

# Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports editor



## SHOULD RAMSEY GO?

In the norm of our lives when one becomes ill, a remedy is quickly called for. It's usually in the form of a medical doctor. The Trailblazers, as a team, is deathly ill and help is certainly needed. But please don't send for a doctor. What the Blazers need now is to rid themselves of the doctor, that is Doctor Jack Ramsey. Jack Ramsey has never been able to sustain a successful program. At Philadelphia he built a great team with such stars as Hal Greer, Wilt Chamberlain, Chet Walker, Luke Jackson and Billy Cunningham.

This team compiled a fantastic 68-13 record while winning the NBA championship in 1967. But like Portland, that was only a one time fling with success.

One by one they all had their disagreements, and eventually departed. Now we've all been told how important chemistry means to a team. Then why aren't Ramsey teams able to sustain this much needed chemistry? With all the trade talk going on involving Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins, one just has to know that something is drastically wrong. Maurice, well we can understand his situation because he has asked to leave. Hollins' story is quite different because he hasn't asked to be traded. Then why such stars as Luke and Lionel? Are they

destructive to the team? Have their talents diminished so that they're no longer productive? I say no and believe the problem is Jack Ramsey's ego. Yes E-G-O.

The problem with Dr. Jack is that there's only one way, his way. And that has been a problem wherever he travels.

Now Portland needs Hollins like a locomotive needs railroad tracks. A lead guard of Lionel's caliber is sorely needed and badly missed. Lucas can be replaced by Kermit Washington and the injured Mychal Thompson. But there's no one on the roster to replace Hollins. Too much blame for the Blazer demise are being attributed to Luke and Lionel. Management should take a long look at Dr. Jack and a possible replacement. And that much loved offense of his is really just another form of defense. The Blazers lead the league in defense simply because it takes so long to run through their offense. Ramsey wants to involve all his players in the offense and not get caught relying on just one or two players.

That's fine, except that all players aren't good offensive players, and something is wrong when a good offensive player like Ron Brewer only gets seven or eight shots per game playing within Ramsey's offense. Under another coach Ronnie would

surely average 18-20 shots per game.

And it's still hard to imagine Ramsey not wanting Lloyd Free. What can he see in Jim Paxson as a guard in the NBA and why hasn't Larry Steele been traded? If memory serves me right, he publicly asked as much last year. I didn't hear any reports of management knocking on any doors to accommodate Larry.

O.K. so Hollins is still playing on sore knees. Is that why they're looking to trade "Train"? If so...then why talk of picking up Mitch Kupchak. Kupchak is a good big man but by his own admission is still injured with a herniated disc and is in much worse shape than Hollins.

Luke and Hollins gone. How quickly they forget. Another question to be answered is why Ramsey is getting more of a chance than that given to Lenny Wilkins. Wilkins, at Seattle, has at least shown the ability of keeping his team together. Was Bill Walton really that great? And how about reserve center Jim Brewer lone star? Jim had 17 points and 11 boards. What the stats failed to show was activity. Jim Brewer is a very active player, and does many things that Tom Owens cannot.

Rumor has it that he's again headed down the waiver trail. Too



JACK RAMSEY

bad.

Inner City game of the week  
Grant 84 Washington 81

A tremendous game from start to finish. Reminiscent of the old Willie Stoudamire days when the gym would be filled and packed to the rafters.

Grant with superior talent but was outcoached by John Stilwell and finally prevailed in overtime. The Bruins scratched and clawed and never gave up, finally tied it up when Goliath Yeggins canned one of two free throws with 54 ticks left on the clock. In a losing cause Goliath was a giant. The 6-4 senior dominated inside scoring 31 points, while grabbing 21 rebounds. Last Friday, it was inner city basketball at it's best.

## "Magic" Johnson: In it for the fun

By Ulysses Tucker Jr.

The last rookie to start in a National Basketball Association All-Star game was the "Big O" Oscar Robertson of the old Cincinnati Royals in 1960-61.

Robertson was on hand for the 30th meeting between the East-West superstars and to watch Ervin "Magic" Johnson, the Los Angeles Lakers rookie sensation become the first rookie since himself to start the contest.

