



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

The love affair is over. Bill Walton, Trailblazer center, and this year's MVP has asked Blazer management to be traded and is presently working out a deal with five NBA teams. Walton issued a statement that he would like to play for seven clubs. Five of these clubs were interested, New York Knicks, Philadelphia, Boston, Golden State, and San Diego. With Denver and Los Angeles abrogating on big Bill's services. The Lakers already have the best, and most durable big man in the business so it's understandable why they're not interested. But can't believe the Nuggets are sincere in their statement to abstain in the dollar war for Walton. Denver really doesn't have a legitimate center. Dan Issel, at 6'8", is really just a strong forward.

Why did Walton decide he wants out? It's not his teammates, it's not the Portland area, and it's not the Blazer fans. Bill has said repeatedly, through his advisers, that he's happy with everything but management and there is where all the dissent comes from. Walton, it seems, is upset because he doesn't think Blazer management dealt properly with him concerning his foot injury during the past playoffs.

"They took advantage of my enthusiasm for the game," Walton lamented. Bill believes he never should have been allowed to play against Seattle. That's probably true, but why blame management. It's a known fact that Walton never played with injuries before, even minor ones.

For two years now writers have been writing about the beauty of the Portland franchise, how management always treated the

players with class and dignity. Why, then, are we to believe different? Walton, Scott and John Bassett are telling us to believe.

Walton seems to contradict himself when he states that leaving his team was the toughest decision he's ever faced. If so, then why isn't he concerned with the welfare of his former team?

The 6'11", redhead from UCLA and La Mesa, California, wants the deal to be strictly cash or a draft-choice trade. He wants to make sure the team he goes to doesn't give away too much talent.

A deal such as that would only hurt Portland.

Walton's leaving drew mixed reaction among Blazer fans. "In view of his medical situation and the manner in which the Blazer management howled it boiled down to the question of him over dollars or vice-versa. With as many dollars as Walton has, which choice would you make," said Chuck Hagens, Manager, Portland City Business Center.

Sam Jackson, railcar buyer: "I think it's unfair on Bill's part. He still has a year on his contract plus his option year. Walton is letting others do his talking for him. I really think that Bill is being misled. Also think Bill is out for what he can get. And it's doubtful whether his health will permit him to play. Walton is going to rip someone off."

Bill Walton is going and he wants to win many more championships he says.

That being so, then perhaps he should take another look at Portland. Where he's going he's not going to have a power forward the caliber of Maurice Lucas, and he'll not have the speed and super defensive player of a Lionel Hollins, and won't have the maneuverable forward like Bobby Gross. And last but not least is the one asset that enhances Bill's own ability and that's being surrounded by players with good heads.

Sure Walton can pass and is probably the best in the league at that particular phase of the game. But no matter how great the passer . . . it means nothing, absolutely nothing, if the intended receiver doesn't hold on. And Dave Twardzik has extremely good hands, along with the others. Blazer management has agreed to refund all money toward season tickets if desired. Don't look for long lines to form of those wanting refunds. Without Bill Walton Portland will still be more than competitive. And if compensation for Bill is a good center, then Portland could win another championship. Marvin Webster is still available and would be an excellent selection.

Before Bill goes limping off into the sunset . . . here's hoping he will stop long enough to take his two advisers Jack Scott and John Bassett. Portland can get along without the three of them.



DARRYL MOTLEY

Darryl Motley, ex-Grant hi and all-star outfielder has been moved from Kansas City's rookie league to Port Meyers of the Class A league.

Motley was hitting a league leading .488 at the time of his promotion.

Motley is currently playing both infield and outfield.

Why no Blacks in Oregon golf?

by Bill Schaefer

Ask Dale Johnson, executive director of the Oregon Golf Association, why golf hasn't sparked more interest among Black children and he'll provide the same answer most knowledgeable observers of the sport supply — he doesn't really know.

"I thought ten years ago we would have some Black kids coming up through the junior golf program in Oregon but surprisingly we haven't had any," said Johnson, who is also executive secretary of the Pacific Northwest Professional Golfers Association. "There have been some advances but by nature they still remain closer to sports such as football, baseball and basketball."

The reasons why Blacks failed to establish themselves in golf over the years are no mystery — lack of opportunity, financial outlays beyond their means plus the fact that Blacks were aware they could make more money in other sports.

"It takes so long to learn how to play golf you can understand why a Black athlete would prefer to make his mark as soon as possible," Johnson said. "There have been instances when golfers have become very good at the game when they began when they were already grown ups. But to be great you've got to start when you're a pre-teenager."

Johnson said there have been

several Blacks in the Northwest who, given the opportunity, might have enjoyed successful golfing careers.

"Kelly Stroud, who used to live in Portland, had several kids and all were good athletes and one of his boys was a darn good golfer," Johnson said. "Then there was Bill Wright of Seattle who was the national public links champion years ago. And I guess Shelby Golden, who played about forty or fifty years ago, was just as good as any famous player of that day."

More Blacks might become drawn to golf, Johnson said, if they could be taught earlier in life.

