



## Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

It's all over and let's allow him to rest. For sure he'll need it over the next seven or eight months to come. Perhaps he (Bill Walton) will find the views better from the Golden State bench. With his record of injuries it's almost certain that the young man will spend considerable time there. So much has been written and said that perhaps it's better to end it here. Finis.

It seems that the sports world is forever faced with lawsuits these days. Athletes are suing owners, agents suing players, players launching countersuits against agents, and players suing players.

One of the saddest has to be the suit of the parents of a boy who they said learned he had terminal cancer while watching a Chicago Cubs baseball game. They filed a \$1 million suit against the team and ABC.

Dwight and Mary Crull, parents of the boy, claim that they still suffer "extreme emotional distress" because ABC sportscaster Keith Jackson announced last August 8th that their twelve year old son Scott, of Calumet City, Illinois, was dying of bone cancer.

The problem is, that the Crull's never told Scott (who died two weeks after hearing Jackson) the nature of his illness or that he was dying.

The incident occurred last year when a friend of the Crull's called the Cub Office and asked if Bobby Murcer could call young Scott to cheer him up.

Bobby Murcer, Cub outfielder, called the young man from Pittsburgh and told him he would try and hit a homer that night for him, the teams front office staff told Jackson of Murcer's talk with Scott in a note that also mentioned the boy

was dying.

Jackson, then reported the entire incident over the air. Upon hearing of his fate, through Jackson, the young kid reportedly suffered great mental anguish, shock and depression and had to be given sedatives to go to sleep.

Most law suits are disturbing and this one particularly so. Keith Jackson has long been recognized as one of the best in his profession and it's particularly sad to see this happen to such an esteemed person. I'm sure Keith has been hurt as much by this unfortunate incident as the boys' parents.

San Francisco's Giants are for real. If you don't believe it ask the Dodgers. After two consecutive weekends of batting between the two clubs the Giants are still leading their division with a 69-49 win-loss record.

The acquisition of Vida Blue, 16-5, and the timely hitting of outfielder Jack Clark has catapulted the lowly Giants to their lofty perch atop the National League's west division.

Blue, the flame throwing south-paw who gained his experience toiling for Oakland's Charlie Finley, has regained his old exuberance and enthusiasm for the game and as he says, "I'm really enjoying the game this year. We don't have the big names and we're not getting the publicity as some teams. We're like a little scooter, we just keep rolling along."

The Giants are my pick for the Cinderella team of the year and have an excellent chance of winning the National League west.

Dear Mr. Sykes,

My congratulations on your observations of August 10th on the Walton affair.

Your thoughts are among the most accurate I've read on this sorry situation.

Particularly, your references to Walton being unable to find a more complimentary player situation anywhere else in the league.

Unfortunately for Bill, the real world has never intruded very far into his consciousness. He was coddled and protected at UCLA, awarded enough money to have security for life when he graduated and has had "advisers" thinking and speaking for him ever since.

Bill Walton is a towering symbol of immaturity, apparently destined to be a thumb-sucker for life. What a waste . . . but I think we'll see that 1977 was the peak of his career and Portland is a better than ever choice to stay in the winning circles of the NBA.

Soon Walton and his parasite pals will realize what they've left behind. Thanks for your insight.

Sincerely,  
Fred L. Delkin, Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
Petzold Associates Inc.



Best does it again! Clyde Best lands a mighty header past Vancouver goalie Phil Parkes to give the Portland Timbers a 1-0 win in last Saturday's playoff game at Civic Stadium against the Vancouver Whitecaps.

## Walton looking for money?

by Bill Schaefer

What I don't understand amidst all the furor surrounding Bill Walton's declaration that he wants to be traded is why so many people don't understand what's going on.

Listen. Walton is in the option year of his contract with the Portland Trailblazers. He wants more money, much more than the Blazers have the resources to offer him. The Golden State Warriors apparently have the money. That's why he'll sign a long-term contract with that team.

All this talk about his disenchantment with the Blazers' management while there may be some validity in it it is a smokescreen for Walton's insistence upon more money. This is why he is being represented by his opportunist agents, Jack Scott and John Bassett.

Walton may be a non-conformist in the way he lives, including the kind of diets he prefers (could his being a vegetarian have something to do with his having brittle bones?) but he can add. If it is true that the Blazers knew he had a broken bone in his foot and kept the truth from him, Walton would certainly have grounds for a negligence suit. But these cases sometimes take years to wind their way through the courts. The easier and most sensible solution is a trade. Walton gets the money he wants and the Blazers escape legal problems.

Walton doesn't care about money, you say? He's got "principles" that supercede materialism, you've read? Sure he does. That's why he's got Scott and Bassett shilling for him. Scott, especially, has a large stake in Walton's future. After all, Walton is Scott's goose that is laying the golden egg. Scott knows that ten percent of a long-term multi-million dollar contract is something to shoot for. Ten percent of an iffy law suit isn't nearly as attractive.

What is amusing in all this is the attitude of many of the Blazer fans. They have been taken in by Walton's expressions of concern for the welfare of the teams he has been dealing with, not to mention his oft-repeated statements of affection for the City of Portland and its fans.

Walton really doesn't give a twit about the other teams and his arrogant refusal to hold any press conferences bespeaks poorly of his feelings toward the fans for whom he professes so much admiration.

Walton, of course, is not the first athlete or sports figure to seek rather devious ways of getting more money nor will he be the last. As a matter of fact Willis Reed, the New York Knicks coach, is in the process of doing basically the same thing. What else can one read into his statement

that if his team didn't land either Walton or Seattle's Marvin Webster he would resign.

With the self-serving public statements of Scott and Bassett flying hither and yon, it's hard not to sympathize with the Blazer management which, because of an agreement with the Walton advisers, has remained silent. I would have felt more comfortable defending management if it hadn't pulled that

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VOLUME III AUGUST 1978 SERIES I

Exodus completed its first certificate training course for its counselors on July 21, 1978. This training provides additional counseling skills to its staff, in order to serve its clientele more consistently.

A similar course will be scheduled for the community at large during the month of October. The course will center around communication linkages between substance abusers, spouse of substance abusers, children who are substance abusers, and parents of children who are substance abusers. This course will be taught at the grass-roots level.

Registration for this course will be published in our September column of the *Portland Observer*.

Our clients thank you for your continued support.