



ICE MAN GERVIN



THE BIRD MAN



MAGIC

(Photos: Jimmy Robinson)

Playoff action

The L.A. Lakers, after demolishing the Phoenix Suns 4-0, appear more and more the team to beat in the playoffs. L.A., behind the steadiness of veterans Jamaal Wilks and all pro center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 35, made a mockery of their seven-game series with the Suns. The Lakers now await the winner of the Seattle-San Antonio match up. But the way the Lakers are playing, neither team will pose much of a problem.

San Antonio should take Seattle in six. The Spurs still rely too heavily on George Gervin and will be no match for the overall team strength that the Lakers possess.

In the east, the Celtics are struggling and now it appears that Philadelphia will emerge as the Eastern Conference winner.

Milwaukee, whom many thought to be the deepest team in the NBA,

has now been decimated by injuries to Quinn Butler and Junior Bridges.

What is wrong with Boston? And how about that Bird? Many stories have been written about the talents of Bird, about how complete a player he is. But somewhere along the way the Washington Bullets have seemingly found the answer to the riddle of Mr. Bird. Greg Ballard held Bird to ten points in Sunday's game while Spencer Haywood was scoring 28 points against the defense of Mr. Bird. Somehow, somewhere, somebody found out that it was easy to score while posting up Larry Bird. This weakness now uncovered seemingly has made Bird a frustrated player.

Last Sunday Boston Coach Bill Finch benched Bird for fifteen minutes because Haywood was chewing him up and spitting him out.

Veterans assist young kids

Currently active and retired professional athletes will encourage Oregon teen-agers and pre-teens to strive for academic achievement and drug and alcohol free lifestyles as part of a new program to be tested in Portland this month in a pilot project.

Called Project PASS (Professional Athletes for Student Success), the program is sponsored by Gov. Vic Atiyeh's Council on Health, Fitness and Sports.

Atiyeh and Portland Schools Superintendent Matthew Prophet will announce complete details of the program starting 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 7, in the Portland Public School District board room, 501 N. Dixon, Portland.

Among those attending the announcement will be four people who have worked for several months on the program's implementation. They are council chairman Pat Sweeney, Portland, Pacific Northwest Bell; council member Al Janssen, Pro Athletes Outreach; council

consultant committee member Don Bird, Portland (Washington County), Portland Schools physical education; and council consultant committee member Darrall Imhoff, Hillsboro, consultant and speaker and a former Portland Trail Blazer.

According to Atiyeh, the program will establish a speakers bureau of athletes who will speak to middle school and high school-age students in the Portland School District during the one-month pilot project. If the pilot project is successful, he said, Project PASS will be offered in Oregon on a broader basis in the 1982-83 school year.

Athletes who have agreed to participate in the program include Trail Blazer Michael Harper, former Detroit Lion Willie Brock, NBA referee Terry Durham, and former Trail Blazers Kermit Washington, Dave Twardzik, Geoff Petrie, Dr. Terry Dischinger, Herm Gilliam, Leroy Ellis, and Greg Smith. Other athletes are expected to participate in the program.

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