



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

I believe...I believe...after Tuesday night's miracle at the Memorial Coliseum. I believe, as I have said repeatedly, in the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, and up there is a Santa Claus. With 13 seconds showing on the clock the Portland Trailblazers believed a fantastic Lionel Hollins, he scored six straight points to win 92-90.

Never in the history of sports has there been such a dramatic comeback. With their 36th game win stretch on the line and Chicago playing like a house afire, the miraculous Blazers never gave up, and comeback they did.

Down the stretch is all Hollins. Scoring on lay-ins, arching high soft jumpers, and then those driving stuff shots. Hollins had 27 for the game and 17 in that incredible fourth period. It was beautiful to see at game's end the standing ovation given to "the Train" when he returned from the dressing room with arms held high over his head and 12,000 fans erupted to shout their approval.

Standing there watching this generous out-pouring of appreciation for Hollins by the fans I could not help but think "what a difference a year makes."

For it was these same hypocrites that booed this marvelous athlete last year, and wrote him bales of hate mail his rookie season. One Portland writer described Hollins as having a heart the size of a basketball. This, I believe, for if not he would not have survived the abuse hurled his way at the beginning.

Tuesday night the "train" soared, and the crowd roared, believe you me it was fitting for so great an athlete as Lionel Hollins to finally be repaid. Seemingly with the bad times finally gone Hollins and Portland will have nothing but good times ahead.

Warren Moon, University of Washington's quarterback, was chosen MVP of the Rose Bowl, after leading his team to a 27-20 win over highly-rated Big Ten Champion Michigan. Washington was made a two touchdown underdog by the Los Vegas bookmakers. But someone forgot to tell Moon, the kid from the ghetto of Watts, and long the target of insults, in Seattle, racial and others.

Moon led a brilliant and flamboyant offensive attack against the Wolverines and prompted Michigan Coach Bo Schembechler to say, "Washington was the finest offensive team that we've faced all year." Moon wasn't wanted in Washington, but like Lionel Hollins he endured and now he's on top. Bravo good Brother.

The Huskies showed the Nation that the once powerful Big Ten Conference is no longer to be feared. In post season Bowl games Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio State were losers while PAC-8 teams Stanford, Washington and Southern California were all victorious. So maybe those people in the East will now perk up their ears to West Coast football, instead of snubbing their noses. So be it.

Those young men suspended by Arkansas Coach Lou Holz for their illicit dormitory practices were hardly missed in Arkansas' rout of the Oklahoma Sooners. On this night Arkansas displayed enough talent to receive my vote on the Nation's #1 team. The Razorbacks had a powerful line that blew the Sooners out, and swift backs led by Roland Sales, who broke the Cotton Bowl record with 205 yards. It was truly a night for the hogs. Let's just hope that those three young men, right or wrong in their doings will get another chance next year.

The Portland State Vikings rolled up 100 points finally, by beating previously unbeaten St. Mary's of California, 100-91. Freeman Williams fired up 37 times and connected on 20 to finish with 44 points, 22 in each half.

Sophomore guard, Terry Adolph, 5'8", dished out a record-setting 19 assists. The Vikings next meet Oregon Tech, Idaho (January 10th).

BLAZER NOTES:

The Chicago game was the second of five in a row at home for the Blazers...the Detroit Pistons will invade on Saturday night and the New Orleans Jazz, with Pete Maravich will be here Sunday for a 3:45 p.m. game that will be regionally televised on CBS...It'll be the first meeting of the season for the Blazers and Jazz...The New York Knicks will make their final regular season appearance in Portland on Tuesday night, January 10th...then the Blazers will take off on their longest road trip of the season...seven in a row away from home.

Artis Gilmore, against Portland, was playing in his 538th consecutive professional game...he has scored 20 or more points 17 times and 30 or more points eight times...he has led the Bulls in scoring 18 times and in rebounding 25 times.

Corky Calhoun shot .400 from the field in his first 13 games...in his last 18 games he has hit on 39 of 67 for .582 marksmanship.

Johnny Davis now leads Blazer "regulars" in foul shooting at .829. Davis has averaged 15 points a game in his last four games and now is 9.8 for the season. He is closing in on being the seventh Blazer averaging in double figures.



"Train" arrives...Hollins drives past the pesky Norm Van Lier in Blazer win over Bulls. Photo: Sue Hamilton

Miracle relived

Let's relish that miraculous Blazer win with 0:42 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter; Hollins hit a 25 foot jumper that sailed clean through the twine, the score 87-84 Chicago.

