

# Beavers, Glenco lead Metro League

by Stan Sykes

The 1982-83 Metro League Basketball season has started off with a bang, and there have been a lot of surprises. This year after the pre-season the top seeded team in the state, Glencoe's Crimson Tide, was upset in its first Metro League basketball game by the Beaverton Beavers. The Beavers beat the Tide by 6 points, 64-58, to start off what would be one of the toughest Metro League races ever. At the end of five games there were only two teams that stood above the rest. The Beaverton Beavers were 5-0, and the Glencoe Crimson Tide were 4-1. The rest of the teams in the Metro League—Jesuit, Hillsboro, Tigard, Central Catholic, Aloha, and Sunset were all tied for third place with records of 2-3.

At the end of the half-way point, in League play, things are starting to take shape. Two teams, Glencoe and Beaverton, seem to be above the rest of the league, and only competitive with each other. Glencoe, after their opening 86-84 loss to Beaverton, seemed to come alive by beating their next three opponents by at least 20 points, and winning their last 6 out of 6 games to trail Beaverton by just one game with a 6-1 record. Glencoe is led by 6-4 guard Dave Immel who is averaging 13 points a game. Immel signed a letter of intent to attend UCLA next year, and right now just appears to be working on his game so that next year he will be ready to fit into UCLA's routine.

The Beaverton Beavers are by far the best team in the Metro League

right now. They have beaten every team in the League, and just last Friday they beat the Central Catholic Rams decisively with a score of 89-54. The Beavers have everything a coach is looking for: size, talent, speed, quickness and experience. Even though the Beavers have a lot of experience, they are led by Junior Forward Anthony Taylor. Taylor is leading the league in scoring with a 22-point average. He has mesmerized fans with some of his sky-scraping slam dunks and he is a threat to any team that he is playing against. Beaverton will be very tough to beat. Look for them to finish high in the state playoffs.

Surprising as it may sound, the remaining 6 teams in the Metro League have losing records. Tigard, the new team in the League because of a district change, has surprised a few of the Metro League teams with their size and quickness. Tigard has great outside shooting from seniors Eric Christenson and John Baumgart, and they can shoot just as well as any team in the League. Tigard, a newcomer, has adjusted well to the Metro League toughness and seems to fit right in with the competitiveness. Look for Tigard to be right in the middle of things for those 3rd and 4th playoff spots.

Aloha is also in third place with Tigard and Sunset. The Warriors have turned what is supposed to be a rebuilding year into a potential playoff spot. The warriors are led by Junior guard Aaron Laasko. Laasko is a good ball handler, and is very capable of getting the ball to Aloha's 6-11 center Kevin Schmidt. Although Aloha has a losing record after half of the season, 3-4, they

will be a team that many Metro League teams will have to beat to get into the playoffs.

Rounding off that group tied for third place are the Sunset Apollos. The Apollos have Ken Harris, who many consider the best in the state, as their coach. Harris has turned things around for the Apollos, who were also supposed to be in a rebuilding year. He has changed them from a young, inexperienced team, to an aggressive, threatening team. The Warriors, in League play, have knocked off two teams that were rated in the top ten after the pre-season was over, Jesuit and Hillsboro, and they almost bumped off the top team in the Metro League, Beaverton, losing only in the final seconds 25-24, in a very slow-paced game. The Apollos appeared to be ready for every team they have faced so far. It will be interesting to see how they do in the second half.

With the success of some of the Metro League teams, comes the disappointment of other, and that is exactly what the Jesuit Crusaders have faced so far. Coming out of pre-season undefeated and ranked 9th in the state, the Crusaders proceeded to lose their next three League games to Metro foes, before coming up with two wins in a row, over Tigard and Aloha. The Crusaders have the youngest team in the League, carrying 7 juniors, 2 sophomores, and just 3 seniors. They are led by junior Dan Niedermeyer, who averages 17 points per game, and Mark Steger, who averages 16 points per game. These two young men have combined for over half of Jesuit's total offense so far in League play. Most teams play a tri-

angle and two defense to try and stop Niedermeyer and Steger, and that is the ultimate sign of respect. The Crusaders will come out strong in the second half, and look for them to be right in the thick of things for that playoff race.

