

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



Darnell Valentine gets one past the Sonics. Portland defeated Seattle 108-97 in the first game of the mini-series. The second game

will be held at home in Portland.

(Photo: Dan Long)

Who is this Cindy Brown and why is she so upset with the State of Oregon? Cindy Brown is a 6-2 all-American do-everything basketball player that received over 250 scholarship offers from throughout the nation.

Cindy won't be attending school in-state.

She has narrowed her choice to Southern California, Louisiana Tech, Long Beach State and anywhere else, U.S.A.

So why has Cindy turned her back on the great state of Oregon?

Her reasons for shunning the state seem legitimate enough. "I'm not appreciated on the court," Cindy said last week in Eugene. Shame on you Cindy. But weren't you around when Sidney Wicks said the same thing? Didn't you hear Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins? Haven't you stopped to look in the mirror lately? Shame on you Cindy for thinking you should be recognized for only your playing ability. Aren't you aware that that is a privilege a young lady of color shall not receive in the state of Oregon, not yet anyway?

Cindy has been labeled by some as having a bad attitude, but don't we always hear that in reference to the black athlete. Now, really, how many white athletes have you known to be so labelled?

When the white athlete strays from the norm he's called "flaky," never a bad attitude.

Sure Cindy blew her top and I, for one, commend her for having the courage to tell it as she believes. Cindy didn't appreciate the boos, and one can hardly blame her for that. But again Cindy should realize that still she's a product of Oregon. It seems that only the good black players are subjected to boos here. Wicks and Hollins certainly received more than their share while trying to bring the Blazer program to respectability. They never received their righteous dues and neither did Cindy.

Cindy was embittered even more

after being shunned as Oregon girls player of the year, an honor voted by the coaches to Michele Hoppes of Crook County.

Granted Hoppes is an excellent player, but how many all-America teams did she make? None. It was shameful that the coaches, a lily-white group, could not select the great sharpshooter. Prejudice? What else could it be. On pure ability, if that's how it's chosen, Brown is better than half the boys in the state and all of the girls. And someone should be calling for the resignation of Grant Coach Amaya.

Amaya, in an interview, said that his four year ace was off base.

It's sad to see Coach Amaya desert Cindy at a time when she needed him most.

In a telephone interview with the *Observer*, Coach Amaya said, "Hey, I'm on Cindy's side. I said the things I said only because I want to help Cindy."

Strange... if this is help, then it's certainly help Ms. Brown could well do without. With her bold statements of the past Cindy Brown will probably join Sidney Wicks as the state's most unpopular athlete. She now can expect boos each and every time she's introduced in this state.

On to wherever, Cindy, we'll continue to follow and report on your soon-to-be illustrious career.

## NBA playoffs

### Atlanta at Boston

Best of three (mini-series). Boston won 56 games and still finished nine games behind Philly. Look for depth and too much skill to overcome a well-coached but undermanned Atlanta team. The Atlanta Hawks will need the inside play of Tree Rollins and Dan Roundfield, who is probably the best strong forward in the NBA, and the strong guard play of ex-Blazer Johnny Davis is they are to overcome the Celts.

Boston depends heavily, and well they should, on Larry Bird. The 6-9 Bird finished the season averaging 23.6 ppg and 11.0 rebounds. However, the Boston backcourt leaves something to be desired. Second year starter Dan Ainge and Quinn Buckner have both been shaky. Tiny Archibald could very well be the key to any Celtic success. Tiny, 34, is still the best penetrating guard in the NBA. Parrish has kept the Celts in games with consistency in the middle. Boston 2, Atlanta 0.

### Denver at Phoenix

The Suns are playing their best ball of the year. Front line of Maurice Lucas, Larry Nance and Alvin Adams give most teams trouble. Adams at 6-9 can take opposing centers out front by hitting the out-

side jumpers. This leaves strongman Mo Lucas underneath where he's extremely effective. Nance at 6-10 is effective both outside and inside. Denver relies on scoring from their front line where they had Alex English and Kiki Vandeweghe, the NBA's number-one and -two scorers. English finished 28.4 and Vandeweghe 26.7. The size and speed of Phoenix will be too much for Denver. Suns 2, Nuggets 0.

