



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Doing business with the Blazers

So now with the Blazers it's put up time. Cleveland fired the first salvo by offering Calvin Natt some \$4.5 million spread out over six years.

Which computes out to something like \$750,000 per year. Cleveland just may be the Siberia of NBA basketball, but for those kind of coins, who cares.

Natt has let everyone know that he prefers to play in Portland, but will go anywhere (Cleveland) if the money is right.

Blazer owner, Larry Weinberg, couldn't reach an agreement with the scrappy small forward in their two previous attempts. A reliable source reportedly said the original Blazer offer was \$450,000 per year. If true, and whomever in the organization didn't offer more, then Portland just may have seen the last of Calvin Natt. Natt is one player the team cannot afford to lose.

The Blazer organization has developed a reputation in the past of not giving large contracts. When both Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins asked for more money they were both shipped out.

Calvin Natt is ready... the ball is now in the Blazer court. The feeling here is that Natt will be signed.

The team is facing a similar problem with Captain Jim Paxson. It is reported that Paxson's asking price is unreal according to team officials. Portland's drafting of Clyde Drexler could be more significant if both Natt and Paxson should depart. Drexler, 6'-7", can play both small forward or big guard. Even if Natt and Paxson remain in the Rose

City...one should expect Clyde "the Glide" to log big minutes at both positions. Back time for Natt and Paxson was a problem all of last year. Coach Ramsay tried second year man, Jeff Lamp and rookie Jeff Townes, and none were particularly impressive. Lamp just doesn't have the tools and Townes needs to build confidence.

Neither position, small forward or big guard, should give the high flying Drexler much trouble.

Drexler's outside shooting is suspect, but one should remember as a young sophomore Mr. Drexler took on North Carolina star James Worthy head to head and scored twenty-eight points as Houston mounted a furious second half rally to come back on the 1982 NCAA champion Tarheels.

Duran vs. Hagler:

"No mas! No mas!" Isn't this the same Roberto Duran that quit in the middle of a round rather than be humiliated by Sugar Ray Leonard. Yes, Duran has signed a contract that could earn both he and middleweight champion Marvin Hagler somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 million dollars apiece.

Hagler will undoubtedly enjoy his share of the purse, while a badly beaten Duran's share will probably go toward his hospital bill. Either Duran will sing his now infamous "No mas" song or receive the beating of his life. Those are the only choices open to the Panamanian.

Marvis Frazier vs. Larry Holmes

World Heavyweight champion Larry Holmes is in the twilight of a

once glorious career. Fighting Frazier (10-0) is just an easy way to collect a good pay day. This fight was surely given young Frazier strictly on his Dad's name.

Holmes is ducking the for real challenge of Greg Page. Page, not Frazier, is the heavyweight contender that Holmes should now be facing. Frazier is not a true heavyweight. He stands a little less than 6'-0" and weighs in at 195...soaking wet.

The low slams knockout punch of Ayala

Once upon a time Tony Ayala was one of the brightest stars on the boxing horizon. Ayala, a junior middleweight with a record of 22-0, was looked upon as a sure bet to one day win the title.

Instead he has been sentenced to serve 35 years and at least 15 of those must be put in before he is eligible for parole. Ayala was given his sentence for burglary and aggravated assault.

Platoon-style baseball

On a timely basis, Lou Harris, Albina's super sports fan, has shared some of his thoughts with us. And most were good, while all were certainly appreciated. This time Mr. Harris shares his thoughts on revolutionizing baseball. Lou writes, "Why not have offensive and defensive players in baseball, just as is currently done in professional football."

"Then we would see," Lou writes, "the very best in the field and the best at bat. Kind of a platoon system."

Hey, Harris just may have something there. At least you can bet that Cardinal slick fielding, no hitting shortstop Ozzie Smith would be one that would benefit from it.

Last Sunday, Smith went 5 for 8 in a doubleheader and raised his average from .195 to a less than hefty .205.



BRONZE BASE FOR RICKEY — Major League baseball base stealing champion Rickey Henderson of the Oakland A's receives bronze base honoring his all-time single season stolen base record of 130. Presentation was made at recent Oakland A's game by Budweiser Light representative and the former base stealing champion Lou Brock, and Nancy Gee of Pittman Rubber Co., which manufactured the bronze base. Brock was also on hand last August 27 in Milwaukee when Henderson broke the record of 118 stolen bases, which Brock set in 1979 when with the St. Louis Cardinals. Brock also had his two sons Emory and Danny on hand for the presentation.

