



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports editor

"Please don't include Sidney Wicks or Lloyd Free in the package." Remember those words spoken by Portland's organization during compensation proceedings last summer? Well, Wick's exclusion is easily understood, but didn't understand that statement at the time and surely can't understand it now. All Lloyd has done is kept his team ahead of Portland for a playoff berth, while averaging thirty-two points a game.

And yes, Lloyd has all but refuted the old idea that he can't play in a team concept. Just have to believe that with Lloyd Free, Portland wouldn't be in such a sorry state today.

Not taking anything away from Dave Twardzik, but can't imagine how anyone could think Twardzik is better than Free. Free is 6-2 and still only twenty-five, and has just been named to play in this year's All-Star game. But Lloyd is also quick, agile and can shoot the good outside shot or go to the hoop. Now in contrast, Dave Twardzik is slow afoot, can't shoot at all outside and opposing guards eyes light up when "Pen-ball" takes the court. At 6-0 Twardzik is a liability on defense.

Sure all teams have made some bad trades during their existence, but you have to wonder when a coach tells you a Moses Malone "can't play for my team."

Hindsight again...but just think where Portland would be with Moses instead of Tom Owens. Sure, Owens can score but is not even in Malone's class, and really not in the same class with any starting center in the NBA. What a team needs from it's center is the things Owens cannot provide, and that is rebounding and defense. A center should be able to clog up the middle, Owens cannot. Blazer fans continue to wonder what's happening to their beloved heroes. One needs only to look toward the middle for the answer. A daily check of the stats, except shooting, will show Tom Owen's weaknesses.

And wasn't Kermit Washington taken as trade bait? Where would Portland be now without the fine play of a Kermit Washington. But believe that Kermit, too, would be gone had Maurice Lucas and Mynchal Thompson not been injured.

Whatever happened to ex-Blazer Lloyd Neal? and wonder why Lloyd wasn't offered a job in the Blazer front office? Nobody could have served more faithfully than Lloyd Neal.

Superbowl XIV is finally history. The Pittsburgh Steelers are still supreme, and those thought to be patsies, L.A. Rams, turned out to be true tigers. But, after all, that should have been expected. After all L.A. did have their fold, three former Steeler coaches. Quarterback Terry Bradshaw walked away with the MVP, or should I say, passed his way to win it. My choice, however, goes to wide-receiver John Stallworth.

Oh well, the Rams did surprise even though they eventually lost to the point spread as well as the game.

Washington-Monroe is finally getting their dues for playing good team basketball. Remember though, you read about them first, right here. It was always my belief that John Stilwell would do a great job. And don't believe young Stilwell when he tries to downplay his importance to his team.

John, for sure, is a student of the game, but most of all John, like all the Stilwells, is a humanitarian. And the young men from Washington now are beginning to reap the profits of working with such an individual. John Stilwell has interest in his team, but most of all, he cares for his team...and that means something. Washington-Monroe now stands 9-1 after posting a sorry 4-18 last year. Washington-Monroe at 9-1 appears to have a good shot at going to the boys state tourney.

Oregon State...number two, wow! Ralph Miller's Beavers are behind only Depaul. The Beavers piled up 610 points to jump from fourth, last week, to second this week.

Ralph Miller, OSU coach, has did a brilliant job of recruiting to climb so high, and one of his young recruits is William Brew. Remember the name because this young man can play.

Brew, 6-1 guard, enrolled at Oregon State, a highly touted two-sport star out of Berkeley High School. Williams was a three year

letterman in both basketball and football, and was highly recruited in both sports. He was an all northern California selection in both sports, and turned down offers from Notre Dame, USC, UCLA and Washington in football, to sign with the Beavers...he was also a running back and defensive back.

Brew averaged 13.7 a game as Berkely made it to the tournament of champions in the Oakland Coliseum. He is a fine play-maker and a hard nosed defensive player, and that is exactly what Ralph Miller likes. After Radford and Blume...look for Brew and fellow freshman, Howie Hinchey to continue at guard for OSU.

BLAZER NOTE

Is Jack Ramsey destroying Lionel's confidence? Against Milwaukee Tuesday night, Ramsey chose to bring rookie guard Jim Paxson in as first guard off the bench while former All-pro Lionel Hollins stared in disbelief. Hollins could probably get fairer treatment in the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.



Pittsburgh Steelers get double win

The Pittsburgh Steelers football team won the Super Bowl game and also the heart of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Pittsburgh Steelers Franco Harris (l), all pro running back and Sam Davis (r), all pro guard and co-captain, presented a

\$12,000 check to Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the N.A.A.C.P. The check represented \$500 for life memberships for each of the 24 Black players on the team. Benjamin Hooks came from the east coast to Los Angeles to accept the contribution on the eve of the Super Bowl game.

Hooks said, "Black athletes have done a remarkable job breaking down racial prejudice, discrimination and segregation in this country. The outstanding example of these Black members will have nation-wide attention and we hope that it will spread like fire throughout the land."

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You'll be better for it, too.

5. WE'LL HELP YOU SAVE UP TO \$14,100 FOR COLLEGE.

You can now accumulate money for college while you're still in the Army. This special program is called VEAP, which stands for Veterans' Educational Assistance Program.

If you contribute a certain amount of your Army pay each month toward your education, the government will match your savings two for one. In addition, the Army is currently offering an educational bonus to VEAP participants who qualify and enlist for certain skills.

You could accumulate up to \$14,100 for a four-year enlistment. Up to \$12,100 for a three-year enlistment. And up to \$7,400 for a two-year enlistment. Not a bad way to start college.

6. HAVE YOU EVER FELT REALLY NEEDED? YOU ARE.

As corny as it may sound, Uncle Sam needs you. More than the loading dock needs you, more than the assembly line needs you. Certainly more than the crowd on the corner needs you.

So besides all the reasons for joining the Army listed above—the pay, the bonuses, the travel, the training—maybe you'd just like to experience the pride that comes from being needed, really needed.

Because the Army really needs you. So if you want to serve your country as you serve yourself, see your local Army Representative listed in the Yellow Pages under "Recruiting." Or call the toll-free number below.

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