



# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

## The NBA... Today Pacific Division Outlook

This is to remind you that around the corner lurks the beginning of the 1983-84 NBA season. And here's the *Observer* preview:

1. Los Angeles Lakers—This should hardly come as a surprise to anyone. The Lakers are clearly the dominant team of the West. And could very well be the most dominant team in all of the NBA. And, no, I haven't forgotten the past NBA champion Philadelphia 76ers. The Sixers beat a Laker team that was injury-riddled. With a healthy Bob McAdoo and James Worthy you would have seen a different Laker team and probably a different NBA champion. Where you lose the versatility of a McAdoo and Worthy it's like trying to pole-vault over Mt. Everest. The Lakers were hurt on the boards in the championship series and that shouldn't happen this year. The Lakers are a set team with minimal changes. You don't argue with success or change what's been working for you. But two changes will definitely strengthen coach Pat Riley's squad.

Point guard Norm Nixon, who enjoyed a roller-coaster season last year, was sent to San Diego for back up center. Swen Nater and the draft rights to first round pick, No. 3 overall, Byron Scott out of Arizona State. Nater, a strong rebounder, will spell Kareem while Scott should team up with Magic Johnson in the Laker back court. Curt Rambis, for reasons unknown here, will probably continue to start in the front court. But it's hard to imagine Worthy being held off very much longer.

With Worthy and the relentless Jamall Wilkes on the run the Laker fast break is awesome and poetic. Both.

2. Portland Trailblazers—This pick will undoubtedly raise more than a few eyebrows. No, Portland did not pick up a strong center as promised. Yes, they don't only have one rookie that is expected to play. And, no, they haven't yet signed Mr. Clyde Drexler to a contract. And, yes, they did finish behind both Phoenix and Seattle last year. Then why are they expected to achieve such a lofty perch this season? It's one healthy Kermit Washington. Washington, 32, 6-8 and 235 pounds, is healed and ready. And that means that Portland will not be dominated inside by too many NBA clubs.

Kenny Carr is coming off a treacherous season where he chipped in 12 points and 7.5 rebounds a game off the bench. Washington's presence should help Carr. Kenny will now be able to devote more attention to his scoring, something that he can do well. Then there's the tenacious one, Calvin Natt.

Natt, 20.4, is the cog in the wheel that Portland depends most heavily on. At 6-6 and 225 pounds, Natt is a small forward who thinks he's a power forward. And therein lies the key to Calvin's success. He can muscle and hang inside, then step outside and knock down the 20-foot jumper.

Natt is a splendid scorer and a fearless rebounder. Portland's back court is set with Captain Jim Paxson and the two dynamo point guards second year man Fat Lever and Darnell Valentine.

"In Fat and Darnell we have the two best point guards in the league," exclaimed Jack Ramsay. Valentine and Lever will continue their bid for the starting position, both are capable and their friendly but hot rivalry is a plus for the team.

Expect Kermit Washington to sustain the flow while on the court. A healthy Washington will not be bothered by the year's absence, but will only pound the boards harder.

The added depth up front will help this Blazer team tremendously.

3. Phoenix Suns—Phoenix didn't help its back court by giving away Dennis Johnson. No matter what they tell you about Johnson's inability to get along, the man can play the game. Kyle Macy, at 6-3, is not the player DJ is. Macy, a fine shooter, lacks the speed and defensive ability to be a starter in the NBA.



Kermit's final effort: Kermit Washington made a valiant try to return to the Blazer lineup after retirement last year due to injuries. In Monday night's game with Houston, he played 14 minutes

Phoenix will suffer with Macy on the court. It's reported that free agent Paul Westphal will step into DJ's place. Another mistake if true. Westphal is merely a shooter, and at age 32 has lost a step he could ill afford to lose. Maurice Lucas and Larry Nance are the mainstays of this Denver team and anywhere they go will have to be on the backs of these two.

In two years Nance has emerged as a premier player. In fact his mercurial improvement has shocked the entire NBA world. James Edwards and Alvan Adams will continue to share the load at center where both are terribly inadequate.

4. San Diego Clippers—So go Bill Walton, so go the Clippers. Not entirely true. Coach Jim Lynam, first year coach from Portland, is carefully putting together a team. Lynam is a stern tactician and a teacher out of the Jack Ramsay school. San Diego is strong enough at center where Walton and Jerome Whitehead will guard the painted area. Rookie Terry Cummings, 23.7 and 10.6, returns at power forward. Cummings had some heart problems at the end of last season that he has apparently overcome. Despite his problems the 6-9, 228-pound Cummings was at the top of last year's rookie class. The acquisition on ex-Laker Norm Nixon at point and shooting guard can only enhance a troubled back court in San Diego. The back court now boasts the likes of Craig Hodges, Lionel Hollins and possibly Mark Radford.

And with Nixon, that, too, should be adequate. Walton, still, will only play in games that are not consecutive.

5. Seattle Super Sonics—The Sonics are a team in transition. Only the transition is on the down rather than the up side. First bad thing to happen was the drug problem of one super guard David Thompson. Then a trouble Lonnie Shelton, their best power forward, was sent to Siberia, or was that Cleveland, or are they one in the same. And if that wasn't enough had to happen... they went out and drafted Jon Sandvold in the first round and most experts believe he could have been had in round four. The arrival of Tom Chambers from San Diego should help.

