



# Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

"Tiny Archibald just may be small but in Sunday's All-star game played in Cleveland's sparkling new arena, Tiny couldn't have been bigger. The 6-1 Celtic leader scored 9 points, the fewest ever by an MVP, had 10 assists and won on his dominate floor game.

Nate is the key to Boston's success, and just think five years ago, General Managers around the league were writing him off as all through. Archibald at the height of his career suffered back-to-back injuries, one of them a serious archilles tear. Most people would have given up but the little man from the Brooklyn housing projects hung tough and showed what he was made of.

Tiny, on the court, displays confidence, and further shows day in, and day out that if you're good enough, you're big enough. The East let a 105-91 lead slip away and had to survive a three point attempt by Seattle's Jack Sikma to barely escape with a 123-120 win.

The we're No.1 chant has probably rang throughout every college campus in the nation during the course of a football, or basketball season. It seems as though everybody's fans derives some sort of seasoned satisfaction out of sticking a finger, usually the index one, in the air and gleefully exclaiming supremacy for their own. Being No. 1 in basketball is only a mythical achievement that probably does more good than bad. And really now, until the final four is chosen in March, what is it worth?

The Blue Devils were the early choice and coach Ray Meyers admitted that he was relieved when the pressure was off, once they were beaten. And it can wreck a team. Being No.1 means you no longer are satisfied in beating a team. When you're No.1 you have to become cold, allow no mercy, take no prisoners. You must crush the opposition by as many points as possible. How does this affect your team?

Well, it means your starters will

play longer, your young players will miss much needed time on the court.

More often than not, being No. 1 can turn good guys into monsters. It can cause some guys to over estimate their abilities. Take reserve forward Rob Holbrook's reaction to OSU's win over USC. "It was embarrassing, disgusting," Holbrook said in the Beaver lockerroom. Now, this was a fine USC team that OSU should have been glad to beat. But remember when you're No. 1, you seem to lose the proper perspective.

55-48 and OSU were sad, they should consider themselves fortunate because when they journey down south they'll be fortunate to come away with any kind of victory.

After their weekend defeats of UCLA and USC people are calling them inconsistent because of the narrow 7 point victory over SC. When you're 17-0, as the Beavers are, one can hardly call that inconsistent. But I guess those are the perils of being No. 1.



# Dick Bogle

Who will be the next Blazer All-star?

I just finished watching the second half of the annual NBA All-Star game on CBS, and I think the network got so involved in the social aspects of the game that it really didn't do justice to a pretty fair ballgame.

The final score was 123 to 120, a narrow victory for the East team over a West team which had no Portland Trailblazers on its roster. But the CBS broadcast crew continually ignored the very fine play on the floor and gave viewers anecdotes of games past from years past, interviews with celebrities who added little or anything to the actual game and camera cutaways to the crowd during time of some real good action on the floor.

The network treated the game more as a party rather than an athletic event.

It's too bad there weren't any Trailblazers on the West roster. There use to be a league rule making it mandatory that each team have at least one player on the All-star teams. But the rule went out the window this year.

What about next year? Will there be any Blazers represented on the 1981-82 All-star team? Let's hope so. Who would they be? Unless one of two miracles happens, it certainly won't be either one of our centers.

One such miracle would be the

early arrival to the NBA of Virginia sophomore center Ralph Sampson. That would take a whole series of unlikely events. First, the young man would have to change his mind about staying in college and turn hardship. Then a team, which owes Portland a number one draft pick would have to finish last in its conference and then win a coin toss for the first pick. Cleveland does owe us such a pick, but the Cavaliers finishing beneath the New Jersey Nets and the Detroit Pistons is unlikely. But suppose it all happened that way, and the Blazers got to choose Ralph Sampson. Can you imagine the kind of bucks its going to take to sign him? If we thought the negotiations between the Blazers and Kelvin Ransey were agonizing, we "ain't" heard nothing yet. So, it appears to be a waste of time to even think about the talented Sampson playing here unless it's in a Dallas, Detroit or New Jersey uniform.

