



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes Sports Editor

Grambling's Tigers brought its show to town Monday night at PSU, playing in the first annual PSU classic the Tigers from Louisiana, downed a stubborn Central Washington team from the Evergreen Conference, 62-51.

Grambling, the victim of numerous first half turnovers, finally solved the zone press employed by the tough Washington team, and behind the steady scoring of Terry Sykes and powerful board work of Albert Davis, pulled away from Central Washington. The 6-7 forward-center Sykes, who enjoyed a nine for 15 shooting night, also hauled down 11 rebounds.

When asked about his team's turnovers, in the first half Coach Hobdy replied, "We're young and we will make mistakes, but I'm not worried."

After the Portland State Classic Coach Hobdy will take his Tigers into the valley for a Thursday night encounter with Dick Harter's Oregon Ducks and a live meeting in the pit.

When asked if he was ready for the "pit" the Coach replied, "We've played in some snake pits of our own in our Conference, we'll be ready." Grambling, I don't think, can possibly be prepared for what they're about to receive in Eugene. The fans there, as one UCLA player put it, are simply scary.

Grambling had 29 turnovers Monday against Central Washington, but was able to overcome by shooting a torrid .563, and against the Ducks one just has to believe that good defense will not allow that kind of marksmanship. And the Ducks to play defense.

Grambling overcame a seven point deficit in the last five minutes to post a come-from-behind 75-74 victory over the Portland State Vikings.

In winning, Grambling becomes the first champion in the brand new Viking Holiday Tournament. The Tigers were led by Center Terry Sykes, who hit the game winner with seven seconds remaining, and 6-6 forward Al Davis who had another strong rebounding night.

"We grew up tonight as a team," an elated Fred Hobdy declared, "we could have died out there but we fought back."

Freeman Williams, the nation's leading scorer with a 14.5 average fell victim to cold shooting, and a double-teaming Grambling defense.

The Viking had a 66-56 lead with 5:50 left in the game and must have had visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads. But, Grambling, obviously, was not ready to play Santa Claus and refused at that point to give the Viks a Christmas present by folding.

Sykes was held to four points in the first half, but exploded for 16 in the second including the 20 ft. game winner.

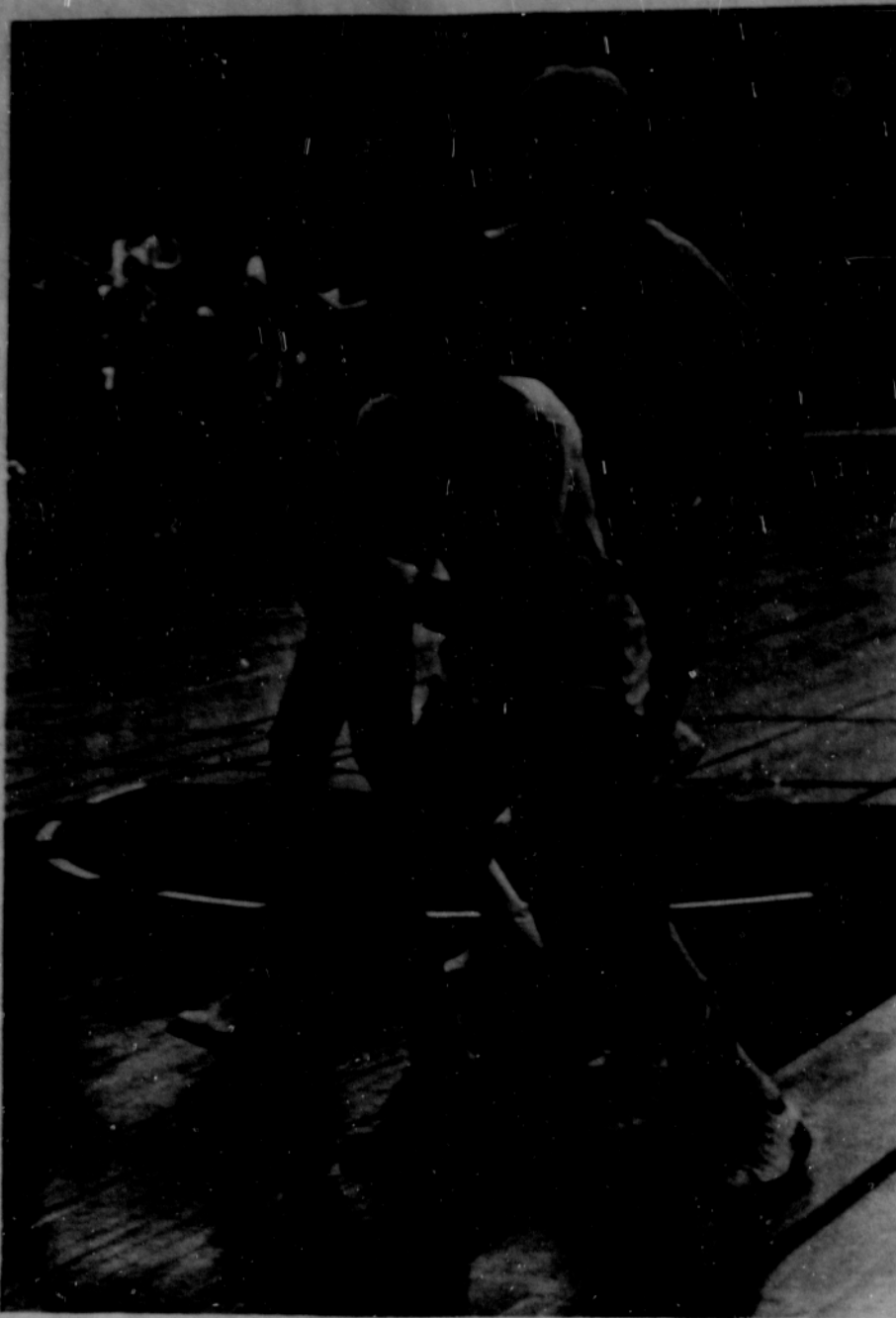
Freeman had a shot at the game winner when he let go with a 25 footer that went around the rim and out. James Cunningham tipped in the rebound, but not before the final buzzer had sounded. Coach Hobdy says we just let Freeman know how our boys play defense down in our country. Now it's on to Eugene where Grambling will face University of Oregon, and we know how they play defense down there. It should be interesting. In the consolation game L.A. State downed Central Washington 81-72.

