

Ron Brewer: Making it in San Antonio

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Well now, Johnny Davis, Clemon Johnson, Maurice Lucas, Lionel Hollins, Moses Malone, Micky Johnson, T.R. Dunn, Keith Herron, Jim Brewer, and Sidney Wicks. What do these names have in common? One guess...

At some point and time in their National Basketball Association career each of the above players belonged to the Portland Trailblazers and are currently making contributions to their perspective teams.

Recently, the Blazers sent "another brother" through its revolving door -- Ron Brewer, the former Arkansas flash was shipped to the San Antonio Spurs for Mike Gale and a first round draft pick in 1982.

Despite Brewer's limited playing time this season, he remained confident, strong internally and played the role that was assigned to him by Jack Ramsey. Brewer's cool head was probably one of the reasons why he did not get traded sooner. If you remember, Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins made their feelings public knowledge; and displayed their attitude overtly...they each went packing, quickly.

"I know it was going to happen sooner or later," said Brewer. "I wasn't doing the team any justice sitting on the bench so the trade was the best thing for me. When my minutes started to decrease, I called my agent and he told me to maintain a level head and be prepared mentally when the coach called on me. "So, I maintained my poise and played my role because I didn't want to get a bad rap around the league for having a attitude problem. I'm not like that at all, but I want to make sure that people's perception about me didn't change. I'm a total team player."

Little do the readers know that Brewer's contract already calling for between \$175,000 and \$215,000 was to end after the 1981-82 season.



Ron Brewer and his coach Jack Ramsey.

With the way Brewer played his first two seasons, he could have easily demanded at least \$300,000 which would have made him the highest paid Blazer. Traditionally, the Blazers do not spend money on players.

The emergence of ex-Maine Lumberjack, Billy Ray Bates, who was signed cheap at \$60,000 a year for four years made Brewer expendable because he had more creative basketball skills and Bates doesn't cost as much as Brewer in the long run. Why keep a highly paid guard when you can pay one less and get more results? And that's not to knock Brewer's basketball

skills...Jim Paxson, who also came through this year, is a permanent fixture and can be viewed in a long term role like that of Larry Steele.

Originally, the Blazers drafted Brewer with the intentions of developing him into a lead guard much like that departed Indiana Pacer guard, Johnny Davis, but the organization realized quickly that Brewer was strictly a second guard. Thus creating a void in the Blazer system that opened the door for rookie Kelvin Ransey, the perfect lead guard. The Blazers have a strong "threesome" in the backcourt in Bates, Ransey and Paxson. But like Harry Glickman said, "I

wouldn't be surprised if Ron comes back to haunt us a couple of times."

Brewer should blend well with the Spurs. He gives them a flexibility that can move "Ice Man" to forward sometimes and Silas and Brewer out top with the rest of the "Bruise Brothers" crashing the boards.

"I know they want me to be a scorer and that's a good feeling," said Brewer. "I'm going to come in and play right away. I've shown what I can do in the past and I know I can still do it. I've never lost confidence in my ability and I know that I can be one of the best in the NBA." Good luck Ron!

The Cinderella Team

By Ronald Sykes, Jr.

What makes a cinderella team? If we were to ask the Cal-State Fullerton and Drake basketball teams perhaps our answer would be that a Cinderella team is comprised of twelve green and yellow-clad players with heart and a quiet, yet forceful, determination to win. Certainly Oregon was favored to get by Cal-State Fullerton, but as the Ducks squeaked passed a very talented Drake University team, we were

reminded of last year's NCAA tournament and the cinderella-like story of UCLA's drive to the championship game. Oregon played with the same intensity of effort that betrayed their real ability and inspired in us, and undoubtedly in themselves, the hope that a once great team has been resurrected, as has been the case with the UCLA team.

If Oregon's performance in this year's Far West Classic does indeed presage the future performance of

the Ducks, then perhaps they are more than just a cinderella team. If not, then at least for a week the Ducks looked like a strong PAC-10 team that cannot be taken lightly by the likes of Oregon State, UCLA, and Arizona State. After all, Oregon does have the nucleus of a strong team. All-tournament selection Mike Clark is a formidable rebounder and proved in the Classic that he can score. Junior guard Barry Walker is a bona-fide floor leader, and the smooth-shooting, poised freshman Fred Cofield will eventually be a big star for Oregon and senior captain Felton Sealey's strong all-around play anchors the Duck team.