The "Big O," who is the second all-time leading scorer in N.B.A. history, and third in field goal percentage helped the West old timers defeat the Eastern old timers in a "Hot Shot Contest."

George "Iceman" Gervin welcomed "Magic" to the affair by pumping in 16 points in the first quarter and finished with 34 points, 10 rebounds and a MVP trophy as the East won 144-136. Johnson finished with only four points.

It's nice to be here as a rookie even though we did not win the game. This was like a relief from the pits of regular season play, but everyone will be serious again this week. Some of the players here I won't see for awhile because we only play them once, so it was good to see some of them," he told the Washington Post afterwards.

One of the most exciting and colorful college athletes in many years, Ervin Johnson was the first player selected in the N.B.A. draft last year. The Lakers obtained the top selection from New Orleans as part of the Gail Goodrich compensation and winning a coin toss with Chicago. "Magic" was the Lakers first number one pick in 19 years.

Johnson, a 6-8 guard out of Michigan State University where he and Greg Kelsey (currently with the Detroit Pistons) led the Spartans to a NCAA championship in 1979 as a sophomore.

Magic was a unanimous All-American selection and MVP of the

N.C.A.A. tournament last season. In the NCAA championship win over Larry Bird, another N.B.A. all-star, Johnson scored 24 points, grabbed 7 rebounds, and dished out five assists.

In 62 college games Johnson averaged 17.1 points, 7 rebounds, and dished out 491 assists for a 7.6 average in two years. Johnson decided to turn professional after his sophomore year at State, having accomplished the primary goal of winning a N.C.A.A. title for the school.

"I tried very hard to give MSU two of the best years of my life. I thought that it was time for a new challenge. The N.B.A. offers that. I probably wouldn't have come out if this team hadn't wanted me. We have the best center in the league in Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and an outstanding organization. If they weren't a team that made the playoffs, I would have stayed at State," he said.

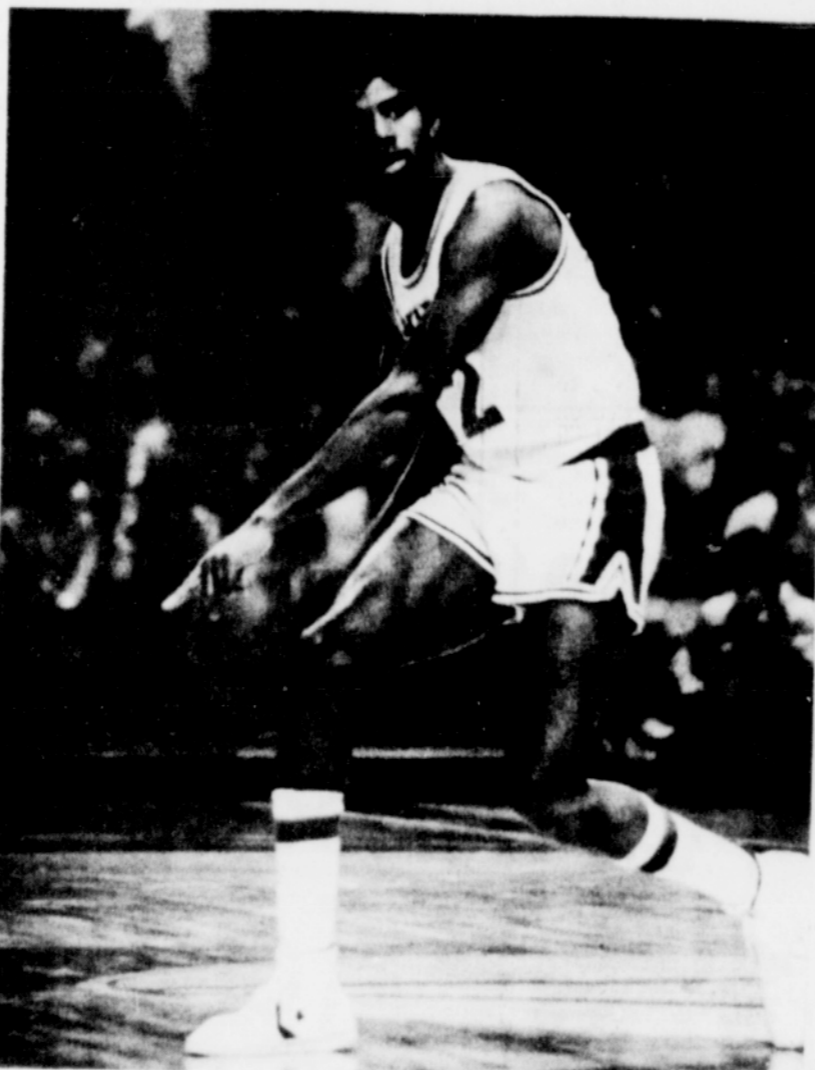
He was tagged with the nickname "Magic" by a sportswriter after he scored 36 points, grabbed 18 rebounds, and had 16 assists in a high school game.