The Hillsboro Spartans have also had a disappointing season. Ranked as high as 3rd in state at one time, the Spartans have produced only two wins in Metro League competition. Hillsboro is a tough, fast breaking team that can surprise you at any time. They appear to be in a slump right now, but are by no means out of the playoff race. Look for them to come back strong in the second half.

Finishing up the Metro League are the Central Catholic Rams. The Rams have played as well as was expected so far this year. They have knocked off Jesuit, their religious rivals, and Hillsboro, in the first half, and appear to be headed for some more wins in the second half. The Rams are led by senior Andy junior Keith Parker. These two young men have consistently played well for the Rams this year, and are also the two leading scorers. The Rams are a good team and should not be taken lightly.

The Metro League is like a jigsaw puzzle right now, and all spots are up for grabs. It will be interesting to see what happens in the second half.

Here is a look at the Metro League standings:

Beaverton, 7-0; Glencoe, 6-1; Tigard, 3-4; Aloha, 3-4; Sunset, 3-4; Jesuit, 2-5; Hillsboro, 2-5; Central Catholic, 2-5.

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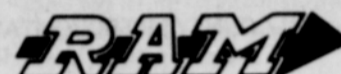
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## Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes,  
Sports Editor



Okay, Super Bowl XVII is now history. Yours truly started the play-offs saying it would be a Redskin vs. Raiders finals. Nobody's perfect but the Redskins were our favorites to take home all the marbles by a 20-17 margin.

Again no one is perfect and we'll settle for the 27-17 outcome.

And just like we said it was the running of John Riggins and the athletic ability of QB Joe Theismann that made the difference.

Theismann's major contribution undoubtedly came on one of his misplays. Let's set the scenario: The Redskins were deep in their own territory when Theismann dropped back to pass on third and 14. Joe back-pedaled seven yards and spotted little Alvin Garrett sprinting free on the Redskin 35. Just as Joe released the ball big Bob Kuchenberg, Miami's right tackle, extended his arms and batted the ball in the air.

Theismann's quick reaction took him to the lineman who was about to make the catch and would have

had a sure six points.

Theismann, 6-0 and 205 pounds, somehow knocked the ball loose. So instead of 24-13, the score remained a respectable 17-13. Hats off to Joe.

And while we're on the subject, hats off to my good buddies down at OSP. After my Super Bowl selection I know they all must be broke.

You see, it was brought to my attention that my good OSP pals watch for my predictions, then bet the other way.

And what about those Beavers? Kudos to Oregon State Coach Ralph Miller for having the courage to admit that he had made some bad moves.

For some strange reason Ralph elected to go with size instead of the quickness that had made OSU into the perennial Pac-10 champion.

During the early season Ralph's front line could match up well with just about any NBA team. At the forwards were the 6-8½ A.C. Green and 6-8 Charlie Sitton, Parkrose's 6-10 Steve Woodside in the middle

completed his huge but slow front line.

After going 1-4 in conference play Miller opted for a smaller but quicker lineup by benching Woodside, moving Danny Evans up front and bringing freshman sensation Darryl Flowers into the starting unit.

The Beavers are now playing like those teams that have become synonymous with OSU basketball.

And how about that Mott? Andy Mott, the freshman walk-on out of Grant High School has really come on.

"I guess I'll have to give Andy more playing time," Miller said. "He's certainly played well for us whenever he's been on the floor." I remember Andy when he was only a sophomore at Washington High School.

At that time I thought he was the finest sophomore in the state.

But since Andy had always played in a run and shoot offense it was hard to imagine him in a controlled game such as OSU. He has fit in well and will make a generous contribution to the basketball program.

Sorry Joe, perhaps you've lost a good one here.

Many are counting the Beavers out for this season, but the feeling here is that Ralph has just begun to fight.

And isn't the 7-4 Ralph Sampson something? Ralph can do it all, and anyone having any doubts as to who the best center in college basketball is should either have their eyes examined or their head. Big Ralph is heads and shoulders above the rest. Not only in size but ability as well.

