



# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

Portland gives up no. 1 pick point guard Kelvin Ransey for Wayne Cooper, who will serve strictly as a backup to Mychal Thompson at Center. Where's the help?

Dallas is the big winner in this trade. The Mavs, drafting fourth, will take college basketball's third-best power forward, coming out this year, Wyoming's Bill Garnett.

Experts all agree that Ralph Sampson of Virginia is the best center around with Georgetown's Pat Ewing not far behind.

So the question here is did Portland gain or lose in the Ransey trade? The answer is: a standstill. The Blazers gained a badly needed big man. But lost a premier point guard. You be the judge.

Is it wise to give up a premier point guard to gain a mediocre center? Also remember that Dallas was seriously considering waiving Wayne Cooper in December. Cooper was only withdrawn (from waivers) after Portland showed interest in him. It's believed around the western conference that the Trailblazers are the sole reason Mr. Cooper is still in the league.

Cooper, who was a free agent, signed a multi-year contract with Dallas, believed to be worth 1 mil-

lion spread over 4 years. The 6-10 center has been traded three times in as many years. He was originally drafted in 1978 by Golden State in the second round. He was traded last year to Utah in the deal that brought Bernard King to Golden State. From there it was to Dallas and now Portland.

The Blazers needed help badly in the front court. With the addition of Renny Carr and Wayne Cooper Blazer brass believes they have gone from a weak rebounding team to one of the best in the western conference. But remember rebounds alone cannot win in the NBA.

## Draftees named

You still must outscore the opposition in order to win games. The Blazers lost a prolific scorer in Kelvin Ransey (15.6 pm).

With Ransey gone to Dallas the Blazers made Lafayette "Fat" lever, 6-3, guard from Arizona State their top pick.

Most followers of Trailblazer basketball thought the Blazers would go for Lester Conner, the 6-4 All-America guard, from Oregon State. But true to form Blazer brass

passed on the OSU product. It has been a known fact that for some strange reason Portland seems to think very little of local talent.

Conner is a far superior all-around guard than Lever. Let's rate the two prospects in the four categories that point guards are needed to excel in. We'll use a 5-point grading system.

Conner: scoring, 4.0; defense, 5.0, passing, 4.5; rebounding, 5.0.  
Lever: scoring, 5.0; defense, 3.5; passing, 3.5; rebounding, 3.0.

It seems that the Blazers are looking strictly for a scoring guard, while trading away their only good point guard. Lever will add scoring but what will they do for defense. It's true that Ransey wasn't exactly a stalwart on "D" but he was adequate.

All previous scouting reports on Lever show that the 6-3 flash needs a good deal of work in the defensive department.

Still find it hard to believe a team that stresses defense, and team play, could pass on Conner.

And, yes, Portland will miss Ransey. At present second year Darnell Valentine is the only experienced point guard on the roster. Valentine needs work, work and more work if

he's to fill that all-important role. In the second round Portland's choice was 6-7 Lyndon Townes of James Madison. That works out to two household names, Toens and James Madison.

Los Angeles was true to form in selecting North Carolina's James Worthy number one in the draft. At 6-9 Worthy will add depth to a team that's already loaded.

Worthy at 6-9 is somewhat in the mold of Earvin Johnson. He is quick, can handle the ball and a better than adequate passer and shooter.

First round picks should be a tremendous boost to all teams. I can't see this happening with Portland. Lafayette Lever is, at best, a second round selection.

It should be remembered that until now the Blazers have had only two first round selections on their roster Mychal Thompson and Kelvin Ransey.

What a difference a day makes, or perhaps a year. When Ransey arrived from Ohio State he was thought to be the one ingredient the team needed to become winners again. After one bad year he became expendable. Life in the fast lane is tough.



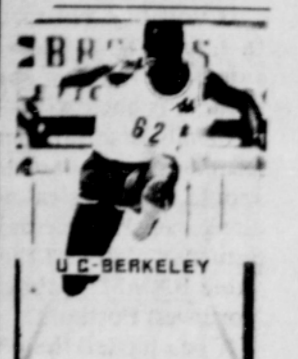
Winner of four Olympic golds, Jesse Owens.



Winner of award, Sebastian Coe.



Jesse Owens Trophy Award



Edwin Moses

## Owens Award winner named

When most Americans think of Jesse Owens, they remember a man who was a superb example of the spirit of athletic achievement and comradeship among nations. It seems fitting that a prestigious award to amateur athletes should bear his name.

The first athlete to be so honored was Sebastian Coe of Great Britain, the world's fastest at the classic distances of 800 meters, 1,000 meters and the mile.

The 25-year-old student of social history and economics surged to a rush of 50 first-place votes with the

five continent blue ribbon jury. Coe easily outdistanced Edwin Moses, the US's top 400 meters hurdler, who was runner up with six firsts. In thirds place was Evelyn Ashford, the US peak women's sprinter, who had the same number of firsts but was outscored on second votes 26 to 9 by Moses.

Other finalists were Mary T. Meagher, No. 1 swimming star of the US, and Olga Bicheroova of the Soviet Union, women's all-around gymnastic performer. They each received one first place vote.



The first all-professional U.S. baseball team was founded in 1870. Its members were known at that time as the Cincinnati Red Stockings.

# Portland Rowing Clinic begins program

Portland Rowing Clinic will begin its fifth summer rowing program on Monday, June 28 at Station L Rowing Club. The clinic is open to both men and women ages 14 and above. The primary objective of the program is to give beginners a taste of the pleasures that can be found in rowing, and to provide for both the novice and the experienced rower a coached program that will develop rowing skill and promote physical fitness.

A secondary objective of the Clinic is to give high school students an introduction to the basics of rowing so that those interested in rowing on the Portland Junior Crew's 1982-83 competitive teams will come to the program with a rudimentary knowledge of the sport.

Those interested in the clinic may register for any of the four sessions available. The first 40-hour session is scheduled June 28 to July 23 from 7 to 9 a.m., Monday through Fri-

day. Another 40-hour session will be offered July 26 through August 20. Two 16-hour sessions are scheduled during the same 4-week periods on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. A special rowing program for the blind is being offered for the first time, under the auspices of Shared Outdoor Adventure Recreation (SOAR), July 19 through August 13 two evenings per week.

The fee for the 40-hour classes is

\$75 for students and \$95 for adults. The evening class is offered at \$45 for students and \$60 for adults.

Judy Kitzman, Coach of Portland Junior Crew and former coach of women's crew at Oregon State University, is the instructor. Becky Stephenson, two-time national rowing champion at the University of Massachusetts and Oregon State University will assist.

To register, call Judy Kitzman at 283-4078.

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