



Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Another one bites the dust. Maury Wills, longtime Dodger great, was fired a week ago by the Seattle Mariners. Wills, one of two Black managers operating in the major leagues, had a 6-18 record this season. "Wills was given ample opportunity," said Don O'Brien Seattle's General Manager. No way.

Maury Wills took over last August 4th and Billy Martin, Dick Howser or Jim Frey could win with the talent given to Maury Wills to manage. O'Brien claimed that Wills didn't have the club going in the right direction. True. Reaching this sorry array of talent to win ball games would be as easy as teaching a herd of elephants to ballet. No matter what is said, Black managers must produce miracles right away or else face the ax. Maury is gone and one has to wonder how long before San Francisco's Frank Robinson will follow. White baseball managers go from club to club, but Blacks seldom re-surface once they are given one chance.

Seattle fired the wrong person. Why wasn't the General Manager fired? This franchise got started all wrong. Someone in the hierarchy

thought the Kingdome would be much the same as the Astrodome in Houston. So they went out and got speedy players who could pop the ball through the infield for base hits. However, they were wrong. Seattle's Kingdome is just the opposite. Balls fly out of there with the greatest of ease. Each year more home-runs are hit in the Kingdome than any other stadium. And Seattle management built their club around singles hitters. Now who's to play for that colossal mistake? You guessed it. Maury Wills. All Maury asked upon accepting the job was a chance. That's one thing he never received.

They came, they saw and they conquered. One by one they arrived like so many gun fighters from the wild, wild west. Only this time, they carried pool cues instead of six shooters. But the end results were the same. It was a giant shootout much like that of the O.K. Corral battle.

This one, however, was held at the Cleo-Lillian Social Club. The participants started drifting in around 2:30 p.m. There was "Bus driver Smith," "Post office Ron-

nie" "Black Harold" and "White Harold," the baddest players on the East side of the river.

All came with quiet confidence and high hope. And unlike the shootout at the O.K. Corral...this one had spectators. Oh, they kept their distance, but they were out in droves to cheer on their favorite gunfighter. And like that great western battle at O.K., these mighty contestants began to fall one by one. Two scratches on the eight ball and "Post Office Ronnie" was the first to fall. Then "Bus Driver" and "Ben" Ruthley hooked up in a match that most thought to be the crucial match of the day. Both contestants were highly ranked and it was "Gentle Ben" who fell. Four hours later, after the smoke cleared, it was the man from Tri-Met emerging as the winner.

The Portland Trailblazers announced recently that Dave Twardzik would remain in the organization as a color man on Blazer radio broadcasts and also serve in community-relations. That's great that they're helping their own. (former players)

But what about Lloyd Neal,

Herm Gilliam, Shalin Halimon, Ed Manning and a few other men of color? Neal certainly gave his all to the organization and was well liked in the community. Just have to wonder why nothing was created for "old bottom."

Darryl Motley, the great one from Portland, is currently batting .380 for Omaha in Class AAA ball. From all reports, Darryl is on his way to the big time. And with KC struggling at 6-16, it just might come sooner than expected.

Oregon Duck fans should keep new year's day open on their calendars. Yes, the Ducks are that good, and after viewing their spring drills this writer feels that the "Roses" aren't too far away. This team is loaded, not just in numbers, but quality players. Should be an interesting fall down South.

Houston continues to impress in their NBA quest. And doesn't Robert Ried own Larry Bird? Despite their humiliation Tuesday night, look for a seven game series. Who would have dreamed this rag tag bunch of misfits would battle the mighty Celtics this hard...

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Dick Bogle

Some of this and some of that this week.

Justice was rendered in the decision by Police Chief Bruce Baker and Commissioner Charles Jordan when they exonerated Captain Corky Hulett of any wrong doing in the case we wrote about some length last week.

That much relieved Hulett is back at work now, assigned to the police training division. That action brought a few smiles to a lot of faces at Second and Oak that hadn't had any reason to smile for some time lately.

In case you didn't see last week's column, Hulett had been charged with taking a pair of scales from the Special Investigation Division office. The scales were of the type narcotic dealers use to measure quantities of dope and had an approximate value of \$23.00. Hulett said he had merely taken them home to weight some silver he wanted to sell and then had forgotten to return them. Two deputy chiefs asked for his resignation or they would proceed with a disciplinary hearing. At first Hulett resigned, then

charged his mind, went for the hearing and was cleared one hundred percent.

There's a new organization in Oregon which I'm sure we are all going to hear a lot from. It's the Northwest Ex-offenders Association.

