



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

This writer has been blasted, lambasted, cooked and baked for his selection of Gerry Cooney over champion Larry Holmes and the beat goes on.

Here are a few samples. First Louis Harris of Portland writes: "I can easily see how members of the 'other' media could pick Cooney. However, when a black sportswriter does, then tries to explain why, that is just too much for my brain to comprehend."

Jackie Thompson of Eugene, Oregon writes: "Mr. Sykes, it's unfortunate that you as the foremost black sportswriter in Oregon chose to take the same views on the Cooney-Holmes fight as the white media."

"I, for one, have long enjoyed your column because you were always so outspoken. The white press seemingly enjoys brandishing Mr. Holmes. It is sad to know that at a time of need, when you could have stood up for the black cause, you chose to do otherwise. I will continue to read your writings, but will never quite feel the same."

I recognize the right of opinion. I hope all my readers realize that a writer, too, must have that right. But, keep on reading and writing.

Congratulations to black tennis player Yannick Noah of France who defeated highly ranked Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 3-6, 7-9, 6-3, 6-4. Noah has now defeated the Czech twice in a row.

And wasn't it nice to see Calvin Peete win the \$250,000 Milwaukee open. This was the first tour victory for Peete in three years. He last won at Milwaukee in 1979.

The fans in New York City are weeping because they no longer have Reggie "Mr. October" Jackson anymore. And while the crying in the "Big Apple" goes on they're dancing in the streets of Anaheim.

Reggie is showing the California fans that every month is October to him.

Jackson, after a strong month of June, is now ready to challenge the home-run leaders in the AL west.

At this writing Jackson has 20 home runs, only two behind Gorman Thomas of Milwaukee.

Talk has it that the L.A. Lakers were ready to defy the NBA rule which prevents teams from selecting undergrads who do not declare hardship by drafting Ralph Sampson of Virginia. Wouldn't that have been interesting? The thought here is that that rule, if challenged in court, will surely fail.

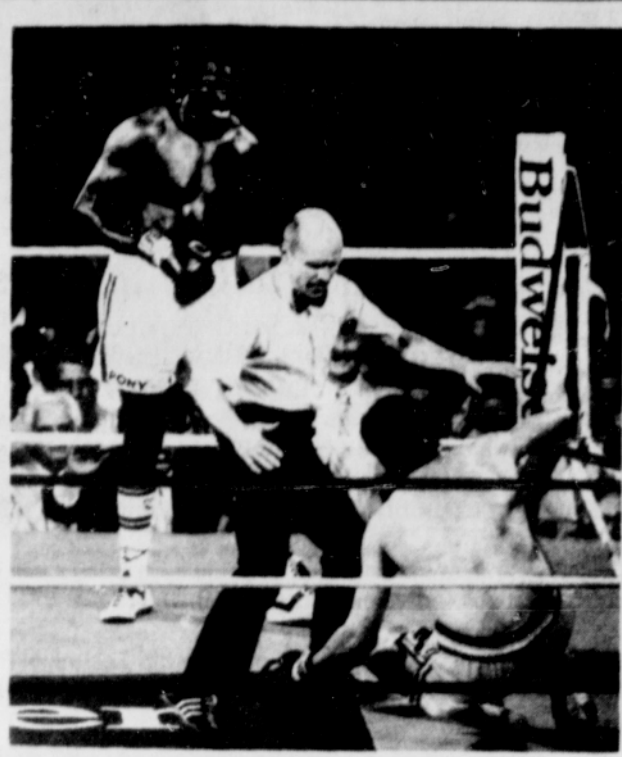
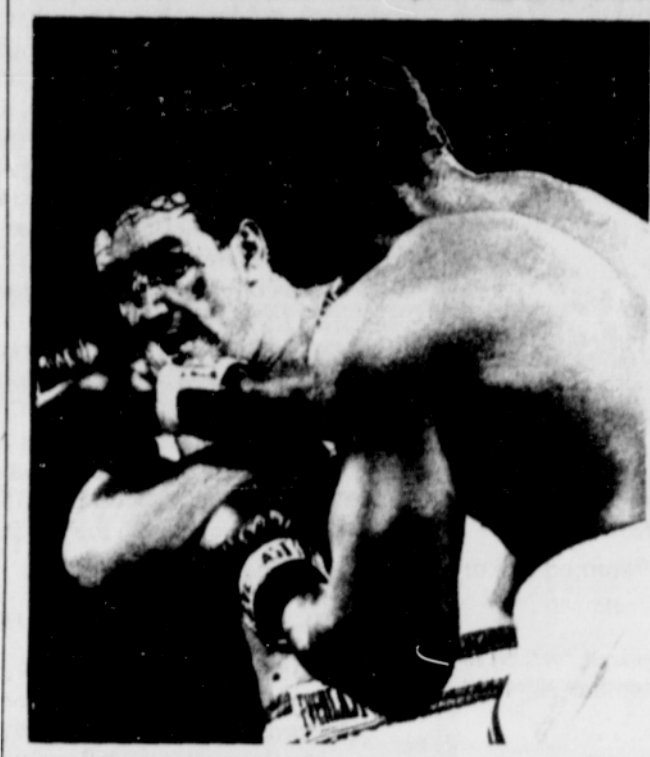
What court of law could really deny any lawful citizen the right to pursue the profession of his choice?