Maybe a once great team has not risen again yet, but Oregon did look impressive in the Classic and can potentially finish third in the PAC-10 which, as many fans will note, is no mean feat. Look for an inspired and competitive Oregon team in PAC-10 play this season.

What can be written about the

Oregon State Beavers that has not already been written? They are currently ranked number two in the nation behind a fine DePaul team. This year's Far West Classic not only showcased the great Beaver team but also some fine All-Americans in Danny Vranes of Utah Lewis Lloyd of Drake, and Steve Johnson and Ray Blume of Oregon State. It was indeed a quality Classic. However, the only matter that is open to discussion is why weren't any Oregon State guards selected on the All-tournament team? Neither Blume nor Radford were among the top scorers in the tournament, but how much should individual point totals figure into the selection process. Both guards demonstrated impeccable shooting, near flawless defense and general court excellence. Surely these should be the real criteria for selecting Classic All-stars but this moot point should not take away from the class event that was the 1980 Far West Classic.

Community Calendar

Two Films will be shown on Saturday, January 10, 1981 at 7pm at 4728 NE Union Avenue. The films are, "Potemkin" and "Only the beginning." The price is \$3.00. For more information call 282-5034.

The Northwest Film Study Center and Cablesystems Pacific are pleased to offer Producing for Cable Television, Thursday, Jan. 8 - Mar. 19, 7-10 p.m. ROL Video, 0710 S.W. Bancroft, Portland. Tuition: \$80, \$70 N.W. Film Study Center members. To register, send check or money order to Northwest Film Study Center, 1219 S.W. Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205. Telephone 221-1156 for additional information.

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The Academy Award statue is called an Oscar because the executive director of the Academy once said it looked like her uncle Oscar -- actually a man named Oscar Pierce of Texas.

One U.S. President never went to school -- Andrew Jackson. He was taught to read and write by his wife.

Strangely, the names of almost all of the continents in the world -- Asia, Africa, Antarctica, Australia and Europe -- all end in the same letter with which they begin.

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Tri-County Metropolitan District of Oregon (Tri-Met) that Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) as defined in Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 23, and as it may be explained, shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts.

Tri-Met and any recipient of a contract will ensure that discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, mental or physical handicap, or marital status is prohibited.

The responsibilities and the objectives of the commitment are described in the Tri-Met Minority Business Enterprise procedure, which is available for inspection through the MBE Manager's Office.

To ensure the objectives of this policy, Tri-Met has established an overall goal of 10% MBE and 1% FBE (Female Business Enterprise) participation in construction and consultant contracts; and an overall goal of 6% MBE and 0.5% FBE participation in supplier/vendor contracts.

A description of how the goals were selected is available for inspection during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m.) through the MBE Manager's Office until January 26, 1981.

The public may submit written comments on the goals until February 16, 1981. These comments will be used for informational purposes only and can be sent to Ms. Andrea R. Hollie, Manager, Minority Business Enterprise, Tri-Met, 4012 Southeast 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97202.

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Citizen of the Week

Michael Verbout was born and raised in North Portland, where he attended George Elementary and Roosevelt High School. He earned a bachelor degree in music and a master's in education at Lewis and Clark College.

In college he was voted the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Young Man in Teacher Education.

Music has always been important to Verbout. He grew up playing in Salvation Army bands and has served as bandmaster. He has directed SA summer music camps in Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and British Columbia.

Verbout taught music in many schools in the Portland school district. Currently he is administrative assistant at Beach School.

His community service includes developing educational programs for slow learners; developing a music program with the University of Portland; serving on the Local Alcohol Planning Committee for Multnomah County. He is a member of the NAACP and is a Democratic Party precinct person.

As one who practices his Christian principles, Mike Verbout has provided inspiration for hundreds of Portland's young people.

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