

Pettett's mistake?

by Stan Sykes

Many people may say that Andre Pettett made a very big mistake. Others will say that he made the right choice. But no matter who is right, Andre Pettett did what he wanted to, and that is to run track. For years now, Andre Pettett has had his life centered around tennis, not only did he play from dawn to dusk, but he also works at the Raleigh Hills Racket Club. It seemed as though he was all set to enter into his senior year at Jesuit High School as one of the top tennis players in the state, looking forward to a possible college scholarship. Until one day in January when he surprised both the tennis coach and the members of the team by announcing that he was going to run track. "No one took me seriously," said Andre, "until the first day of tennis practice when I didn't show up, that is when people finally started to believe me."

Andre had always known that he had speed, but he wasn't quite sure just how much, until back in December when he went to the Oregon Invitational (all-comers) meet at the coliseum. "I wanted to go so that I could see what I could do," Pettett said. "I was getting tired of tennis and I wanted to try something new." This is where Pettett found that he had a lot more talent than he thought, he finished third in a field of over a hundred of some of the top sprinters in Oregon. After realizing his great potential in the sport of track, Pettett had to make that one crucial decision and that was to give up tennis, a sport which he had been playing intensely for the last couple of years, to explore the new unknown world of track. When asked why, Pettett says, "I had been getting tired of tennis for a while now, and I just don't like it as much as I used to, and I thought that I would give something else (track) a try before I went to college." When told that there was no money in track, Pettett simply replied, "I didn't plan to go pro in tennis anyway, so I am just going to run track."

One thing is for sure and that is Pettett doesn't need athletics to get through life, he has carried over a 3.5 grade point average all the way through high school, he has done all the things that he has wanted to do including graduating as vice president of his class, and he has been accepted to the University of California at Berkeley.

So far, Pettett has helped the track team greatly. He has won all of his races except for one thus far, and with a little more experience he feels that he can win them all and qualify for the state meet in a couple of weeks.

The question will never be answered as to whether or not Andre Pettett made the right decision, he might have been another undiscovered black talent in a so-called "white man's" sport, or he could of just faded out like so many other athletes. But, the one thing that we do know is that Andre Pettett did what he wanted to do, and that apparently is the best decision for him.

ATTENTION

The Nigerian Soccer Club will play Alabi for the Northern District Championship on May 1, noon, at Multnomah Stadium. The winner will proceed to the state meet.

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EXERCISE: Bill Cosby runs with youngsters participating in Howard University athletic program.

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Fifty years of Kennel Club racing
The Multnomah Kennel Club will kick off its second half century of Greyhound racing Monday, May 2, 1983.

Schooling races began on April 11 at the track, and is now complete after nearly 400 races were run.

A full complement of kennels is represented at MKC this season, with a total of 35 greyhound kennels ready to open the season Monday night, including the D&D kennel, which boasts the nation's top money winning dog in DD's Jackie.

Wagering will continue among greyhound fans, as it has for 50 years in Oregon, with every race a quinella race, a nightly daily double and win-place-show betting as per pari-mutual wagering. Trifecta betting will also be available on all but the first race.

Kareem's unguarded moment

In game one of the Blazers vs Lakers series, a strange thing happened.

Someone told Coach Jack Ramsay to forget about the book on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Someone told him to forget that for years it has taken two men to guard the big man when the ball goes in to him.

So, when play started out on the first Laker possession, Laker guard Norm Nixon looked right then left before he spied the big man in the middle. Nixon lofted a soft pass into Kareem and expected Valentine to immediately drop down. Instead, Valentine followed Nixon on a curl and left Jabbar with only Cooper to contend with.

Kareem had to be shocked to find that he was all alone with only the 6-10 Wayne Cooper. The big man danced with glee as he spun and lofted a shy hook for two. And with that the game was over. And any time the Blazers attempt using solo coverage on the greatest offensive player the game has known, the outcome will be the same.

To a man, the Blazers will tell you that they can beat the Lakers. It doesn't matter that L.A. is the dominant team in the West. L.A. is a team of stars, while Portland is a team of "no stars."

Yet these Blazers cannot be counted out. In order to win, Portland

must catch the Lakers on a cold night while they (Blazers) are enjoying a good night. It's as simple as that.

The Lakers can survive a cold night from both Nixon and Jamaal Wilkes. If Calvin Natt and Jim Paxson are off, this series will end on Sunday. Point guard is a critical position for Portland. Both Valentine and Fats Lever must push the ball upcourt on offense, they must penetrate and dish off when the big guy comes over for the block.

If this happens and can somehow get Jabbar in foul trouble, and with both James Worthy and Bob McAdoo sidelined due to injury, then perhaps they could win. And how about that tackle Boston's Dan Ainge put on Tree Rollins? Ainge, quickly gaining a reputation as an aggressive player, went right after Atlanta's Tree after being socked with an elbow. It was this same Ainge, while at Brigham Young, that also went after OSU's 6-10 Steve Johnson. Ainge received a sore finger and a 1000-dollar fine, while Rollins received a deflated ego and a \$5,000 fine, plus a five day suspension.

If you remember, Ainge was kicked out of the game, Rollins was not.

However, after viewing the videotapes, it was determined that Rollins was the perpetrator. Now, why won't the officials use instant replay on some of those goal-tending calls. Very interesting!

The Boston-Milwaukee series will be a dandy. The Celtics are ripe for being picked off and the Bucks have the pails to do the picking.

