



Sport Talk by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Spears first among peers

Those piles of letters that will undoubtedly be pouring out of Ulf Spears' high school locker are an indication that the young man has arrived. The recruiting season, basketball's version of fraternity rush, will soon be in full swing again, and Ulf Spears will be a big part of it. And long before the weekend visits, bump-ins and so on, Spears, a three-year star from Benson High, will have heard from the likes of Washington, Washington State, Oregon and Oregon State.

A 6-5 forward who can go up and deposit a lob pass in the basket quicker than one can say "Dr. J," Spears is the finest all-around player in the State of Oregon.

The product of Benson High and Coach Dick Gray just finished a tour with the now famous Dunk-Kings of Seattle. The team was comprised of the best prep players in Oregon and Washington. On their schedule were some strong teams from the Eastern seaboard. They played all-star teams from both Philadelphia and Chicago and the nationally ranked Power Academy, a school that produced Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Spears leads the team in both scoring (23.5) and rebounds (13), while averaging 5 blocked shots per game.

As if that weren't enough, Spears is also a player who has such quality that sometimes he just barely makes it.

Ulf Spears' coaches to "Sure we have to reason and reason the Raveling hunt."

The hunt for Spears is a strong bid.

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Whatever Slick Watts

Slick Watts claimed that ever to Washington is a long, le

Forget McElhenny out of Washington. Forget Lemagian, score repe players. A Baylor player

Watts and Southern til 1977.

He came and played first team athlete fans.

Slick Watts ball player moves. He est or slo but he had

Slick Watts 1975 and

Watts had the magnetism that was ideal for the then struggling Sonics. Bill Russell had great confidence in the Louisiana flash. But it all ended when Lenny Wilkins took the throttle. Lenny's first move was to bench Slick in favor of Dennis Johnson. The "adorable rocket" never made it back, was traded to Houston, then disappeared. Slick Watts is now living in the Seattle area and is still a widely recognized figure.

Pinklon Thomas should send half

of his TV paycheck to Trevor Berbick and Reynaldo Snipes. Thomas, a last minute substitute, beat up terribly on seventh-ranked James 'Quick' Tillis. And Thomas only got his chance when Berbick became ill and not to be outdone, Snipes declared he wouldn't accept a battle with anyone other than the sick man.

So Don King, up the creek without a paddle, called in young Pinklon Thomas who was 10-0 and ranked number 15 by the WBC. It took Pinklon eight rounds to destroy Tillis who began to tire badly after the fifth round. With a victory over Tillis Thomas could vault clear up to number four, a ranking currently held by Greg Page. Remember Page was a decisive loser to Trevor Berbick. There appears to be a great deal of unrest amongst the heavies. Mike Weaver, Tex Cobb, Reynaldo Snipes and Larry Frazier have all pulled out of major fights in the past three months. Frazier, ranked number 14, actually walked out of Madison Square Garden just minutes away from fight time. And it's hard to remember the last time anyone has been able to get Mike Weaver into anything that resembles a fight ring.

Heavyweights



SLICK WATTS

Did you know that...

Roberto Duran never watches 126

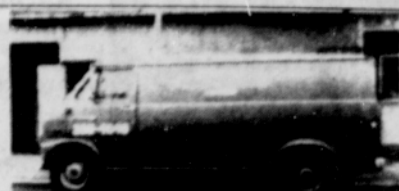
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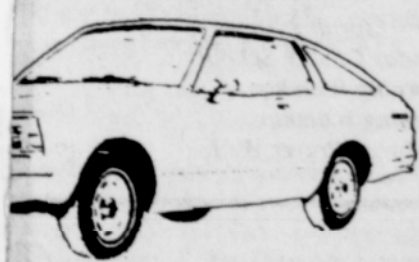
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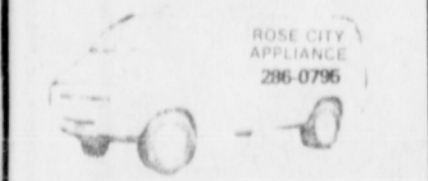
Orlando Cepeda, the ex-major league great, is alive and well after being imprisoned in Florida on dope charges. Cepeda is currently employed as a batting instructor for the Chicago White Sox.

Jackson, who is probably the clutch hitter the game has ever known.

And look for old Luis Tiant (1-1) to come through down the stretch.

It's our guess that the World Series will be played in one Western state.

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