

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Rod Carew of the California Angels leads Steve Garvey of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the early voting for the hits that prevent child abuse charity batting contest. The contest is to see who will get the most hits during May and June. Carew currently leads as he garnered 61 per cent of the vote during May.

Dennis Green, Northwestern University's head football coach isn't the only black head coach at that university. Dee Dodd is in her first year as head track and cross country coach at Northwestern. Northwestern is the only predominantly white university with two black head coaches. What a pity, especially when you consider how many athletes are men and women of color.

If Norm Nixon continues to play so well during this NBA championship series he will certainly have to be considered as the MVP. He has already won the award for the best-dressed player in the NBA. Nixon is Mr. Dapper Dan off the court and maybe it's because he has interest in a large LA clothing store.

Grambling State University head basketball coach Fred Hobdy announces that the '82-'83 Tigers will be competing in the Indiana Classic in their regular season of scheduled games.

The Classic, to be played in Indianapolis, the 29th and 30th, will be hosted by Bobby Knight-coached Indiana Hoosiers, national college champions in 80-81.

Other teams competing will be Nebraska from the Big Eight and Cornell of the Ivy League.

Veteran Heavyweight Ernie Shaver will go up against the young hardhitting Billy Joe Thomas of Lexa, in the ten-round main event June 22 in the Astroarena. Thomas, who brags a 16-6 record, is ready for the veteran shavers with 65 wins. Shavers' last two fights prove he is in top condition for this match. He recently KO'ed former European champion, Joe Bugner and prior to that match was his impressive win over Ali Hakin, from Travers City, MI., who had a record of 17-0.

They call him "The Doctor of the Pines." When things aren't going right for the Philadelphia 76ers, the team's ace relief man simply dons his "Lovetron" uniform and starts wreaking havoc on the opposition, mainly the Los Angeles Lakers. Darryl Dawkins, 76ers much maligned center, has certainly taken more than his share of abuse this year for his non-production.

Dawkins, during the championship series led by LA 3-1, has been a catalyst in a losing cause. In game one Darryl came off the bench with 5:50 left in the first quarter and immediately let Laker Center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar know that a change was about to occur.

In the next 2 1/2-minutes Daryl scored six points, all from within the 2-foot range. Clearly establishing his turf.

In game two the Sixers got off to a rocky start and Dawkins decided it

was time to work on the problem. With the score 6-0 in favor of LA the man from "Lovetron" went to work.

He scored first on a lay-up in Jabbar's face, then on a thunderous dunk, a soft 15-foot jump shot later and the game was knotted at 15 all. And this all was a result of Darryl's aggressive play. Jabbar was bewildered as Dawkins continued his spectacular play. Before his leg injury (a broken bone) Dawkins was the subject of many trade rumors. Seventy-sixer owner Harold Katz shut off all such talk by signing their 6-11 sixer center to a five-year contract.

Dawkins, from "none" college, is thought by some to be grossly overrated.

The feeling here is that the average fan expects too much of young Darryl.

Constantly during this playoff series announcers Bill Russell and Dave Stockton have reminded their audience of Darryl's minimal rebound shots. Not once have they reminded their listeners that Dawkins is playing on a leg that is still only 70 per cent healed.

As a result Dawkins, usually a starter, has been coming off the bench, and playing very well. As witnessed by his 22-point outburst in game two, and followed by 16 in game three.

"The situation (on the bench) is more pressurized than a starting role," Dawkins said, "but I don't care how they use me, as long as they use me," he said.

Dawkins believes that the Sixers are a team of destiny and that this year the men from Philly will wear their first NBA championship rings.

Sam Houston State sophomore center Yommy Sangodeyi of Nigeria has reportedly written the National Basketball Association stating he was "fooled" into signing papers that made him eligible for the NBA draft.

Sangodeyi, at the urging of his coach, asked to have his eligibility at Sam Houston reinstated despite renouncing it earlier this month under provisions of the NCAA early entry regulations.

Yommy was said to believe that he was only going to be provided with areas in which to play summer ball. That's all.

Former African basketball coach Christopher Pond, when reached in his home of Raleigh, N.C., said, "Yommy knew what he was doing, he signed the contract because he felt that at his age (24) and his large family, that it would be in his best interest to sign now."

Sangodeyi is 6-10, 220-pound player who averages 9.6 points and 4.6 boards a game. He has been described as a very aggressive player and said to have good potential, but did have some difficulty in adjusting to the American college game.

At this time it is not known if the Nigerian's eligibility will be restored.

Okay, so I thought that nobody

could run with the Lakers, the feeling here that Philly would go down in four. Now, I must revise my wrongful deeds and add one more, since the 76ers played way over their heads in game two.

And you had to believe that Norm Nixon and the always-steady Magic Johnson would not continue shooting 4-13 and 3-14 respectively.

Even though the 76ers were able to win game two 110-94, they were unable to establish any superiority over the talent-laden Lakers. The Sixers had to know that it took both a near-perfect game from them and a terrible performance by the Lakers, to pull out their lone victory. And what more can be said of the work of Bob McAdoo. Bullet Bob is playing now like a man possessed.

"Everyone is talking about Dr. J. not having a ring, and how they would like to see the 'Doctor' win one. Well, how about me," beamed McAdoo.

