



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

The Boston Celtics announced both wedding and divorce notices.

Married: Larry Bird to the Boston Celtics on June 8th at the Boston Garden office. Mr. Bird is the former college player of the year from Indiana State. The Boston Celtics are the former NBA Champions and it is their hope that this marriage will restore them to that previous lofty perch.

Bird's dowry is rumored to be in the vicinity of \$650,000 per year. The celebrated bride, Larry Bird, vowed

that he would remain loyal to the Celtics and also promised not to seek dissolution from this nuptial for at least five years.

Divorced: Bob McAdoo, former NBA scoring champ, from the Celtics. With the announcement of the Bird union it is widely believed that 'Big Mac' will get his walking papers. "I just don't know where McAdoo will fit in with this club," said new coach Bill Fitch. McAdoo's alimony from the Celtics will be substantial. It is believed by many that

Bob will receive approximately \$550,000 per year. This alimony will be paid by Boston until McAdoo is united with another mate. There are at least five teams interested in Mac's services.

"Hope" as defined means "a feeling that what is wanted will happen." The Boston Celtics have drafted a "hope" who happens to be "white" and that is what is needed, by Boston. But will what's wanted — a championship — happen? The answer here is no. What is needed in Boston is more than the Bird can give. The Celtics still must acquire a legitimate center. Dave Cowens, was never that, and now with age rapidly catching up on him he appears now to be only a shadow of himself.

Bird, like Cowens, stands only 6'8" and neither can give the team what it really needs. I'm not sure if the highly acclaimed General Manager, Red Auerbach, is all that competent. Sure, we know that "Red" was a good coach but he has yet to prove that ability in his job as General Manager.

Now the real college "player of the year" the 6'8" guard who led Michigan State to the 1979 NCAA Crown, and was drafted and signed #1 by the Lakers, "Magic" Johnson, will make his presence known early in the NBA.

Johnson, the superb super soph, can do it all. And remembering what Dennis Johnson's rebounding and all around game has done for the Sonics, then one just has to wonder what Johnson can do for LA — playing the same role as DJ. That is a guard not only performing in the backcourt but hitting the boards and blocking shots as well.

The Lakers, everybody knows, need rebounding help for Kareem very badly and Earvin could very well fill that need from the guard position. And just think what Jabbar will do with the "Magic" lofting those beautiful passes his way. Norm Nixon, who has probably grown into one of the best NBA guards around will also benefit by the on court presence of "Magic." Nixon, now won't have to be relied on solely to bring the ball down court. Now the speedy, hot shooting, 6'2" product of the streets of New York will be allowed to move down court and also be ready to receive some "magic". Los Angeles should be helped immensely by the "magic" man. The hardship phase of the NBA draft was held Wednesday, but the biggest player has already been plucked... "Magic."

George Scott, hard-hitting first baseman for the Boston Red Sox, and benched in late May has reportedly asked Manager Don Zimmer to "play me or trade me." The 35-year-old Scott was batting a weak .224 for the season before hitting the splendors.

Scott should realize that only 20-year-olds are afforded the luxury of hitting that low and remaining in the Majors.

Or perhaps, Big George should call the 40-year-old "Big Mac" of the San Francisco Giants, who also became glued to the Giant bench after a spectacular season last year. When you're aging you produce, or else, it seems that no one wants to listen and be reminded of all those good years you gave to the club. Oh, well, such is life in the Majors.



The Seattle Sounders were soundly beaten last Saturday night in a 2-1 victory for the Portland Timbers who received the Rose Festival Cup Trophy for their efforts. The next Timber home game will be this Friday, June 15th against Toronto, game time is 8:00 p.m. (Photo: Keith Kvernvik)

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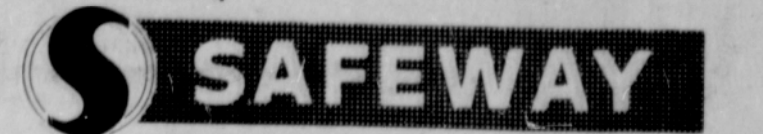


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