

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Natt on vacation

Somewhere in Southern Louisiana Calvin Natt is vacationing with his wife. He just may be out in the woods hunting, something Calvin enjoys very much. While Natt is hunting game his agent, Howard Slusher, is also in the hunting game.

You see, Natt is now a free agent and is now free to talk to all 26 NBA teams. His agent has indicated that Calvin will do just that.

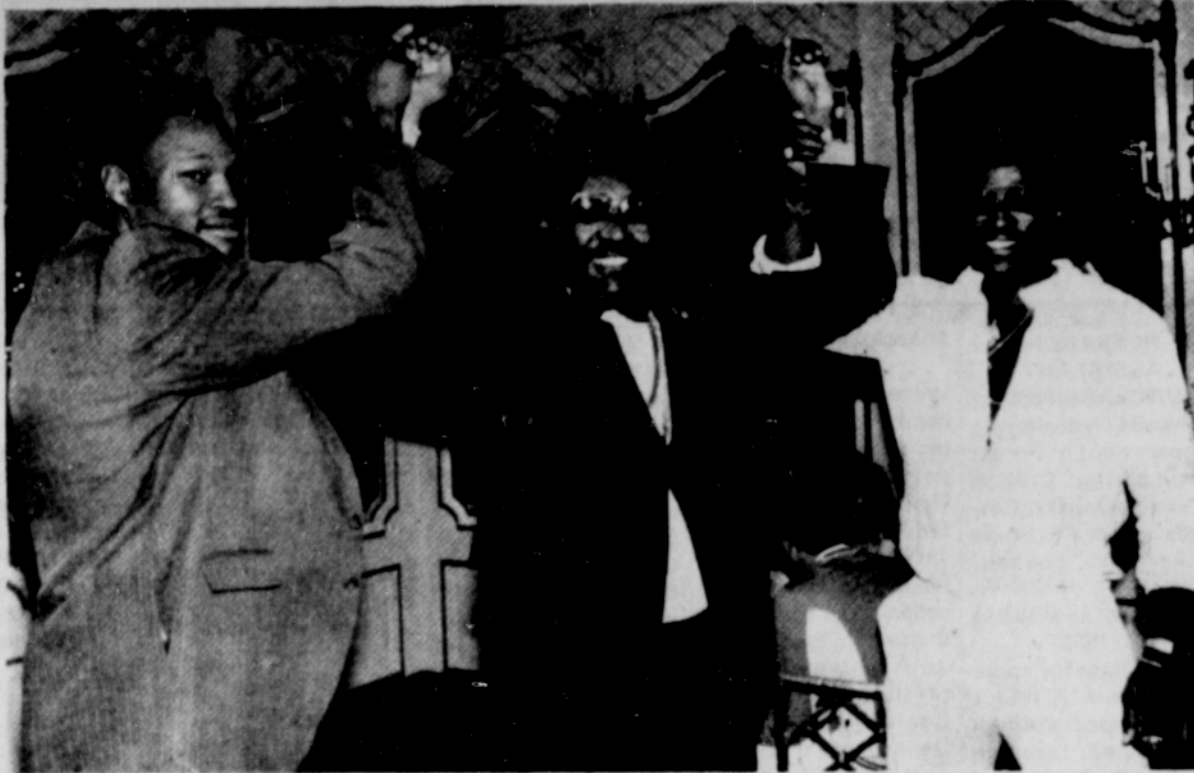
Natt, called by his teammates "Pit Bull," in just two years has established himself as one of the best small forwards in the game. And Calvin is coveted by at least 13-17 NBA clubs. "I'm amazed at how far he's come in two years," Los Angeles coach Pat Riley said. "He's just one tough cookie, a guy 6'6" who can jump with guys 3 or 4 inches bigger. He's one of the truly great small forwards.

Lenny Wilkins, coach of the Seattle Super Sonics is a great admirer of Natt. It is ironic because Seattle defeated Vinnie Johnson, since traded to Detroit, ahead of Calvin Natt in the 1979 NBA draft. That was a move Seattle followers never let the Sonics organization live down.

Natt was Portland's steadiest performer through the '82-'83 campaign. Some Jim Paxson fans will argue the point. While Paxson had a fine offensive year, Natt had a better all around game.

Calvin finished high in all categories, which prompted coach Al Attles of Golden State to say, "Natt is a miniature Moses Malone, the man comes to play." In today's NBA game that is the ultimate compliment.

Natt's stats are impressive. He played in 80 games, led the team in minutes played with 2,879, finished second in rebounding with 599 of which 214 were offensive boards, that also was highest on the team. He had 171 assists which placed him ahead of Paxson's 159, and remember Paxson is a guard, and at one time during the season took over as point guard when Darnell Valentine went down. Natt shot an impressive .543 from the field and .792 from the line. As impressive as his stats are, none stand out more than the 2,879 minutes he logged during the season, which computes to 34.9 a game.



