

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes Sports Editor

Oregon's 59th Annual AAA State High School Basketball Tournament opened Tuesday, March 8th and Barney Holland brought his North Eugene travelling show to Portland with a perfect 22-0 record, one of four undefeated teams, and rated #1 in the state.

All of us who weren't fortunate enough to see this great team during the regular season and had read so many things about them: flocked into the afternoon session to see this fabulous team for the first time.

What was seen, however, was just another prep team. Granted, this perhaps was not one of North's better games, but what I saw was a team with no height and not a good deal of quickness. Dan Ainge, reported to be the most sought after prep player in Oregon, is just another good player - nothing more.

Jeff Stout, Lake Oswego; Mark Radford, Grant; and Ray Blume, Park Rose, all seem to have better PAC-8 potential.

Of course there are other games to play and maybe North Eugene and Dan Ainge will redeem themselves before it all ends on Saturday night.

But for now my pick in the top bracket is Parkrose and they should meet the Grant Generals for the title, with Grant winning by six.

What a difference a day makes, sometimes a month or a year. Seattle's Bill Russell not long ago was riding high in April, but now seems to be shot down in May. That's right. When May rolls around I look for Bill Russell and the Sonics to part company. Sam Schuler, Seattle's owner, has publicly stated that his desire is for Russell to step down as GM and only coach.

Now we all know Bill Russell has often said that in order for him to coach he also must be able to pick his own players. It will be interesting to see what develops.

Russell inherited a troubled team when he was lured to Seattle after winning a world's championship in Boston. Bill quickly swept a lot of dead weight under the rug and appeared to be heading in the right direction. But the other problems developed with Spencer Haywood and then Leonard Gray, and now Slick Watts. Freddie Brown is unhappy and these problems will eventually lead to Russell's demise.

It is a sad thing to see happening to one of the NBA's better franchises.

When the players are unhappy with the coach and the coach gets no support from the owners, and the fans join in, then it's a hopeless situation and it's too bad for Bill.

Okay, I've gone out on the limb for Grant to win it all by beating a good Parkrose team in the finals. Let's examine the key match-ups for both teams. Look for Ray Blume, the 6-4 Parkrose pivotman to have his hands full with the 6-6

Pickle Lewis. Lewis is playing extremely well now. His shooting confidence is up and... he's ready. Team speed and jumping ability will lean heavily in the Grant's favor. Welton Jordan should be the best offensive guard on the floor and Jerry Stilwell can more than handle the Parkrose guards defensively. Parkrose just might be better team defensive players. They will have fewer turnovers for sure. The keys for both teams will be their all-state players Mark Radford and Ray Blume. Blume plays with a great deal of enthusiasm and is more than adequate at scoring. His weaknesses are few. Mark Radford is simply great. On the basketball court he can do it all. He's strong inside, but can shoot outside, rebounds exceptionally well and does see the open man... what else can you say?

The Blazers are struggling to say the least. Last Tuesday against Philadelphia, Portland led by as many as sixteen, yet had to struggle to hold on to their 108-107 win. Portland started strong and, in fact, looked like the early season Blazer team at the beginning.

But then, for some strange reason, they reverted to playing like the 75-76 team and suddenly the 76ers were making a strong comeback. If Maurice Lucas hadn't hit that little left handed hook shot with 25 seconds remaining it would have been another Blazer loss.

Without Bill there seems to be a little stability lacking. Not to say that Robin hasn't filled in adequately... or more.

Maurice Lucas seems to feel the pressure more now with Walton out of the lineup. Oh sure, we beat Seattle Sunday night but they're a weak team and just might self-destruct any moment. Even against Seattle, and playing at home we never really put them away until the last Quarter. And I'm still not convinced Russell was really trying to win this one. As evidenced by the early benching of Fred Brown, who left smiling in the first quarter and never returned. Also, Tom Burleson saw no fourth quarter action. Russell probably had his reasons, but only he knows why.

The Blazers fell to Buffalo 102-95 Tuesday night in Buffalo. Adrian Dantley scored 29 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. This is mentioned as a reminder to those of you that may have forgotten, but anyway Dantley was still around when Portland drafted Wally Who.

Blazer brass seems to shun local players so there seems to be no chance of seeing Oregon's Greg Ballard wearing the Red and Black of Portland. Can't help but think, however, it would be very nice with GB working alongside Maurice and Bill. It's hoped that Stu Inman doesn't think Greg Ballard will be around in the late second round, as he thought in the case of Ron Lee. What a mistake that proved to be. Ballard is strong, swift and a terrific shooter and at 6-7 could block very well in Ramsey's style.