Can you believe after having the game against L.A. Lionel Hollins and Johnny Davis had that one of our local sports-writers would say, "The difference in the L.A. loss by Portland was Dave Twardzik."

This writer went on to say that Dave could do things the other two couldn't... and that if the injured Twardzik had been available the Blazers instead of bowing would have triumphed.

Dave is obviously good, and for sure he contributes immensely, but why slap Hollins and Davis in the face after they played so hard, and so well. I can't understand it.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his Laker teammates shattered Portland's 22 win streak at home, with a 113 to 109 victory Sunday night. It was a beautiful game and one the Blazers need not be ashamed of losing. For on this night, L.A. could have soundly trounced most anyone in the NBA, or the whole world for that



Terry Sykes, 6'7" center for Grambling, prepares to put the ball in the basket. The junior from Calfax, Louisiana, leads in Grambling scores.

matter. Jabbar was tough. What else can you say. I must admit I was beginning to wonder, but now I'm convinced he is the most dominate force in the game. Some people have a tendency to downplay his scoring ability as Mr. Pasero says, "Jabbar is only the best at scoring." Don't believe that one minute.

Kareem's presence is always felt when he's in the middle. He is a great shot blocker, so great in fact, that the only reason he doesn't lead in that category is because most aren't foolish enough to challenge him, and when they do he responds, and soon, very soon the message is received.

Jabbar seems always around when there's a win streak going, and seems ever willing to put an end to it.

January 9th, 1972, before 10,746 at the Milwaukee arena and a national television audience the Bucks stopped the longest win streak, 33 wins, in the history of the NBA in stopping the L.A. Lakers 120-104. All Kareem did in that one was to score 39 points, grab 20 rebounds, and dish out 5 assists. Not too shabby for a guy that's known only for his scoring.

Portland's Trailblazers leading the Pacific Division by 2 1/2 games beat Kansas City Tuesday night at Memorial Coliseum 99-94. It was the Blazers' 8th consecutive win over K.C. dating back to 1974. Ex-Benson and UCLA star Richard Washington played very well scoring 30

