

Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

PORTLAND VS. MILWAUKEE

Rookie standout Mychal Thompson had a less than spectacular game against Milwaukee. Thompson never really seemed to get in the offensive flow. The promising rookie finished with thirteen points and nine rebounds.

Second year guard T.R. Dunn was particularly impressive, hitting seven consecutive jumpers from the twenty foot range.

But the real hero of this game was the redoubtable "Train." In the third period with Portland trailing the visiting Bucks 57-56, Hollins opened up. At 8:02 of the third stanza Hollins hit a jumper at the line, then a fifteen footer in the lane. After T.R. Dunn stole an errant Milwaukee pass, it was Hollins again hitting from the line. In a four minute span Lionel hit five consecutive buckets and dished out two assists on his way to a 25 point night.

"We were passing up too many shots early in our offense," Lionel said, "and I just wanted to get our offense running smoothly." And that he did.

By the way, the Portland vs. Milwaukee game played last Saturday was the club's 64th straight sellout.

With the NBA entering its fourth week of the 78-79 campaign and the Blazers struggling with a less than respectable 3-4 win-loss record it's surprising that talk turns so soon to the annual NBA all-star team selection.

But in case you didn't already know balloting has now begun.

How are all-star game coaches selected? Well, it's determined strictly by the position of the clubs in the regular standings two weeks before the date of the game . . . Sunday, January 21st.

The NBA all-star game will be held

this year at the Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan, the home of the Detroit Pistons, on February 4, 1979, the respective coaches of the Eastern and Western conferences whose teams have the best records at that time will receive the coveted honor.

Last year it was Philadelphia's Billy Cunningham and Portland's Jack Ramsay who masterminded their respective squads.

The East, led by Buffalo's Randy Smith won over Ramsay's West squad 133-125.

The Washington Redskins, after six straight wins, and after losing two in a row, have apparently dumped ex-Notre Dame Quarterback, Joe Theisman in favor of the rotund, aging Billy Kilmer.

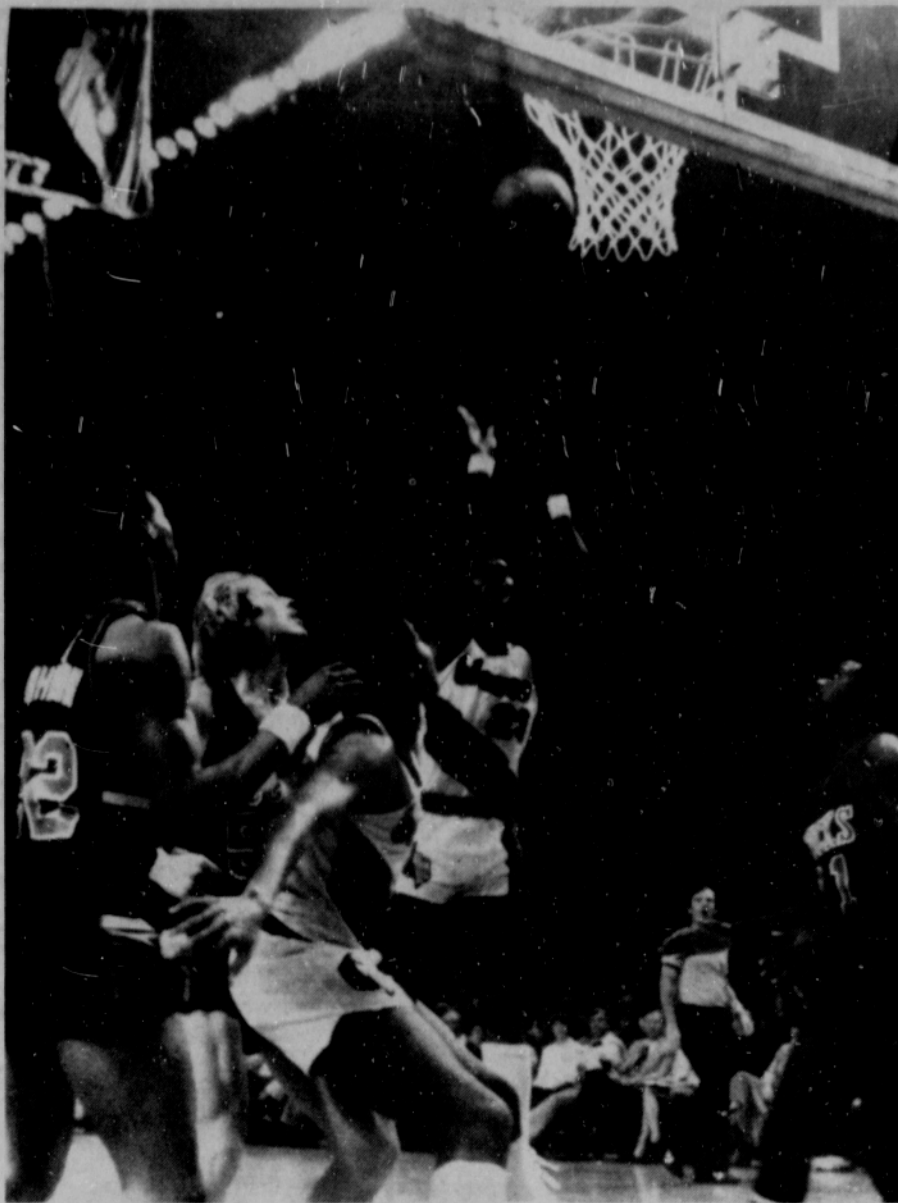
Sure Kilmer led the 'Skins to a victory over the hopeless 49ers, but then with 'Frisco' sporting a 1-7 record and currently last in the league in defense, then I would say that was no monumental feat.

