

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes Sports Editor

Are the Blazers tough? You bet... the Portland Trail Blazers own the best record... 19 victories, 8 defeats... in the National Basketball Association.

They lead the Pacific Division by 4 1/2 games over the Golden State Warriors. As I've said before, any team invading the friendly confines of the MC had better be ready. Portland now has 20 wins in a row at the MC, after 'trouncing a very good Houston team Tuesday night 104 - 84.

The Blazers took control from the beginning and played tough team defense throughout.

Hey, they're exciting to watch and that's beautiful. Also, Big Bill Walton is showing that he belongs in the same class as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Walton, game in and game out, is something to behold. Bill leads the NBA in rebounding with 16.3 a game to 14.7 for runnerup Kareem of the Lakers. Walton also leads in blocked shots with 3.27 a game.

Lionel Hollins still claims that the boogie doesn't bother him, but against Houston it was very obvious that it did. Lionel finished the game with only two shots and many times he was wide open and wouldn't fire away. His confidence has been shaken, but he's tough and will overcome.

Dave Twardzik's mobility is still ham-

pered by those nagging injuries. Hope Dave will be back at full strength soon because he does really help.

The Blazers next entertain the red hot Denver Nuggets and it's the first regular season clash between the Blazers and Nuggets... in pre-league action the teams split a pair, Portland losing 96 - 114 in Denver and winning 121 - 101 in the Memorial Coliseum.

David Thompson of Denver ranks fourth in the NBA in scoring with 25.4 points a game... Dan Issel is 14th in scoring with a 22.2 average. This writer thought before the season started that Issel wouldn't be able to do it... and he certainly is.

Blazer defense should hold Thompson and Issel below their averages and Portland will win by 10 points.

Saturday the Lakers invade and Bill Walton and friends shall prevail. Portland dropped a 96 - 99 decision in the season's first meeting with the Lakers in Los Angeles, losing in the final quarter (18 - 24)... Abdul-Jabbar had 32 points, 14 rebounds and 2 assists, while Bill Walton had 26 points, 21 rebounds and 5 assists... However, Lucius Allen exploded for 30 points for the Lakers, while the Blazers had all five players in double figures.



STILLWELL



MOTLEY

The OBSERVER salutes Jerry Stillwell and Daryl Motley for defensive skills in the game against Klamath Falls. Stillwell and Motley combined to hold hot shooting Dan Keck to one field goal.

In the Friday night game against Jefferson, young Keck fired in 20 25-foot jumpers to the tune of 34 points. First Stillwell and then Motley played Keck nose to nose, denied him the ball and eventually caused a frustrated Keck to foul out early in the fourth quarter.

GRAMBLING

(Continued from p. 5 col. 4)

MARTIN LEMELLE
No. 13

Guard, 6'1", 171 lbs.
Martin Lemelle comes to Grambling touted as the best prep guard in Louisiana last season. As a high school cager Lemelle won All-State honors twice and finished the senior campaign with a 24-point scoring average. Lemelle turned down over 30 scholarship offers to come to Grambling and in pre-season preparations showed promise of becoming a starter in his freshman year. Lemelle figures to fit prominently in Grambling's cage plans this season.

ALBERT GREER
No. 15

Guard, 6'0", 165 lbs.
In Arkansas prep circles they fondly refer to Albert Greer as "Mr. Basketball" - and well they should. Because little Albert Greer owns a parcel of Arkansas prep scoring records, including the one for most points (55) scored in a single game. Greer will certainly claim appreciable playing time with the G-Men this season and his speed, ballhandling and