Super promoter Don King (c) raises the hands of WBC Heavyweight Champion Larry Holmes (l) and WBA Heavyweight Champion Michael "Dynamite" Dokes (r) at a recent press party announcing the

Crown Affair, May 20 at the Dunes in Las Vegas, when both undefeated champions will defend their crowns. (Photo: Hollis Stein)

The question now is if Calvin's body is in Louisiana, where then is his mind? Natt's agent said last week that Calvin would sign with Portland if the right deal can be worked out. But he also indicated that he would talk to the other clubs, this only being fair to Calvin's career. What then is the Blazer position. In the past the Blazers haven't been able to re-sign their superstar players. All-star forward Maurice Lucas was sent packing when he demanded more of the green stuff. However, Larry Weinberg, Blazer owner has publicly stated that Calvin Natt will not get away. "We will either sign Calvin or match any other offer sheet," Weinberg stated.

That should be good news to Blazer fans. It's a known fact that the team is in the hunt for a big center. Let's hope that the hunt for a small forward is over.

Harris names best blacks

Lou Harris was sitting on a seat in his living room in Northeast Portland. "You want my all-time black major league baseball team,

huh. Okay, here's how I see things," blurted Lou.

FIRST BASE — I gotta take big Luke Easter. I saw him play on the coast as well as in Cleveland. Big Luke had more low power than any player I've ever seen.

SECOND BASE — Jackie Robinson, who else? Jackie was the epitome of all the game stands for. He had speed, could hit and was nonpareil as a defensive player. And above all was very intelligent. I know one thing, there's none around today like Jackie.

SHORTSTOP — Ernie Banks. Ernie hit more home runs than any shortstop ever. He had good range and a sure fire aim. He had a certain presence about him.

OUTFIELD — First comes Willie Mays. Just name something the man couldn't do. Then comes Hank Aaron, again I defy anyone to challenge Henry. And I've got to go with Roberto Clemente as my third choice. Roberto was one of the finest single hitters in the game. He did his job in a businesslike manner, but he always got it done.

CATCHER — Roy Campanella. Campy was a take charge type catcher who was always in complete control. He had good power and led the Dodgers in both RBI's and home runs.

PITCHERS — Don Newcombe, Bob Gibson and Sam "Toothpick" Jones.

THIRD BASE — A guy named Junior Gilliam, who moved into third after being a second baseman for the Dodgers. Junior was a sensational fielder. He was the type of player that never took you out of a game. "Now, remember these are all modern day players. I just wish I could have seen the old guys," Harris chortled. Tales are still being told in barrooms about the abilities of some of those legendary black

players who weren't provided the opportunity to play in the big leagues.

Conrad Hunte, a former vice-captain of a world champion West Indies cricket team, has lived and worked as a newspaperman in Britain and lectured all over the world on race relations. He now lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He will speak to the World Affairs Council on "Racial Antagonisms — Beyond the Fears to Cure," on Thursday, May 12th, 8:30 p.m. at the Bank of California 4th floor cafeteria. Hunte, on tour for the International Conference for Moral Re-Armament, also spoke at Jefferson High School.



How to pack a nutritious meal for a backpack will be the topic of a class on Tuesday, May 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center's Souther Auditorium. The class also will feature recipes for quick dishes and trail snacks and a lesson on drying foods. Registration fee is \$5. For more info., call 299-2219.

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Sale Lasts Until 5/20



YWCA Campership recipients pause for photo during preparations for 8th Annual Walkathon and Sale May 14 at Alberta Park. Bottom: (l to r) Jennifer Gordon and Malea Heamish; Center: April West; Top: Tina Harris and Wahedi Johnson.

Walk-a-thon aids campers

The Northeast YWCA will hold its 8th Annual Walkathon and Sale May 14 at Alberta Park. Walkers are sponsored by donors contributing \$1 per lap around the

Portland children to Westwind, the YWCA camp on the coast. Last year's proceeds were able to send over 25 children to the 500-acre camp.

Food to be sold at the sale will include Audrey Sander's special barbecued ribs and chicken, potato salad, hot dogs and punch. The sale and walkathon will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the Northeast YWCA for more information, 288-5173.

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Little League Round-up

Sportsmen's
Players in the Sportsmen's Little League have had as many games rained out so far this year as they have played. League President Willie Hart reports that the rain has not dampened the spirits of the young players.

Team	Wins	Losses
Local 296	2	0
Kings Ransom	1	0
Hoffman	1	1
Albina Youth Service	1	2

Hollywood
Bobbi James reports that softball players in the Hollywood Little League are off to a great start this year.

Team	Wins	Losses
Kiwanis	5	0
Yaws	2	4
Dairy Queen	2	3
Weinsteins	1	3