"You've got to learn how to play before you go to college," he said. "That means you have to be taught in high school or even before that but they can't because there are no qualified golf professionals as high school coaches nor will there ever be any."

Johnson continued: "If I were eighteen years old and knew I could make it in football or basketball, I'd prefer to sign a long-term contract rather than take my chances on the tour where I might not make anything. I have no doubts that Elgin Baylor and Julius Erving would have made successful professional golfers. A good athlete is a good athlete. But they knew they could make it right away in pro basketball. This sort of thing is too bad in a way, because we're seeing better athletes all the

Summer games test skills

An innovative test of athletic skills awaits youngsters as first-phase action gets underway in the Wheaties Sports Federations Summer Games competition, scheduled through July and August at locations throughout Oregon, including Portland, and Salem.

The Wheaties Sports Federation Summer Games is innovative in the sense that youngsters are competing against themselves in two distinct phases over a period of several weeks, utilizing skills developed through regular play.

The Summer Games is the only national youth competition program designed by the people who will actually run it. Bruce Jenner, 1976 Olympic Decathlon Champion and chairman of the Wheaties Sports Federation, guided the work of three panels across the country in the development of the program. The panels consisted of representatives from the YMCA, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, National Recreation and Park Association, and various education and local recreation departments.

Entrants are divided into three age groups: 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13. There are ten events, utilizing throwing,

running, jumping and foot/hand coordination skills. From these ten, five to ten are selected for competition by the local supervisor.

The actual competition is held in two phases. Youngsters competing in Phase I will receive an official Wheaties Sports Federation Summer Games iron-on logo, as well as having their score recorded. Then youngsters will have ample opportunity to practice the events before Phase II is held a few weeks later.

After Phase II, the scores of both phases are compared, and awards are given based on the percentage of improvement. Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates are awarded to the three youngsters in each age group who show the most overall improvement from one phase to the next. In addition, special Certificates of Merit are awarded to participants in each age group showing the highest level of improvement for each of the events. All other participants receive a Wheaties Sports Federation Merit Membership Card on which their scores are recorded.

If you would like to enter the Wheaties Sports Federation Summer Games competition contact: Kari Schoessler, N.E. YMCA, 1630 N.E. 38th, 281-1169.

'Hurricane' gets NAACP aid

The Rubin "Hurricane" Carter/John Artis triple murder case, which began twelve years ago and has received international media attention, is now being joined in by the legal office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) under the direction of General Counsel Nathaniel Jones.

"Hurricane" Carter and John Artis now are both serving life sentences for having been named as the killers of a white tavern owner and two patrons in Paterson, New Jersey on June 17, 1966.

The NAACP is taking this opportunity to announce its involvement at the press conference because it believes, after due consideration of the record, and circumstances of the case that the judicial process has been racially infected and, accordingly, the convictions of Carter and Artis arising therefrom.

The Association is concerned that the New Jersey judicial system is not adequately addressing itself to the racial dynamics clearly manifested in this case. Such is reflected in the

recent refusal of the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Courts to even consider a motion addressing itself to serious prosecutorial impropriety in the most recent trial of Carter and Artis. These points will be more fully expanded upon by Mr. Jones and others at the press conference and will be subject of a release over the signature of Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the Association.

The main points of contention in the triple murder case involve:

1. Two white habitual criminals, Alfred Bello and Arthur Dexter Bradley, who initially swore they had seen Carter and Artis — but later recanted their testimony.
2. Two victims with conflicting descriptions of the assailants.
3. The conflicting testimony of an upstairs tenant who had been roused from her sleep by the gunshots.
4. A parade of Black witnesses who corroborated the testimony given by Artis and Carter.
5. The selection of an all-white jury that initially convicted the pair.



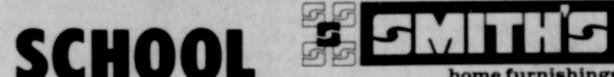
Professional golfer Lee Elder, who captured the \$30,000 first prize at the Greater Milwaukee Open, displays his winning form at the Michelob-Lee Elder Golf Clinic and Exhibition recently at St. Louis' Forest Park Municipal Golf Course.

time in golf and of course Blacks are among them."

Johnson is not overly optimistic about the immediate future of Blacks in golf.

"There are at least 3,000 first class golfers in the United States but only 200 are making a living at it on the tour," he said. "And with the cost of

equipment and greens fees today I don't know if things will get any better soon for Blacks. Now, if the day ever comes that the United States Golf Association allows amateurs to accept expense money you might be looking at a different situation. But I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for something like this to happen."



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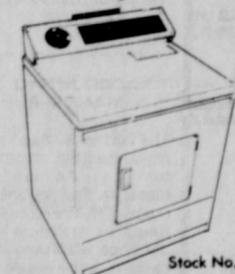
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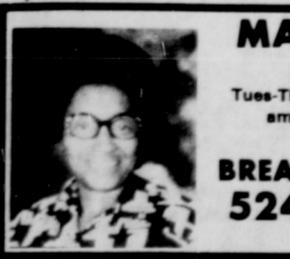
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