

Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports editor

Oregon State University's basketball team was ranked fourth this week by Associated Press, their highest ranking ever.

The Beavers, ranked ninth last week, posted road wins over Arizona and Arizona State over the weekend to launch them into their current lofty berth. And isn't it amazing that Coach Ralph Miller is counting heavily on four local products; Ray Blume, Mark Radford, Rob Holbrook and sixth man Jeff Stoutt all played in the Portland area. In fact, it's almost like the state of Oregon against the world.

And Blazermania has been replaced by Beavermania. How quickly they forget. The Beavers can't relax because George Raveling is bringing his red hot Cougars, 14-2, to the Willamette Valley and believe the Cougars will be tough. In fact, some are giving WSU a chance for the PAC-10 title, if OSU should slip down.

Is this finally the year UCLA will be dethroned? However, don't feel sorry for the men from Westwood. All they're doing is playing four freshmen who were first team All-American as preps. The experience will come, but what is really needed is a good big man. But, too, that will also come...next year.

Is boxing in a sorry state of being? We all expected a decline in the heavies when the great Muhammad Ali retired, but what we saw Saturday was ridiculous. Leon Spinks, looking not unlike the Goodyear blimp, was out of shape at 209 pounds, and wasn't very impressive against a Mr. Evangelista, who himself looked more like a baby whale than a professional boxer. Sure Leon eventually took his opponent out, but only after taking considerable punishment himself in the second round. I believe in Leon Spink's case, the young man just achieved too much, too soon. He never realized fully

just what he had, and surely couldn't handle his quick success.

He says he's now training hard but his body surely doesn't show the end result of this so called rigorous training. In boxing you must pay the price if you want to make it to the top. There are no short cuts, and Mr. Spinks is not yet ready to pay the price. One heavyweight that does appear to be ready is Michael Dokes. Remember the brash young amateur that tried to pattern his style like Ali? Well, after a long injury, Dokes is back, and is most impressive. Michael Dokes star is definitely on the horizon.

Blazers are still stumbling and still not playing Abdul Jeelani. The question now is, "has Jack Ramsey got his coaching game together?" Remember that Ramsey builds a team and if his past record is any indication, he will also destroy a franchise. Just food for thought.

Super sunday will prove to be a super yawner. Pittsburgh Steelers

will dominate a Ram team that relies too heavily on the run. Super Bowl 14 will be about as interesting as Ivy League football. In fact, Harvard vs. Yale would probably be a better show. The 9-7 Rams just somehow fails to generate very much interest or enthusiasm.

And it was good to see Roberto Duran, ex-lightweight champion, looking good again. Although he was obviously in against a lesser opponent, Josef Nsubuga of Uganda, and now fighting out of Norway. Nsubuga was game and showed promise, but was obviously not ready for Duran. And it was nice seeing Roberta standing there with arms held high in victory. Hold'em high Roberto for when you finally get your wish and a fight with Leonard, you'll certainly not have reason to celebrate. Sugar Ray is not only going to beat Duran, but will destroy him, and it won't be close. This, however, is one Black man's opinion.

PCC basketball captain thinks pro



When Portland Community College's Cascade Center basketball team captain, Gary Thomas, 22, finishes his third year at PCC this spring he plans to "do whatever I can to make the pros."

Thomas a 6' 7" center who comes to PCC from Lincoln High School, is averaging 20 points per game this season, up from 16 points per game last year.

"I may not make the NBA," Thomas said, "but I want to play anywhere I can. I may have to go overseas someplace with a team. But I am the type of person who, if you just give me a chance, I'll show what I can do. And all I'm looking for is the chance."

Thomas plans to show pro basketball coaches what he can do this summer at a basketball camp in California.

As part of an education course fall term Thomas taught basketball to a women's team at Jefferson High School, an experience which also has Thomas considering

coaching.

Coach John Lee, a former football player, basketball star and basketball coach at Linfield College, said Thomas has brought the PCC team from its beginnings three years ago from "just a mediocre team to one with the chances for a very good season."

The PCC team which plays home games in the gym at the North Portland Cascade Center, 705 N. Killingsworth St., has a 4-2 season, with scores over 100 points in all games. With 12 home games and 4 away games left in the season, Coach Lee said the Cascade Center's team should offer a lot of free sports action for the community.

"People who live nearby like to come over and the team is fun to watch this year," Lee said. "They are an exciting bunch of kids to watch, lots of hustle and fast breaking ball."

Lee said he thought "kids are getting interested in coming to school here because it's close and

because they can play good basketball."

Thomas, who is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Roosevelt Thomas, minister and missionary to the St. Luke Church of God in Christ, 2700 N.E. Summer, said that neighborhood interest in the team helps make the playing more fun this year.

"When the team and everybody knows the game it makes my job a lot easier," Thomas said. He describes himself as a team captain who prefers to say a little and do a lot.

"I'm a real active player," Thomas said. "I love to steal the ball. I dunk. I like to get in the game and make things happen."

Thomas said his close friendship with teammates on and off the court has kept him with the PCC basketball team.

Coach Lee said the PCC team has moved from City League Competition to a schedule with small college junior varsity teams and other community colleges.



Duane Allen, OSU, takes two in Far West Classic match between the Beavers and Brigham Young.

Local youth entertain crowd

The Dunk Kings All Stars delighted basketball fans at the Portland Coliseum during the 1979 Far West Basketball Tournament Dec. 26-29 with a feature halftime lowered hoop dunking exhibition during the Clemson vs. Texas Tech game.

