



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Title IX, that 1972 bill passed by Congress guaranteeing equal rights to women's athletics is still creating havoc among athletic directors throughout the nation.

University of Oregon has been slapped with a suit by a Salem, Oregon couple who contend that their two daughters, while playing basketball for the lady Ducks, were the victims of discrimination.

They charged that the girls team had to travel by bus, while the men were traveling by plane. The University argument in this case, and a valid one I think, is that the men generate three times the funds that the women do and are therefore entitled to the extra funds going into their program.

Women's basketball is definitely on the rise at U of O but until they're able to pay their way then, perhaps, they should be content to wait. The national women's movement has long fought for their equity in sports. I concur... women should have an equal opportunity to compete on all levels. My belief is that there should be no distinction between men and women on the athletic scene. Schools should offer only basketball, swimming, soccer, etc. and not label them "girls" basketball or "boys" basketball. In essence give both sexes an equal opportunity to make the team.

Using this policy there really would be no need for Title IX, and all would have an equal chance. If a female is fast enough to make the track team then she would make the team and represent the school. Simple as that!

Richard Levin, writing for the *LA Herald Examiner* and who has let it be known that the Lakers would be a better team without the best center in basketball Kareem Abdul-Jabbar says, "If the Lakers are to ever reach (sic) the NBA finals, which they haven't done in six years, they will have to bulk up the front line. It has become clear that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, in the words of a teammate, 'is a scoring center, not a rebounding center.' He needs help on the boards, something he hasn't had since Kermit Washington was traded sixteen months ago."

How long will the LA press continue to place the blame on the broad shoulders of Kareem? Jabbar does it all and gets blamed for the administrative weakness and when will it end? Never.

A power forward, Levin writes, is merely one of the Lakers' requirements. A guard, naturally, is another. The Lakers are drafting number one in this year's NBA draft could use either Sidney Moncrief of Arkansas, or "Magic" Johnson of Michigan State.

Brad Pye, *LA Sentinel*, and my main man believes that despite the need at guard and admitting there's a need at forward thinks if given a chance the Lakers will go for Bird. Reason: "The Bird" has the right paint job and he will immediately become the best white superstar in the NBA since Jerry West. Plus "The Bird" can play.

Pye continues... "The Lakers

and the NBA need a white superstar to help them at the box office, not only at the 'House that Jack built,' but around the league as well."

Perhaps someone told Bob Woolf, Bird's agent and that's why he's asking a cool \$6 million for six years. Supply and demand, as simple as that.

Pye believes, as I do, that "Magic" Johnson is the best all around collegian in the nation, even though he's only a sophomore. And believe me Mr. Johnson, with his charisma, will be no box office slouch.

Judging solely on basketball talent more than a few experts would rate UCLA's David Greenwood and Arkansas's Sidney Moncrief ahead of "The Bird."

Levin, who obviously knows very little about basketball believes LA should re-sign Jamaal Wilkes, who is now a free agent, and had just a super year averaging 18.5 points a game and re-established himself as one of the better small forwards in the game, but strangely, Levin, advocates trading Kareem. "To get back into the play-offs the Lakers needed a dominating center, against Seattle, in the second half from their supposed dominating center to protect a half-time lead." They didn't get it which proves that either: a) Jabbar no longer is capable of dominating a game, or even part of a game; or b) dominating centers in the NBA are as anachronistic as the two hand set shot.

That, in my estimation, is as far from the truth as any journalist could possibly get.

What the LA writer failed to mention is that the Lakers without Jabbar is a very poor team and that Jerry West had to play his big, dominating center every minute of every game. And one should be aware that fatigue does take its toll. If Marvin Webster thinks the New York press to be harsh and cruel then he should only come west to LA and see how inhumane they can be.

The 15th Annual Centennial Invitational was held last Saturday at Centennial High School. The top track athletes from around the state were invited to compete.

The Grant girls team led by Jackie "The Jet" Jackson captured the girls title scoring 68 points. Jackson, last years 100 and 200 meter champion won both sprints. She captured the 100 in 12.0 and the 200 in 24.7.

Grant's girls swept the 100 and turned in a new record for the 400 meter relay.

Bryon Howel, Central Catholic, turned back a strong sprint field to win both the 100 and 200 meters.



Portland Timbers had to rally in the last half to keep their 2-0 lead of the first half. The Timbers defeated the Edmonton Drillers with a 3-2 defeat last Sunday afternoon. The next Timber home game will be Saturday, May 5th against Tulsa, at Civic Stadium, game time 8:00 p.m. (Photo: Debbie Mishler)

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