



Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

The Blazers escaped Sunday night's encounter with Kansas City with a lackluster 129-123 win over a road weary King team.

The fans, maybe, were a little upset and they had plenty reasons for being so. On this night the officiating, always bad, was atrocious and sometimes bordered on the ridiculous. As if that wasn't enough already to cope with, the Memorial Coliseum scoreboard decided that it just may as well join the ridiculous by going haywire during the closing moments of the game.

Although Portland won, this night belonged to the Kings Phil Ford. Ford undoubtedly had heard all that good talk about Blazer rookie Kelvin Ransey and from the opening tip, the young man from North Carolina set out to show this brash young rookie from Ohio State, just who is still the best point guard in the NBA.

Ford had a marvelous night hitting for 35 point, 4 steals, and 10 assists. His shots were simply beautiful. He went to the heap, twisting, turning in mid air and seemingly always scoring. Bobby Gross played 39 minutes, scored 17 points, and was "called" a hero by the "other" press.

Now, Billy Ray Bates is probably the most frustrated 76 inch player in

the world. Billy is playing as well as any guard in town, yet doesn't get the playing time he so rightly deserves.

Ramsey plays Billy a maximum of 20-22 minutes per game. And as good a player as Bates should certainly receive more. How Jack can leave Billy on the bench when the game is close is beyond my realm of comprehension. There's no better clutch player on this Blazer team. Ramsey's usage of Billy Ray is simply deplorable, to say the least. Against Kansas City, Bates was 7-10 from the floor, 3 boards and 2 assists. All in just 22 minutes. Bates could be a star in the league but bet that it won't be with Portland.

If Bobby Gross could perform as well as Billy Ray, day in and day out, Bobby would be a starter and MVP of this Blazer team. Is Billy Ray being taken for granted?

"ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE"

This is a must for all Black baseball fans. "Only The Ball Was White" will highlight the legendary talent of the negro baseball leagues and will be shown on Monday, February 16 on Public Television.

Throughout the 1900s, before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1946, Black baseball talent blossomed in the Negro leagues.

Baseball buffs still sing the praises of Josh Gibson who could be counted on to hit 70 home runs a season, and Satchel Paige who pitched over 100 no-hitters in his career.

"Only The Ball Was White" is a 30-minute reminiscence of how grim things were in this country when racial inequality was the status quo.

Black baseball was a haphazardly organized sport until the 1920s when Rube Foster took control. Foster, manager of the Chicago American Giants and Black baseball's founding father, laid the ground work for the Negro National and American leagues.

In those days, baseball was a year-round sport. In the summer, veterans of Black teams crisscrossed the country. They took on all comers, and when given the opportunity to brainstorm with white major league teams, the Black teams usually soundly trounced the men from the higher echelon. Josh Gibson, who died from a stroke at age 35, was the symbol of hidden baseball genius that thrived behind the color line. Called by many the game's greatest hitter, Gibson's baseball skills are enthusiastically attested to by those who played with him. We all know that Ted Williams was the finest recorded hitter of all time, and if Gibson was better than Ted, then all of us certainly were

deprived of a treat. So Monday, February 16 is a day we should all keep in mind, and don't forget to check your local listings.

And a related farewell to super Sidney Wicks. The final curtain rung down on the 6-9, great, formerly of UCLA and the Trailblazers. Sid supplied Black Portland fans with some fond memories both on and off the court.

On the court, Wicks was a much better player than given credit for by the Portland media. Off the court, he was a man, an intelligent man that refused to "kneel" therefore, being labelled "arrogant" by so many pissed white fans. Black Blazer fans loved Sidney for the very things the white fans despised in him.

Wicks was the Black champion opposed to Geoff Petrie the great white hope. Their's was the classic struggle on the court that poured over into the stands. And many a night you could hear supposed Blazer fans shout, "I hate Sidney Wicks." All this for a man who came to play each and every night.

Thanks super Sidney for at that time you were all the Ghetto had to cheer for. And you carried the banner well. Here's hoping that Wicks will resurface again, but if not, we'll remember the goodtimes.

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West #40404

The citizens of Oregon have shown great concern over the issue of prison overcrowding. On one side we have Judge Burns who says that overcrowding in state prisons has reached such proportions as to constitute cruel and unusual punishment. He has ordered the state corrections division to release 750 inmates by March 81.