Right now its main concern is the abolishment of state supportive programs for inmates coming out of prison.

A handsome articulate Black man, William Jennings, is Association president.

He says, "We're set up on a model similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, helping people with similar problems."

The group helps ex-cons with a class in goals and objectives; emergency referrals for food, clothing and housing; job readiness workshops and help in preparing job resumes.

The Association went to bat for Kurt Angelone. Angelone had just finished treatment for throat cancer while out of jail on his own recognizance on charges of parole violation and auto theft in Califor-

nia. Multnomah County district judge Irving Steinbock gave Angelone a thirty day extension of his release but when those thirty days were up, he ordered Angelone back to jail to await extradition to California.

The Association provided much support to Angelone and his new wife during the thirty days he was out and appeared with him in court during each hearing.

It's just May and already we are beginning to hear the phrase "long hot summer" bantied about.

I guess not talking about it won't change what is going to happen. Let's hope everything stays mellow during the hot months, but it certainly won't surprise me if the opposite was to happen.

Even though the overall unemployment rate for the month remained at seven point three percent and the overall teenage rate dropped slightly to nineteen point one percent, the unemployed rate for Black teens, age 16-19, is the highest since December thirty seven point three percent.

Here's a name to keep in mind...Linda Allen. Ms. Allen is the hottest young Black female tennis player to come down the pike since Althea Gibson.

At 5 feet ten inches and 145 pounds, experts say she can be an intimidating presence at the net. She has jumped her world computer ranking from number 152 to 41 in just last year.

Other Black women players to keep an eye on are Dianne Morrison Kim Sands, and Zina Garrison.

A special spot for Malcolm

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

The fifty fifth birthday of one of the greatest Black leaders ever to walk the face of the earth comes at a time when the nation is sick with racism and hatred.

El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcom X) celebration of birth stands clouded by the fact that 28 young Black youths have been killed in the City of Atlanta. It stands clouded by the rise of para-military organizations like the KKK, the Nazis, and other conservative groups bent on the destruction of Black people and who openly recruit police and boy scouts.

It also comes at a time when the unemployment rate among Blacks has tripled since 1968, and the Ronald Reagan budget cuts threaten to cut more jobs and services for those who need it. The nation's unemployment of young Blacks has progressed to the point where youths are just hanging out in the streets without skills, motivation to excel, low education, broken dreams, and what "Newsweek" magazine termed as "Riot age." We as a country are living in some bad times - and Malcom is probably turning over in his grave. The ghettos scattered around the nation are like Mt. St. Helens, just bubbling and waiting to explode.

Currently, there is a generation of riot age youngsters growing up in this country who know very little about Malcom X and what he stood for. They know nothing about him because most were too young to understand what was going on around them, and because they were educated in a system that suppresses knowledge about a power person like Malcom.

Makini Harris, one of the original



founders of the Black Educational Center of Portland, a private, non-profit institution that's dedicated to teaching students about their African past and great Black leaders, spoke recently about what Malcom X meant to her.

"I have a special spot for Malcom in my heart because I grew up in Harlem and I can remember when he was assassinated in 1965. I lived about six blocks from the funeral home where his body was," she said.

"The significant thing for me was that Harlem closed its bars the day Malcom's body was being eulogized and buried and Harlem doesn't close its bars for anybody. To me, even though I was very young, I knew that this man was somebody special. I think that the media did not portray that enough to the people throughout the United States, to give the sense that Harlem recognized Malcom as a fighter for the rights of Black people.

"I get a warm feeling when I think about Malcom X and when I hear his speeches. He was a down to earth brother. He spoke to us and I think he did it eloquently."

The Black Educational Center is in the middle of pledge month and they need your community support to keep individuals like Malcom, Martin, Tubman and Vessey alive and kicking. Community members are urged to call the Center and give their donations if it were not for institutions like the BEC, and for founders like Makini Harris and Ronnie Herndon as well as others who have the same philosophy, the spirit of these freedom fighters would die.

In the name of Malcom, "the Black man in the ghettos has to start correcting his own moral, educational, material, and spiritual evils. The Blackman needs to start his own programs to enhance his education, rid drug addiction, prostitution, drunkenness, and Black-on-Black crimes. The Blackman must lift up his own sense of values..."

One thing that legislation can never do for Blacks is to give us self respect; it starts from the heart. The sooner the better. Call the Black Educational Center at 284-9552 and make a pledge. Happy Birthday Malcom and pray for our sick country!

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