



# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

Nobody need make excuses. On this gloomy, rainy day in October, the Washington Huskies simply were the best team. The final score read 32-3 and that told the story. Sure, the Ducks were injured but injury-free they would have been hard pressed to beat these Huskies. Sure, Coach Don James' bunch are a good team, but the game wasn't won by the Husky defense, it wasn't won because Washington's offensive line was blowing the Ducks out.

No, it wasn't a mismatch by any means by quickness. A record crowd of 44,000 plus witnessed Oregon being defeated at one skill position—quarterback. Don James, you can believe, will always have his teams prepared.

On this day the Oregon Ducks were prepared, but not for what would happen at Quarterback. Steve Pelleuer, Husky signal caller, was everything Mike Owens, Oregon's QB, wasn't. Pelleuer's execution was crisp, as were his passes. On this day the Duck secondary never came close to picking off a Pelleuer aerial. And on this day, when Duck hopes were high, Pelleuer choose to make the longest run from scrimmage of his career. During a third-and-nine situation Steve ran 61 yards and didn't stop until he had crossed the Oregon goal lines. There's still hope for Oregon's young team, but after Saturday's encounter with the Huskies... Coach Brooks must know that Mike Jorgenson does not have the arm to

become the Duck quarterback of the future. And it was good to see so much excitement in the Valley. Oregonians, for once, could see how it must feel in such places as Norman, Ok., Ann Arbor, Mich., South Bend, Ind., and Los Angeles, Calif.

It was a festive atmosphere to say the least. The parking lot was filled by 12:30. A live country and western band provided entertainment for the many tail-gaters. And you could just feel the electricity in the air.

The U of O students, too, were ready. When the gates opened at 11:30 the students had already filled their section. And when the first partially clad lineman walked on to Autzen turf he was greeted with a thunderous roar. Ah! This was college football at its best.

The Ducks were outclassed both on and off the field. The Husky band, some 200 strong, simply stole the pre-game show. They walked into Autzen like General Grant marched through Richmond. Those Huskies know how to put on a pre-game show.

Those at Oregon can learn something from Washington and not just on the football field. Since Oregon's marching band did appear and if anyone had tallied a score between the two bands it would have been far more lopsided than that of the football teams.

The Ducks now stand 2-1 in the PAC-10, which isn't bad. This could still be a good year, for a good team.

The schedule now includes WSU, UCLA, Stanford and Oregon State. All teams that Oregon conceivably could beat. It's wait til next year for Rich Brooks. And barring injuries to key players and the requisition of a good quarterback a Bowl bid could be a reality.

### Today's best NFL QBs?

When asked to rate the current NFL quarterbacks, former S.F. 49ers quarterback John Brodie put forth the following: 1. Dan Fouts, 2. Joe Montana, 3. Terry Bradshaw, 4. Ken Anderson, 5. Bert Jones. I agree on Fouts as No. 1, but at this point it would be hard to rate Montana over Bradshaw. Of course we're talking about a healthy Bradshaw. Montana is going to be great but Terry's got the better physical tools, at present.

Currently there are three quarterbacks in the NFL that have fathers who are pro coaches: Kansas City Chiefs rookie Todd Blackledge, whose father Ron is coaching at Pittsburgh; the New York Giants' Scott Brunner, whose father, John, is at Green Bay; and the 49ers Bryan Clark, whose father Monte is head man with the Lions. And how about those 49ers? What a difference a man can make. Especially if that man is the hard-hitting cornerback, Ronnie Lott. Lott, again healthy, is making life miserable for wide-receivers and running backs. And what a difference a coach makes. Seattle and Los Angeles Rams followers can attest to that.

The Rams, 5-3, gave the niners all they could handle before falling 45-35 last Sunday. They, like Seattle, are a well-organized team, unlike the teams of last year. The difference is Robinson and Knox.

The Rams and 49ers are even on the year, both having won on the others' home turf. They should meet for a third time, and that will be during the NFL playoffs.

### More on Seattle

Dave Krieg, Seahawk second-year signal caller, came within a whisker of rallying the Hawks from a 24-0 deficit to victory against the Steelers. Krieg earned the support of Seahawk fans after taking over from starter Jim Zorn in the third quarter. Zorn's inability to move the team prompted the move; Krieg's ability to move the team should create a starting position for the young man. Remember... it was last year when the rookie Krieg came on so well in relief of Zorn. Krieg then thought he had earned the starting role only to be benched again by Jack Patera. For some strange reason Zorn has become dismantled, his game.

Remember Larry Brown, the slim young tight end that caught the clinching touchdown for the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl IX. Well, he hasn't retired and he's still playing for the Steelers.

It's just that now he's put on 50 pounds and moved into the offensive line. He now blocks for passes instead of going out for them.

## NBA lacks Blacks in management jobs

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. — With the 1983/84 National Basketball Association season days away, Wally Scales, promotion director for the Portland Trailblazers, asked the same question once posed by his colleague Wayne Embry. "With the players in the NBA 75 percent Black, why are there only three Blacks in management throughout the 23 franchises and league offices?"

Scales said that with such a strong Black representation on the players' side there should be a proportional opportunity for Blacks to get into the management structure.

"It would only seem fair that there should be more representation. It is not due to a lack of qualification, because we have people all over the country performing managerial functions in other areas."

He points out that professional basketball has always functioned like a business. "Anyone can hire who he wants to do the job. By the same token, the NBA Players Association could take a stand—since they are the show—on issues that are common to Black people."

Scales said that as early as 1971 Wayne Embry wondered why there were not more Blacks off the court as there were on the court.