And the 76ers will not earn one this year for Julius, mainly because they are unable to get any offensive help for Andrew Toney and the "Doctor."

After leading the Celtics 3-1 and letting them come back to even the series, everyone—including yours truly—thought that it was all over for the final game to be played in Boston. But somebody forgot to tell Toney and Erving and the two of them personally destroyed the Boston dream of becoming the only team in the last decade to win back to back titles. Erving scored 29 points, while the hot-shooting

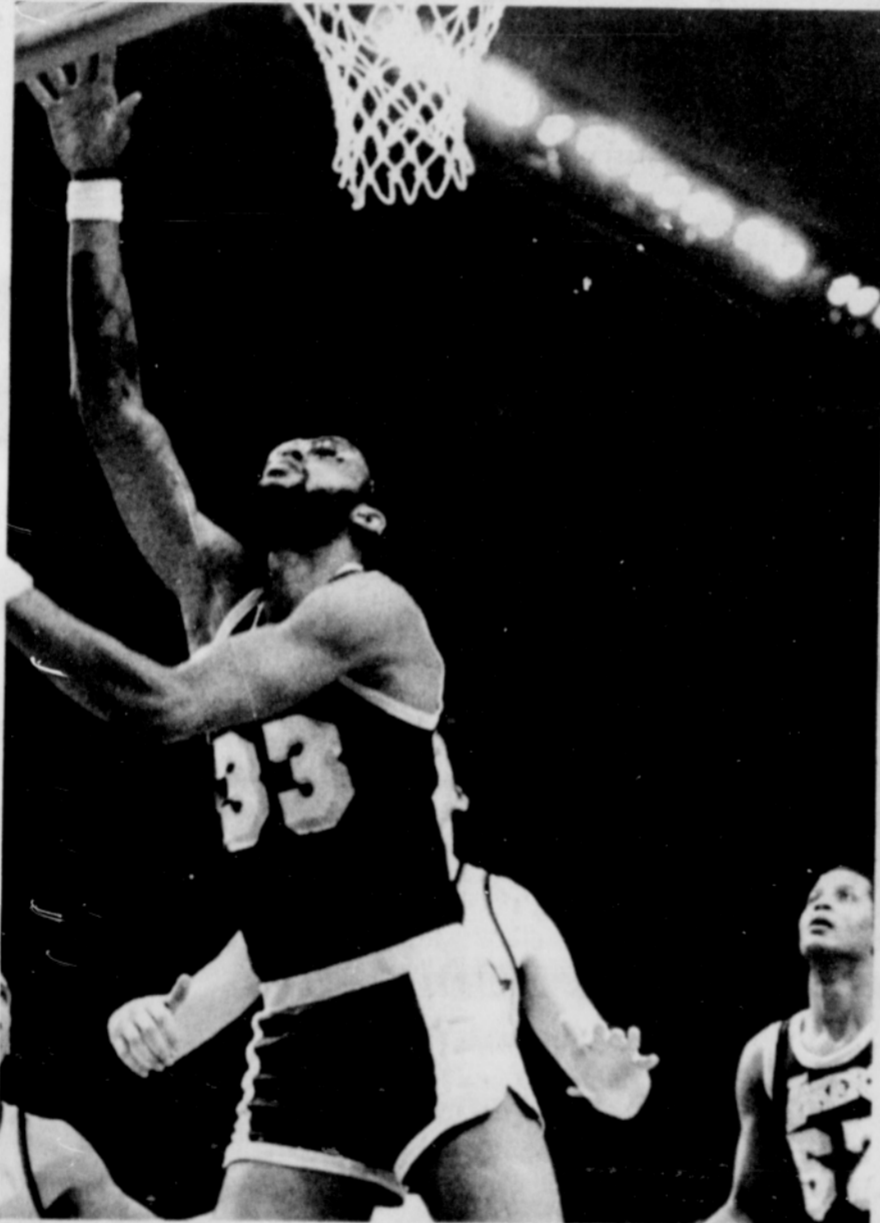
Toney hit for 34. And this reporter strongly believes it was Toney and not Erving who should have captured the MVP award in the Eastern conference championship series. Taking nothing away from the "Doctor," his inside game can be simply awesome. But his outside stuff, at times, leaves something to be desired.

For the Lakers and 76ers this is a rematch of their NBA championship round of two years ago when the Lakers won in six games. Remember that Sunday evening when Magic Johnson, then only a rookie, had to fill in for injured superstar Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at center. And all Magic did was to eventually play all five positions, scored 42 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists.

This Laker team has been near perfect in playoff action winning 9 out of 10 games.

Toney continues to perform well against the Lakers. During regular season play he scored 27 at the Forum and came back with a whopping 46 at the Spectrum. Even though Toney had a big 36 on Tuesday it was not enough to overhaul the fast-breaking Lakers.

And can anyone remember during the early season why the usually staid and easy going Magic Johnson cried out against the coaching philosophy of then-coach Paul Westhead? Well, just in case no one remembers... it was because Magic thought the Laker offense was too stagnant. And who now can say he was wrong?



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The winners?

Sixth grade students from Boise Elementary School and Tubman Middle School, and fifth graders from Applegate are competing to participate in the Observer — Goodyear blimp ride.

Essay topic is "If I were the Goodyear Blimp..."