0:32 - May fouled by Gross, May hits 1 of 2, score now reads 88-84 Chicago.
0:31 - Portland time-out.
0:29 - Two seconds later Hollins hits on twisting jumper, intentionally fouled by Van Lier, Hollins misses free throw. Score now 88-86.
0:13 - Now comes the puzzling foul by Twardzik on Van Lier, which Ramsey later explained was done to preserve time on the 24 second clock. Van Lier cans two free throws, 90-86 Chicago.
0:13 - Portland time-out.
0:10 - Lucas layin from Walton, 90-88 Chicago.

0:10 - Chicago time-out...Ramsey replaces Twardzik with Calhoun. This proved to be a brilliant move by Ramsey, as the taller Calhoun forced Van Lier into throwing a bounce pass, which takes more time.

0:07 - Hollins steals rebound pass and out-runs Wilbur Holland for sensational two-handed stuff shot, 90-90.

0:07 - Chicago immediately calls time-out to receive the ball at mid court, and again Van Lier attempts to inbound, this time he's guarded by Twardzik. Chicago had five seconds to inbound and with time running out Van Lier sees no one open and apparently panics and tries to find May, who is fronted by Gross. Gross taps the attempted pass to Twardzik who spies the flying Hollins on the left side, and the rest is history.

Portland wins 92-90. And the beat goes on...37 wins in a row...29 wins and 5 losses. WOW!!

Governor sets Trophy Run

Governor Bob Straub announced the Governor's Trophy Run and Run for Fun which will be held at the State Capitol in Salem on Saturday, January 14, 1978.

"The purpose of the event will be to encourage Oregonians to participate in jogging, as a healthful and enjoyable activity," the Governor said.

"I'm very pleased with the participation of some of the top cross-country running people in promotion and sponsorship of this event." Charles Bowles, Director, Physical Education Department, Willamette University, Salem, will serve as Race Director.

The event will begin with a Jogging Clinic from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The races begin at 1:00 p.m. with a Half Marathon competition run and ten kilo-

meter "run for fun" and a two mile "run-for-fun" race. Governor Straub will run in the two mile "run-for-fun" race.

"Running-jogging is a way of life here in Oregon. Every day I see joggers running around the Capitol grounds, at noon time, running over the bridge to West Salem, or people running along the road on weekends," the Governor said. "I find jogging a refreshing, stimulating experience and, of course, jogging is great for the heart and lungs."

Oregonians interested in participating can contact the Governor's Office, Salem, Oregon. Pre-entry deadline is January 6th with a fee of \$3.00. Day of run fee will be \$4.00. Money will be used for t-shirt for all participants, certificates for all finishers, and a trophy for the winner of the Half Marathon Run.



Rickey Lee, Oregon State forward, was selected Most Valuable Player of the Far West Classic. Photo: Debra Mishler

U of O letterman drops basketball

Gary Nelson, junior letterman center for the University of Oregon basketball team, announced January 2nd that he is dropping the sport.

Nelson said that while he felt he benefited from his experiences in Oregon basketball, he has decided to concentrate on his studies and "on my future in areas other than basketball."

Oregon head coach, Dick Harter, said: "I respect Gary's decision and wish him well. He has done an excellent job for us, and we're very sorry to see him leave."

The 6-10 Nelson, a native of Anacortes, Washington, where he was twice league most valuable player and also president of the student body, is majoring in general science. He said his plans call for going on to graduate school.

Said Nelson: "The toughest part of this decision is my concern over letting down the guys on the squad. But I think they realize my situation and respect my decision. I believe in the approach to the game that is taken at Oregon, and I think it is going to win for Oregon. I've proved to myself that I am an Oregon player, and I've benefited from basketball as it is played here. But the demands of creating a winning basketball program at the level of competition we're at have gotten to be too much. I feel that it's the best thing for me and hopefully for the team in the

long run if I step aside and relieve some of the tension and pressure that has been building up in me."

"Basketball got me into college," said Nelson, "and I've achieved what, for me, is the ultimate - playing in the Pac-8. But I've never had any pro ambitions. I feel it's time now to concentrate on my future in areas other than basketball."

In nine appearances this season, Gary has scored 31 points, hitting 11 of 22 shots from the field and nine of ten from the free throw line. He lettered as a freshman, when he scored 52 points, and as a sophomore, when he scored 106. His finest performance at Oregon came last season when he scored 15 points in the 61-60 victory over UCLA at Los Angeles.

Ron Sykes, Sports Editor for the "Portland Observer," will host a Sports program on KBOO on Sundays, beginning January 8th, at 4:30 p.m.
Paul Knauls, owner of Geneva's and Number One Blazer Fan, will be the guest for the first session.
KBOO is located at 90.7 on the FM dial.