Sidney Moncrief will run wild if Boston Coach Bill Fitch puts Ainge on him. Milwaukee was one of the NBA's stronger teams at the close of

the season. Center Bob Lanier has had three weeks in which to rest his aching knees. That will help. Boston's front line must rise to the occasion or else Milwaukee will steal this one. Larry Bird and Marques Johnson will play to a stand-off. Robert Parish gets the nod at center over Lanier, but the Bucks backcourt is far superior.

Stanford's John Elway, picked in Tuesday's NFC draft by Baltimore, allegedly said he would not play for anyone other than a West Coast team.

However, he did say he would play for the Dallas Cowboys. Is the Golden Bay quarterback so good that he can make such demands? Is he really the Ralph Sampson of football?

As of yet Sampson hasn't made such ludicrous demands.

Wasn't Stanford's record last year 6 and 6? That's hardly anything to write home about.

Look for a fast housecleaning in Seattle. Believe me, some heads will roll after a so-so regular season and that early defeat at the hands of the Blazers. Lenny Wilkins just may be on his way back to the front office. Rumor has it that the Sonics are through with Lonnie Shelton. One source has it that a deal will be made for Shelton as soon as possible. Also look for Mark Radford, ex OSU great, to join Roy Blume next year.

Where are the black coaches?

The NBA now has lost two-thirds of their black head coaches. Paul Silos was fired at San Diego, while Al Attles stepped down at Golden State to join the front office.

Lenny Wilkins of the Seattle Super Sonics is the lone remaining, and his stuff is shaky.

Little League Round-up



Interstate

The excitement has begun for players in the Interstate Little League as well. Spectators are sure to catch some excellent playing evenings and Saturdays by these young people at Arbor Lodge Park.

Hollywood

The Hollywood Little League began the season with a smashing home run by Joel Keefer of the Silverstreaks in the Majors division. The Silverstreaks went on to defeat Steenson's A.M./P.M. Arco 22 to 5.

In the Hollywood Intermediate League (nine, ten, and eleven-year-olds) the Arctic Circle and Zenners Meats teams have perfect records so far.

Intermediate Team	Wins	Losses
Arctic Circle	2	0
Zenners Meats	2	0
Volchek Bootery	1	1
Luzaders Photo	1	1

Major

Team	Wins	Losses
AEC	2	0
PJ's Pirates	2	1
G.I. Joes	1	1
Kandel Knit	1	2
H.W.H.	0	2

Minor

Team	Wins	Losses
Frank's Arco	3	1
Elk Cleaners	2	1
I.W.A.	2	1
Pietro's Pizza	2	1
Sande Auto	0	2
Stone's Carpets	0	3

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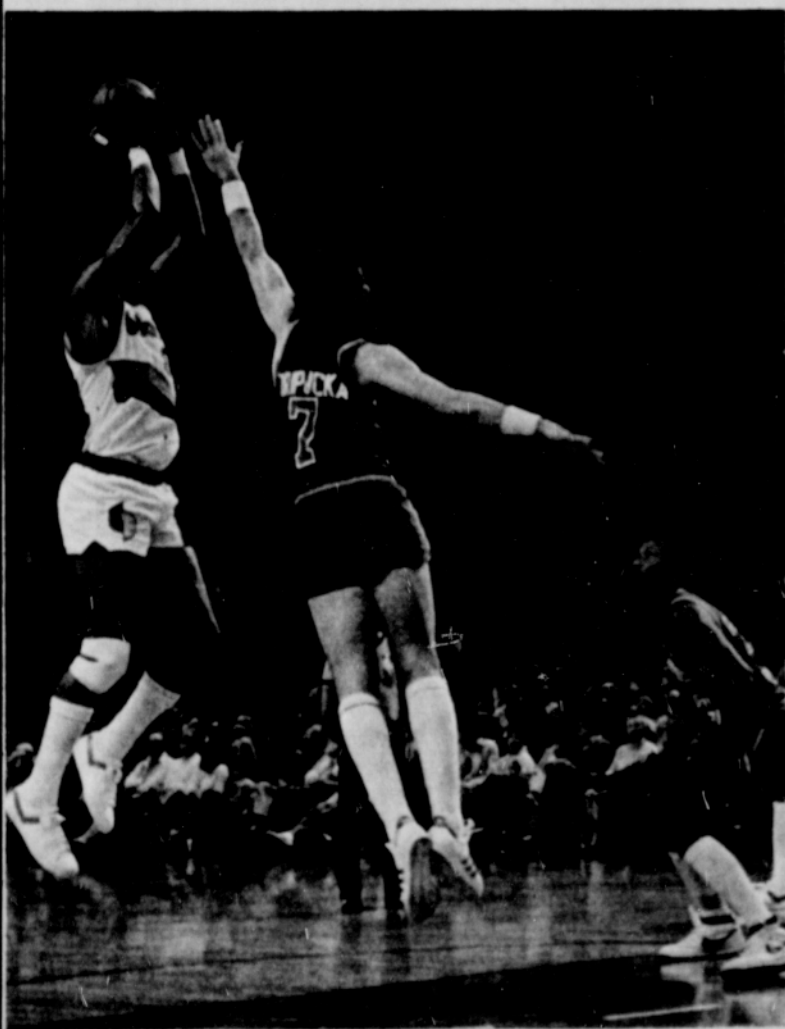
Jeffrey Osborne

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