



Thomas Kennedy; Kittie Robinson, president of Trailblazer Boosters; Audie Norris; "Fats" Lever; Sandy Armstrong and Linton

Townes at recent booster party for Blazer rookies held at Geneva's. (Photo: Richard Brown)

Fight card cancelled

A training injury to former national British heavyweight champ Ishaq Muhammad Hussein—highly regarded foe for ranking Northwest heavy Larry Frazier—has forced postponement of the scheduled Dec. 2 boxing program at Seattle's Paramount Theater.

The inaugural Thad Spencer Productions card will take place now shortly after Christmas. As soon as the best-date-available is confirmed by the Paramount Theater, the exact date will be revealed, probably early next week.

"We could have brought in a substitute," noted promoter Spencer, himself a onetime ranking heavyweight challenger, "but we like this Frazier-Hussein ten-rounder and we know the fans are going to like the matchup, too."

"Hussein suffered the injury Wednesday while skipping rope. It's not terribly serious, in fact it's kind of common—a slightly pulled muscle in his lower back. But the physician down there [Los Angeles, where Hussein now trains under the supervision of veteran Morris Rolf] urged us to give him three weeks' rest. So we will.

"Those fans who've already purchased tickets are urged to hold on to them, because they're going to see the same card that was advertised

for Thursday night."

The postponement works for the fans in a couple of other ways, too. The time differential allows rugged featherweight Greg Haugen, who has been campaigning in Alaska, to make his area pro debut. Haugen, from Auburn, is not stranger to amateur boxing customers. In fact, he holds two amateur wins over undefeated (16-0) Johnny Bumphus.

More good news: Up-and-coming Irish Randy McNurlin, who stopped undefeated Tony Talley of California in two rounds in Everett November 20th, will now be able to go the full scheduled ten rounds with Hatti Jimenez of Sacramento.

McNurlin's veteran manager, George Chermes, had considered showing this action lightweight (14-3, 9 KOs) in only an exhibition four-rounder to protect a forehead cut incurred when Talley butted him in the first round of their fight. Chermes said the postponement is "a blessing, 'cause now Seattle fans can see my fighter in a regular bout, without the special headgear I was going to use to protect that cut while it heals."

The third ten-rounder pits WBA No. 5-rated lightweight contender Dale Grant of Tacoma against Veteran King David Smith of Los Angeles.

Tree sales aid students

High school students are selling \$1 coupons that give the purchasers \$2 off the purchase price of a Christmas tree at more than 20 participating tree lots. Of the \$1, 50¢ goes to the school group, 25¢ to bonuses for outstanding student sales-

men, and 25¢ to Green Flag Promotions. Participating schools include: Jefferson, Benson, Grant, Madison, Milwaukie H.S., Hillsboro H.S., Glenco (Hillsboro) and Sandy H.S. Bright green flags will identify the participating tree lots.

Lackluster Portland team falters and falls

by Joe White

Portland Trailblazer head coach Jack Ramsay has been sitting back patiently waiting for his young and inexperienced team to grab hold of his concepts and develop into the fine team he's been saying is hiding somewhere.

Ramsay's patience is wearing as thin as the hair on his head and something must be done or the Blazers will continue to falter as they did on the recent four-game road swing.

Examining the last four games shows the problems the Blazers are experiencing.

An uncharacteristic Portland squad surprised the Philadelphia 76ers 106-103 in Philadelphia last Tuesday but since then have dropped three games in a row.

How can a team that beats the 76ers then come out and embarrass themselves in overtime at Detroit and then at Washington? Boston out-defended the Blazers in a 104-95 win but that's to be expected, the Celtics are one of the league's best teams.

But if Portland is going to go anywhere this season games like those against the Pistons and Bullets must be reversed.

What should have been a Port-

land win Friday night in Detroit only serves to point out that the Blazers are missing something and the season isn't getting any younger.

Detroit was playing without Kelly Tripucka and John Long, both high scorers for the Pistons and nursing injuries. Without these two Detroit can forget its fight with Milwaukee for the Central Division crown. That is unless the teams play like the Blazers did against Detroit. Portland got into overtime but then they might have well taken an early trip to the showers. The Pistons buried the Blazers for a 132-118 win.

In the National Basketball Association, teams that win and are good win the road games against the weaker teams. Portland has to play as tough on the road as they should at home. These are the highest average paid professional athletes but aren't playing with any emotion. Lackluster efforts are becoming commonplace.

Portland is 8-9 heading into last night's game with San Diego. Thursday the team travels to Utah and both of these games should be wins. If they aren't, Ramsay will really have to shake things up.

Friday night the Blazers travel to Los Angeles to take on the Lakers. Unless an unforeseeable miracle like the 76er upset occurs, it is likely the

Blazers will limp out of L.A. in bewilderment.

Los Angeles always works its way into top shape and so an early season game like this one may not be as important to the Lakers as it will be for Portland.