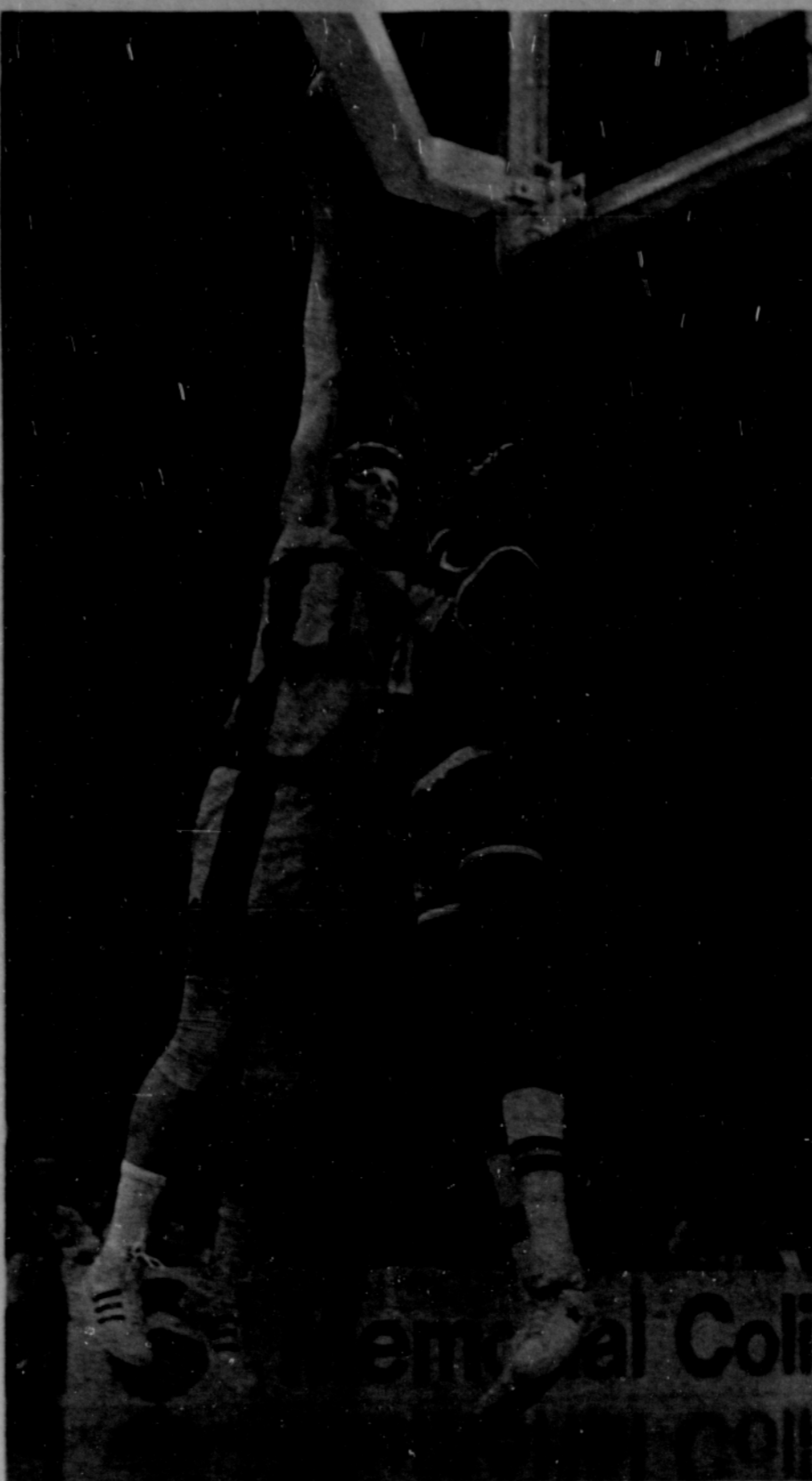
shooting ability should make him made to order for the Tigers' racehorse brand of basketball.

STANLEY CARTER
No. 51

Center, 6'10 1/2", 217 lbs.
Grambling Coach Fred Hobby says Tall Stanley Carter has more raw potential than any center he has ever coached. Carter will get playing time this year at both center and strong forward. Carter is exceptionally tough on defense, is a good rebounder and is regarded as an excellent shooter for a big man. Hobby says if Carter develops quickly he will be one of the top performers in college basketball in the next several seasons. He is the tallest player on the Grambling squad.

LARRY WILSON
No. 21

Guard, 6'3", 184 lbs.
One of three freshman to gain appreciable playing time with the Tigers last season, Wilson developed quickly as a college cager and will be a leading candidate for a starting role this season. A good outstanding shooter, Wilson had a season high of 18 points last season,



WALTON vs MALONE... Bill completely dominated Moses in their first meeting Tuesday night. Portland won 104 - 84. That's called D-E-F-E-N-S-E.

despite playing a predominant reserve role. Wilson is a gifted ballhandler and has exceptional floor speed. Tiger coaches feel that if his defensive skills catch up to his offensive skills he could develop into a top-notch backcourt performer.

GARY TIDWELL
No. 45

Forward, 6'10", 200 lbs.
Last year towering Gary Tidwell proved to be just what the doctor ordered for Grambling - a reserve front court performer who could come off the bench and give the team a boost in either scoring or rebounding. One of the most heralded prep players in Arkansas a couple of seasons ago, Tidwell appears to be on the verge of living up to his high school promise. A pure shooter, Tidwell should give the Tigers' great firepower from outside while also giving the team extra height at a position normally filled by a smaller player.

ALBERT DAVIS
No. 53

Forward, 6'7", 190 lbs.
If Grambling fans had a popularity poll the undisputed winner would be jumping-jack Albert Davis. A crowd pleaser who intimidates opponents with exciting rebounding ability, Davis is regarded by many insiders as the Tiger cager with the best opportunity to play in the professional ranks. A graduate of the rough and tumble game of Chicago's schoolboy scene, the quick and mobile Davis has basketball skills galore. Called "Chi-Town" by his teammates, Davis provides muscle help on the boards and in the scoring columns.