The Sonics are terribly weak in the back court. Freddie Brown, 35, is not the player he once was, but

and scored 2 points. Washington said Tuesday that his previous injuries stand in the way of a return to his basketball career.

(Photo: Dan Long)

then who is at that advanced age? It should be a long, cold winter in Seattle.

6. Golden State Warriors—The Warriors finished a lackluster 30-52 last season and should not do any better this time. Sure they had a total of 238 missed player games due to injury, but that figure is misleading. The team obviously lacks talent. So far they've done little to sign their No. 1 draft choice, a player they didn't really need in Purdue's, 6-10, Russell Cross. Joe Barry Carroll is a fixture in the middle, Cross is too good to be happy backing up. Maybe a trade is in the works. Golden State needs help at every position, but least of all at center.

## Kaiser rededicates complex

PORTLAND, OR—Bess Kaiser Medical Center, 5055 N. Greeley Ave., Portland, marked the completion of a two-phase, \$15 million dollar remodeling and renovation with a "Rededication to Excellence" ceremony on Sunday, October 16 at 2 p.m. Mayor Francis J. Ivancie proclaimed the day "Bess Kaiser Medical Center Day."

Renovation allowed for the addition of computerized technology that did not exist when the hospital was built. A CT9800 scanner was the first to be delivered in Portland of a new generation of sophisticated imaging machine, capable of providing multiple, clearer pictures in only seconds. An angiography suite allows catheterization of heart and blood vessels to be performed on site. The expanded radiology department includes new ultrasound

equipment for obstetrics and radiology, as well as traditional X-ray equipment.

The emergency department was remodeled and expanded, incorporating cardiac and respiratory monitoring equipment along with additional exam rooms. One of the busiest in Oregon, the emergency department treated 33,476 patients in 1982. An additional 29,723 patients who sought care after-hours were treated in the urgent care clinic.

The neonatal intensive care unit was expanded and a progressive nursery installed, so that infants receive the level of care they need according to their conditions. The NICU is one of four in Oregon that share in caring for distressed newborns from other hospitals throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.



O.B. Hill, president of C.C.S. & Associates, presents awards for their contributions to the growth and survival of Black and minority enterprises to Lillie Walker, Special Control Coordination, State Dept. of General Services; Dave Wilson, Purchasing Agent, Dept. of General Services; Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Jamaica asks Garvey pardon

The government of Jamaica has asked President Ronald Reagan to grant a full pardon to Marcus Garvey. Garvey, a Jamaican, was deported from the U.S. in 1927 after serving a prison term for "mail fraud."

Garvey, who advocated enterprise and solidarity, had a following of millions in the U.S.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga asked vice-president Booth for the pardon during a ceremony in Mon-

tego Bay commemorating National Heroes Day. He said Garvey was convicted in the U.S. "during a campaign of persecution against him."

"It cannot benefit the memory of this great man whom the world acknowledges as the father of Black nationalism, for which he is universally honored, that the record of his life continues to be tainted with this stain of dishonor," Seaga said.

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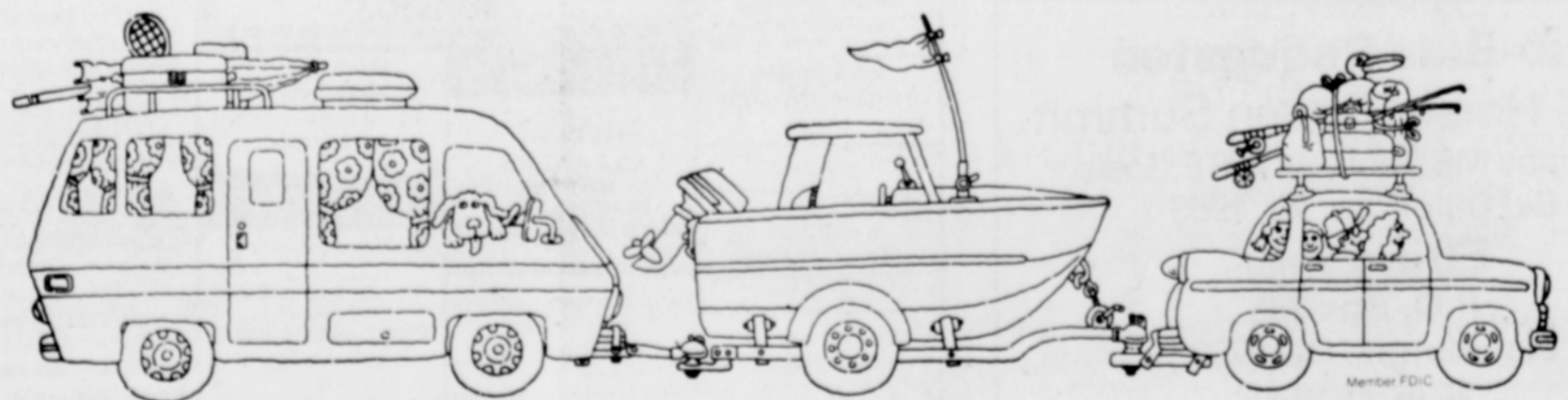
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