



# Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

"And may the force be with you." Trailblazers downed the hot Super-sonics, winners of 10 of their last 11 games played, 100-95 Sunday night.

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And the "force", Kermit Washington, was his usual powerful self. Called upon by Coach Ramsey to look to score, the usually defense minded Kermit responded with an unusual season high 27 points against the Cleveland Cavaliers along with his usual (17) rebounds.

You can both believe and not believe Washington. Believe him when he says he doesn't have an ego problem, but don't believe a word of it when he says he's not a super star. A force -- Washington is a wonder that one would have to see to believe. But what bugs me is that I've never seen Kermit's name appear on any NBA all-defense team.

With how he plays the game, his enthusiasm, his intensity, along with his tremendous timing, which also makes him an intimidator, then what puzzles me is how this man could be overlooked. Now, I see why San Diego was reluctant to part with the man we now know as "the force."

Abdul Jeelani has the Trailblazers in a quandary. It is expected that all pro guard Lionel Hollins will be activated in the next five days. This means someone will have to go. One quick look at the roster will quickly reveal that there's two rookies holding down spots. First round pick Jim Saxson will certainly stick, for obvious reasons. Jeelani? Well, I'm sure that his performance over the weekend where he scored 20 and 15 points in back to back games proved one thing we all know . . . Abdul can play in the NBA. And it would be much easier for Stu Inman, Blazer MG, to release Jeelani if he would only have a couple of bad ones. However, he just keeps playing better and better. Not only is he scoring but he has improved his overall game tremendously, therefore causing a problem.

Now when a player performs well and you see no ink in the "daily news" about said player, then that's a pretty fair indication that said player is in trouble. Also, keeping in

mind that some players are usually praised while others are not . . . for obvious reasons.

Point in case was this week's games against Phoenix and Cleveland. Abdul Jeelani had an excellent game against Phoenix in a losing cause. Abdul was a bright star hitting 9 of 10 shots from the field and he hawled in 10 boards.

Oh, by now Jeelani will get his dues it was thought, but much to my dismay very little was said about his contribution.

That was puzzling. What was even more mind boggling was the bit written by a Seattle columnist which read: It has been up to Brewer, Twardzik, Owens and Bob Gross to carry the load. Now how could any responsible writer overlook the tremendous contribution of the man we now know as "the force" . . . Kermit Washington. Unbelievable.

Who is the nation's top rated collegiate running back? If your answer is Charles White or Billy Sims, you're wrong.

Perry Harrington, Jackson State's pulverizing All-American is rated the nation's best running back by the professional scouts.

Perry and Larye Harrington (no relation) of Norfolk State, who is rated one of the nation's top five running backs by the scouts, lead a list of some 253 senior football players from America's Black colleges who have been nominated to be voted upon in the selection of the two 41 member squads that will make the East and West squads for the Black College All Star Bowl II, to be played at the New Orleans Superdome on Saturday, January 5th. Black colleges continue to send their share of defensive players and running backs to the pros.

Timmie Newsome of Winston-Salem and George Leonard of Virginia State are two jumbo backs that will play in the Black All-Star Game and both are top pro prospects.

Bush team of the week... Try Seattle's Seahawks. Leading by one touch down with less than five minutes in the game coach Jack Patera called for an on side kick, which the Hawks recovered. Then with little more than 2 minutes and still leading by seven, he called for a fake punt. Bush.



President Jimmy Carter chats with Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Mota after receiving a bat from the all-time pinch hitter at the White House recently. Mota, a native of the Dominican Republic, retired from active playing this season after 18 years in the major leagues and is now a Dodger coach. Standing next to Mota are his son, Jose Manuel, and Joe Gomez, commissioner of the Presidential Executive Exchange Program (far left). Standing in the foreground are other members of Mota's family.

I am stirred, shocked, and extremely happy. The reason for all this, is an article written in Tuesday's Oregonian by Mr. Burt Wright. I have long admired Mr. Wright for his in-depth and tell it like it is approach to things. However, his article on the Laker's Kareem Abdul Jabbar has surpassed all expectations. Black people the world over should salute Mr. Wright for illuminating the unfair thinking by the white press, directed toward Jabbar. "Because of his great ability," Wright says. "Abdul Jabbar often has been the target of various manifestations of racism in cities all over the country, but he refused to dignify it by responding in kind."

Bravo, Mr. Wright, for we've known the true character of Abdul Jabbar all along. It is really heartening that now a white writer has the courage to speak out.

Remember when Dave Cowens walked out on the Celtics in 1976? Wright says, "If Abdul Jabbar had ever done that, he would have been irrevocably branded a quitter and exiled from the game." Amen.

There's no joy in muddsville, or Eugene because the mighty Ducks did strike out, or better yet, were

struck down 35-0 by a sky high bunch from UCLA.

Oregon, favored for the first time in two decades to beat the Bruins, instead fell handily to the invaders from the smogland.

The stage was set for a Duck victory. The tailgaters were there hours before the game, getting themselves prepared for a fun afternoon, and a possible bowl game. The only bowl for this year's Ducks will be the Thanksgiving soup bowl.

Oregon long known for it's kamikaze style of play, were the victims of such play this afternoon. UCLA discovered a weakness in the middle and threw running back after running back, like so many kamikaze pilots, and gained so many yards through the middle, that Brooks, Duck Coach, was wondering if he had a paper thin defensive line. Sure the Ducks were riddled with injuries, and when Vince Goldsmith went down, for sure, then all was lost.

By the beginning of the fourth quarter, 42,111 faithful Ducks fans started waddling toward the exits. Remember...inspite of all, Oregon is still a year away and will be a very good team next year. And as always this is only one Black man's opinion.

## PCC coaches unusual team

There's one Portland Community College basketball team which is far from the ordinary team:

-The team members are all inmates from Multnomah County's three jails.

-One coach, Marvin Kendricks, is a former pro football player and UCLA ALL-American.

-Another coach, Don Lowry, is a former college basketball ALL-American.

-And the manager is B.F. "Bud" Emery, a law enforcement officer of 23 years experience, who is now dean of community services at PCC.

The PCC basketball team, which plays in the City League's C-Division, is part of a new PCC Jail Recreation Program which develops baseball, volleyball, soccer, and basketball programs as well as pool and foosball tournaments for inmates in Rocky Butte, Multnomah County Corrections Institute (MCCI) and Calir Argow Women's Facility.

The jail program, which began last year, is funded by a contract from the Multnomah County Corrections Division with money from the Oregon Community Corrections Act.

"Athletics is a way for people to blow off steam," Kendricks said. He coaches teams part-time and is full-time counselor in the PCC Indo-chinese Program.

"The state penitentiary has always had athletics," Emery added. "They needed it so do the jails. We don't want another Walla Walla."

But the sports program is a lot more than just a chance to blow off steam and get some exercise.

"These are very special people," Kendricks said. "Some inmates feel that they are number two and that they can never be number one. We encourage them to feel good about themselves. We teach them how to play within the rules and how to lose and how to handle losing

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