



Al Attles, Warrior coach, encourages his players during recent game.

Attles: A dedicated warrior

By Ulysses Tucker Jr.

The life expectancy of Black coaches in the NBA is relatively short as in the case of Ray Scott (Detroit), K.C. Jones (Washington), Bill Russell (Boston-Seattle), Wilt Chamberlain (San Diego) and Willis Reed (New York Knicks). Lenny Wilkins was misused in Portland and is now doing an excellent job in Seattle.

Out of all the "brothers" to pilot a professional ball club, Al Attles, head coach and general manager of the Golden State Warriors has lasted a decade. Longer than any coach has lasted in a league where a player/coach could lose a job with a twenty second phone call.

"You got to give credit when it's due," said Attles. "And I have to give credit to club president Franklin Mieuli. He understands some of the things I'd like to do here and Franklin is allowing me to do it my way. I have a great deal of freedom here."

For 19 seasons, both as a player and coach and always as a Warrior, Attles has earned respect with his determination, aggressiveness, and competitive spirit. And, most impressively, through his sense of humor and ability to keep the game in perspective.

As a player, Attles unyielding competitiveness on the floor earned him the nickname, "The Destroyer" which was indicative of his defensive wizardry. Of the more than 1300 who have been active players in the 27 year history of the NBA, only 25 of those players played more minutes than Attles.

Attles played in 712 regular season games and averaged 8.9 points per game. He wore a Warrior

uniform longer than anyone in the Warrior organization. Attles best scoring performance came against the Knicks when he scored 33 points (February 29, 1964) and 17 assists against Cincinnati (February 24, 1968). Al scored 17 points against the Knicks the same night teammate Wilt Chamberlain scored his 100 points.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, and a graduate of North Carolina A&T College in Greensboro, North Carolina, Attles 450 N.B.A. victories rank him in the top three on the all-time list.

Since taking over head coaching duties in 1970, Attles has won a N.B.A. title in 1975-76, two division titles and coached the N.B.A. All-Star Western Conference twice.

What are your expectations of the Warriors now that you have Lloyd Free, Bernard King, and prize rookie Joe Barry Carroll playing for you?

"Unless we learn to share the ball," he laughed, "We won't be good. If you know me, I don't make predictions. I just want to be competitive. Joe Barry will get better when he learns to recognize what he and the players around him can do. Lloyd shot more free throws (800) than our entire team did last season. He also adds the three-point dimension to our attack."

"Bernard is an outstanding player. He can play both forwards and his game is fundamentally sound. He doesn't go between his legs and all that other fancy stuff. I like his game very much," he said.

Attles, the father of two (Alvin II, 15, and Erica, 9) advice to youngsters chasing the dream of playing professional ball is to "have an ace in the hole, the books..."

Chrest visits Nigeria

(Continued from Page 1 Col 3) amendments to the Constitution dealing with the role of Governors in the National Economic Council. They are automatically members of NEC and attempts are being made to expand the membership to others.

Observer: What are some of your immediate contributions to the Legislatures as a result of your visit?

Chrest: Everyone asked us lots of questions about political processes and most of the Legislators wanted us back next year to continue the dialogue. By the way, we reminded the Legislators repeatedly that there are no easy answers to nationhood and we wanted only to share our experiences. We indicated that unlike totalitarianism, democracy is an inefficient form of political process but it leads to more equitable results. One glaring observation to us, is the fact that everybody in Nigeria is in some form of business. It seems like there is some form of Socialism but it will be hard to envision a Soviet-type government.

Observer: What are some of the obvious problems in the society?

Chrest: Large population size in the cities, rampant inflation, due to import restrictions, traffic jams in Lagos and Abeokute, lack of housing in the large cities, lack of waste disposal. I must add that the government is making a great effort to overcome these tremendous problems and only time will tell.

Observer: Was there any reminder of Oregon in Nigeria?

Chrest: Yes. Not far from Lagos, is a cement factory which used to be a subsidiary of Portland Cement Company. It is now under Nigerian ownership and making a good contribution to building projects.

Observer: Any business opportunities for Oregonians?

Chrest: Tremendous opportunities in importing all kinds of manufactured goods. Due to the population drift to the large cities, farms are not being attended to, thus, creating a market for almost all farm products from Oregon. There is a need for setting up factories, however, the government insists on 60% Nigerian partnership arrangements. Lots of people makes for excellent market opportunities. Money to pay for goods is no problem. I cannot understand why with gas costing about 37¢ in Nigeria and with car assembly plants Volkswagen and Toyota, none of the U.S. automakers have rushed into this open market with small cars. It seems very myopic to lose all those cars.

