



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Unless you've spent the past six months hibernating, or you've just returned to the U.S. from a long sabbatical in the far reaches of China, or if for some strange reason you chose to tune out the media for the last two years, then you're probably aware that Jim Paxson is the Trailblazer team captain.

If you somehow managed to mark none of the above, then you probably know that Pax is the floor leader.

If you didn't know it's a miracle because we've all been reminded far too many times.

For comparison... who out there can quickly name the captain who preceded Paxson? Hmm.

Isn't it interesting that the New York Knicks haven't been able to "buy" a championship since they went 62-80 way back in 1968.

In their heyday the Knicks consistently filled Madison Square Garden to the tune of some 19,000 fans to easily lead the NBA in both games won and attendance. Since then, however, the Knicks have failed miserably in both departments.

They are currently struggling in the tough eastern division with a terrible 3-15 won-loss record.

The Knicks, probably the wealthiest NBA team, rival only the Cleveland Cavaliers in squandering money and making bad deals, in their continuing effort to improve their franchise. They (Knicks) once used \$500,000 as bonus money to sign then New York Net star George McGinnis, only to have the deal declared invalid, losing both George and the money. Then they dealt with Seattle for Spencer Haywood, only to have Spencer perform at an all-time low, and finally leaving the club to play in Europe. They next tried and succeeded in luring Marvin Webster from Seattle. Webster was paid a tremendous salary and he, too, never produced, and is now relegated to the bench.

In spite of all the bungling in the past by New York, it is still hard for me to believe they passed on bidding for both Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Moses Malone.

In a story published by an eastern newspaper Kareem's agent let it be known to New York that Jabbar was interested in finishing his career in his hometown of New York City.

Jabbar, after trying to get Dr. Jerry Buss to assure him a good salary, somewhere in excess of one million per year, for the next five years, and being unable to get said assurances from Mr. Buss, decided he would take his services elsewhere, somewhere where the 7-2 superstar would be appreciated.

It should be said that because of Kareem's age, 35, Buss wanted to wait a year and see how much, if any, Jabbar's talents had diminished.

Anyway, the story has it that Jabbar would have signed with the Knicks had Mr. David Debusschere been interested. Debusschere was not. Strange but true.

Now, if you find that story hard to believe, then this one should be even more so.

This summer while Mose Malone was wandering around as a free agent, Debusschere is alleged to have nixed any possible deal for Moses, probably the premiere young center in the game today, because Dave felt that Malone had too many shortcomings as a player. Dave listed the following faults in Malone, and all those things that Debusschere found fault in Mr. Malone is doing so well with the Sixers.

"Moses can't block shots, doesn't make the outlet pass and is not a player that would complement Ray Richardson well."

So, where not is Ray Richardson? Playing guard for Al Attles at Golden State, while Malone is leading Philly to a grand start.

And trade winds are again blowing in the NBA. This time it has Portland's Mychal Thompson going to Boston for Kevin McHale.

It is rumored that Red Auerbach has long been a fan of Mychal's. This would seem to follow the Blazer pattern. Portland is known to be a club where minority is a no-no. Thompson is the one player on the squad with the most seniority so if any is to go, then "Bum" would seem the most likely candidate.

Coach Jack Ramsay is said to like the toughness in McHale in contrast to the timid play, at times, of Mychal.

It appears that I have picked up quite a following from boxing fans down at OSP.

We're extremely happy that the fellows are reading us, and are more than happy to receive their comments on our publication as a whole and my column in particular.

Of interest was a letter received dated December 6, 1982, from a Mr. Abdullah, we believe. In his letter, Mr. Abdullah stated that while he enjoyed my column overall, that the *Observer* should hire someone else to write on major boxing events "since Mr. Sykes obviously doesn't know anything about boxing."

He went on to list my pick of Gerry Cooney over Larry Holmes, Benitez over Hearns and erroneously stated that I chose Arguello over Pryor.

Where was my faithful following down at OSP when we picked Sugar Ray Leonard over Thomas Hearns, Leonard over Roberto Duran, Hearns over Pepito Cuevas and Dwight Braxton over Matthew Saad Muhammad?

It's for sure that I won't pick them all correct; what is for sure, however, is that I will always have the courage to make those picks. This writer will never be guilty of hiding behind the pen.

And, maybe someday, we can arrange a forum down at OSP where we could have a little question and answer session on boxing. I would be more than glad to explain the reasoning behind my picks. Especially the Cooney-Holmes affair. Uhuru good buddies.

This week in the NFL: Ron's picks:

N.Y. Jets at Miami
Miami after thawing out from the cold of Massachusetts will beat the N.Y. Sack exchange by 3.

L.A. Rams vs L.A. Raiders
Raiders by 10 over hapless L.A. Rams. Marcus Allen should have a field day running behind tough Raider offensive line.

St. Louis vs Chicago
The Bears seemingly have found their QB in ex-BYU ace McMahon. Chicago narrowly missed in Seattle.



Jabbar goes over Carr to score for L.A. Lakers while Magic Johnson and others wait for the rebound that never happened.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Should upset St. Louis. The Bears +3.

Buffalo vs Tampa Bay
Buccaneers seemingly are on a roller coaster ride. Sometimes up and other times down. Should beat Buffalo at home. Tampa by 1.

