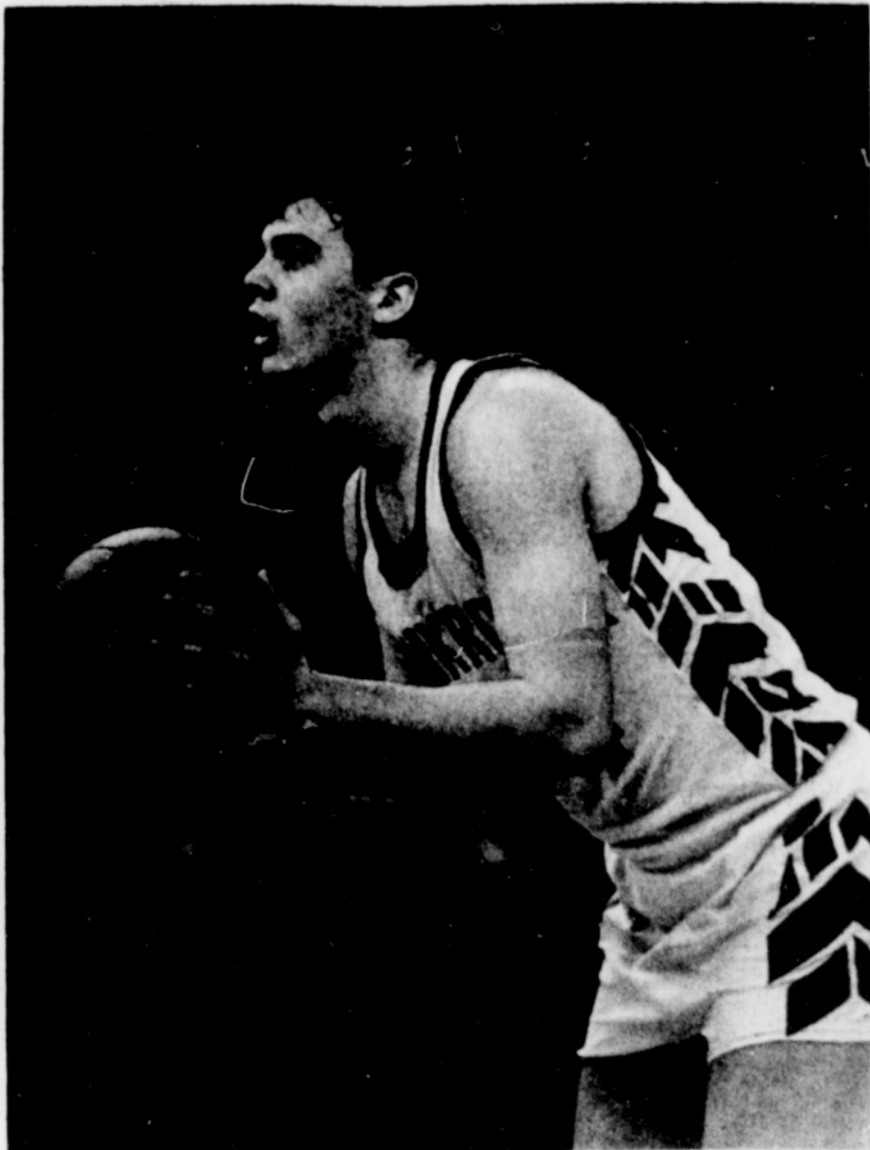




Number 21 Rick Osborne leaps to the hoop for a slam dunk while Lakers' number 22 Steve Schade stands in amazement and disbelief. (Photo: Vance Easter)



Parkrose's Steve Woodside prepares himself for a shot at the crown in Oregon's AAA State Tourney. Woodside was named the tournament's MVP as the Parkrose Broncos won the State championship. (Photo: Jimmy Robinson)

Parkrose Broncos take Boys AAA crown

by Vance Easter

The Parkrose Broncos proved to be the tournament champions: 36-32 over Lake Oswego Lakers.

