

Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



Wilco Profile

This year's Wilco league basketball season is already upon us, and this year's race looks to be as competitive as ever. Five teams are expected to battle it out for the league crown. The number one Wilco representative will automatically go to the state playoffs, while the other four will fight down to two for state tournament rights.

Predicting should be rather difficult this year since the league is extremely balanced. The following is how we see the top teams. And they are reported in the order in which we see them finishing.

1. **Reynolds**—Reynolds looks like the team to beat this year. The Lancers will probably get off slow because of the extended football season. But once they work the football kinks out they should really begin to roll. At least four of the starters will be back from last year, along with the addition of 6-6, all-state football player, Tony Domingue. Domingue is expected to be one of the top players in the conference. The Lancers are strong in the backcourt with four-year starter Darren Brady, who is considered one of the best guards in the state, and Jack Stanley, a two-year starter with good leadership qualities. At forward the Lancers return 6-5, Todd Risper, who is a dangerous outside shooter and 6-4, Steve Dempsey, who is probably as good a leaper as you'll find in the league.

The Reynolds Lancers are simply the class of the Wilco League. Besides returning four starters the Lancers also have a strong bench.

2. **Putnam**—Putnam finished third in last year's tough Wilco race and this year should move up a notch to second. The Kingsmen have eight returning lettermen and Coach Don McKluskey is rightfully excited about his team's chances. The Kingsmen are led by 5-10 guard Brad Holm and forward Brad Hermo who at 6-4 is the tallest starter.

Putnam plays a team-oriented game and feels that everyone can get the job done. Coach McKluskey feels that doing well last year and being competitive in every game will add to their experience and carry them into the playoffs for the second straight year.

Because of a lack of height, rebounding is a concern. But if the Kingsmen meet their goal of improving in all areas, they once again should be up there fighting for a playoff spot.

3. **Centennial**—Coming off an unimpressive 8-10 season and a near miss at the playoffs last year, the Centennial Eagles look like a team to be reckoned with this basketball season. The Eagles have six returning lettermen, four of whom are starters. They are fairly well-balanced but will look for 6-7 center Ben Larson when the going gets tough. Centennial will look for guards Mark James and Greg Melvin to provide quickness and good perimeter shooting.

Centennial will run a PATERNED offense along with a controlled fast break. Centennial should be one of the teams competing for the state title to be played at Memorial Coliseum this March.

Now the goat!



BILLY RAY BATES

"Riding high in April, shot down in May." Could pretty well be the theme song for Portland's Billy Ray Bates. Bates' playing time has dropped sharply in the last ten games, putting him in Jack Ramsay's dog house. "I'm being misused," lamented Billy. "Whenever I make a mistake or get beat by my defensive man I know I'm coming out, while others make mistakes and they stay in."

For some strange reason Billy seems to be treading along the same path as Lionel Hollins, Maurice Lucas, and Ron Brewer—all ex-Blazers. When Ramsay loses confidence in a player he has been known to bring the player on the bench which adds to the player's problem and never alleviates it. It is a well known fact that when players are having problems, playing time is usually the answer.

BRB was brought to Portland as an offensive player. During his first year Billy was used strictly as a spot player coming in to supply points while the regulars took a respite. Billy's role was plain and simple—to light up the scoreboard. However, when injuries dictated that he play more he responded by leading the Blazers in the playoffs his first year. Bates was so spectacular that he was chosen NBA Player of the

Week after he had played less than 15 games.

When Jack Ramsay called upon Billy to start it was always out of necessity. But when Billy knew he was going to get the playing time he always sparkled. Last year, during the play-offs, as a starter Billy averaged 28.4 points per game.

Ramsay should learn that if you have a thoroughbred that you should not enter him in a quarter-horse race. Some horses are meant to run long distances and some short. Some basketball players are offensive players and some defensive and the belief here is that if you have a successful offensive machine it would be detrimental to tighten the screws.

With Ramsay's current philosophy of the game one could not imagine such players as George Gervin, World Free, Julius Erving and David Thompson being able to play for him. Yet, all are established stars in the NBA.

If Billy's fate is to be the same as Hollins, Brewer, Lucas and Johnny Davis he shouldn't fret, because all are doing well elsewhere.

Ramsay just may be good with X's and O's but his ability to handle men leaves a lot to be desired.



