

Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

BYU's Danny Ainge was selected Tuesday as college basketball's "Player of the Year." He flew to New York to accept the Eastman Award that annually typifies an outstanding player. Ainge is good, but "Player of the Year" he certainly was not. Ralph Sampson, Steve Johnson, Rolando Blackmon and scores of other outstanding players must still be shaking their heads at that selection.

Just why was Danny Ainge singled out of thousands of players at the collegiate level? There are two reasons.

The first being he averaged better than 25 points per game, and you know the other one. Just have to believe OSU's Steve Johnson would have been a better pick. Johnson set a national field goal record (74%) breaking former UCLA Bill Walton's (63%) record. Johnson was outstanding and played a much tougher schedule.

And if you're still wondering why the highly acclaimed Mr. Ainge opted for professional baseball over the NBA, then cease wondering.

Ainge is a Mormon right? Didn't he choose lily-white BYU to continue his education? Now examine professional baseball teams as compared to the make up of pro basketball teams. Now, do you get the message? Must admit it's food for thought.

With their 120-111 win at home Tuesday night against the division leading Phoenix Suns, the Portland Trailblazers assured themselves of the home court advantage against whomever, beginning April 3rd. At the moment, there's a three way battle between Houston, Golden State and Kansas City for the last spot. Both Houston and Golden State have 2 home games remaining, while KC has only one. Look for the Blazers to battle the young Warriors in the mini and it will be tough.

Golden State's Bernard King and Lloyd Free can give any team fits on offense, while Joe Barry Carol, cen-

ter and forward Larry Smith, grab all the rebounds in sight.

And then there was one, Indiana. The Hoosiers showed the world that they are the best team in college basketball for the 1980-81 season, anyway. While some around the USA felt this game should not have been played due to the tragedy of the day...the Hoosiers simply showed why it should go on. This was a good Indiana team led by a great little guard Isiah Thomas.

Thomas scored 23 points but it was his defense that turned the game around for coach Bobby Knight's crew. Isiah, with his boyish looks, will be a much sought after young man in two years when he becomes available to play for pay. He is not unlike Portland's Melvin Ransey. And believe there will be no "hardship" for this young man because Bobby Knight just wouldn't stand for it. Indiana players usually stay four years and earn a degree.

The classic big-10 vs. ACC struggle didn't develop, this one was all Big-10. Any my vote still goes to the Big-10 as the premier basketball conference in the land.

And wasn't Billy Ray wonderful in his two starting roles? It's amazing what playing time can do for one's confidence. Did you hear that George Speller? Bates not only scored, getting a career high 40 points against Dallas, but played a

good overall game. "Billy played good defense, passed well and hit the open man," said a reluctant Jack Ramsay. Bates, as I've said all along, would be spectacular with more minutes, right on George Speller. Mr. Speller, better know to Cleo's crowd as Jr., can't see Billy as anything but a spot player. Billy is a complete player now, and those defensive deficiencies you hear about are just so much media interference.

The Blazers are playing well together now and could surprise a few people. Look for them to beat Kansas City in three. They will take Phoenix in 6 and succumb to the Lakers. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is just too much.

Mr. Speller sees Billy Ray in the same role as John Havlicek of the old Boston Celtics. But not true because Havlicek didn't start the game but he sure as heck was out there at the finish and Big John averaged 30 minutes a game. A far cry from the 16 that Billy Ray averages. And believe me, Mr. Speller, playing time does make a difference. Just had to wonder what coach Ramsay meant when he pulled Billy after 4 minutes and said, "Billy was ineffective tonight, so I pulled him." How terrible it must be to know that if you make one mistake in four minutes that the hook will come.

Farrakhan admonishes press

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

At a recent Communications Conference in Washington, D.C., Minister Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the reborn Nation of Islam delivered a "spirit shaking" speech aimed at the largest gathering of Black communicators in the Nation. He was highly critical.

"Some of our communicators have become power drunk. They're using white folks power with white

folks authority and are tools of the system that is destroying the Black family.

A student of the late Elijah Muhammad, Minister Farrakhan said that Blacks working in the media should look at their jobs like a social mission and dedicate themselves to the liberation of Black people.

"You have a job, a powerful mission and you must not be afraid in doing your job of telling it like it is. You've got to be willing to lose your life to communicate right for our people. Use the media wherever you are, to communicate proper values to our people."

Farrakhan, a highly articulate and powerful orator told those gathered that they should not let fear for their jobs rule the decision they make or coverage of news events.

"To be a communicator today is a great burden and responsibility. It's a form of power that must be properly used or it will be abused. The American media is feeding a decadent, sick unnatural world that focuses on unnatural things rather than things that are in the natural order.

Farrakhan refused to comment on the rebirth of the once powerful Nation of Islam because he knew how the media functioned to destroy.

"I understand and respect the power of the media. Your editors want bloodshed and confusion, they want to pit one brother against another."

During the course of his speech, Farrakhan talked about sorry Black leaders, the U.S. Government, Black scholars, Black communicators who have sold out, and the patterns of violence that are threatening Blacks nationwide. The Nation of Islam urged Black communicators to renew their commitment to their race and take the responsibility of protecting Black life.

"T.V. has the capacity to do great good but it does the opposite because of the greed of those who run it," he said.

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Martha McCoy is a Freshman at Oregon State University majoring in Building Construction Management. As a senior at Wilson High School, she was the first woman enrolled in Portland Community College's Building Construction Program.

She was Sophomore Class Treasurer, served three years on the School Advisory Committee. She was a member of Varsity Spring Rally her senior year. Her hobbies include sports and reading.

Martha is the daughter of Senator and Mrs. Bill McCoy.

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