



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

"Built to stay tough" amply describes Blazer's guard T.R. Dunn. Dunn has got to be the most improved player in the NBA. The muscular former U of Alabama star has been a pillar on offense and a rock on defense.

T.R.'s play against San Diego (23 pts, 7 rebounds) and (San Antonio 14 pts and the key steal) earned him the Observer's player of the week award.

No man is an island, but if one man could be, then, that person on the Blazers would be none other than Kermit Washington. Kermit is a tower of strength and what enthusiasm.

His mere presence on the court demands respect from opposing players. What I'm saying in essence, Washington is a far better player than most fans expected. If Lucas, with his ego problem, is traded, Portland will not miss him as much as most people would expect.

PAC 10 FOOTBALL

Whereas Oegon's Ducks can no longer entertain any Rose Bowl hopes, realistically though it is not in the realm of impossibility that they could end up with a 7-4 record and perhaps be considered for some post season action. With only Stanford, UCLA and Oregon State left, it is not inconceivable that the Ducks could win all three. While on the subject of the Ducks, did you ever wonder how the ducks became the ducks? Until the 1920's the University of Oregon had no athletic mascot. But during that decade, the local media began referring to the UO teams as the "webfoots,"

eventually shorten to "webfoots." The name became official in 1926, when a student body election was held to designate a mascot. "Webfoots" won another election, this one in 1932, to again be named the mascot of the UO teams.

Shortly after that, the name "Ducks" began being substituted for "webfoots," usually in newspaper headlines. "Ducks" now generally is used as the name for Oregon teams. During the 1950's, athletic director Leo Harris arranged with Walt Disney Productions to officially supply the UO with the art-work for the Donald Duck creature, now used as the Oregon Duck. So much for memorabilia.

PAC 10 Predictions; Arizona at San Diego...pick the Wildcats 21-7. Oregon at Stanford. Take the Ducks in a squeaker, score 21-20. The big one for all the marbles, make that Roses, is USC at WASHINGTON. USC is too strong and will dominate the Huskies in Seattle. The score: USC 30, Washington 7. UCLA to bow to the Sun Devils by two TD's at Arizona State. This is no doubt the weakest UCLA team in many years. Look for Terry Donohue, UCLA coach to follow the same path as OSU's Craig Fertig. Oregon State comes off a winner this week, strictly because they have a bye. Take Cal over WSU.

"Too Tall Jones" making his boxing debut, was less than impressive, winning a split decision against a Mexican opponent who had a less than impressive 10-5 record. But before being too harsh on the

cowboy defensive end, we should remember that this was Jones' first pro fight and if not for his glamorous past, would not have been on the tube in the first place, for all the world to see.

Now really, how many fighters does one see on T.V. in their first fight. Not many. Maybe Sugar Ray Leonard and a few others, but they all had prior exposure. In Sugar's case, it was the Olympics serving as his showcase. Speaking of Sugar Ray: Leonard is fighting undefeated welterweight champ Wilfredo Benitez on November 30. Bet on the challenger. This fight will be a great deal better than most people will think. Leonard will win and fight Roberto Duran in June. If you're a betting man, then bet all you can get your hands on, house, car, etc on Leonard.

OBSERVER NBA Top 10

1. Philadelphia
2. Portland
3. Los Angeles
4. Milwaukee
5. Boston
6. Phoenix
7. Atlanta
8. Seattle
9. San Antonio
10. New York

Philly gets the nod strictly on their power. They're playing extremely well, using a line-up with the 6'11 Darryl Dawkins at power forward.

L.A. with magic now helping Kareem is playing tough and steady.

Portland gets the nod as the third best NBA team, because of excellent

team play. Kermit Washington & Keven Kunnert together makes one Bill Walton; an excellent shot blocker, defensive player and rebounder. Collectively, Washington & Kunnert are doing the job.

Milwaukee in the fourth position, is getting tremendous help from their bench. Junior Bridgeman supplies excellent offense at either guard or forward. Richard Washington has helped in a back up role.

Bill Walton remains on the injured reserve list. Look for Portland to maintain three players on the injured list for a good deal of the season. That list now contains Bob Gross, Lionel Hollins and Mychal Thompson. While the Blazer brass ponders as to whom should go, the guess here is that they will maneuver that reserve list as masterfully as Bobby Fisher moves chess pieces. Jim Brewer will be the first to go. Brewer hasn't logged much PT lately and would have to be the most logical, and he will go when Bob Gross is activated.

