



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports editor

Kudos to Lionel Hollins and his Philly 76'ers for making my prediction come true. Philadelphia shocked the basketball world by destroying the Celtics, a team who had lost just 16 times during the regular season, four games to two. Philly's playoff record now stands 10-2. While establishing themselves now as possibly the best team. Now there will be arguments from the southland, and rightfully so, for the Lakers are awesome as their 3-1 lead

over the defending World Champions would indicate.

Now what was that Portland's coach Jack Ramsay said about Hollins after Portland gave him away to Philly, "Lionel's playing ability has diminished, and he's not playing like the Lionel of past years." Just wonder if Dr. Jack has bothered to follow Lionel's play since the 76'ers acquired him? All he's done (Hollins) is move right into the starting line up, something

Ramsay wouldn't allow him to do in Portland, for reasons many still can't understand.

But isn't Kareen Abdul Jabbar something else? The Sonics are clustered around Kareen like flies around honey and still are unable to do anything with the man, who is generally recognized as the finest center ever to lace on a pair of sneakers.

Even though the Lakers were my pick all along, but just have to feel sorry for the World Champions, having to give up their home court and playing their games on the neutral HEC Edmundsen Pavilion. Which leads to the question, "what is a HEC Edmundsen Pavilion?"

Well, it's a place where Kareen has to duck in and out of the dressing room, and has a 2 inch clearing in the corridor. It's a place that probably was a major factor in the Sonics third quarter collapse in last Sunday's fourth game.

The Husky media guide tells us that it was completed in 1927, which doesn't make it the most modern facility around. Imagine the Blazers playing at the Lewis & Clark gymnasium for the Western Conference Championship. Strickly bush.

Somehow the NBA should not allow this to happen. It does very little to enhance the league's image. My picks in the NBA playoffs were Philly in the East and Los Angeles out West. With LA the new World Champions. However, things do change and I must admit the play of the 76'ers now gives me reason to do the same. the L.A. - 76'ers series will be good. Philly in a dog fight.

And remember the Sonics last year? Remember, while winning, they were one happy family. Well, during the playoffs, while losing and frustrated, they are now beginning to squabble among themselves and point fingers. After guard Dennis Johnson attempted a behind the

back pass that went astray, he and Paul Silas were seen trotting down court having a heated discussion. By the time you read this column, King Seattle will have abdicated their throne. Who would Philly rather play: "It doesn't matter," said Lionel Hollins. "Probably Seattle because we would have the home court advantage."

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Former Dallas Cowboy player Ed "Too Tall" Jones has announced that he will lay the boxing gloves down and renew his football career. However, he stated that he will not necessarily return to Dallas. Jones now considers himself a free agent. Dallas must now join the bidding wars if they want "Too Tall" back.

Pittsburgh Steeler Theo Bell has been held for court on several sex related charges that stem from allegations that Bell forced a woman to commit a deviate sex act on the stairwell of a motel last week. Bell is the promising young wide receiver who handled kick-off and punt returns for the champion Steelers. Last year Bell's wife was a contestant on the game show "Card Sharks" where she won over \$20,000.

When president Carter decided to boycott the 1980 Olympics, he also dealt a clipping blow to the career of announcer Bryant Gumbel. Gumbel one of TV's most proficient anchors was all set to break through into national prominence with him doing this year's Olympic coverage.

Congrats...to Blazer rookie Calvin Natt on being chosen by NBA coaches for the All-Rookie Team. Natt was joined by Chicago's David Greenwood, New York's Bill Cartwright, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and Larry Bird.

Just have to believe that one was forgotten...Portland's Billy Ray Bates, talent wise, is as good as any. Ask D.J.



JIM CHONES

A community force

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Jim Chones, the 6 foot 10 power forward for the Los Angeles is a rare breed among players in the National Basketball Association.

For the last seven years, Chones has been working closely with handicapped youngsters in general and mentally retarded youths in particular.

Chones commitment to these kids have progressed to the stage where he devotes his off season recruiting retarded children into sports. In 1979, Chones was the honorary coach of the Ohio team in the International Special Olympics.

"Just because a child is mentally retarded does not mean that he or she cannot be a good athlete," Chones said.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from being associated with Special Olympics. They're fun and they keep a balance in my life. I really don't have that much to do during the summer, so why not use the time to do good things? I wish more guys would do it."

Chones left Marquette University

after his second season to join the old American Basketball Association. He played a year with the New York Nets, and the Carolina Cougars.

He joined the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1974 and stayed there five seasons before he was traded to the Lakers for center Dave Robisch.

"It's heaven on earth out here in California," he said. "I'm playing for a good team. They have adjusted to me and I've adjusted to them. But, I still miss my kids in Cleveland."

Chones will continue to live in Ohio during the off season. And as soon as the N.B.A. season ends, he will be back with those kids he loves so very much.

"Their skills are undoubtedly above average," Chones said of his kids in Ohio. "But more importantly, the camaraderie and lively interest in their surroundings are sports dividends that other mentally retarded children and adults can gain as well," he said.

Writer's Note: Special Thanks to Bill Nichols of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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