Nevertheless Kilmer has received raves from the media and, although, Theisman is no doubt better . . . look for the aging Kilmer to continue in his starting role.

Hooray for Coach Rich Brooks and his Oregon Ducks who finally after going 0-7, defeated a good WSU team 31-7.

Finally, and not because of this lone win, the Ducks are on the horizon of doing something good. The Ducks are much better than their record would indicate they are, probably, just one year away.

And remember Elston Howard, the New York Yankee's former player and now coach. Well, Ellie has a son Elston Howard Jr. who's playing right field for the University of Alabama and at 6-2 and 215 pounds is said to have a great career ahead of him.



T.R. Dunn (23) evades the Milwaukee defense for an easy bucket. (Photo: Roger Dorband)

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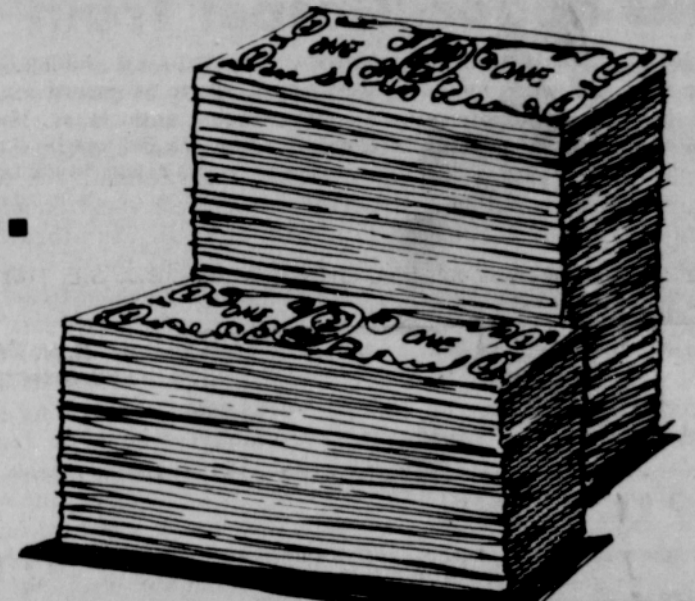
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