KEVIN ROACH
No. 25

Forward, 6'6 1/2", 202 lbs.
Kevin Roach, a standout cager from Florida, is expected to help the tigers considerably this season. Roach is a fine shooter from the corner and has the excellent speed and mobility Tiger coaches like in cagers who play the "small" forward position. Tiger coaches say Roach is a potential starter and only needs seasoning and experience to develop into a top-notch player. Roach has good defensive skills, Tiger coaches say, and is good in rebounding. The real kicker about Roach, though, is his reputation for being a fulltime hustler on the court.

ANDRE KING
No. 33

Guard, 6'2", 191 lbs.
The word on Andre King is that if you give him a basketball he will take it and shoot the bottom out of the basket. The

word is also that King is pretty tough customer when he switches to defense. King was the leading scorer in the AAAA classification in New Orleans. King will see duty as Grambling's strong guard and will occasionally spell the veteran Willie Simmons. Tiger coaches are impressed with King's talents and expect to use him regularly this season.

WILEY STEWART
No. 5

Guard, 5'11", 154 lbs.
As a prepster at Lake Charles' Boston High School Wiley Stewart was named to the Louisiana All-State team. In addition to being one of his team's top scorers, Stewart also led his team in assists. Small by college standards, Stewart possesses extreme quickness and mobility and, according to Grambling coaches, is one of the best penetrating guards on the squad. Stewart also fits well into the Tigers' running game. He is an excellent ball-handler.

REGINALD NEWBY
No. 3

Guard, 6'2", 180 lbs.
Reginald Newby is one of the elder statesmen of the Grambling team and will be counted on strongly this season for leadership on and off the court. Newby lacks the speed necessary to make the Grambling attack move smoothly but he is a good defender and a good floor general. Newby is a good team player and knows the Tiger running game like a book. Look for Newby to see action when a tight defensive situation arises or when the Tigers go into their patented stall game.

RAYMOND ALFORD
No. 55

Forward, 6'7", 205 lbs.
Big Raymond Alford is in his third season at Grambling and while he has yet to crack the starting line-up he is nevertheless a major asset to the team. Raymond is big enough and fast enough to give help at the center position while solidifying the Tigers at the vital strong forward post. Agile for a man his size, Alford is strong inside and gets more than his share of rebounds.

DARNELL ANDERSON
No. 31

Forward, 6'7 1/2", 205 lbs.
A graduate of the playgrounds of New York City, Darnell Anderson came to Grambling a year ago with a reputation as a top-notch prep performer. Anderson played only sparingly during his first season but is ticketed to see more action this time around. Anderson played well in the limited stints of action he saw last year. His forte is rebounding and defense.

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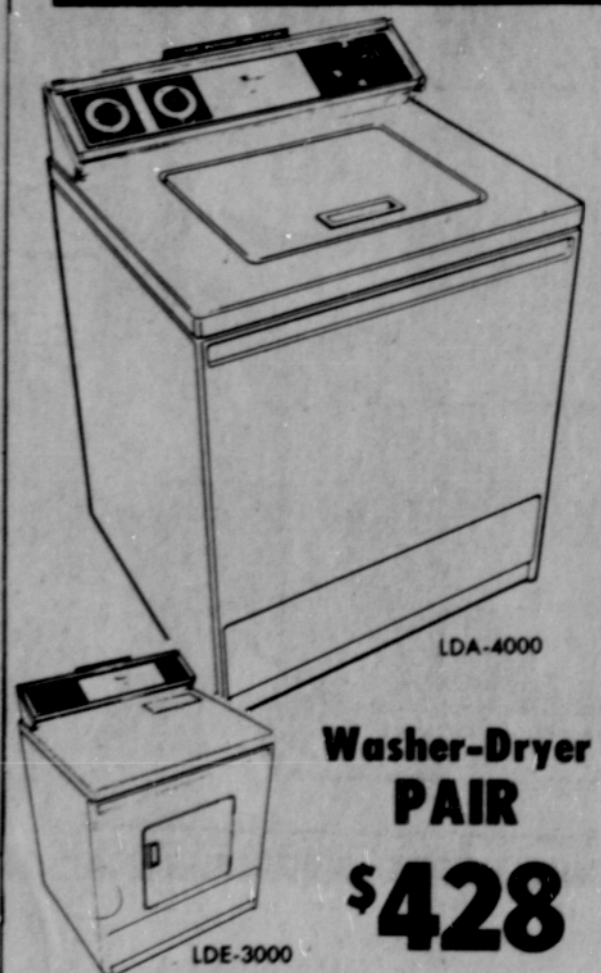
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