

Jackson claims State wins

Jackie Jackson, Grant Hi's splendid sprinter proved to everyone that she is the State's top sprinter. The tiny, 95 pound tiger destroyed the field in Saturday's AAA Track and Field Championship held at Springfield's all weather track. Despite a light downpour Jackie burned the field in both the 100 and 220.

Jackie went undefeated during the regular season in both sprint races, but during the City Track Meet was upset in the 220 causing some people to believe she couldn't double at State.

However, this thought was quickly dismissed as the swift junior completely dominated the field in the 220.

Jackie also ran a strong anchor leg on Grant's winning 400 relay team. After receiving the baton Jackie made up 10 yards to nip Medford at the wire.

Jackie tied Sunset's Terri Wierson as the top point getter for the girls meet by winning two events plus the relay.



Grant junior Jackie Jackson takes first in the 100 meter, followed by Freda Walker of Jefferson who finished fourth.



Sports Talk

Ron Sykes,
Sports Editor

O.K., conceded, now that the Seattle Supersonics will replace the Trailblazers as champions of the NBA. Seattle by taking game three in Landover and leading 2-1 after Sunday's thriller should win their next two at home where they haven't lost in 22 consecutive games. John Owen of the Seattle P.I. who, in my estimation, writes some very objective columns on the Sonics, recently wrote the following: Certainly, nobody is going to accuse Lenny Wilkens of being a fool, so he is hardly going to assure you this morning (Monday morn) that the NBA championship trophy will soon be arriving in the Queen City. And by the time the *Observer* hits the streets Seattle's dream of yesteryear will be a reality. John writes, "Start the celebration and if I'm wrong, sue me." There'll be no lawsuit, for sure.

And if game 3 was the key contest in this championship series (and it was) then Dennis "the menace" Johnson may emerge as the key figure in the play-off, and that is even more preposterous than the concept of a team going from a 5-17 record rallying behind a new coach and riding his vehicle all the way to the top of the NBA.

Dennis Johnson, at 6'4" has certainly emerged as one of the top defensive guards in the NBA. Johnson went head to head with Lionel Hollins, who is probably the top all-around guard in the league, and more than held his own.

Then in the Denver series he completely shut off the human jumping machine, David Thompson.

The Sonic guard may not be solely responsible for the fact that Washington's Kevin Grevey . . . who scored 27 points in the play-off opener . . . hit only one of fourteen shots in Sunday's game. But when a player who opened the season as a forward sees seven shots batted away in one game by a rival guard, his confidence (Grevey's) may suffer just a bit.

But examine further the Grevey-Johnson match up.

A high school All-American out of Hamilton, Ohio, Grevey accepted a scholarship to Kentucky, a school with a basketball reputation and heritage second only to UCLA. And at one time

years ago probably out-ranked UCLA. Grevey was player of the year in the Southeastern Conference as a sophomore, the SEC's leading scorer as a junior, an All-American his senior year and became the Bullets' first-round pick in the 1975 draft.

Dennis Johnson also played a bit of basketball in high school. "A bit" aptly describes it. In his senior season at Dominguez High School in Compton, California, Johnson averaged . . . by his own calculation . . . approximately 90 seconds of playing time and 2.1 ppg.

Obviously, there was no thought of a college scholarship for Johnson.

So what did Johnson do? Well, how about working for \$2.75 an hour as a fork lift operator, and playing basketball in his spare time.

A 5'9" guard in high school, Johnson began to grow as fast as the skills he was acquiring in playground basketball.

His reputation was growing, too, and after a year he was able to turn in the keys to the fork lift, and to accept a scholarship to Harbor JC where, in one game, he scored 39 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and blocked six shots.

Two years later he was playing for Pepperdine's conference championship team, he was 6'4", and had acquired the nickname of "Airplane."

It has been written that the Sonics were able to acquire him after that junior season because Johnson had declared himself in the "hardship" draft.

Actually he wasn't coveted that highly. He was the second player taken by Seattle in the second round and in the NBA's view his status was the same as a graduating senior, because of that year sitting on the fork lift.

At the start of this, his second year, Johnson's statistics were beginning to resemble those at Dominguez High School, up until the day when Wilkens became the coach. Fred Brown was in the midst of an eight-game medical leave due to an injured knee and that certainly influenced Wilkens' decision, to give Johnson a starting role the evening of December 2nd. The Sonics beat the Celtics in Boston, DJ scored 24, and has been a starter since that time.

This transformation mirrors that of his team.



Rhonda Reddit's effort was not good enough as her South Eugene team failed to win in the mile relay.

Byron Howell runs

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) interest, then Byron could probably be a world class sprinter. At 6'3", Howell has tremendous power and long, smooth strides.

Byron Howell just might be the best prep athlete in the state and he's only a sophomore. As a basketball player this year Howell had twelve slam dunks. Byron has played on the varsity since his freshman year.

Howell first competed in track at St. Charles Grade School, and showed enough potential to raise the eyebrows of several high school coaches in the metro area. Young Howell came to Central Catholic after first enrolling at arch rival Jesuit and leaving when Coach Carregan, who recruited him, decided to move on to the Junior college ranks.

During the summer Byron will partici-

pate in the Golden West track meet in California, a meet which annually attracts the top high school spikers in the nation.

Howell, 6'3", sophomore will undoubtedly, if he desires, set many track records in the State of Oregon in the next two years.

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Timbers crush Guatemala team 5 - 0

by Richard O'Toole

Brian Gant, playing at his preferred position of midfield, returned after a three game lay-off to score the first of five goals as the Portland Timbers crushed Deportivo Galcasa of Guatemala in an international exhibition soccer match Saturday.

Timber Coach Don Megson replaced Gant, who had started eight of the first ten games, with Ike Makay before the game with the Cosmos. For the next two games Gant was a spectator.

On this night however Gant was all player as he got the Timbers scoring field started with a header taken from striker Mike Flaters' far post cross at 12:31.

Of the pressure Gant commented, "I felt it a bit. My touch was off because I haven't played recently. I was uncomfortable in the first half. I normally wouldn't think twice about making 20 yard passes. I just do it, but tonight I had to concentrate on everything."

Stu Scullion scored second, taking a volley from Clyde Best and sending a shot to the lower left corner of the net.

Timber Mike Flaters kept the 6,715 fans alive in the second half with two header goals. Both goals were the result of corner kicks. The first from John Bain



Clyde Best vies with opposition for control of the ball.

[Photo: Debra Mishler]

and the second from Elson Seale. Coach Megson had injured Timbers Clive Charles, Willie Anderson and Graham Day take the night off and regulars Clyde Best, Pat Howard, Jimmy Conway and Mick Poole played only the first half.

Playing in front of over 100,000 empty

seats in Pasadenas' Rose Bowl the Timbers defeated the LA Aztecs 4-1 Monday night. Elson Seale sent a cross to Clyde Best at 21:56 for the first goal. Later Seale broke away from defender Colin Clarke, ran 30 yards before sending the Timbers 4th goal past Aztec keeper Bob Rigby.

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