The All Stars from Washington and Oregon received a rousing reception from the near capacity crowd with encore chants of "more and raise it!" with the young

dunkers responding with a full repertoire of spectacular dunks at lowered hoop heights from six feet to an electrifying performance on the arena glass by Keith Washington and Greg West of Benson Tech High School and Jon Anderson of Lebanon, Or.

The Pittman brothers, Tony 14 and Timmy 12, also responded with some excellent dunks. Timmy entertained the crowd with a feature solo and showed the crowd he could get up and should be on the arena glass soon.

Sweeping clean

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

"Last year when I was with Chicago, we swept Portland; now I am in Indiana sweeping them again," said Mickey Johnson, after the Pacers slipped by the Trailblazers 122-118 behind his 31 points and 12 rebounds.

"Over the last few years Mickey has had some of his best games in this Coliseum," said Paul Knauls, owner of Geneva's Food and Drink on North Williams Avenue. "I've always been a fan of his, he can really shoot the ball." Knauls, and his wife Geneva have been avid Blazer fans for years. They represent two of a few Blacks who are season ticket holders. Knauls then enlightened this writer to the fact that Mickey Johnson was drafted by the Blazers in the fourth round of the 1974 college draft, and released after rookie camp.

Also drafted and released that same year was Jan Van Brenda Kalf, currently of the New Jersey Nets. Bill Walton was the number one pick that season for the Blazers.

Johnson, a graduate of little Aurora College in Illinois, signed with the Pacers this past summer as a free agent, after spending four years in Chicago.

"I was more than glad to leave that city," he said. "There was a lot of undue pressure on me from the fans, the coaches, and maybe even from the management. Ed Badger and I got along pretty good until we started to lose games. Coach Larry Costello and I hardly ever communicated with each other. I couldn't believe that they tried to blame me for us losing games. I think they wanted to lower my market value since they knew I wasn't going to sign with them," he continued.

Head Coach of the Pacers, Bob "Slick" Leonard had faith in Johnson's ability as a player. He said, "I found it hard to believe all those rumors about Mickey. I just couldn't buy that. Whenever a team loses in this league, somebody always get the blame. Most of the time, players are the ones who get the beef. Mickey is a good person.

Up to this point, I think he's having his best year in the N.B.A. He gives us a scoring punch from the outside when his shot is on, and he's very quick at 6-foot-9."

Johnson, a native of Chicago, has scored 4,443 points, grabbed 2,970 rebounds, and dished out 862 assist going into his fifth N.B.A. season. Johnson's career scoring average is 13.5 points a game, with his best season coming in 1977-78, when he scored 18.3.

Last season he averaged 15.4 points, and grabbed 7.6 rebounds. Johnson's 380 assist were second best among forwards around the N.B.A. Rick Barry of the Houston Rockets led the league.

Currently, Johnson is firing in points at a 21.1 clip and pulling down only 3.0 rebounds per contest. When questioned about his reputation about not playing any defense, Johnson quickly replied, "I think my D is pretty good. People don't take me to the hoop at will. Everybody in this league gets burned with all the talent on hand. That bum rap was something started in Chicago; you know how the press tries to degrade some athletes."

Johnson continued, "I'm only 27 years old and just moving into the prime of my career. I don't have to prove that I belong in this league anymore. All I have to do is build upon what I've already accomplished. Now that I have the past behind me, I can start devoting myself to the future. I'm very glad that I've found a home with the Pacers; it's a nice organization."

"My advice to youngsters is to obtain a sound education just in case athletics don't go your way," Johnson smiled. "This is a numbers game and everybody can't get lucky."

James Edwards, the 7'1 center for the Pacers who added 35 points against Portland said, "just think...the Blazers had Mickey, Johnny Davis, Corky, Moses Malone, and Bill Walton in the past couple of years. Maybe they've traded away all their good players." Not to mention that they passed him up in the 1977 draft.



LOOK FOR THE BIG "T"
"A Sure Sign of Good Taste"

★ **Wine Cellar** ★
Varietal Wines

Italian
Swiss Colony
Fresh Colombard, Zinfandel, Chenin Blanc,
Cabernet Sauvignon

\$3.19

1 1/2 Liter

Bar-S Extra Lean
Sliced Bacon 12 oz. Pkg. **\$1.08**


Bar-S
Biggie Franks 1-lb. Pkg. **\$1.28**

SE 20th & DIVISION
SE 72nd & FLAVEL
NE 15th & FREMONT
W BURNSIDE at 21st
SAN RAFAEL - 1910 NE 122nd

Forest Grove - 2329 PACIFIC
Oregon City - 878 MOLALLA
Candy - 1051 SW 1st
LLOYD CENTER


14410 SE DIVISION
3956 SE POWELL
NE 74th & GLISAN
HILLSBORO - 960 SE OAK

TRADEWELL



Pacific Power

Citizen of the Week




No more dedicated couple can be found in our community than Reverend John Parker and his wife, Vivian.

Reverend and Mrs. Parker, Founders of Prison Ministries, devotes much of their time to visiting inmates of prisons in the Northwest, as well as weekly visits to Rocky Butte. Aside from counselling and encouraging incarcerated men and women, they assist those who are on parole or are adjusting back into society, and aid prisoner's families.

Their ministry not only helps prisoners and their families, but remind those on the outside of their responsibilities to prisoner-who come from and will return to this community.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Pacific Power