As the galloping Broncos showed outstanding defense and offense

against the Lake Oswego Lakers, there wasn't enough water to flood the offensive moves of number 45 Steve Woodside, who was named the tournament's MVP.

Rick Osborne, who scored 10 points, showed outstanding athletic ability in scoring and sportsman-

ship. Mike Stipe also scored 10 of the winning points to out-score the Lakers.

Russell Livingston paced the Lakers' attack with fourteen points and five rebounds. He shot seven of ten from the field.

The 1982 Boys AAA Tournament of Champions drew an attendance of 10,765 on Saturday evening and a total of 67,603 for the four-day extravaganza in the Memorial Coliseum, with the tournament ending in an uproar.



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

These boys of basketball aren't going to the playoffs. These Trailblazers, this current group, will spoil the record of six straight past season playoff appearances by Coach Jack Ramsay. The thought here is that management gave up some time ago and wrote off this 1981-82 year as a total bust. Why else then would they stand pat, and not make any trades?

The front line surely needed shoring up if they were to make a run. Kermit Washington surely gave them enough advance notice. He knew he couldn't help down the stretch so like the man he is he bowed out early, choosing not to drag on and become dead weight.

I think Kermit knew where the help was needed and was giving management the message in his own silent way. Just take a moment and glance at the teams that are in con-

tion for the six Western Conference playoff berths. Los Angeles, Seattle, Milwaukee, Golden State, Houston and Phoenix. Only Phoenix is weak up front and with a line of Truck Robinson, Jeff Cook and Alvin Adams they, too, are much stronger than Portland.

Portland obviously assumed a rookie Peter Verhoeven and second year man Michael Harper could withstand the brutal onslaughts of the Marques Johnsons, Truck Robinsons, etc., around the league. It was so obvious after one time around the league that the 6-9 Verhoeven would not be the answer. As for Harper the talent just may be there but as far as being a true power forward he needs years of weight work. He just cannot hold his position under the hoop, which leads to frustration and that leads to fouls.

Calvin Natt is an ideal power forward. He's a great rebounder, plays a strong game, will mix it up readily and won't back down. But Calvin is only 6-6. Natt would be ideal if he were 6-8 or better.

Bobby Gross, during the Bill Walton days, was the prototype small forward for Walton. Bobby could run, had great hands and could pass brilliantly. Unfortunately Walton is gone and Bobby's skills just do not fit in with today's troops.

It's *deja vu* time once again for the Blazers. As time runs out and a playoff berth drifts further and further away you'll see Coach Ramsay start to use Billy Ray Bates more and more. Bates played 33 minutes against Dallas. And as usual produced 23 points. Whatever else is said about Bates, there's one thing for sure when it's crunch time and the real players are to be counted, then you can always count on Billy.

The Lakers came to town Tuesday night and further illuminated the Blazer weakness up front. Anytime a Curt Rambis, and a Mark Landsberger can beat you continuously on the boards you know you're in trouble.

Jim Paxson had one of his 'rare' bad games against Magic Johnson. Magic drove around Paxson at will. During the third period it was so bad that I thought Ramsay would be compelled to ignore his computer-like substitution and make a change before the beginning of the fourth quarter. But as usual he didn't. He left Jimmy out there to be further humiliated and the team fell to a 15-

point deficit.

Turning to boxing... Marvin Hagler is currently negotiating to fight ex-welterweight champion Thomas Hearns. The fight will probably come off in June. This is one fight that Hearns doesn't need. Hearns, at 6-1, has the shoulders of a heavyweight, biceps of a light-heavy and a reach that exceeded that of Muhammad Ali. Those are the things that made him excel as a welterweight. But moving up to the 165 pound clip the thought here is that he would give up all that made him great. You can bet your bottom dollar that he will not K.O. Marvin Hagler. And don't bet a cent that Hagler won't knock Hearns out.

Hearns has difficulty putting on weight. It is said that in order for Tommy to get up to 153½ pounds he had to eat two steaks at both lunch and dinner and drink 3 milkshakes daily. "I think 153 is about my limit," admits Hearns. Hagler will come at a solid 165, and that's a lot of weight to give away. How about Wilfredo Benitez, Tommy?

