon's Don Read talked of all summer long? This was to be the season for the Ducks to finally put it together. The city of Eugene, the coaching staff and the students were all excited about the '76 Ducks.

Read talked enthusiastically of filling the air, each Saturday, with pigskin. So far we've seen a defense that was more than adequate and no offense at all as witnessed by last Saturday's 41-0 shellacking by powerful Notre Dame.

Coach Read talked of speed outside and explosiveness inside. What happened? It's just the same old story, where you're short on talent you just can't win.

## Pacific Division

The sun will set on the Phoenix Suns, even with help from the magnificent Ronnie from Eugene, Oregon, Phoenix will not repeat. The Warriors were the best team in the Pacific Division last year, and with Gus Williams coming into his own this year they will again be tough. Too tough, in fact.

Robert Parish, the seven-footer from Centenary continues to impress. There are some very fine young players coming into the Pacific Division which will cause tremendous over-all improvement, along with the ABA additions, throughout the league. Look for Portland to scuffle as usual. Maurice Lucas, Dave Twardzik, leave something to be desired.

PREDICTIONS: 1975-76 FINISH

Golden State	59-23
Phoenix	42-40
Los Angeles	40-42
Seattle	43-39
Portland	37-45

## Portland

The Blazers again place high hopes in Bill "Chief" Walton. Again these hopes will be shattered midway through the season. If Bill can stay healthy for 60 games Portland might finish as high as third. Dave Twardzik, apparently has won the nod at guard. Dave will hurt more than help, at 6'1", he'll have trouble defensively with most guards in the league. Twardzik does hustle, but seems to lack the shot that's so badly needed to keep the defense honest. Dave not only lacks the outside jumper, he never attempts one. Never. With the departure of Wicks to Boston, Portland is left hurting at forward, with the injury to Lloyd Neal, where in pre-season they figured to be strong. Maurice Lucas showed promise in the pre-season opener and not much since. Wally Walker drafted high by Portland seems at best a journeyman forward. "Wally Wonder" seems to be a step slow at quick forward... and after observing Wally through pre-season play, it's evident that Stu Inman goofed in drafting Walker ahead of Adrian Dantley. Dantley will be an immediate starter in Buffalo while Walker will see limited action in Portland. I still can't believe that transaction.

## Phoenix

Still believe that last year was a fluke. Oh, sure, Ronnie Lee will help, also, the addition of the other Van Arsdale, too. Keith Erickson, if he stays healthy and he never seems to, could be a plus, when he's in the lineup.

Curtis Perry and Garfield Heard, at best, are only journeymen forwards. My belief is that the entire Phoenix team were over their heads at the right time, and that was during the play-offs.

Alvin Adams is a good one and Ricky Sobers proved he's bona-fide. Paul Westphal should carry much of the scoring load with help from Alvin Adams, last year's Rookie of the Year. Predicted starting lineup: Gar Heard, Keith Erickson at forward, Alvin Adams, center; and Ricky Sobers, Paul Westphal at guard. Look for Ron Lee to challenge Sobers by mid-season.



Businessman Don King has emerged as the leading Black in America in his advocacy of the inclusion of Black businessmen in the Democratic campaign and a subsequent Carter Administration should the Democrats win the White House. King has been unyielding in his demand that Black business persons get their fair share of America's business.

"I'm convinced that Jimmy Carter will open doors for Black business people to have their fair share of America's business," King said. "All they need do is open the doors. We'll take full advantage of the opportunities."

# Malone is gone

by Ron Sykes

Moses is gone, he'll never have the chance to lead his people, the Blazers, as the biblical Moses did. Malone was never given a chance... and it was intended by the Blazer brass that he never would. As one fan said, "They had better trade Moses before the fans see him," the fan continued, "because he's a terrific player."

Malone, who graduated from high school right into pro-basketball, apparently could not get enough playing time with the Blazers because of their powerful front line of Bill Walton, Maurice Lucas, and Lloyd Neal. The Blazers felt that Malone had to have adequate playing time to develop his raw talent so they traded him off to Buffalo, for \$232,000 and Buffalo's 1978 first round draft choice, to face Buffalo's big name front line of Bob MacAdoo, John Shumate, and Adrian Dantley.

Moses, since coming to Portland, has shown nothing but class. The Blazers officials consistently talked Moses down in the media. Since it's obvious they never wanted him, then why was he drafted? That is a question, I'm afraid, will never be answered. Portland has, in the past, made some questionable deals, this truly follows their trend.

Down the stretch, with Bill Walton injured, they'll miss this pleasant young man.

Portland has continually talked of wanting class players, ones that were willing to work hard... well, Moses was this type and, for sure, had a wonderful attitude.

Moses Malone, from day one, came to play. Never grumbling, never pouting, but only asking for a chance to prove himself.

