

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

There has been a good deal of wonderment about the career of Portland's Darryl Motley, the one-time Grant High baseball player, who was labeled a "can't miss" when he was graduated in 1978.

Motley signed on with the talented Kansas City Royals and reportedly received a bonus in the \$30-50,000 range.

Arizona State, the ultimate baseball university, offered Motley a scholarship to matriculate at Tempe. Now, for those of you who don't know... ASU is the UCLA of baseball. The Wildcats are blessed with such good weather that they're able to play the game virtually year-round. Their schedule is usually around 100 games and play some major league teams during the exhibition season. Four years at ASU is equivalent to four years in the minors. And normally it takes four to five years for complete development. Very few players make it to the biggies under that aforementioned time frame.

Darryl opted for the money and was immediately signed to the Royals instructional school in Bradenton, Fla.

After two weeks of intense training he then was assigned to Ft. Myers the Royals AA Farm Club. Motley finished the '78 season with Ft. Myers hitting .338 and 3 homers.

The following season, his second full one, was a good one for Motley at Ft. Myers. He hit .287, 13 triples and 15 round-trippers. He was rewarded by being shipped to Triple A Omaha of the International League.

At Omaha Motley ran into problems. First, he found out that the curve ball he hit so well in double-A ball, he no longer could hit at the higher level.

Motley struggled and by mid-season was hitting fairly consistently. He now had visions of joining potent Royal outfield. Motley made it to the Gig club after the ill-fated strike.

He played right field the rest of the abbreviated season, but lost out in favor of Clint Hurdle.

All didn't go well for young Motley. He was groomed as a third baseman at Ft. Myers, a position he played well. In fact, because he played it so well was the reason KC management decided to shift him to the outfield. Perhaps that may sound strange to some, but remember KC had a man named Brett playing third and George had led the American League in hitting that same year. As a matter of fact Brett had flirted with .400 most of that year.

So, at the request of Kansas City, young Motley exchanged his infielders glove for a larger outfielders mitt

and trotted out to right field.

1982 found Motley again in Omaha, where he had a so-so season, played winter ball in South America and was again assigned to Omaha.

Darryl again had hopes of making the majors in 1983. He was leaving a good spring until a broken foot sidelined him midway through March.

His contract again is assigned to Omaha. This is the fifth minor league season for the 23-year-old Portlander and perhaps his last.

The smoke has cleared. 900 million Chinese nationalists could care less, but the final four have arrived on the scene. They are blazing a trail to Albuquerque, N. Mexico, leaving behind the Villanovas, Kentuckys, Tar Heels and, yes, the Cavs.

And, no, Mr. Ralph Sampson, the best player in the land, will once again be denied his chance of winning a national championship. That opportunity will go to either Houston, Louisville, North Carolina State or Georgia. Those are the four teams that will assemble on Saturday, April 2 to begin the shoot-out. And when the smoke clears those

Texans should have the best of it all.

North Carolina State, the No. 6 seed in the West regional will play Georgia, the No. 9 seed from the East. This will be a match-up of two teams that no one would have believed would make it this far. Georgia, 23-9, and 9-9 in the SEC, is truly the Cinderella team. The Bulldogs are making their first ever appearance in the NCAA tournament, and the Georgians are playing like a team possessed. The Bulldogs are only in it because they won the SEC tournament, and they've been on a roll ever since.

It all began for Georgia when they knocked off Boston University in Greensboro, N.C. Then it was on to Syracuse where they took on St. Johns, a team once ranked No. 1 in the nation. They defeated the Redmen handily, and that victory served notice to the world that the Georgians were ready. On Sunday, March 27, 1983 they were matched against the Tar Heels, another team that had been No. 1. The outcome was the same. It was Georgia handily defeating the much bigger Tar

Heels.

The Bulldogs are pitted against NC State, another Cinderella team, and the outcome is doubtful. What is not doubtful is the fact that neither Georgia nor NCS will be given much of a chance against the winner of the Houston vs. Louisville encounter.

For all practical purposes the championship game is being played on the first day of the tournament, when the Cougars and Cardinals take the floor.

The game between Houston and Louisville will be played somewhere in outer space.

Both Houston and Louisville have some of the finest athletes ever to set foot on a hardwood floor.

I mean I've seen teams that were fast, teams that were quick, teams that could jump. But never have these eyes seen so many players that could do all those things. Houston has three sure first-round NBA picks in the 7-0 Center, Akeem "The Dream" Olajuwon, 6-9 forward Mischeaux and 6-8 forward Drexler. These guys are studs.

Louisville is equally as talented, but Akeem's center play makes Houston the favorite.



Linton Townes, Trailblazer forward, signs autographs following the Official Basketsinking Ceremony celebrating the beginning of expansion construction at the Salvation Army Moore Street Center.

struction at the Salvation Army Moore Street Center.

(Photo: Richard Brown)



Portland's Wayne Cooper puts one past Detroit's Kelly Tripucka like the Blazers put one past the Pistons, 114-107.

(Photo: Dan Long)

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