Next is Abdul Jeelani. Abdul has performed well when given the playing time, but you see in order to keep Jeelani, Portland would have to depart with the insulation Larry Steele, and that probably won't happen. Believe me Portland will never become another Detroit or New York. You see those are the only all Black teams in the NBA. Jeelani will trot slowly into the sunset wondering how did he miss. Simply a choice of color, Abdul. As always this is only one Black man's opinion.



Lonnie Bates was named to Multnomah County Planning Commission, by County Executive, Don Clark. Bates is manager of the First National Bank, Woodstock Branch.

Notice

FILM: Saturday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m. the Albina Branch Library, 3605 N.E. 15th Avenue, will show the film "Zoo" which shows people and animals looking at each other's foibles. The library will also present the Rags and Patches Puppet Theater with Don Dutter and Tony Maynard in the puppet play, "Whos Who at the Zoo." All programs are free. For more information call the North Portland (284-5622) or Albina (287-7147) branch.

The custom of throwing rice at a bride comes from India where it is considered good luck.

The Iceman meets hot Blazers

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

George "The Iceman" Gervin came into last Sunday's contest against the Portland Trailblazers with a 28.0 point scoring average and left with 32 points and six rebounds.

The sad part was the Blazers pulled out a come from behind 127-124 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in overtime, after being behind by as many as ten points in the fourth quarter.

Gervin, known around the league as a scoring machine, has hit double figures in 75 consecutive games and has hit twenty or more points in nine of eleven games. In his last nine games, Gervin has shot .532 from the field.

After scoring 24 points in the first three quarters, Gervin hit only five points in the last quarter and in the overtime. When questioned about the lack of offense down the stretch, Gervin explained:

"Well, I tell you. Sometimes it happens like that. Everything was working fine, just like we wanted, so it wasn't necessary for me to shoot as much as I did in the first three quarters.

"I was looking more for the win and not me putting up a lot of shots," he continued. "I didn't want to try and win it myself. We are a team."

"The Iceman" and his teammate Larry "Dr. K." Kenon were the highest scoring duo in the NBA last season with a 51.7 average per game. They lead again this season with 51.1 points a contest and are shooting a combined .513 from the floor.

Gervin, a native of the Detroit ghetto and a former college star at Eastern Michigan University, spoke on his ability to put the ball through the hoop.

"I can score," he said. "There are times when I have to really get points, it's the key to our offensive attack. Sometimes we can get by without me. Not all the time."

T.R. Dunn, the Blazer defensive specialist, deflected a key pass that enabled Maurice Lucas to tie the game at 116 to force the extra period. He also had a key steal from Gervin in overtime. Dunn said, "I had an awful lot of trouble with George. He was looking to do some scoring tonight. When 'Ice' is hungry it's real difficult to stop him. As a matter of fact, it's hard to stop him anytime."

"George is a real smart player and he moves well without the ball, so we tried to cut off his drives to the hoop. He's a super player," Dunn added.

Ron Brewer also received a taste of



THE ICEMAN IN ACTION

(Photo: Ulysses)

one of the most artistic players in the National Basketball Association.

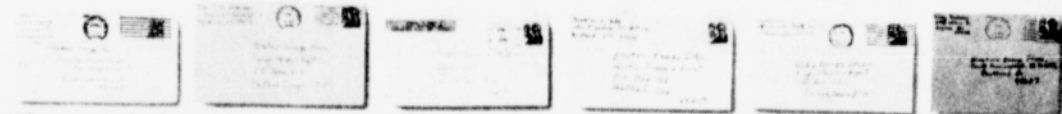
"He's tough, you know that. There is no one individual in the league who can stop him because he has so much individual offensive talents. But if you run two men at him he's less effective."

"We didn't start doing that until the latter part of the game. But then they have so many other players that can hurt you," said Brewer. Brewer scored 21 points and fired a clutch three point bomb in the fourth quarter.

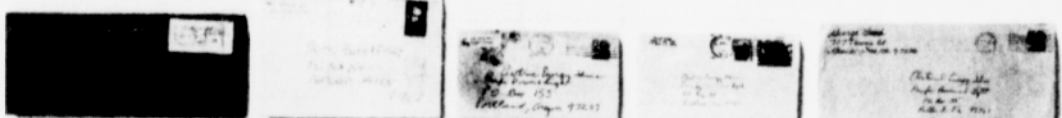
Gervin has a season high of 47 points already this season and is second in scoring behind the league leading Lloyd Free, who is averaging 32.0 points a game. "The Iceman" is the defending scoring champion.

"I'm glad we only come to Portland one time this season," said Gervin. "But you know that old saying don't you?" he asked.

Which one?
"What goes around comes around. We'll see them down in San Antonio," he smiled. Look out Trailblazers. "The Iceman" has plans to put the freeze on you!