JACK RAMSAY

Grant smashes Jeff

Box Score

Jefferson	FG	FTA	FTM	TP
M. Hornbuckle	5	5	4	14
C. Holliday	3	0	0	6
R. Coleman	0	0	0	0
C. Mitchell	5	2	2	12
Tate	2	0	0	4
Shamsun Din	2	1	0	4
H. Mitchell	0	2	0	0
Jones, A.	1	4	2	4
Don Vann	5	0	0	10
Grant				
Ross, E.	4	4	2	10
Mott, A.	8	9	2	18
Hampton, T.	3	4	3	9
Palmer	3	2	1	7
Smith	8	2	2	18
Frison	2	3	1	5
Binns	3	0	0	6
DeVaney	1	2	2	2

Grant's Generals won an inter-league game against the Jefferson Democrats Tuesday evening 77-58. It was inevitable that the Grant Generals would come out ahead against the shorter Demos. Grant was taller and quicker and that's all she wrote.

The Generals were led in scoring by 6-3 senior forward Andy Mott and 6-7 center D. Smith both with 18 points.

Michael Hornbuckle, 6-0 senior guard, was the Demo scoring leader with 15. The Generals ran off 12 consecutive points in the first quarter and it was never close after that.

Rebounding and turnovers led to the Demo's demise.

Portland Meadows payoffs

Win—In winning Sunday's second race, Dakota Winds—guided by jockey Felipe Zubieta—returned \$37.40 per \$2 win ticket.

Place—Jockey Abe Casteneda guided Rich's Bargain to a dead-heat victory in Friday night's 10th and final race, resulting in a \$17.80 place payoff.

Show—Barba Rube, ridden by apprentice Mark Hadley, finished second in Saturday's seventh race and returned a \$15.20 show mutuel.

Quinella—Friday's first race culminated in a \$305.20 quinella pay-

off as Free Mia finished first (at 16-to-1) and Flowing Fire finished second. The winning combination was 8-11, marking the first time this season that combination came in.

Trifecta—In Saturday's seventh race, Just My Honey, Barba Rube and Proxy's Bonus teamed up for a \$6,085.40 trifecta payoff.

Daily Double—Sunday's daily double paid \$141.60, as 17-to-1 shot Dakota Winds and 6-to-5 favorite Who's Charlie won the first and second races respectively.

Two-year-olds vie for Oregon Futurity crown

by Mike Cusortelli

The cream of the 1981 Oregon-bred two-year-old crop will be in the spotlight this Saturday, as Portland Meadows presents the \$25,000-added Oregon Futurity.

Expected to compete in what is annually Oregon's richest race for two-year-olds are Flying Jaguar, Laundauer, Future Fox and Lighthouse Jim. One top-notch filly who could face starter Gloyd Young in the one mile event is Cool Flight, the Vera McNamara-trained daughter of Flying Lark who won the \$16,345 Janet Wineberg Stakes here November 28.

Flying Jaguar, another McNamara-trained charge, is expected to be the early favorite off of his victory in the \$15,940 Bill Wineberg Stakes November 29. After breaking his maiden at the San Joaquin County Fair in Stockton (Calif.) on August 11, the chestnut son of Flying Lark competed at Bay Meadows, where

he finished second to Positively Maybe in a \$20,000 claiming race.

Laundauer was the 9-to-5 favorite in the Bill Wineberg but ran second to Flying Jaguar. Laundauer entered the Bill Wineberg with two consecutive six furlong allowance wins at Portland Meadows, including one in 1:11 3/5, the second fastest two-year-old time at the current meeting.

Future Fox and Lighthouse Jim are also stakes veterans. Lighthouse Jim, trained by Howard Belvoir, was third in both the O.T.B.A. Sales Stakes October 31 and the Beaver State Handicap November 14 before finishing a disappointing ninth in the Bill Wineberg. Future Fox ran a game third in the Bill Wineberg after a second place finish to Not Now in the O.T.B.A. Sales Stakes and an out-of-the-money performance in the Beaver State.

In other developments at the

North Portland oval, Hugh Wales, Greg Swaim, Gary Stevens and Jody Davidson are engaged in a battle for the lead in the jockey standings. After six weekends of racing, Wales and Swaim have 14 wins each, followed closely by Stevens with 12 and Davidson with 11.

Walse enhanced his position in the standings with a double on December 6, scoring with Our Jenny Rose in the first race and Paul's Grey, who upset 2-to-5 favorite Poppy Vee, in the featured ninth race.

Leading trainer Bill Tollett, whose stable boasts the ace sprinter

My Runaway, has nine victories, followed closely by A.T. (Tex) Irwin, who has eight. Irwin, who had a double on December 5, is one of only two conditioners with a triple to his credit, as his Run the Moment, Apache Lark and Sy's Hillbilly all galloped to victory on November 27.

Apache Lark won last week's featured \$9,000-added Oregon Breeders Championship by two and a half lengths over Big Cougar. At odds of 2.10-to-1, the four-year-old gelding covered the 1 1/16 miles over a sloppy track in 1:46 3/5 and swelled his 1981 earnings to \$36,129.

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