



## Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

It turned out Willie Mays got himself all worked up for nothing. The Baseball Hall of Fame had his San Francisco Giants uniform all along and he didn't even know it.

Now Mays is all worked up again because Commissioner Bowie Kuhn has ordered Willie to disassociate himself from baseball due to Mays' signing of a long term contract with Bally Manufacturing Co., a gambling firm located on the East Coast. Mays, a \$50,000 a year public relations man for the Mets, yesterday signed for \$100,000 with Bally.

In the speech inducting the one-time major league great into baseball's Hall of Fame, Mays said, "The Giants/ for whom I played some 20 years, didn't see fit to send me a uniform so I could present it to Hall of Fame officials."

However, after checking, it was found that the Giant organization did indeed send one over, but failed to notify Willie.

The Giant organization would have been terribly remiss not to honor Willie after so many glorious years he gave to the organization.

And it is sorry to see "Mr. Baseball" leaving the game, but as he publicly stated, he has to look out for his family. Enough said.

Speaking further on the Hall of Fame. Until 1971, no players from the old Negro Leagues had been voted into the Cooperstown, N.Y. shrine. Any Blacks who had made the Hall did so strictly on their merits in the major leagues.

As we all know by now, Blacks were barred from participating in the majors until Jackie Robinson appeared in a Dodger uniform in 1947. Dick Young, New York baseball writer, talked to some Black stars including Roy Campanella and decided to form a committee to induct deserving Black players from the Negro

League. Through the work of his committee, nine players were inducted: Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Monte Irvin, Cool Papa Bell, Judy Johnson, Oscar Charleston, Martin Dihigo and Pop Lloyd. Then Commissioner Ford Frick, who founded the Hall, thought those players should not be admitted because no reliable records were kept.

That committee was disbanded in 1977 and the sad part is that there were probably many, many more qualified players that will never get their just dues.

After watching the contributions made by Blacks on this year's World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates it would be hard to imagine baseball without Black players. The Negro stars of old used to tour with major league clubs and they never lost a series. That should very well indicate the kind of talent that was there. I hate to hear that nine players were good enough, and that was it. There were great players in that era and it's a shame that they are gone unnoticed.

Imagine if there was no NFL or NBA open to Black athletes and everyone was focusing on baseball. With today's athletes the talent in baseball would be awesome. And remember that's exactly how it was before Jackie Robinson.

### Suns shine on hot Blazers (Phoenix 89 Portland 88)

What goes up must come down. Davis' shot went up and down and with it came the Blazers' nine game winning streak. So the streak ended with a 20 foot desperation shot by Phoenix forward Walter Davis with no time left on the clock. Sure; Portland had 18 turnovers, which no doubt led to their demise. But got to believe that in this one Dr. Jack was out coached by John McLeod.

Whenever the ball went into the corners the Phoenix guards would immediately trap. This led to numerous Blazer turnovers.