Johnson has been his team's top scorer and rebounder on every team he's been on since the fifth grade at Main Street Elementary School in Lansing; at least until he left Everette High School.

He once scored 48 points in a junior high school game and averaged 35 points, 22 rebounds, shot 52 percent from the field, averaged five steals, and five assists to lead Lansing Everette to a Michigan Class A championship as a senior.

Some critics label Johnson as a "hot dog" or a "show-boater." He calls it a terrible mistake. "Magic" has charisma, style, and just loves to play basketball and let his emotions take him to another spiritual plane.

"I love to have fun," he said with a huge smile. "If I don't; if I'm not laughing and not jumping up and



"MAGIC" JOHNSON

down, you'll know something's wrong. I like to get emotionally involved in basketball."

Johnson has had several chances to jump up and down this season because the Lakers are playing excellent basketball. Currently, he is averaging 18.5 points per game, six rebounds, six assists, and leads the team in steals.

"Magic" is one of the key reasons why the Lakers are 23-8 since December 1st, 1979, and 39-17 overall. The Lakers are to be considered as serious contenders for the N.B.A. title.

"Anybody who judges that guy strictly on physical ability is making the biggest mistake in the world," said Bobby Knight, head basketball coach at Indiana University.

"You judge him in the heart. He does so many things that it is amazing. He is one player who plays strictly for the team. He is one player who thinks of everybody else before he thinks of himself. He makes everyone else around him better," he told the Detroit News. Don Ford, the Lakers four year forward agreed with Bobby Knight.

"All the attention Magic is getting has helped Kareem a great deal," he said. "The crunch isn't all on Kareem's shoulders, so people see more enthusiasm with him. But it's always been there, it's just magnified now. He's taken a lot of pressure off of Norm Nixon and helps everyone to get the shots they like with his great playmaking

abilities."

Johnson then asked, "why should I take a 20-footer when I have a open man under the basket for a lay-up?"

"Magic," a telecommunications major Michigan State had a 2.6 grade point average and promise his mother that he will complete his degree requirements during the summer months.

"Even though I did leave school early, I do know the value of obtaining a sound education. Most people in my position would probably forget about school, but not me. I want a degree because it'll help me after I'm finish with basketball," he said.

## SPORTSQUIZ



BROOKS ROBINSON BEGAN HIS 21 YEAR CAREER IN '55 WITH THE BIRDS. WHO WON THE W.S. THAT YEAR?

- A. GIANTS
- B. YANKS
- C. DODGERS

BROOKS ROBINSON

## American State Bank

"The Bank that integration built"

2737 N.E. Union

282-2216

## RAILROAD DEPOT APPLIANCE SALES

# SILVER SALE

We are repeating our Silver Sale for those of you who had your silver in the bank and were unable to cash in on the great values. So pull out your collection of genuine silver coins and take advantage of fabulous old time prices! Dollars, halves, quarters or dimes! As long as they are U.S. silver minted 1964 and before.

1 week only

The items in this ad can be purchased at these low prices for silver while supply lasts!