The Blazers do have some talent on the ball club. Whether or not that talent will mold into the team Ramsay wants is the only question. Ramsay and Stu Inman, director of player personnel and general manager of the club, warned of the slow start. Just how slow of a start will the team allow itself before produc-

ing? Individually the team has to get consistent play and play with something that separates the winners from the losers—emotion. Calvin Natt and Jim Paxson are the only two that are playing consistently good basketball. Watching Natt fight for every ball is a joy and seeing Paxson moving all the time gives hope.

Mychal Thompson is running like hot and cold water. He said earlier this fall that he wanted to average 28 points and 12 rebounds per game while winning 50 ball games. Unless he finds his enthusiasm of the past, none of those goals will be obtained.

Questions abound about whether Ramsay's system may just not fit this young team. The team may be

young but they're professional athletes. Being paid all that money dictates that these players should be able to adapt to any system and do it for an entire season.

Only seven or eight players on the team are getting significant minutes on the court. For the others to get adapted to playing with their team members they need game playing time. Ramsay's big problem is how does he give these players time and get the output needed to win ball games?

The Blazers are currently located just above the league's doormat teams on the power ladder. Teams like L.A., Boston, Seattle and Philadelphia stand alone on top. The Phoenix Suns, Milwaukee Bucks and San Antonio Spurs are on the next level. Portland rests below these teams and only time will tell if they can achieve the success predicted earlier this year.

Time will start to become a factor as the groundwork is laid for the rest of the season. Should the team continue to flatten out instead of building upward, a long season will be in the offing.

They are still in the running for the playoffs and may even make it to a mini-series. That will be all though unless the players start to play consistent basketball games for four quarters.

Chrysler strike opposes concessions

(Continued from page 1 col. 3)

two-day strategy session to devise means for fighting concessions and to establish networks of assistance. The meeting was not sponsored by a union, but by a small magazine, Labor Notes, which has provided systematic coverage and support for the movement against concessions.

Besides the Chrysler strike, other recent anti-concession labor actions include:

- 12,000 workers on strike against Caterpillar Tractor in the Peoria, Illinois area, where nearly 30 percent of the work force is unemployed.

- Dakota City, Nebraska, packing house workers struck Iowa Beef rather than take concessions, but were beaten and forced back to work without a contract.

- Employees of Morse Cutting Tools, a Gulf Western subsidiary in New Bedford, Massachusetts, won community support earlier this year and successfully beat back the parent firm, which was determined to reduce wages and eliminate various fringe benefits.

- Employees of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company in Pittsburgh successfully beat back concessions.

- And in North Kensington,

Rhode Island, 1,600 employees of Brown & Sharpe, a machine tool outfit, have conducted a bitter year-long strike against concessions. This strike, launched in October, 1981, continues with the company resorting to the use of strike-breakers and tear gas against the plants. It has polarized business-labor relations in the state along battle lines reminiscent of the 1930s.

The pro-concessions theory is that concessions save jobs by lowering labor costs to improve the financial health of companies. Behind this argument is the belief that rising wage costs are at the root of business' economic and financial difficulties.

The anti-concession union members are beginning to argue that the rate of increase of non-labor costs such as energy has risen faster than labor costs. The growth rate of unit labor costs has actually slowed, they contend, and when viewed as a percentage of sales, actually declined from 31.8 percent in 1970 to 29.2 percent in 1980.

In any event, today's concessions have little impact on overall costs, say the unionists. The \$1 billion worth of concessions, spread over 31 months, which Ford got from the

United Auto Workers will have less than one percent effect on Ford's annual costs of \$40 billion or more.

The anti-concession argument holds that pressures on corporations come less from labor costs and more from huge debt burdens, which have been growing steadily over the last 20 years.

This trend of borrowing, tied to spiralling interest rates, dramatically worsened the financial picture for many corporations in recent years. For example, Ford's annual interest expense more than doubled from 1978 to 1980, rising from \$195 million to \$452 million. For General Motors, annual interest costs rose from \$368 million in 1979 to \$897 million in 1981.

This high cost of debt encourages plant closings to generate the money to pay the interest. More money can be made by diversifying into new products like chemicals or insurance, or by going abroad, than by pumping capital into existing operations.

Many workers believe that in this situation concessions merely begin a headlong slide towards eventual loss of jobs and serious erosion of what little bargaining power unions have

left. Workers of Braniff Airlines, for instance, took a 10 percent pay cut in the spring of 1981. A year later, 9,000 workers were thrown out of work when the airline filed for bankruptcy.

Workers now are beginning to argue that rather than agree to concessions, future bargaining must take into account union participation and some measure of control over corporate investment policies. This trend likely will lead to an effort, for the first time since the Second World War, to gain a union say in the way goods and services are produced.

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Clinic Free

Dr. Michael Freistat of North Portland Family Clinic will provide free check-ups for infants and children to 12 years of age and blood-pressure tests for persons of any age. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the clinic, 105 N. Killingsworth. No appointment is necessary. Eight additional doctors are expected to volunteer their assistance.

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Bernard B. Richardson
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