## Cease

(Continued from p. 1 col. 3) the Legislature, a desire for more women involvement, and a strong feeling that governmental reorganization is necessary.

The justice and penal system, including crime prevention, juvenile delinquency, capital punishment, the parole system and victims' assistance programs, was a fourth issue priority of District 18 voters.

The problem of education - basic skill training, school financing and discipline - came in fifth on the priority list. This was followed by concern with the process of taxation, and area residents specifically pinpointed property taxes, sales taxes and tax reform.

Human rights was the seventh priority uncovered by the Cease campaign survey. In this area, equal opportunity seemed to be of prime interest.

"We were surprised about the results of our survey," candidate Cease said. "We had expected the economy, inflation and taxes to be of primary importance. Of course, Oregonians are rather special, particularly in their concern about the environment. But I think they are also realistic about the balance that is needed between environmental and employment demands."

Cease also stated that she doesn't see "how a candidate can be an effective representative without this type of face-to-face confrontation - and besides that, it's fun. You meet a wide diversity of perfectly delightful people. One little girl gave me a seashell as a parting gift and one woman graciously filled my pockets with plums from her garden. Personal canvassing has to be the foremost method of promoting and preserving real and effective representative government," Jane Cease stressed.

... it's truly sad that he wasn't at least given a chance.

Trailblazer brass continues to place all their hopes on a healthy Bill Walton. But until Bill can prove that he is willing to play hurt, they're in some kind of trouble. Maybe, perhaps, someone should tell Harry Glechman about the necessity of insurance... or even, yet, tell him about the changing scene in the NBA, where teams now are going for depth, where class players are needed to back up front line players. And, also that Bill Walton, as great as he is, is not the most dominant center in basketball. Maybe they're afraid that Malone, after stepping in for an injured Walton, might not win a position. Certainly there must be some reason for selling a player like Moses for less than was paid for him.

The question still remains, does Portland want a Black super star? The answer is still apparent, no. They've said publicly that no one in the NBA could put Walton on the bench. Does that mean that they think Bill Walton is better than Jabbar? With that kind of thinking it's no wonder that Wally Walker was drafted ahead of Adrian Dantley... and by Stu Inman a better player. Good Luck Moses.


# PIL

The P.L.L. Friday, October 23rd, in a Civic Stadium will show case three of the finest running backs in the city.

The P.L.L. Friday, October 23rd, in a Civic Stadium doubleheader, will feature three of the state's finest running backs. In the opener Lincoln's Greg Jackson will show his talents in an attempt to maintain their unbeaten record against Jackson High School's Raiders


The 8:30 clash between Benson and Grant promises many fireworks. Both teams have lost one game and a possible division title rides on the outcome of this one.

This will be the first meeting between Benson's Paul Lowe and Grant's Darryl "Juice" Motley. And if Motley is running from the tailback slot, LOOK OUT. My pick is Grant 21-20.



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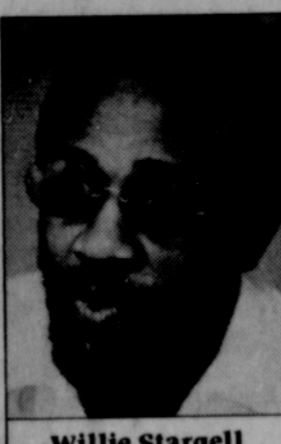
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# The only way to get over is to vote.

Black America has paid a high price for the vote. From the un-kept promises of reconstruction, to the violence that threatened voter registration of the 60's, Blacks have filled history pages with pleas, confrontation, and finally struggle to win their franchise as American citizens.



Willie Stargell

in terms of politics only comes through voting. Whether it's getting a bill through Congress, or having the sanitation department do a better job at collecting the garbage. It's the people you put into office that make these things happen because they represent you and your willingness to shape your environment.



Willa Bengé

Now, as a result of voting power, Blacks have become a viable political force in America. The 1970's have witnessed the election of numerous officials on every level of government. Blacks have won mayorships in many cities. And, perhaps the most significant of all achievements, the creation of one of the most important congressional powers in history. The Black Caucus.



Nikki Giovanni

It's a fact of American life that real change People like Willa Bengé, Community Relations Specialist for the Gulf Oil Corporation; Ossie Davis, Actor/Director; Willie Stargell, one of Baseball's greats; and Nikki Giovanni, Author and Poet, urge you to vote. They are all influential in their own right, and their knowledge of the American system has helped them get over. But when it's time to make a personal political statement, they vote. Do you?



Ossie Davis

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**LOCATION:** GSA Motor Pool, Sales and Storage Area  
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Vancouver, Washington

**SALE DATE:** October 30th, 1976 - 10:00 a.m.

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