



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Oregon players in the NBA

What has happened to the State of Oregon basketball players in the NBA?

The University of Oregon's All-American guard Ronnie Lee's NBA career was brief at best. Ronnie was a hustler under the Dick Hunter system that ill-prepared him for the pro game. He was labelled a non-shooter, but decent scorer in college; played two years at Phoenix, two in Chicago and was eventually wooed by Detroit. Lee is now back home in Massachusetts working with underprivileged children. OSU sent forward Lonnie Shelton and guards Mark Radford and Ray Blume. Shelton, a power forward, enjoyed four good years with Seattle where he averaged 17.4 PPG and 7 rebounds. A continuing battle of the bulge has been Lonnie's downfall. Shelton was just recently exiled to Siberia.

That being, in reality the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Mark Radford and Ray Blume both enjoyed great years under Ralph Miller at OSU. Radford was a 4 year starter while Blume started for three. Blume was chosen on some AA teams, while Radford garnered all-coast honors.

Both were, however, victims of the Miller system. Miller's system, in case you've been asleep for 40 years, allows for little dribbling and much passing.

Blume and Radford were considered poor ball handlers by professional standards. Which led to the demise of Blume's pro career while Radford is barely hanging on in Seattle.

Pac-10 Preview

The Trojans will ruin it all and the Sun Devils from Arizona State should make their very first trip to Pasadena. New USC coach Ted Tollner is loaded, but the NCAA and Pac-10 strapped enough violations on the boys of Troy to keep them away from the Roses both this year and next. ASU will win but only if they can hold off UCLA and Washington.

Don James, Husky mentor, lost 41 lettermen last year, but don't cry for James. He has some fantastic recruits from the past two years. The Huskies will compete. Here's a preview of how they should end:

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|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. USC | 6. Oregon |
| 2. ASU | 7. California |
| 3. Washington | 8. Stanford |
| 4. UCLA | 9. Washington State |
| 5. Arizona | 10. Oregon State |

This week in boxing:

Benitez vs. Hamsho

If the 24-year-old Wilfred Benitez ever entertained any thoughts of facing middleweight champion Marvin Hagler, all such thoughts most definitely must have gone down the drain last Saturday. Benitez, with a record of 25-3, was a listless fighter. Mustafu Hamsho, a true middleweight at 164½, won every round. The body blows from Mustafu hurt Benitez early on and left him just hanging on thru 12 rounds. Mustafu hurt his lighter opponent in the third, hitting him with combinations to the head that left Benitez with rubbery legs. Although Benitez was down three times, all were ruled slips or pushes by the referee. It was clear to all that the young Puerto Rican had run out of steam.

Hamsho nearly decked Benitez in the seventh and had him hanging on in the tenth. Benitez played right into Hamsho's hands by fighting the entire fight against the ropes. Hamsho, 27-2, will probably get another shot at Hagler's title. Why he wants to is a mystery to all.

Blazers rookie game

The Portland Trail Blazers' Annual Rookie Game, featuring top 1983 draft choice Clyde Drexler of Houston, will highlight the club's rookie camp in July.

Tickets for the double-header on July 26 are now on sale at G.I. Joe's stores under sponsorship of Rotary Clubs and also at the Memorial Coliseum.

Prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students through high school age.

Eighteen players are expected to report for rookie camp, which will begin with physical examinations on July 22.

Greg Ballard, who played beneath the shadow of Lee, is the lone State of Oregon product making it in the NBA. Ballard is the glue on the Washington Bullets squad. Greg finished last season at 18.6 PPG and 6.5 rebounds.

And where has Richard Washington gone?

Ex-Grant High baseball player Daryl Motley is on a tear since recovering from an early season injury. Motley, after being traded from K.C. to Detroit, is batting a solid .281... That's after an early season slump that had him buried at .216.



OSU spring champion John Frazier accepts a check for \$500 from Mayor Frank Ivancie towards his travel expenses to the Junior Olympics at South Bend, Ind. Mayor Ivancie made the donation after reading a *Portland Observer* article about Frazier. Additional funds for the trip were raised last Saturday at a fashion show at Geneva's. Thanks to this generosity, John Frazier will have the opportunity next week to show what he can do against the best junior sprinters in the nation. We wish him well!! L-R: John Frazier, Sr., Frank Ivancie, John Frazier, and Della Frazier.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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