Gerry Cooney's much publicized shoulder injury forced a postponement of the March 15 date at Caesar's Palace to decide just who is the 'baddest' heavyweight around today.

Satellite availability almost killed the rescheduled June date but the date is now secure. The Holmes-Cooney bout will surpass the money making record of the Leonard-Hearns fight. Holmes and Cooney have both been guaranteed 10 million apiece for their June 11 date in Las Vegas. The fight is expected to have a live gate of 32,000 plus millions of satellite viewers all over the world and closed circuit theatre locations blanketing the U.S.A. and Canada.

There has been a good deal of squabbling going on from both camps. Holmes tells everyone within listening distance that Cooney is feigning injury and in reality is only ducking him. Cooney replies by calling Holmes stupid. Feuds and namecalling will continue until the two men enter the ring in June. But when the smoke clears, and it will be soon, the world will have a new heavyweight champion. My first outlook, six months ago, was for an easy Holmes victory.

The thought here was that Larry would give Mr. Cooney some kind of boxing lesson.

It was thought the experience of Holmes would be the deciding factor. After all who has Cooney defeated? Jimmy Young, Ernie Shavers, and Kenny Morton are all members of the over-the-hill gang.

But the more I thought about Holmes being so susceptible to a right hand the more I started to lean toward Cooney. Didn't Shavers have Larry all but out? Ernie decked him with a couple of good rights that had Holmes hanging on and very wobbly. Renaldo Snipes, whom Larry KO'd in eight, had the champion on his fanny with a not-so-good right hand.

Now Cooney is awkward, and he's not the greatest boxer, and he's never gone the distance, but yet the feeling here is that he will be the winner. What he can do is hit... and when he connects, the lights do go out. Should be interesting.

Down at the California Angels' spring training camp in Casa Grande, A2, Reggie Jackson was the biggest headline-maker of them all with his hot bat and quiet manner as reporters from virtually all over the U.S. have reported. Believe me they were watching his every move.

During my recent visit to California I learned that the Angels even have Reggie doing radio commercials, and his mere presence in an Angel uniform has season ticket sales booming. At last count the Angels had sold over 15,000 season tickets.

"He's the greatest person playing when it comes to putting fans' butts in seats," said one Angel official.

Former Dodger Tommy John, now of the New York Yankees, thinks the Dodgers blew it when they passed on Reggie Jackson. And the belief here is that Reggie will always be there when you need a clutch hit.

He's so much excitement that he's truly worth whatever they pay him. The Yanks will lose and California will gain... fans.

From the Readers

Just wanted to let you know I enjoyed your *Sports Talk* in the February 11th *Observer*. Usually I have little interest in a sports column but I caught the name of Jack Johnson and I read on. He was one name that was meaningful to me. I enjoyed the column.

Evelyn Collins



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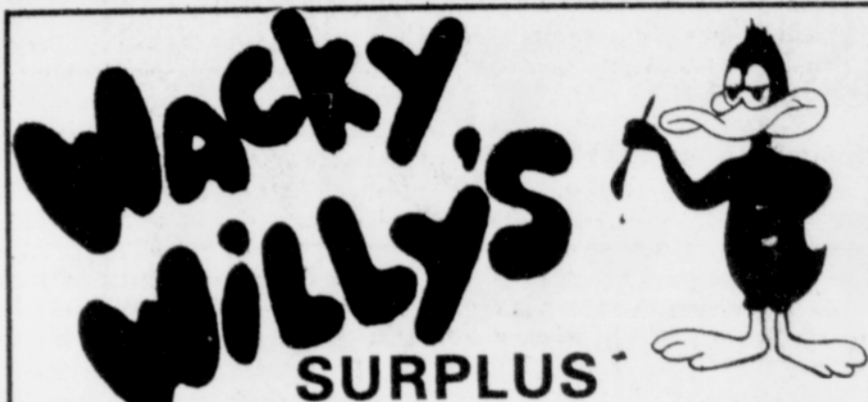
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