Believe me if Georgia's Herschel Walker had decided to take on the NFL, the junior tailback would win hands down.

Portlander Louie Lay suffered his first professional defeat in a nationally televised fight at the famed Madison Square Garden.

Hector "Macho" Camacho was just too much for the overmatched Loy.

Camacho, now 16-0, is the U.S. Junior lightweight champion and Loy, now 15-1, should never have



been in the same ring with the New Yorker. What's that knock on Portland fighters?

When the Golden State Warriors captured the 1974-75 NBA championship many gave credit to Coach Al Attles for revolutionizing the game.

Prior to that '74-'75 season most NBA coaches would use only seven and sometimes eight players during a game.

Attles began utilizing 10 and 11 players and was so successful that other coaches soon began following suit.

Then somewhere between '75 and '76 players that were formerly guards, now became specialists. They were overnight transformed into point guards, off-guards and power forwards and small forwards. So the coaches and G.M.'s started to draft accordingly.

The belief here is that this, too, is about to change. Success is always quickly emulated by others. And two successful teams, the Oregon State Beavers and Los Angeles Lakers, are doing the most to revolutionize the current trend in today's game. If one only took a few minutes to analyze the Laker game and that of Ralph Miller's Beavers one could easily see the resemblance between the player personnel, and the game, too.

The Lakers have versatile players, players that play more than one position. This gives a coach the luxury of using fewer players and yet utilizing a quality player all the time. Take Norm Nixon for example. Is Norm a point guard or an off guard? The answer is both. Nixon is superb at directing the offense and can also shoot with amazing accuracy, which allows him to become a "point" guard whenever the situation should present itself. Then there's Earvin "Magic" Johnson. Johnson is unique as he can play all positions and play them well.

Johnson is just a tremendous asset to the Laker team. The man is amazing and is by far the most gifted player in the game today.

Remember Johnson, who is so talented, left Michigan State after his Sophomore year. It's scary!

If having one Magic is not enough the Lakers drafted his clone, James Worthy out of North Carolina.

Worthy fits the Laker style like hot pants on a Union Avenue street-walker.

And not unlike the Lakers are the OSU Beavers. Ralph Miller loves versatility and loathes full substitution. He's able to play six men because he has so many players who are able to interchange.

The two most versatile Beavers are A.C. Green (6-7) and Charlie Sitton (6-8).

Green, a sophomore, can play both forward positions and occasionally at guard. Sitton, a pre-season all-American candidate, plays center as well as both forward slots. Steve Woodside, the Parkrose flash, is expected to get minutes at power forward and center.

"Steve Woodside has always been at the top of our recruiting list," growled Coach Miller. "He is not the biggest, but he is one of the very best post men we've seen. We will definitely use him some as a power forward."

OSU pulled two of the nation's top prep players, Woodside and Darryl Flowers, a 6-4 guard from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And like Worthy to the Lakers Flowers will be to the Beavers. Flowers, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin native, proclaims he will eat, sleep and drink basketball and will be immediate help for the Beavers. "He can play inside, outside, bring the ball up, play the off guard and he knows how to play position on defense," says Darryl's high school coach Ray Rozek.

Rozek's analysis of Darryl's strengths fits to a tee the needs for the Orange Express. And not only the Orange Express but any team that is to be successful in today's game.

The prognosis on Flowers is that he will probably move into Lester Conner's spot by mid-December.

Flowers' personality compares favorably to that of the Lakers' Johnson.

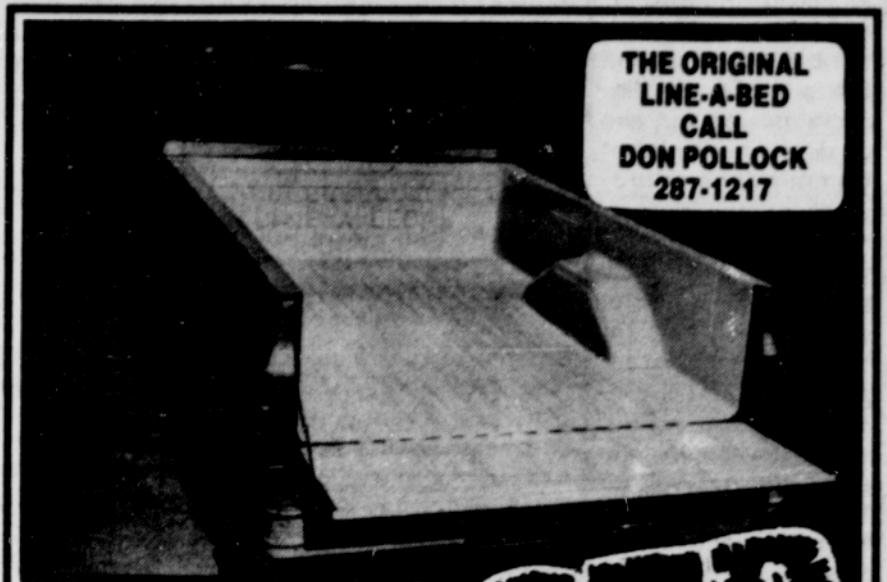
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