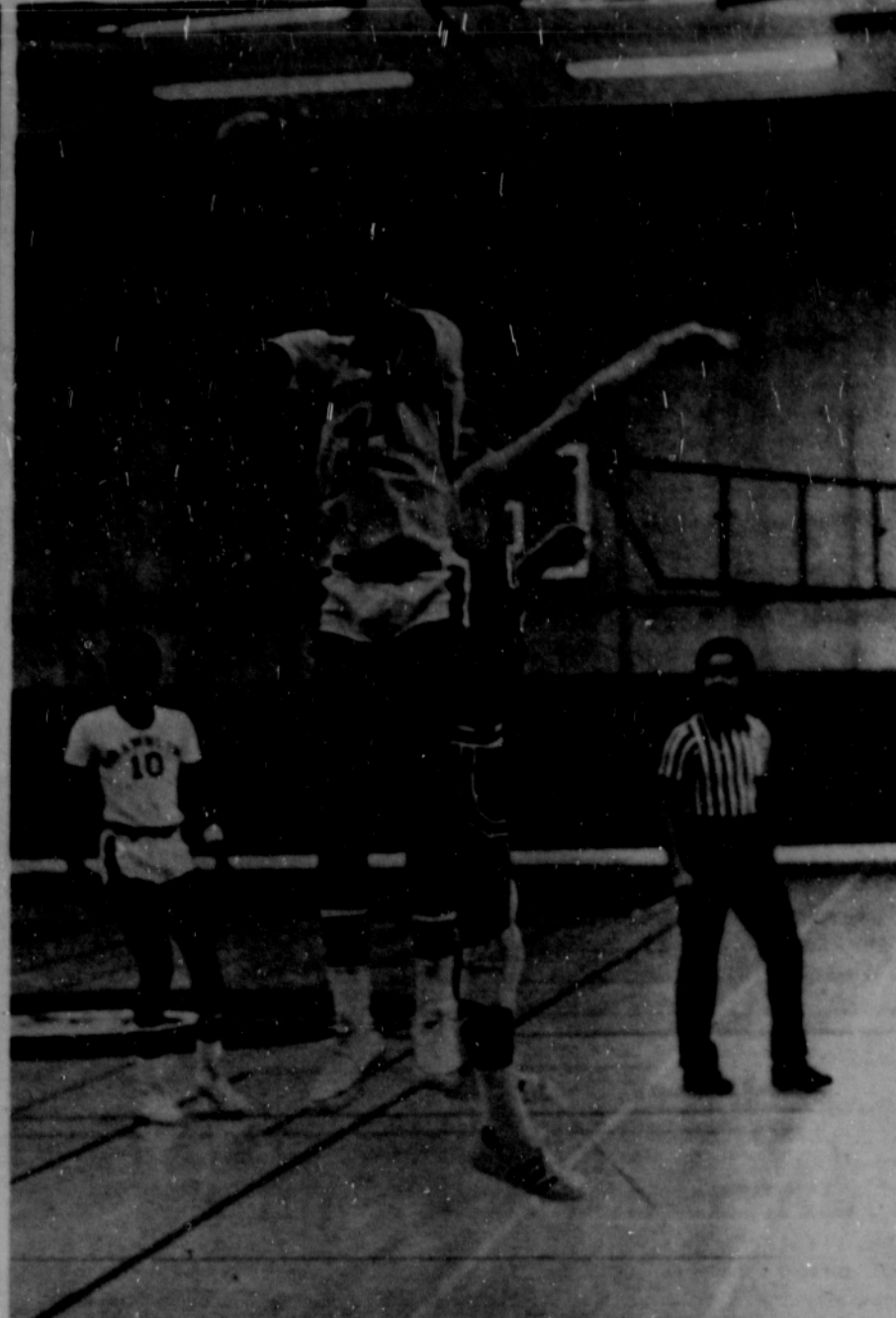
points in 30 minutes of playing time. Washington's play prompted Ramsay to say, "Richard has improved and is a fine player." Washington, when he matures and overcomes the foul problem that seems to plague him now, will be a fine, fine player.

Richard scored 12 first half points, and 9 in the second for a fairly consistent nights work. He was 9-16 from the floor and 3-4 from the free throw line.

The Blazer's first half was lethargic and the fans, accustomed now to better play, grew restless midway through the second stanza.

Down 54-53 at halftime Ramsay, obviously concerned, opened the second half with Hollins and Gross on the bench. K.C. quickly increased their lead from 2 points to 12, hitting 5 unanswered baskets before Dr. Jack called time out with just 2 minutes gone in the third quarter. K.C. got some hot second half shooting from guard Ron Boone, who scored 17 points, after having just four at half-time.

Portland's Bill Walton led all scorers with 24 points and 17 rebounds. Big Red is tough. Kansas City had a two game winning streak snapped Sunday night in Los Angeles... Richard Washington led Kansas City in both scoring, 19 points, and rebounds, 14, in the Sunday night game. Washington has moved into the starting lineup and appears on his way to challenging for Rookie of the Year



Forward Gary Tidwell, sophomore for Little Rock, puts one in.

honors.

Bill Walton leads the league in rebounding with 16.4 per game to 14.8 for runner-up Kareem Abdul-Jabbar... he is first in blocked shots with 3.41, a contest to 3.13 for Abdul-Jabbar... he is tied for 16th in scoring and he is ninth in field goal accuracy at .551.

Lionel Hollins continues to rank third in the NBA in steals with an average of

2.61. Hollins also continues to play tough, harassing defense.

Maurice Lucas, playing hurt contributed 19 badly needed points and 16 rebounds. Lucas continues to impress. Portland next meets Seattle in back to back games Saturday at home and Sunday in Seattle.

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Reverend Samuel Johnson has dedicated his life to serving God and the needy. He is a native of Beaumont, Texas. He has served 10 1/2 years in the U.S. Army in the 1st Cavalry Division and was discharged in 1961. While in the Army he received numerous awards for outstanding performance of duty.

His training consists of: (1) Urban training in Chicago, Illinois. (2) Biblical training at Smith Bible Institute, Seattle, Washington. (3) Bethel Bible Series, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Reverend Johnson is the founder and Head of the Highland Community Center. He is also founder of the following agencies; Youth Care Center, Highland United Improvement Corp., and High Park Enterprise. Reverend Johnson is also a member of the NAACP. He likes to bowl.

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