Prison issues are big in today's news. A federal judge in Texas just issued a two hundred sixty page decision finding the entire Texas Department of Corrections unconstitutional. A prison case in Ohio was recently before the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling in that case was in favor of the state which could have an effect on the case pending here in Oregon. Washington also has problems with its state prison system. There have been three riots in that system in the

last few months. Oregon isn't alone in its prison problems but Justice Requist of the state Supreme Court has temporarily stayed Judge Burns order which gives the Corrections Division a little breathing room.

State Legislators are distressed at the number of prisoners being released and the eventual impact it will have on Oregon communities. Ms. Betty Brown, Chairperson of the Oregon Parole Board said that the board is releasing people that wouldn't otherwise be considered for release. On the other hand, Governor Vic Atiyeh has stated that the people being released are being carefully screened. Robert Watson confirms Atiyeh's statement and has also stated that the methods being used to bring down the prison population are sound corrections policy.

It's very difficult at this point to

say what will be the outcome of the whole scenario. The issues have been so distorted in political humbergging that the relief that prisoners first strived for seems to have been buried beneath editorials, court orders and counter court orders. Every nickel and dime politician in the state is riding on the band wagon. Seeking to make a name for themselves at the expense of incarcerated people. The only valid point in question is whether or not people in prison have the right to adequate rehabilitational programs, adequate living space and an environment free from tension and pressure that results from overcrowding. At one point there were approximately 75 inmates sleeping on the floor, next to an open toilet. The cells in which they were housed were designed for one man's use.

Prison is a difficult experience under the best of conditions. Consequently when men are stocked piled deep in misery the breaking point is quickly reached. Environment is important in all phases of life and prison isn't an exception. If crime is truly on the rise can we afford not to improve our existing correctional facilities.

Social ills are plaguing America. The moral fiber of the country is at its highest low. People just don't believe in the great American dream anymore... "how can they after Vietnam, Watergate and Iran?" If the dream still exist - I submit to you that rehabilitation for convicted

felons is a part of it. America doesn't send its criminals to places like Siberia to die of frostbite and hunger. It doesn't place them before firing squads for execution for minor crimes. America's policy has been one of redemption through rehabilitation. But that hasn't been happening - what has happened is that most law-breakers return to commit greater crimes. They commit these crimes because the criminal mentality is reinforced in prison. Prison is anti-social in nature. It there spawns anti-social creations.

The concept of life, liberty and justice for all is a joke to every prisoners in the country. They have come to realize that they have no rights that need be respected. They understand all to well that for as long as they are confined that they are at the mercy of jailors. Every phase of prison life moves a man further away from humanity. Families desolve, sexual preferences change, hate is a emulated reality inside prison.

So why does the country, why do Americans go through the charade of rehabilitation when punishment is the ultimate goal? Why not just exile us - shoot us - and be done with it? In many ways death would be more humane than this numbing semi-life behind bars. Why tease us with lies and promises of help when the truth is so plain to see?

"Obviously America still wants to be the good guy. Even when it is doing so much wrong!"

KBOO, Portland's independent, non-commercial, listener-supported radio station is staging a basketball game fund-raiser at the Portland Community College Cascade Gym, 705 N. Killingsworth on Sunday, February 22, beginning at 12:30 p.m. KBOO's champion city league team, with the special addition of the "Groove Factor" (KBOO's Essence of Soul, deejay, J.W. Friday?), will meet KQFM's rock and roll squadron led by the big B.A. himself, Bob Anchetta. The cost is only \$1.00. All proceeds benefit KBOO.

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The Urban League Youth Service Center is proud to announce its first Annual Black History Month Celebration which will be held at Martin Luther King School, 4608 N.E. 6th, Saturday, February 21st - 7-9:30 P.M. All are invited to attend. Admission free!

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Morning Worship		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
		Friday	7:30pm
"Showers of Blessings Broadcast"	3:30-4:30	"The Pastor Speaks"	
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YPWW	6:30pm		
Evangelistic Worship	8:00pm	84 NE Killingsworth	
Tuesday Friday	Noon Day Prayer	281-0499	

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