Cole quits Harlem Globetrotters

by Ullysses Tucker, Jr.

When the Harlem Globetrotters open the 1979-80 basketball season wit their theme song "Sweet Georgia Brown," one player who will not be clowning, spinning balls on his fingers, and keeping the crowd in laughter is Portland's Ron Cole.

Cole, a 1974 graduate of Jefferson High School, and a member of the Demos state championship team in 1972 said from Matt Dishman Community Center in Northeast that, "obtaining a Master's degree is the most important goal in my life at this moment."

The former All-American (1977-78) at the University of San Diego continued, "I sustained a injury last season that really made me think about the future. I became aware of how insecure I was as an athelete."

Degreeless at the time, Cole decided to return to San Diego where he completed the required courses in summer school and earned a B.S. in Business Administration.

"Going back to get my degree was the best move of my life," said the 24-year-old. "Pursuing a graduate degree will be even a better move."

"Sugah," as he is called by fellow Trotters also said, "Murphy's law says what can go will go wrong, so I want to have education as an ace in the hole, just in case the law tries to get into effect." Cole plans to secure a Masters in 15 months at the University of San Diego.

Last season Cole played in 283 out of 306 games with the Trotters as a rookie while touring the U.S., Spain, France, Denmark, Holland, and

"It's beautiful to receive so much international exposure at such a young age," said Cole. "I learned a lot about other cultures and myself." How do you feel as a role model? "I have to always be conscious because people are always looking at me, especially the youngsters.'

Cole, like many Black athletes,



RON COLE

works out at Matt Dishman Center every day as well as teaching the kids fundamentals about the game.

"I'd like to do great things for the Portland community once I finish my career, because there are so many people who helped me along the way as a youth. I love this city and it'll always be home for me."

Cole says that he has no intention of playing basketball in the NBA, or with the Trotters again after completing his education. "I'll probably go over to France for a few years since I have a good friend Carl Byrd (another former Demo standout who starred at California-Berkeley) is over there."

"Sugah's" advice to youngsters is simple-"If athletics is your thing, do it well but please have something to fall back on just in case that dream doesn't pan out. Don't let athletics use you, use it to travel and go to school free. And stay away from classes like basket weaving-it's too competitive out here in this world," he added.

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Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes Sports Editor

It isn't a question anymore as to which center in the NBA is most valuable. With the commissioned decision on compensation to Portland for losing Bill Walton, the Commissioner has virtually declared no contest between Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Bill Walton. After many months and much frustration Commissioner Larry O'Brien awarded Portland the following: 30-year-old veteran guard Randy Smith, a backup center, Kevin Kunnert and strongman 6'8" forward Kermit Washington, plus a 1980 draft choice. Also San Diego has an option to pull one player back and give the Blazers a 1981 first round choice.

Must believe that San Diego is the When Jabbar decided to leave

Milwaukie for the smog of LA...LA gave the Bucks half a franchise, and all quality players.

Now the trades begin. Don't be surprised to see many new faces on the court wearing the familiar red and black.

It's a known fact that the Blazer organization is peddling Lionel Hollins and Maurice Lucas, their two all-pro players. Jack Ramsay, for some strange reason, prefers Dave Twardzik over the much superior Hollins. Ramsay buildeth and Ramsay destroyeth. It's been said in the past that given time Ramsay would destroy a team. And it appears now that he's well on the way. There will be again this year a good player cut to make room for Larry Steele.

Portland's highly-touted number one draft choice Jim Paxson is on a guaranteed contract and must stick with the team as is Steele.

So now Greg Bunch, Stan Eckwood and Abdul Jeelani, all better than competent player-Steele isn'twill have to scrap for a spot on the roster. Realistically only one will

have any chance of sticking.

Is Spartacade over yet?

Don't give up on the Ducks who lost to a good Michigan State team . Remember they're young and good but prone to a few mistakes. Trailing 20-17 in the third period they allowed MSU to break off a 101 yard kick-off return that broke their backs. Look for Oregon to rebound to beat the highly rated Huskies in Eugene this Saturday.

Whatever happened to Shaler Halimon? Shaler is now working and residing in the Portland area.

My welterweight ratings: 1-tie between Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard; 3-Pipino Cuevas; 4-Wilfredo Benitez; 5-Tommy Hearns. Tommy Hearns, out of Detroit, just may be the best. At 6'1" he poses a real problem to all.

The NCAA All-American baseball team was all white, confirming the belief of many pro scouts that the best Black athletes are directing their attention to other sports. ********

Battle of the Bays...won by Tampa Bay over Green Bay. The Bucaneers, 3-1, on the season easily out distanced the Packers. John McKay is now receiving dividends on his investment in Grambling's exgreat Doug Williams.

If the set shot ever returns, Larry Steele would be all pro.

Crummy-prep-game of the week...Adams vs. Jefferson. Adams after losing 2-0 and Jeff being mauled by a much bigger Oregon City team 41-12, will square off at

Jeff Friday night. Pick the Demos by 35 points.

Adams needs a whole new team, while Jeff could use a few more Pierre Whites, Marshall Haskins and Gerald Jessies. ********

Remember the Saturday night massacre? Well, look for the Blazers to have one shortly after Friday night's opener in Minneapolis.

The best comeback in pro basketball...Lionel Hollins, after suffering a knee injury and a relatively poor season last year.

Guard Stan Eckwood, fast and a good shooter, looks like the sleeper of this year's Blazer squad.

Best inner-city prep running back appears to be Jerome Thompson of Grant, with Jefferson's Pierre White a close second. ********

My pro football ratings: 1. Pittsburgh; 2. Dallas; 3. Miami; 4. Houston; 5. New England.

The Steelers are awesome, they have all the ingredients-defense, offense, speed, power-everything.

Ladies, interested in eight ball? Cleo's offers a tournament every Tuesday evening with prizes and all. Anyone interested should contact Luther Strong, tourney director at 284-7150.





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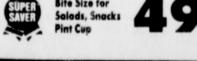
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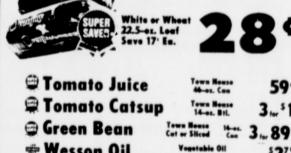
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