



by Ron Sykes

Sports Talk

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Sports Editor

Hmmmmmm, let's see now, characteristically bulls are known to gore, and stomp, run, and show great disdain for the color of red. Well, Chicago Bulls were no exception in their mini-series against Portland. They played, and I must admit they played exceptionally well. And if not for the heroics of the entire Blazer team Chicago and not Portland would now be readying themselves for Denver.

And thank God for the home court advantage for without it we could not have survived.

We did fine in our familiar home white uniforms, winning both times they were done here in Portland. Someone should have reminded Jack Ramsey, or whomever in the Blazer organization that bulls are not particularly happy at the sight of red. But, anyway, Portland did have the audacity to show up at Chicago Stadium before 22,000 screaming Bull fans wearing of all things their travelling red uniforms. Not only were the Bulls enraged, but their fans also, as witnessed by the harsh treatment Portland received from both. It was quite scary when late in the game with tempers flying and Herm Gilliam and Wilbur Holland engaged in fistfuffs, and 22,000 Bullish fans seemed on the verge of attacking Maurice Lucas. But things settled down and Chicago prevailed in a tough, tough game. It should be mentioned that Portland fell victim to some sturdy officiating.

Chicago won the game, although the Blazers scored eight more field goals than the Bulls. That should tell you something. Not until the final game in Portland was the foul situations even close.

Hooray!!!! I predicted Portland 2-1 over Chicago; and also had Golden State winning over Detroit.

That Detroit vs. Golden State series was topsy turvy from the beginning and I must admit after Detroit won that first game I thought Golden State was doomed.

Former Trailblazer forward Greg Smith was known around the NBA as the lay-up king. Many alluding to the fact that Greg shot not only lay-ups, but shot them better than anyone else. Now, with Greg's departure, that crown must surely go to Dave Twardzik is intelligent and

uses his body many times avoids being checked by opposing centers.

Robin Jones has been so dependable when called upon, and Robin certainly knows his role and plays well within his ability. And what a clutch slot he hit in the Chicago game. With the score see-sawing, and Blazer playoff fortunes still hanging, and Portland leading 97-92, Robin fired in a fifteen footer that was indeed crucial. But the young man has played with poise and confidence whenever called upon and it's nice to see this carry through to the playoffs.

Dr. G and his running mate George McGinnis are the all-pro forwards, but I'm not sure I would trade Maurice Lucas if they were both offered for him.

Bill Luke means so much to the team. He's a complete team player, contributing in all parts of the game. One word to describe Lucas' play would be "Fantastic."

Ex-Blazer forward Sidney Wicks had an outstanding game in Boston's conquest Sunday of the Philadelphia 76'ers. Wicks led all scorers with 22 points. In Boston's first two playoff games against San Antonio Sid shot 72 % from the field.

By the way it's been rumored that Greg Ballard has received four letters from interested NBA clubs. But none from Portland. Too bad Stu, you're missing another good one from Eugene.

Semi-final picks: Portland vs. Denver

Blazers to win in.....get this five or six, no more. Denver is made to order for the Trailblazers. The Nuggets strong point is running and they'll be playing into the hands of the best running team in basketball. Portland's front, with the second coming of Gross, will be too much for Denver. And everyone knows our depth in the backcourt is superior so look for Portland in a waltz. Also remember this is playoff basketball and it will be exciting if not close.

Los Angeles vs. Golden State

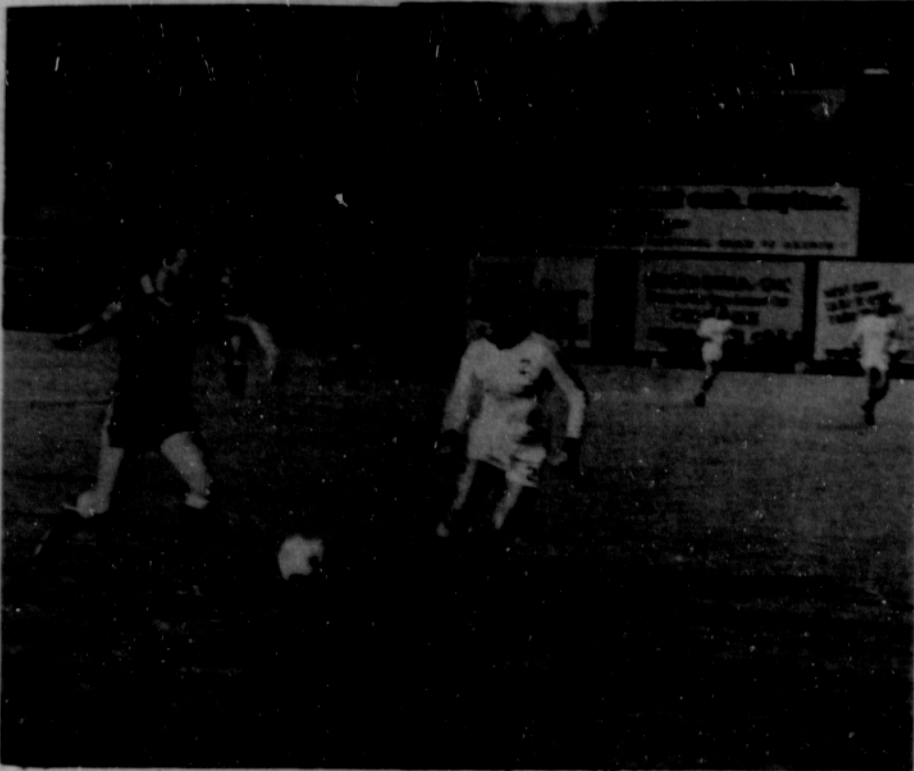
So goes Rich Burry, so go the Warriors. It would seem to be a battle of the Super Stars, Barry and L.A.'s Kareem Abdul Jabbar. This being true the obvious choice is Kareem. Just have to believe Kareem can take his team a little higher. Plus there's no one in Golden