Observer: Recently, Nigerian President Shahu Shagari indicated that he was displeased with the apartheid situation in South Africa and wants the U.S. to use its influences, financial and political to expedite changes or possibly see a reduction in oil export. Do you think, with the ever-present energy problems of this country some foreign policy changes towards this should be envisioned?

Chrest: Yes. I think we need to monitor that situation very carefully.

Observer: What sound advice did you leave the Legislators?

Chrest: Parties should not be specific in the Constitution but allowed to evolve into a few. Amendments should not be rushed into, and in the future, a more general and flexible Constitution should be encouraged to withstand the shocks of democracy.



Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

The Trailblazers are continuing to ignore their number one draft pick and the season opener against Utah is just around the corner.

The Blazers are obviously high on the Ohio product, why else would they draft him so high and continually refer to him as the missing link to their NBA success. "There are two players in the 1980 rookie crop that have made significant contributions; Darrell Griffith of Utah and Kelvin Ransey (Blazers)." If this is true, then why won't they pay the man?

Alan Tothenberg, Blazer attorney has said that the \$400,000 per year Howard Slusher is asking is too much. Slusher has reportedly lowered his request, but Portland has held steadfastly to something like \$200,000. \$200,000 is a good deal of money, but if you had to go into the NBA market today with that amount in your pocket, just what could you expect to buy?

Perhaps you could get Henry Bibby from Philadelphia, maybe

Charlie Scott would come off waivers for that amount, Cleveland would probably give up Austin Carr. So after examining this, one can readily see why Mr. Slusher holds his client in such high esteem. Blazer management, while one of the richest in the league, has developed an image that would put the legendary Scrooge to shame when it comes to paying their players.

It has been reported more than a few times that the Blazer payroll is among the lowest in the league. What puzzles many and continues to bewilder me is how they let Lionel Hollins, who wanted to stay, and is a premier point guard, get away! Hollins, a former All-Pro, asked for \$300,000. Blazer management, and coach Jack Ramsey concurred, believed that price too high. But then turned around and gave Bobby Gross, a non-starter, \$275,000, which led Gross to say, "I must admit this is more than I hoped for."

If Bobby is worth \$275,000 as a part-time player, then Mr. Slusher's argument for Ransey looks awfully strong. Ransey is 21 with no injuries. Bobby is considerably older with a long line of injuries. Now when we look at the differences between Gross and Ransey, we see something other than their size and ability. I hope you see where I'm coming from.

12,666 will always be there. And don't look for anything more than mediocre season from Portland. With a mediocre center, Tom Owens, what more could you expect?

After all the talk last season about Tom's deficiencies at center, who would have believed Portland would be heading into this season with the "no jumping, weak, can't block the middle," Owens? But then who would have believed Jim Paxson would be a starting guard. You see if Owens and Paxson were on the bench, then Billy Bates and Mychal Thompson would be start-

ing and that, my friends, would create a situation that Portland's not ready for: Kermit Washington, Bates, Ron Brewer, Thompson and Calvin Natt. All brothers!!

Don't shed a tear for Muhammad Ali. The man is a living legend with 8 million dollars to deposit, a lovely wife and many years ahead. Forget that he was beaten by the best young heavyweight in the world. Remember that Ali is a three time champ and the "greatest fighter" to walk this earth. Always him as Muhammad Ali, the "Black superman." He really was that.

Ron's Picks

Oregon over California...The Ducks are for real. Super running back Reggie Brown's return should be more than enough. Washington will down the OSU Beavers. USC by 1 1/2 over Arizona. UCLA over Stanford...If Bruins play as they did against Ohio State. John Elway, Stanford's brilliant quarterback can give Bruins fits.

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CHANCES ARE, YOUR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER, COULD BE HEATING MORE THAN YOUR WATER. IT COULD BE HEATING THE AIR AROUND IT. IF HEAT'S ESCAPING, YOUR WATER HEATER MUST USE MORE ENERGY TO HEAT THE WATER, INSIDE. AND SINCE YOUR HOT WATER HEATER, MAY REPRESENT 50 TO 70% OF YOUR MONTHLY POWER BILL, THAT ESCAPING HEAT IS COSTING YOU MONEY. \$\$\$

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- 2. DO-IT-YOURSELF WITH A WATER HEATER WRAP KIT.**
They're available at the hardware store for about \$25.00. And it only takes about an hour to install if you follow the package directions carefully. We recommend a kit with a wrap thickness of 3 inches.
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