Champs gain two Prep All-Stars

Newberg High School infielder Ken Bowen and Beaverton High outfielder Bryan Ganter will help Oregon State head baseball coach Jack Riley defend two consecutive Pac-10 Northern Division championships.

Both players participated in the State-Metro All-Star series in mid-June. Bowen batted .415 for Newberg this spring with 10 doubles, four home runs and 32 runs batted in. The fleet footed shortstop impressed Riley with his smooth play defensively finishing his senior year with a .987 fielding

percentage. Bowen also stole 18 bases.

Ganter roamed centerfield for Beaverton cutting off extra base hits and batting at a .400-plus clip throughout the season. Helping the prep Beavers to the state tournament's semi-finals, Ganter batted .472 in league and .396 overall. He finished the season with 20 stolen bases, seven doubles and three round trippers. Bryan banged out six hits in the State-Metro series alone. The scholar-athlete will bring a 3.65 grade point average to Oregon State with plans on majoring in Sports Medicine.



Ted Giannoulas, the "Famous Chicken" takes a hint and dives for third base at the July 2nd Beaver baseball game. Final score: Chicken 1, Beavers 10, Vancouver 4.

(Phot: © 1983 Dan Long)

Trans Am spin out

by Donna M. Bodio

SEATTLE — The skies are overcast. The track is wet from an early morning shower, but the excitement builds in anticipation of still another Trans Am race. The track at S.I.R. offers the drivers a real challenge with the down grades, hairpin turns, and inclines. It is definitely a spectator track — hardly a bad seat in the house.

Our focus today is on the Rose Cup Winner, Willy T. Ribbs. Willy is the twenty-six-year-old black driver from San Jose, California, who thrilled those of us who watched his win here in Portland on June 5th. He has won second position for today's race, qualifying time is 1:24.14.

The green flag appears and the Trans Am race is in progress. Paul Miller #36 is out in front with Willy T. closing fast. On the sixth lap #28 Willy T. passes Miller for the lead. These cars are just screaming down the track, clocked at speeds of 170-175 on the straight going into turn one. Willy keeps his first position until his teammate, David Hobbs #29, passes him on lap 20. It was

shortly after this that Hobbs blew his engine leaving an oil slick on the track. Willy T. hit the oil and spun off the track. His DeAtley Camaro sustained considerable front body damage. On the next lap, Willy T. lost his clutch and had to head for the pits. It was not a good day for the Budweiser team, but Willy T. still shines. On lap five, he set a new track record of 1:25.31.

All the spectators would agree that today's race was an exciting one. Willy T. Ribbs now heads for another race on the circuit in Ohio. He's one young man for us to keep our eyes on.

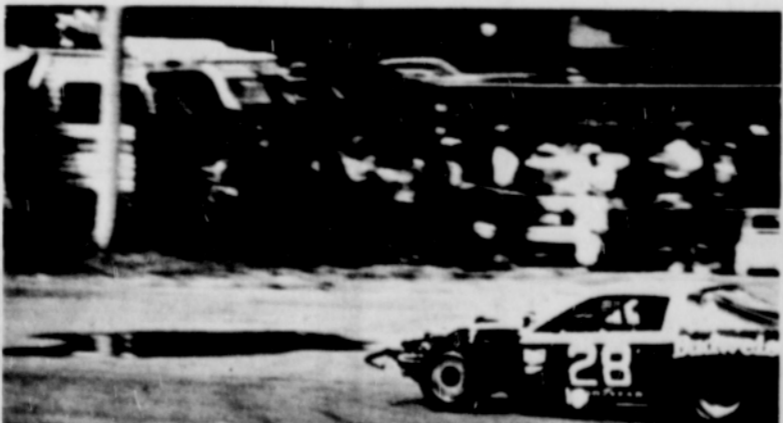
Winner of the Budweiser Trans Am Championship was #1 Elliott Forbes-Robinson of Denver, North Carolina. He was driving a Pontiac Trans-Am, and finished 3.2 seconds ahead of #36 Miller, followed by #8 Gloy.

Recognition must be given to two Portlanders who finished seventh and tenth respectively — David Schroeder #54 driving a Porsche and Bill Craine #41 driving a Corvette.

Trans Am racing is thrilling and this race was no exception.



Willy T. Ribbs, #28, before and after S.I.R. mishap.



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