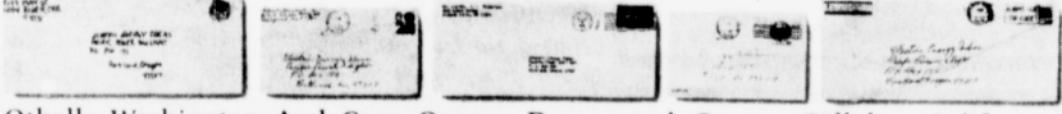
They mailed us idea after idea from Evansville, Wyoming; Eastside, Oregon; Astoria,



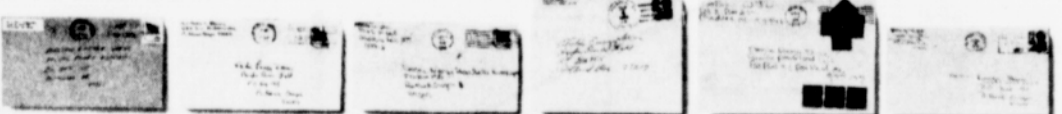
Oregon; Douglas, Wyoming; Eugene, Oregon; Pleasant Hill, Oregon; Burns, Oregon;



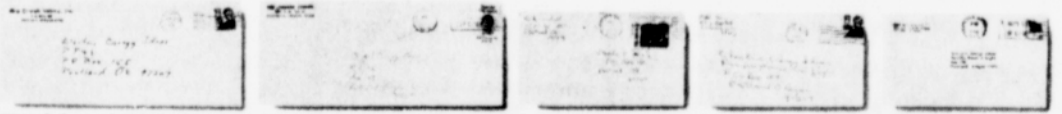
Portland, Oregon; Yakima, Washington; Medford, Oregon; Sunnyside, Washington;



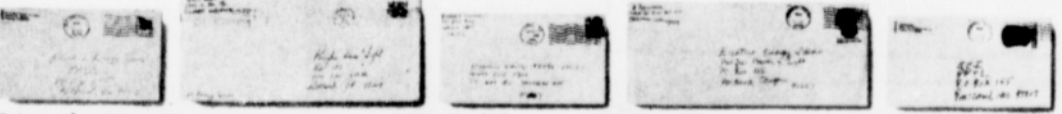
Othello, Washington; Arch Cape, Oregon; Beavercreek, Oregon; Callahan, California;



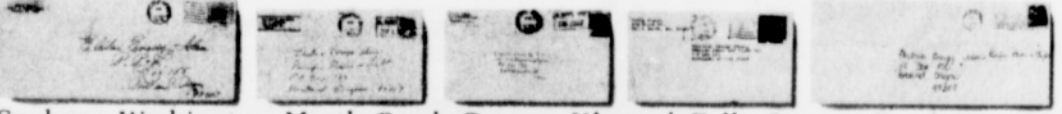
Central Point, Oregon; Caldwell, Idaho; Prineville, Oregon; an entire fourth grade in



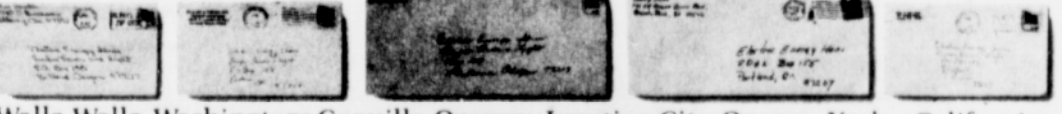
Richland, Washington; a sixth grade in McFadden, Wyoming; Outlook, Washington;



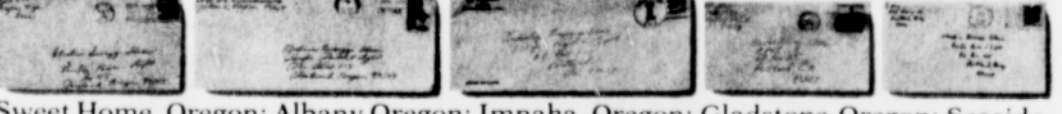
Lincoln City, Oregon; Crescent City, California; Libby, Montana; Grants Pass, Oregon;



Spokane, Washington; Myrtle Creek, Oregon; Klamath Falls, Oregon; Bend, Oregon;



Walla Walla, Washington; Coquille, Oregon; Junction City, Oregon; Yreka, California;



Sweet Home, Oregon; Albany, Oregon; Imnaha, Oregon; Gladstone, Oregon; Seaside,



Oregon; Longview, Washington; Rogue River, Oregon; and on and on.

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