State's starting line-up to match up with the 7'2" Jabbar. The closest would be the seven footer from Centenary, Robert Parish.

And who can rely on rookies during playoffs. That leads to trouble as witnessed by Ramsey's reluctance to use Walker and Davis so far, my pick L.A. 4-3.

As we go to press, Portland has defeated Denver 101-100 in the first game to take away the homecourt advantage. Maurice Lucas, he has been the big man for Portland all year long hit the big bucket to put Portland ahead to stay late

in the fourth quarter. With eleven seconds to go, Luke hit a 20 footer for the game decider. The play was designed for Twardzik to go inside, but on the break down Maurice came up with the ball and responded. With Maurice's shot from the key Denver now loses it's home court advantage and now Portland, as expected will be the favorite to win. Maurice, Maurice, Portland loves you. Whenever aggressive play is needed, the Blazers can count on Maurice. Lucas led all Portland scorers with 23 points. My prediction of four to one by Portland looks awfully good. In three out of four games played, the home team has come out on the short end. Portland 101-100. Go Blazers, go.



Tony Betts, 14, passes a Las Vegas Quicksilver player during last Friday night's game. The Timbers lost 3-2. (Photo: Brad Small)

Timbers lose opener

by Brad Small

Despite being low on personnel the Portland Timbers continued playing their brand of suicidal soccer and lost to the Las Vegas Quicksilver 3-2 at the stadium last Friday night. It was the home opener for the Timbers but because of the rain and the Trail Blazer playoff on TV the attendance was only 14,484.

Pat McMahon fouled Chris Dangerfield

Robinson heads West team

GRAMBLING--Grambling State University football coach Eddie Robinson has been selected to serve as head coach of the West squad for the 53rd Annual East-West Shrine Football Classic set for December at Palo Alto, California.

The selection of Robinson marks the first time that a Black coach has served as head coach in the annual all-star classic. Last year Robinson served as an assistant coach for the West squad.

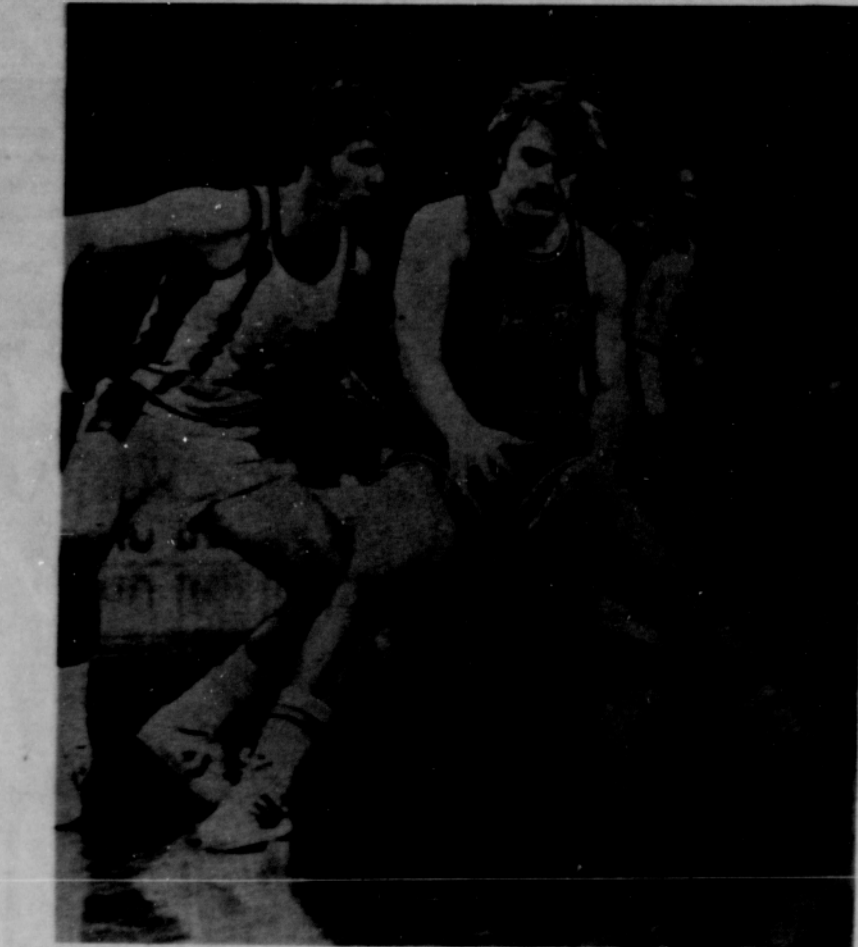
A 36-year veteran of the coaching profession, Eddie Robinson is the fourth winningest coach in the annals of college football. He trails only the late Pop Warner and Amos Alonzo Stagg and present Alabama coach Paul (Bear) Bryant in career wins. His 35-year record stands at 254-85-11.