Grant High, the state's # two, opened its bid for the 1976-77 Boys' Basketball Championship by pasting a stubborn but outclassed South Albany team 72-50.

Grant started slowly and by half time had increased their lead to 14 points.

Coach Tom Jones benched Mark Radford after he drew his second foul midway through the second quarter. "It's my policy to pull any player drawing two fouls that early," Jones commented.

Welton Jordan supplied the early fire power and had 14 points at half time. Jordan finished with 16, while Radford led with 19. Grant played the last game of the first round and when asked about the long wait, Coach Jones replied, "Pressure!! I thought we would never play. It's good to get this first one under our belts, you'll see the real Grant team Thursday night."

Jones met the press after the game and immediately displayed a telegram from Mayor Goldschmidt. "Now that's pressure", said a smiling Tom Jones. "Even the Mayor expects us to win."

Grant's Mark Radford blamed the long wait for the team's shaky start. "I was very aware of the officiating tonight and I'm sure it bothered me some. I'll work some tomorrow in the gym and I'll be ready tomorrow." Mark's scoring was a little off but his floor game was strong, as usual.

The Generals meet Churchill Thursday night in a quarter-final game. "I expect a better game from Churchill," Jones said. "All those Eugene teams are tough."

"We were able to substitute early, and that helps. Gil Flowers, I thought, had an excellent game and we need that from Gil." Flowers scored six points, had seven rebounds and two blocked shots.

Grant's defense wasn't as sharp as usual but Jones said he's not worried and that he's sure it will come back by Thursday.

Robert Lewis, 6-6 pivot man, played a strong inside game and was devastating on the boards. Lewis contributed 13 points to the Grant attack.