### Portland at Seattle

The Sonics own the home court advantage and they also seem to own the Blazers. Seattle, 48-34, won the last two games against Portland and it would appear that they are the stronger team going into the playoffs. David Thompson must play well if Seattle is to win. It should be remembered that it was Thompson's spectacular play in the early season that lifted the Sonics to their near record 12-0 start. When Thompson slumped so did Seattle.

David has regained his early season start and should make the difference.

Portland mainly has been a two-man show. Forward Calvin Natt and guard Jim Paxson is the Blazer offense. If either is off, then Portland struggles. Seattle 2, Portland 1.

Darryl Motley, ex-Grant High School all-stater has just recently been traded to Detroit. Motley, injured right foot, was with KC organization for three years.

What is it about Oregon basketball that is so appealing to Idaho? At last check we found the following Oregonians matriculating or will be at Moscow: Phil Hopson, E.C. Morgan, Terrel Cage, and Ulf Spears.

## All NBA

**First team:**  
Larry Bird, forward—Boston  
Julius Erving, forward—Sixers  
Moses Malone, center—Sixers  
Magic Johnson, guard—Lakers  
Andrew Toney, guard—Sixers

**Second team:**  
Alex English, forward—Denver  
Larry Nance, forward—Phoenix  
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, center—Lakers  
Sidney Moncrief, guard—Bucks  
Dennis Johnson, guard—Suns

**All-Rookie team:**  
Terry Cummings, forward—Clippers  
James Worthy, forward—Lakers  
Marc Lavarroni, center—Sixers  
Fats Lever, guard—Portland  
Eric Floyd, guard—Golden State



## Little League opens

Every spring brings out bats, balls, bases and caps in the thousands as youngsters scramble out to play ball. And this year is no different. In North/Northeast Portland alone there are nine Little Leagues each with up to 25 or so teams. Opening Day came last Saturday for some leagues while others will begin their seasons during the coming weeks.

The *Portland Observer* will be featuring a weekly "Little League Round-Up" highlighting important players, events and League standings on a rotating basis. No less than five leagues will be highlighted in the Little League Round-Up, including Sportsmen's, Hollywood, and Interstate Little Leagues.

The Hollywood Little League opening day was last Saturday and players from seven to fifteen years of age displayed their talent and energy. According to League President Katrina Blackwood, the league has expanded this year to include 23 teams in five different programs. Hollywood's programs include two softball programs: one for nine-to-twelve-year-olds and another for those thirteen to fifteen. Games for all five Hollywood programs are played at Grant Park and Tubman and Fernwood Schools.

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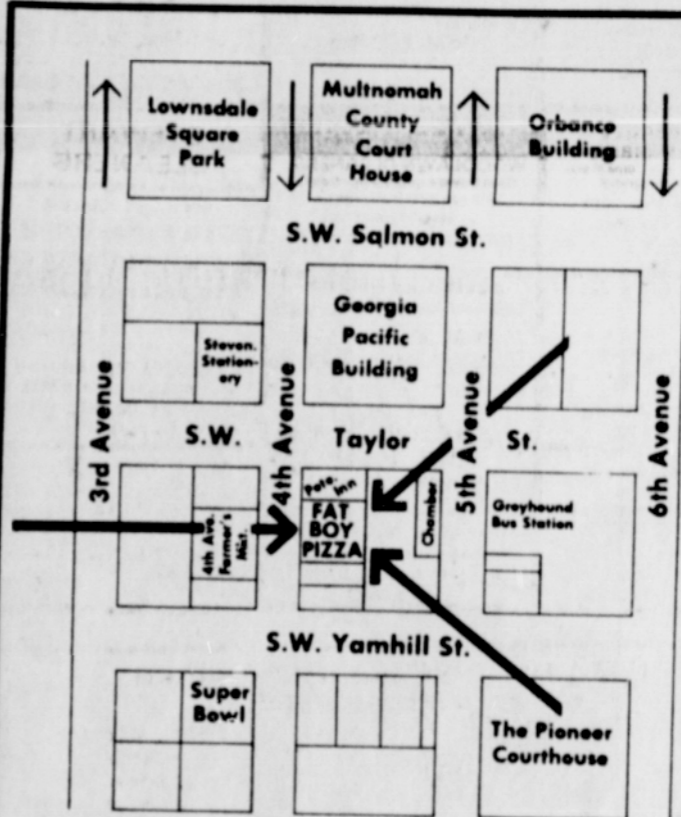
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