The only other possible manner in which we could land an All-star center is through a trade. And the chances of that appears to be about as slim as the reunification of the Blazers championship team of 1976-77.

We stand a good chance of landing a forward on next year's All-stars and my guess would be either forward Calvin or big man Mychal Thompson.

Natt has had more than his share of nagging physical aches and pains this year and some difficulty fitting in with the rigid offense of coach Jack Ramsey. But a healthy Natt has a lot going for him. His inside game is amazingly strong for a 6'6 player and his shooting range is wide. One of the things that makes Natt so valuable to Portland is that he likes to play physical and on this year's Blazers that's a rarity.

Thompson, though not nearly as physical as either Natt or Kermit Washington, could become an All-star power forward if Portland lands a tough rebounding intimidating center. Mychal is a good shooter, rebounds well and most of the time is an excellent passer. This season, if played relatively free of injuries, should be his second complete NBA season. Bigger and better things are ahead for the young Bahamian.

Most of the Blazer's depth is at guard where three young men with bright futures holds forth.

The Blazer's key to success is first year playmaker Kelvin Ransey. The rookie can do everything a guard is supposed to do. He moves the ball well, spots the open man and can hit him with a pass, plays good defense and can put the ball in the hole.

I feel it's between him and Mychal Thompson to be the next Blazer All-stars.

## Seek other NBA positions

By Ulyssess Tucker, Jr.

Most Black youths participating on high school/college basketball teams aspire to be like Doctor Erving, Ice Man, Kareem, Magic, and a host of other fine players scattered around the National Basketball Association.

On the other hand, how many aspire to be like Jim Capers, Hue Hollins and Lee Jones -- Who? These men are n.b.a., officials - the men who tell Darryl Dawkins, the massive center for the Philadelphia Seventy-Sixers to "shut-up" or calls the seconds on Portland's Calvin Natt. They are the most feared and respected persons on the basketball court. More important, each man is a positive role model for Blacks in sports to follow.

"I tell kids you can earn good money as a basketball official for working short hours," said John Thompson, the huge basketball coach of Georgetown University and former Boston Celtic.

"But most of them look at me like I'm crazy or something. They

just don't know all their options after basketball is over."

Although there are only twenty-seven regular N.B.A. officials, jobs are readily available on the college and high school level.

Blacks should also aspire to be like Wayne Embry, Simon Gourdine, and Wally Scales -- If you are familiar with the N.B.A., you will know that Embry is the General Manager for the Milwaukee Bucks; Gourdine, the Deputy Commissioner of the N.B.A.; and Scales is the Promotions Director for Portland.

"It's a challenge to come up with new promotional concepts," said Scales. "Once you come up with new concepts then you have to use different marketing techniques to sell them to the general public." Scales is responsible for promoting all the products related to the Blazers.

at New York University says the Black community is partly to blame for Black youths believing sports is the only way to achieve.

"We have to discipline ourselves

and stress more to our youth that they can excel in other fields besides sports," he said. Programs such as the Afro-Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics sponsored nationally by the NAACP and the Urban Legues Career Awareness workshops.

Brown continued, "we can't depend on coaches to monitor the system because many of them are the main beneficiaries. Young athletes have to start looking out for their own best interest. That way, they can only blame themselves for failures. How many guys do you know walking around town without a degree -- talking about how their coach really messed them up? You must look out for yourself."

Georgetown's John Thompson summed up the situation facing Black athletes.

"Guys have got to learn that they can be statisticians, public relations people, trainers, and lawyers in sports," he said. "There are so many other jobs associated with the game that many are unaware of and that's a shame."



## TECH FEVER!!!

A. C. GREEN

Again Chosen

Observer Player of the Week

Senior center, A. C. Green, scored 25 points when the Techmen beat Wilson 72-19 last Friday. He had 37 in an earlier win at Grant.

A.C. continues to impress coaches and fans with his all-around play.

Congratulations A. C.

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