17.6 cu. ft. No-Frost Refrigerator-Freezer  
• 2 ice trays • Energy saver switch can help reduce cost of operation • Split level adjustable shelves • Adjustable meat keeper • Automatic ice maker available at extra cost.

\$3300

in silver coin while supply lasts

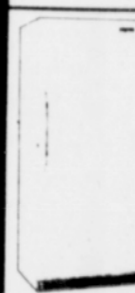
TEKNIKA 19" Diagonal COLOR TV

• Remote control on/off volume and channel selection • 100% solid state • Electronic tuning • Auto color • Walnut grain metal cabinet • Two year parts and labor in home service.



\$3200

in silver coin while supply lasts



Gibson 21.1 cu. ft. UPRIGHT FREEZER

• Inner door liner molded of tough, new ABS material for easier cleaning, greater damage resistance, and stain and odor free • Lock and safety key that pops out into your hand • Defrost water drain

\$2500

in silver coin while supply lasts

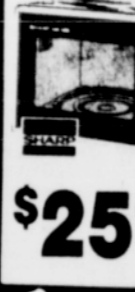
Quasar 12" DIAGONAL B&W TELEVISION

• IF video amplifying system with two integrated circuits • Stabilized power supply • Uses less energy than a 40 watt light bulb • Pineapple yellow, hot fudge white colors



\$600

in silver coin while supply lasts

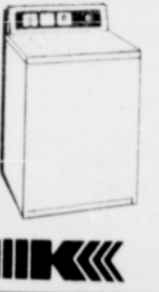


SHARP CAROUSEL MICROWAVE OVEN

• Carousel Turntable • Auto-Touch • Variable Cooking Control • Auto-Start • Digital Clock • Memory Bank

\$2500

in silver coin while supply lasts



KELVINATOR WASHING MACHINE

• Heavy Duty 18 lb. Capacity • 4 Water Temp. Selections • 3 Speed Options • 3 Cycle • Infinite Water Level Control • 2 Year Parts & Labor



\$2000

in silver coin while supply lasts

ALL ITEMS IN THE STORE CAN BE PURCHASED WITH SILVER COIN

## Railroad Depot Appliance Sales

728 N.E. KILLINGSWORTH 284-0906  
HOURS: Weekdays - 9 to 6 Sat. - 10 to 5 Sun. - Noon to 5

No credit cards, no paper money, and no "sandwich" coins minted after 1964 will be accepted toward silver prices in this ad.

- Lean Ground Beef Fresh.....lb. \$1.58
- Arm Chuck Roast U.S.D.A. Choice Beef.....lb. \$1.78
- Cross Rib Roast U.S.D.A. Choice Boneless Beef.....lb. \$1.98
- Beef Stew Meat U.S.D.A. Choice Boneless.....lb. \$1.88
- Pork Spare Ribs Fresh Country Style.....lb. \$1.28
- Pork Loin Chops Fresh.....lb. \$1.58
- Slab Bacon Oregon Chief - Deep Smoked Old Fashioned By the Piece.....lb. 98¢
- Ball Park Franks Hygrade Regular or Beef.....1-lb. pkg. \$1.58 ea.
- American Cheese Kraft Sliced 24-oz. Singles.....ea. \$2.88

## Banquet Meat Pies

Chicken, Turkey, or Beef Frozen

24¢

8 oz. Pkg.

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

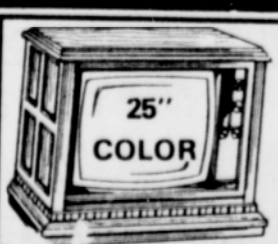
14410 SE DIVISION  
3956 SE POWELL  
NE 74th & GLISAN  
HILLSBORO - 960 SE OAK

# TRADEWELL

ENERGY.  
We can't afford to waste it.

## COMMERCIAL ELECTRONICS INC.

We have portable TV's from \$49 up.



25" COLOR TV, FLOOR MODEL \$99

We also have microwave ovens. Full service warranty on all TV sets sold. Come on by and see us at

8139 Denver 285-1626

We are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day except Sunday.