Known for his ability to produce professional football players, over 200 former Eddie Robinson and Grambling players have played professional football in the United States and Canada.

His teams at Grambling have compiled 17 straight winning seasons.

"Truly absurd is the man who never changes."
Auguste Barthelmy

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whoaaaaa. Dave Twardzik puts clamps on Chicago guard John Mengott. Twardzik enjoyed a fine series against the Chicago Bulls, shooting 72 per cent from the field. (Photo: Sam Hamilton)



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Citizen of the Week



Allison Belcher is an involved member of the community. A former social worker for Children's Division and a Juvenile Court Counselor, she is the mother of three children and the wife of Architect Bob Belcher.

Mrs. Belcher is vice chairman of the State Council for Developmental Disabilities, appointed by Governors McCall and Straub; a member of the Portland Development commission; Secretary of the Board and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Metropolitan Family Services; former President of the Westside School for Handicapped Children.

She is active in party politics and enjoys working on political campaigns. She is a former Chairman of the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee, is Chairperson of the Rules Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon, and was a Carter delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

She is a member and treasurer of St. Phillips Episcopal Church, a member of the Board of the Urban League of Portland, a member of the Office of Planning and Development Budget Committee for the City, and still finds time to volunteer her coaching expertise in basketball and soccer at Irvington School.

An avid hiker and mountain climber, one of her fondest memories is a 200 mile hike through Nepal.

Use all you need

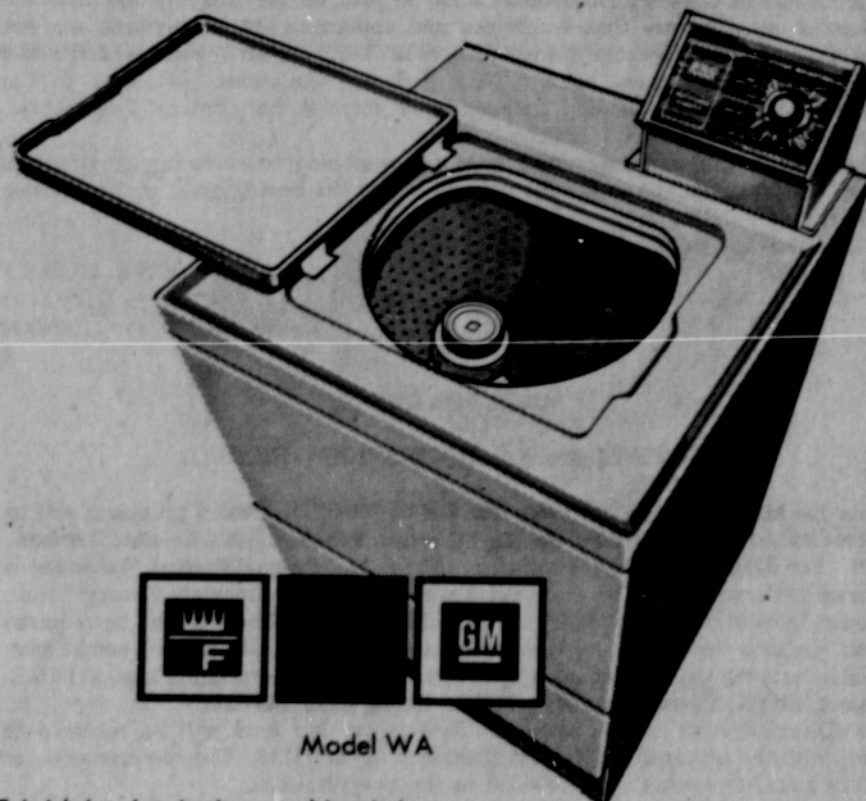
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