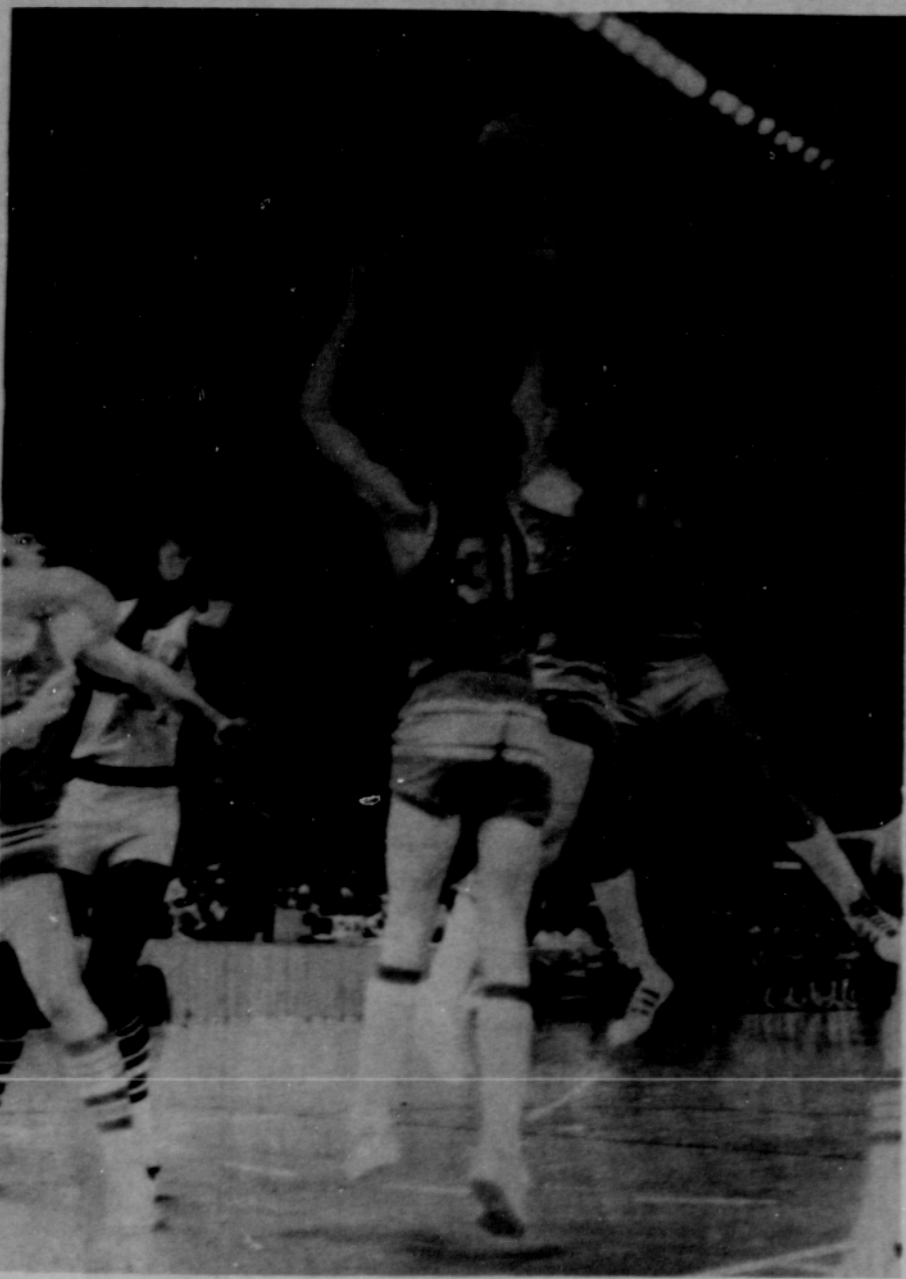
Tourney Hi-Lites

Central Catholic lost to Medford 56-55 in overtime. Down by 18 midway through the first half Central fought back to send the game into overtime.

Byron Howell, 6-2 freshman forward was very instrumental in Central's comeback... and appears to be on the way to a very good prep career.



HIGH - HIGH - HIGH - Pickle Lewis soars for devastating dunk shot. Lewis scored 13 points in Grant victory.



Welton Jordan showing moves that helped Grant overpower South Albany Wednesday night.



Benson's Jerry Barber clearing rebound against Corvallis Spartans. Barber had outstanding game, but Corvallis prevailed 56-54 in first round action in the state AAA tourney.

The Mideast's new Jews

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

sovereign countries. Today Palestinians comprise two-thirds of the population of Jordan, half the populations of the Israeli-occupied lands, a third of the population of Kuwait and about 12 percent of the population of Lebanon.

They are a key ingredient of not only the Arab-Israeli conflict, but the confrontation between the industrialized and Third Worlds and the relationship of the superpowers. And whatever happens in the near future, this is quite unlikely to change.

Even if they get their mini-state, the Palestinians are likely to remain a nation whose population and influence continues to lie largely outside its borders.

"Faced with expulsion and exile," observed Prof. Nabeel Shaath of the American University of Beirut, the Palestinians turned to "education as a means to national self-preservation." Encounter.

ing the Arabs' own hostility to the strangers in their midst, the Palestinian "had to study hard to enhance his personal competitive power and overcome the disadvantages emanating from his 'refugee status' as well."

A WORLD FORCE

If both the social origins and human consequences of the Palestinian dispossession resemble those that nurtured Zionism, so-though neither side admits it-the political results have also run increasingly parallel.

Just as the Zionist movement derived its initial strength not from the Oriental Jews living under Moselem rule but from Jews living in Europe, so the ferment that produced the PLO began not inside Israel or the camps but among a Palestinian elite scattered across the Arab world. Yasser Arafat started not as a scared revolutionary but as an engineer in Kuwait.

The consequences have also been similar.

Like the International Zionist Organization before it, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) today is an umbrella movement sheltering radicals and reactionaries, terrorists and the victims of terrorism-not by what they have in common-but in what they lack.

Some time ago in Amman, a wealthy Palestinian lawyer showed a visitor around his lavish house. "This is not my home," he said. "My sons ask me when we will go home and I remind them of the parable of Moses. If it does not come in my lifetime, it will come in theirs."

Under their graduation photographs in Arab school yearbooks, Palestinian students do not say where they live. Instead they list, as forwarding addresses, cities they have never seen: "Jerusalem, Palestine; Acre, Palestine; Jaffa, Palestine."

As their historical quarrel grows deeper, the two peoples resemble each other

more and more, and one is left, in the end, neither with Israelis nor Palestinians, but only with people-people whose quest for a future condemns them to constant reencounters of the past.

Haunted by the concentration camps of Europe, the Jews have become the masters of Gaza, Samaria and Judea.

Resisting the Judaization of their land, the Palestinians have become the new people of the Diaspora.

(Next: The Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.)

(Dr. Allman, a member of St. Antony's College in Oxford, England, recently completed a research fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations. He has written on the Middle East and Indochina since the early 1970's for such publications as The New York Times, the Manchester Guardian and Le Monde diplomatique.

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