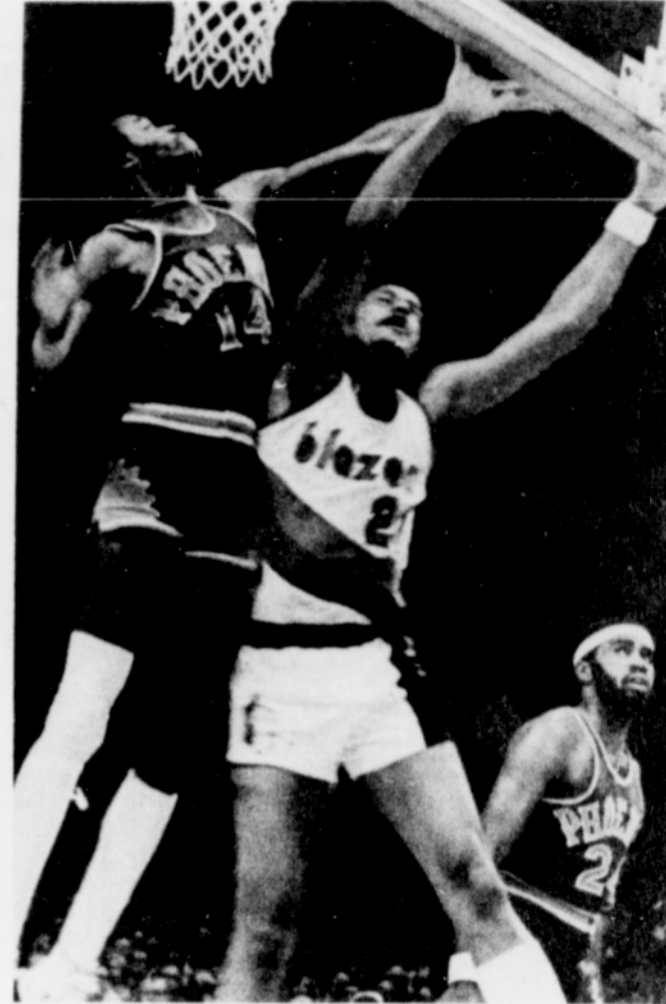
One quick time out should have solved this problem. Secondly, the Blazer guards were not into the offense during the entire first half. The usually reliable Ron Brewer and the steady T.R. Dunn had zero points between them. Then Maurice Lucas Blazer power forward, playing in his second game of the season, was called on for 30 tough minutes. It should be noted that Lucas played well, but was too tired at the end. And as all players know, when your wind is gone then so too is everything else. Down the stretch Maurice was totally ineffective which was Ramsey's fault for not pulling him. When a player is walking up and down the court as Luke did in the final four minutes, then that should serve as a pretty good indicator that something is wrong. Oh, well . . . teams and players have bad days, so coaches shouldn't be exempt.

Kermit Washington again led the Blazers in rebounding, collecting 14 boards. Kermit is a force, and plays with so much enthusiasm. He surely is a delight to watch. Few players rebound as does Kermit. He doesn't just rebound; he rips.

And I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention that "encounter of somekind" that never should have, but did, take place in South Africa. Meaning, of course, the Heavyweight Championship fight (WBA version) between John Tate and South African Coetzee. Tate was the winner of a very dull exhibition. John Tate, in this writer's opinion, could not defeat any of today's top contenders. Or yesterday's either. And remember, as always, this is only "one Black man's opinion."



WALTER DAVIS SHOTS OVER T.R. Dunn.



MAURICE LUCAS goes up strong despite Phoenix defender.  
(Photo: Bob DiFranco)

## T.R. Dunn looks for busy season

by Ulysses Tucker

Back in 1977, the Portland Trailblazers decided to keep promising rookie, T. R. Dunn, over veteran guard Herm Gilliam, who was a key factor in the Blazers winning the N.B.A. title.

Since then, the organization has not regretted its selection although there were times when they wondered about him. The 6'4 guard from the University of Alabama was drafted in the second round, and played in 80 games as a newcomer. He started 15 games behind Hollins, Johnnie D., and Twardzik.

In his first season, "Theodore Roosevelt" averaged 3.8. points per game, grabbed 147 rebounds, blocked 8 shots, dished out 45 assists, shot 417 from the field, .661 from the line, and tallied 768 minutes. The summer after the season he was asked to go to Los Angeles with the rookies to work on his skills. That he did.