"The Portland franchise is unique. They understand their com-



WALLY SCALES

mitment to the total community and not just those buying tickets. They are more liberal and understanding than most because they hired me. It was not because I was Black but because I was qualified."

The decline in affirmative action has affected the off-court behavior of NBA management. Scales' observation is, "Blacks are not even entering into entry-level positions."

The main reason for this disparity is the lack of Black owners in the league. Scales said he believed there would be more Black participation in the management structure if there were Black owners.

"If there were more Blacks in management, players would have a

better forum. They [players] could talk with someone who could relate to them through experience and not speculation. This also would enhance their performance because they would be dealing with someone who would not regard them solely as a means to accomplish an end."

He called the competition between professional basketball players "brutal." "Maybe that is why players don't make waves. They are more concerned with what they can get now. We have established players who can take stands—but they are not."

Among the criticisms directed at basketball players is that once they achieve on the court they discard their culture and their women by marrying outside their race. Scales rebuffed this.

"Most Black ball players are married to Black women. It is just that the exception to the rule gets more attention." Scales said he believes that once a player makes it, he looks for people in his new social status.

A drug scandal is currently sending a downer throughout the professional world. Scales said he has seen the problem evolve from taking a drink, to smoking a joint, to cocaine. "Over a period of time cocaine is detrimental to a player's performance. This is why it has become an issue. It is hurting the performance of the player and decreasing

the possibility of management to capitalize."

Scales also said this problem is not new. "I noticed drug abuse in professional sports when I was in high school. There were a few Blacks who abused it. But the problem of usage transcends race. It wasn't a problem when minorities were affected. It is when it started to affect the mainstream that it became a problem."

According to Scales these concerns raised by him will not affect his job. "I'm here and I know what the Portland Trail Blazers have done for Black people. I can go in and talk with the general manager and the owner about the same topics."

"I'm not speaking in terms of what the Portland Trail Blazers are not about but what the league in general is not about. They are not making that progression into management."

You can drive through any basketball court and see a youth sweating over the hoop. But the chances of that sweat paying off are two-in-a-million. "Can you imagine how many dreams are crushed? I want that youth dribbling the ball to bounce the basketball and let basketball parallel him to a better education. If you happen to become a professional basketball player then that will be a bonus."

## Cuba looks to 1984

Eugenio George predicted his young Cuban women's volleyball team will win the gold in the 1984 Olympics. The team suffered a 3-0 defeat Friday night in Portland, but President of the Cuban Volleyball Federation Inocencio Cuesto said that was not important—"Their eyes are on the Olympics."

The Cuban team of 12 women included only five of the team members who defeated the U.S. to win the gold medal at the Pan American games. "After the Pan Americans most of the girls were on a much-deserved vacation with their families (all Cuban workers have one-month paid vacations). We didn't have much time to get ready—we were invited to replace the Soviets when they withdrew—so we brought the girls who were available," George said.

The purpose of the U.S. tour—which included games in Long Beach, Sacramento, Palo Alto and Portland—was for practice and experience for the younger players. Especially valuable was the opportunity to play in the Long Beach stadium where the Olympic Games will be held.

George predicted that China and

the U.S. will be the teams to beat in 1984. The Chinese are the current world champions. The Japanese are small but fast, he said, and the Soviets will field a good team.

The U.S. team, coached by Arie Selenger, is a strong team and will do well, he said. This team has been together for about eight years. The players live together near Laguna Beach, California, where their entire lives revolve around volleyball. Since Selenger put this type of training in place, the team has improved greatly. They were knocked out of the Olympics in 1972 and 1976 by Cuba, but were ready for the 1980 Olympic Games—defeated by the boycott.

The core of the Cuban team came together in 1981 and their training is much more relaxed. They work or go to school in addition to their training.

Flo Hyman, U.S.A.'s 6-5 star, said the defeat by Cuba in the Pan Ams was a fluke. Cuba's assistant coach, Antonio Pordomo, said not so. "It had been a very long season and we reached our physical peak at the right time. We were the better team."

## Former Observer reporter gets new Atlanta position

Ulysses Tucker, Jr., has been selected as Special Events Coordinator and Public Relations Associate for *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*, according to Jim L. Thompson, public relations manager. Tucker will be responsible for planning, organizing and implementing special events sponsored by the newspaper.

One of the Outstanding Young Men in America in 1981 and an Eligible Bachelor in *Ebony* Magazine the same year, Tucker comes to the *Journal-Constitution* from the Cable News Network where he worked in the Operations Department. He has also served as the Assistant Director of Public Affairs for KPTV-12, Portland. In addition, he covered news and sports for the *Portland Observer*.

Tucker holds an M.A. degree in Communications from the University of Portland, (1982), and a B.A. in Radio & Television (1979) from the same institution. He also holds an Associate Arts degree in Journal-



ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.

ism from Southeast Community College, Fairbury, Nebraska, 1977. He is a native of Washington, D.C.

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### AFRAID TO SAY WRONG THING

Many quite close and caring friends avoid a family which has suffered a loss, or keep silent about their feelings, for fear of "saying the wrong thing." To begin with, this is not an unusual reaction. Often it is because individuals have not come to terms with their own sentiments about death. Because they are unsure of their feelings, they are afraid their words will come out all mixed up.

Try not to worry. There is no one "right" attitude toward death and grief. Besides, many people are as confused and ambivalent

about it as you may be. In fact, it would not be amiss to share your concerns. It might even open the door for family members to express their own doubts and feelings.

The important thing is to be with them, and to show that you care. It is very rare that an honest display of humanity will be resented and misunderstood. Absence or silence, on the other hand, might be.

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