Houston at Philadelphia
A battle between the have nots. Both teams are struggling. Houston coach Ed Biles has changed the Oiler attack to not use Earl Campbell as much. As a result they're winning less. Archie Manning, Oiler QB, is not the Manning of old. Philadelphia is old. Take your pick.

N.Y. Giants vs Washington
Redskins are on a roll. Theisman is becoming a more consistent QB. Joe Washington has returned and Redskins are a solid club. Giants, too, are on a roll. Team has matured, running game is solid. Defense is sound. Pick 'em.

Minnesota vs Detroit
Lions are on a high after soundly thrashing Green Bay at home. Minnesota's secondary is suspect. Take Lions by 10.

Pittsburgh vs Cleveland
Pitt should rebound after being shut out in Alaska, disguised as Buffalo. If weather is bad take Cleveland.

Bladshaw can't possibly have another game as bad as that debacle in Buffalo. Steelers by 3.

Green Bay vs Baltimore
Packers, like everyone else,

should find a victory at Baltimore.

To say the winless Colts are hurting would be an understatement. Green Bay by 6.

Kansas City vs Denver
KC should solve their passing problems against less than formidable Bronco secondary. If not perhaps a QB change is imminent. KC by 1 1/2.

New England vs Seattle
Seattle, under interim coach Mike McCormick is respectable. The Seahawks are 2-1 since play resumed and 3-3 overall. Unpredictable Hawks by 1.

Cincinnati vs San Diego
Charger QB Dan Fouts will light up the place with passes, usually straight and accurate ones. Bengals are strong both offensively and defensively. Bengal pass rush should do what S.F. couldn't. Bengals by 7.

This week in boxing
Dec. 16 at Gary Ind. Ossie Ocasio, defending champion, will go against young Joe Louis, 15, WBA junior heavyweight title. Milton Guest vs. DuJuan Johnson, 10 junior welters; Paul Devorie vs. Kelvin Lampkins, 10 feathers. Alex Ramos vs Tony Cerda, 10 middles.

Shirley's Hair & Things

Curls... With Haircut \$39.95
Conditioners \$4.00-\$8.00
Relaxers... With Haircut & Style \$27.50
Hair Cuts \$10.00

By Appointment Only

HAIR CARE & STYLING

9-week course #23 (Beg. Jan. 13, 1983/Thurs./6:30-8:30 p.m.). PENINSULA PARK CENTER, 4600 N. Albina. Register at PCC-Cascade for winter term.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Sundays
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (some evenings)

6226 N.E. 23rd • 281-9052
(Between Liberty & Dekum)

MAKE A NEW HOME AT THE OLD ADDRESS

WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD PROFESSIONAL

Wm. D. Herboth Remodeling

CALL: 289-1600

Interior • Exterior Additions • Weatherizations

WANNA START SOMETHIN? Then try the Union Avenue...

BATTERY X-CHANGE

• FREE Installation
• FREE Battery Test
• FREE Electrical check

FROM \$19.95 Exchange

3007 N.E. Union Ave. 249-0101

Personalized & Custom Made Jewelry

Fine Jewelry/Watches/Diamonds
Diamond Setting
Watch & Jewelry Repair

Free
Your Jewelry checked, cleaned and polished.

Wedding Sets / Charms Pearls

PATON JEWELERS

4616 N.E. Sandy Blvd. 281-8801

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Serving your neighborhood since 1889.

Clothing, furniture, appliances for the entire family

2740 S.E. Powell Blvd. 234-0698
740 N. Killingsworth 285-0795
1016 S.W. 3rd 222-4884
S.E. 3rd & S.E. Harrison Milwaukie 654-5220
700 Molalla Oregon City 655-8927

646 S.W. Oak, Hillsboro 648-5097
2139 S.E. Stark, Gresham 665-3310
231 S. 1st, St. Helens 397-4440
As-is Store 3600 S.E. 28th 234-3130

FOR SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • REPAIRS

Our New Modern Building...Northeast Broadway at First

for the **BEST BUYS** in town

Receive \$50.00 cash or discount with purchase.

LYNN KIRBY COLISEUM FORD

55 NE Broadway 288-5211

UNION AVENUE GLASS

SINCE 1949

Insurance Claims Invited

- AUTO GLASS
- STORE FRONTS
- WINDOW GLASS
- PLATE GLASS
- STORM DOORS & WINDOWS
- SCREEN REPAIRS
- MIRRORS
- PLEXIGLASS

289-8887
6105 N.E. UNION AV.

You Don't Know The Time Until You Have Oregon's Finest Clocks

Handcrafted of real Oregon pine, these time pieces add a natural look to any room. Their high quality craftsmanship gives durability meant to last a lifetime.

The Mountain Clock is 30" long x 11" wide, with a spacious 9" x 3" planter box.
The Baby Mountain is 18" long x 9" wide, with a 7" x 3" planter box. Size 'C' battery not included. Phone 286-9062

High Grade's Natural Woods
7315 N. Fessenden
Portland, Oregon 97203

Please send me:
Mountain Clock at \$45.95
Baby Mountain at \$32.95.

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$

KOLBE INSURANCE SERVICES

An Independent Agent

6615 N.E. Union Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97211 289-1716
For All Your Insurance Needs

PULSE

The most efficient gas furnace in the world

Anctil Sheet Metal Co.
Heating & Air Conditioning
281-0752
4312 N. Williams Ave., Portland