Age discrimination

(Continued from Page 1 Column 6)
laws should "become the foundation for a new, forceful and affirmative approach of appraising the individual's capacity regardless of chronological age." It proposes that the Oregon Senior Worker Acts of 1959 be amended to require an employer to furnish proof that a job applicant, covered by that law and denied employment, did not meet the requirements and criteria for the particular opening. Further recommendations include mid-career consultation offices,

educational programs and adoption of "portable pension credits."

The report also calls for a study to explore and evaluate the facts and feelings in Oregon concerning the question of mandatory vs. flexible retirement - a research undertaking which, incidentally, has just been initiated by the Bureau of Labor.

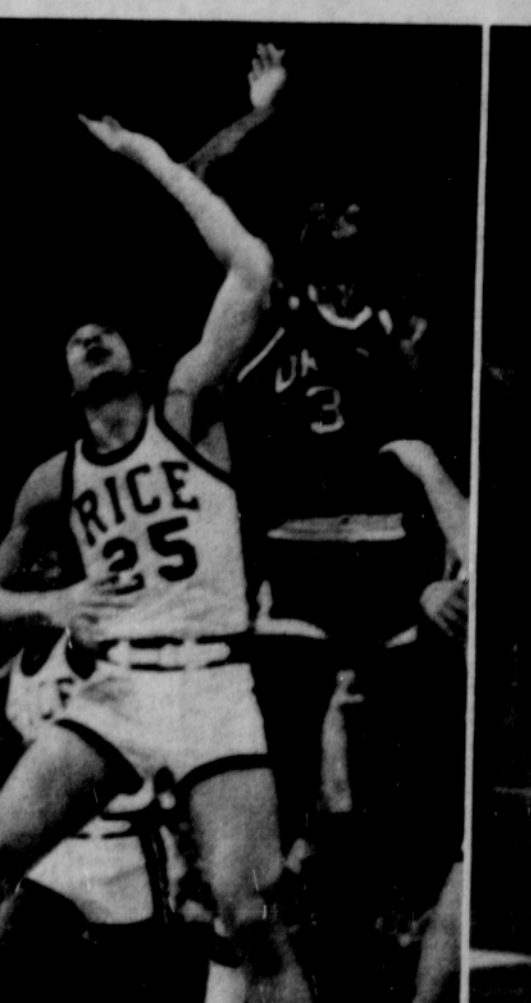
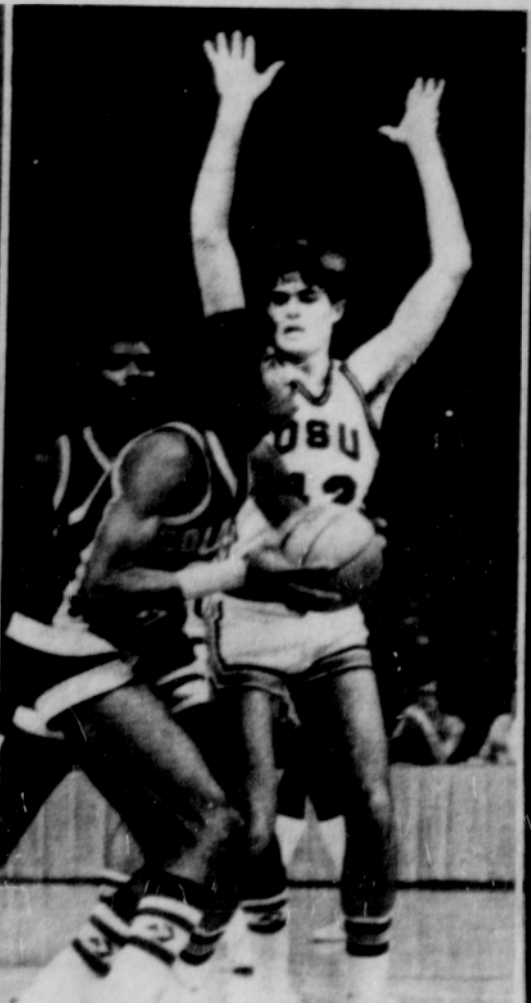
Copies of the new edition of the study, **Up Against The Middle-Age Barrier**, are available free from the Oregon Bureau of Labor. Call 229-5914 or 1-800-452-3503.

Where Are You Now...



Gus Otto

The Missouri graduate was a 4th-round draft choice by Oakland. In 8 years with the Raiders (1965-72), he played in 4 championship games and in an AFL All-Star contest. Now 33, he's a sales representative in Kansas City, Mo.



Far West Classic

Photos: Debra Mishler