Patrick Ewing will become a great player, given time, but not as great as Ralph. The fans in Houston should really be excited. Just hope management is ready to deal with the man (Sampson) who will lead them to the promised land.

The prediction here is that the Rockets will triple their season ticket sales the minute the announcement is made. Ralph Sampson is the Messiah, and he will lead them to the promised land, just as a young Lew Alcindor did for Milwaukee.

## Shootouts set

Hundreds of Oregonians age 18 and under will shoot baskets for Easter Seals at 54 Oregon locations on Saturday, Feb. 12, during the 4th annual Jack Ramsay Basketball Shoot-out.

Participants will collect pledges based on the number of baskets they sink. All contributions go to the Easter Seal Society of Oregon to benefit children and adults with physical disabilities.

Seven regional winners will be named in the benefit event. Each, accompanied by a chaperone, will win a "Day in the NBA," attending a Trail Blazer practice, getting an official Trail Blazer autographed basketball, lunching with Coach Jack Ramsay and attending a Blazer game. The grand prize winner will win a week-long scholarship at a basketball clinic. A number of other prizes will be awarded participants in the Shoot-out, which is being sponsored by Pepsi and Nike.

Shootouts in Portland will be held at the following locations and times: Clackamas Town Center, 12 noon-4 p.m.; Eastport Plaza, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Jantzen Beach, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Mall 205, 20 a.m.-1 p.m.; Washington Square, 12 noon-4 p.m.; Betts Riolo, 228-5108 for more information.

## Beavers meet Phillies in opener

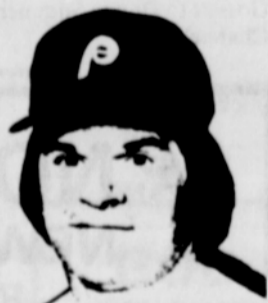
The Portland Beavers open their 76th season in the Pacific Coast League at Civic Stadium on April 10 and entertain their Major League affiliate, the Philadelphia Phillies, on Thursday, April 21.

This will be the first time Portland baseball fans will get to see Philadelphia's All-Star lineup which includes Pete Rose, Mike Schmidt, Joe Morgan and Steve Carlton. The Beavers meet the National League's perennial Eastern Division contenders at 7:05 p.m., on April 21.

The Phillies have won the National East championship four times in the last seven years and captured the 1980 World Series against the Kansas City Royals.

The Portland Beavers have announced the signing of former Beaver outfielder Larry Littleton and pitcher Johnny Sutton. Littleton played in 133 games for Portland in 1979.

The Philadelphia Phillies, the Beavers' parent club, purchased Littleton's contract from Toledo of the International League and bought Sutton's contract from Nuevo Laredo of the Triple-A Mexican League.

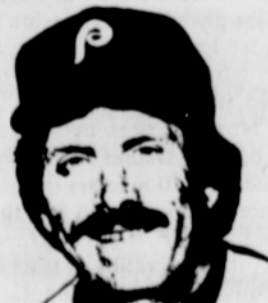


PETE ROSE

Sutton, a righthanded hurler, was on loan to the Phillies' Oklahoma City club at the end of the 1982 season.

"Larry (Littleton) did a fine job for us in 1979," said David Hersh, Beavers' general manager, "and, he's matured as a player since then, progressing all the way to the Major Leagues. He is proven to be an above average Class AAA player and his defensive skills will be an asset to the club."

Littleton, 27, hit .279 for Portland in 1979 and drove in 71 runs. He was traded, along with pitcher John Burden, to the Cleveland Indians organization for pitcher Larry Andersen in 1979.



MIKE SCHMIDT

Sutton, who has Major League experience with St. Louis and Minnesota, has spent the past two (full seasons) with Nuevo Laredo where he was 17-7 in 1981 and 8-8 before going to Oklahoma City.

"Sutton was an outstanding prospect," Hersh said, "and needs another chance to prove himself."

The 30-year-old Sutton pitched for Sacramento, Odgen and Hawaii in the Pacific Coast League.

Littleton played for two clubs in the International League last season. He started with Charleston before being traded to the Minnesota Twins' Class AAA Toledo club where he hit .278 in 62 games.

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