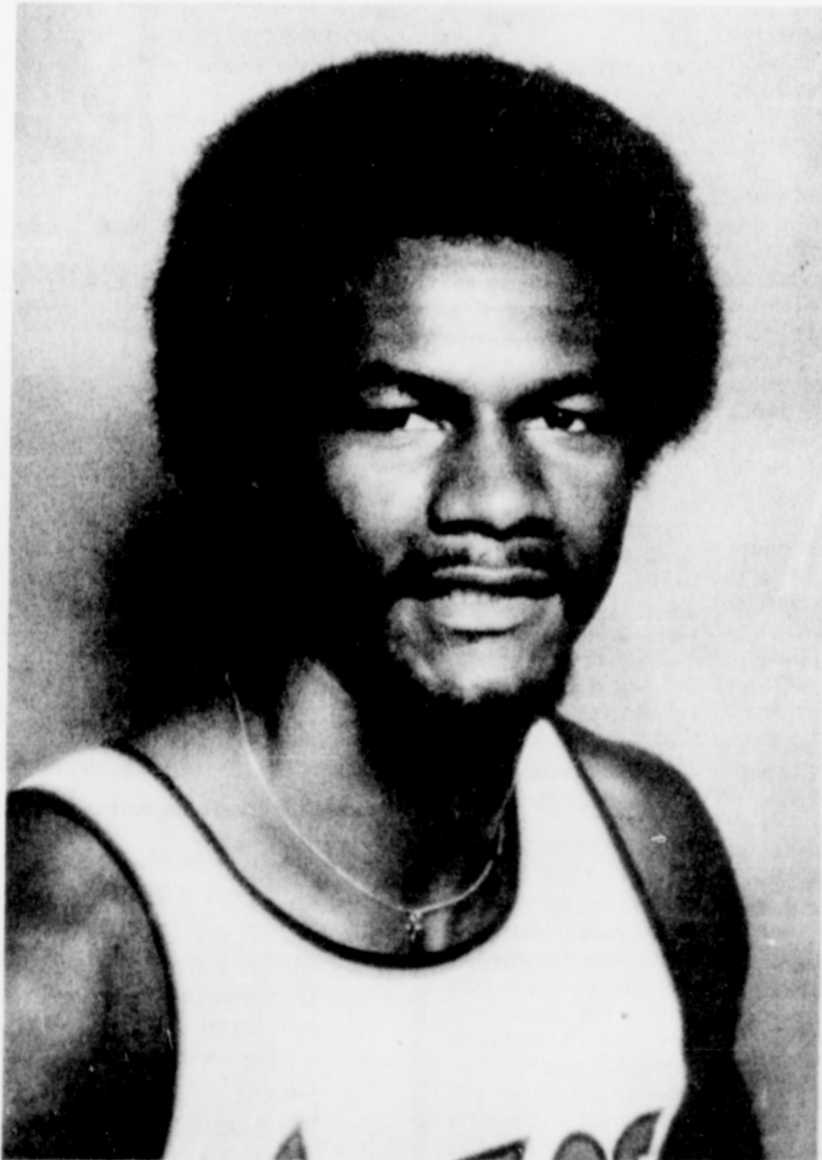
Last season, Dunn scored 7.7 a game, grabbed 344 rebounds; the most by a guard in Blazer history, dished out 103 assist, blocked 23 shots, raised his shooting percentage to .448, and hit a sizzling .772 from the free throw line. He also stole 86 passes, and played 1,828 minutes.

"My game's more refined," he said. "The rough edges are smoother. I've been running the offense fluidly, and I'm more aware of what everybody else on the court is doing now."

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Dunn competed against players in high school like Leon Douglas (Detroit), Reggie King (Kansas City), Leonard Williams (U. of Portland-France) and a host of other fine "Crimson Tide" athletes.

Dunn, an excellent defensive player and a fine rebounder has already snatched 25 offensive rebounds. Against the Golden State Warriors, the Blazers sixth victims, Coach Al Attles said, "I think the Portland guards (Brewer and Dunn) must have played at lot of forward sometime in their life because they're both very good inside." Dunn has played every position on the basketball court.

Jack Ramsey, head coach of the



T. R. DUNN

Blazers said, "with Dunn and Lionel, we might have two of the best defensive guards in the league. Great hands, and great anticipation."

Last week Dunn scored a career high of 23 points, grabbed four rebounds, and had three steals, as the Blazers slipped by the Chicago Bulls 95-93 on a Ron Brewer jumper.

"I was getting some good passes underneath the basket," he said afterwards. "I just so happen to put a few in. I was open a lot in the basket area."

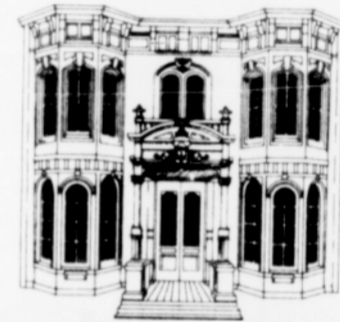
Currently, Dunn is playing about

30 minutes per contest and scoring a shade under twelve points a game. He has also committed only nine turnovers this season. "I don't care if you play five minutes, you don't want to make any mistakes," he said.

With the injury to Dave Twardzik and Lionel Hollins, T.R. will more than likely log a career high in minutes played this season.

Dunn, married and the father of a son, should be called the "Ice Man" instead of George Gervin of San Antonio, he is the ideal role model for a youngster to pattern himself after. "Ice T.?"

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