

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Across these United States this fall are more than 40 students attending colleges and universities for the first time who have been helped by a 1982 NFL Man of the Year scholarship grant provided by Miller High Life Beer, sponsor of the prestigious program. Last year the NFL Man of the Year was Washington Redskins outstanding quarterback... Joe Theismann. Three members from each NFL team has been nominated and the winner will be announced sometime in January in Cincinnati, Ohio.

From Houston is big Earl Campbell. By spending the equivalent of 20 full days each year on many community projects, Campbell is giving to the city that has meant so much to him. He started an annual food giveaway program at Christmas for underprivileged children and their families. Earl regularly attends Special Olympics track meets and has been a speaker at many Special Olympic functions.

And when Earl isn't attacking enemy lines on the gridiron, he's busy helping sponsor the Sickle Cell Charity Golf Tourney which donates to research funds to fight the disease.

Campbell has led the Oilers in rushing for the fifth straight year with 538 yards in 1983. "Skoal Brother."

Minnesota Vikings—the nominee is punter Greg Coleman. The 6-0, 185-pound punter from Florida A&M is in his 7th year as an NFL player. Coleman has the dubious honor of being the only Black punter in the league. His father's non-fatal heart attack prompted Greg to volunteer for duty with the American Heart Association. But he had already been busy helping charity and service organizations long before that. He has worked for the Special Olympics in both Minnesota and Florida.

Greg Coleman has been active in numerous campaigns for the needy and underprivileged, and is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Good Luck Greg!

New York Giants—George Martin—The Giants' best pass rusher, Martin added six QB sacks in 1982 to bring his total to 59. Martin was nominated for his numerous off-the-field activities. May 22 of every year has been officially declared by the mayor of Fairfield, Calif., to be George Martin Day. This is in recognition of George's many contributions to his community. Among his many activities are two football camps for disadvantaged children which service 120 youngsters. George develops the programs and agendas for the camp and recruits other NFL players to help out. He also provides his services as a guidance counselor to the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, working with children from grades one through twelve both in groups and on an individual basis.

Martin was a product of the University of Oregon where he played under Coach Don Read.

Last season Moses Malone led the Philadelphia 76ers to a 60-22 record 1st place in the Eastern Conference, and a 4-1 win in the Championship series with the Los Angeles Lakers. He led the team in offensive rebounds, defensive rebounds, blocked shots and scoring. But... this year when the Eastern writers were polled as to who the best player



Clyde guides one by: Clyde Drexler, Portland's hot rookie, puts one past San Diego's James

Donaldson in their Friday night game. Portland exceeded the Clippers 107 to 93.

(Photo: Dan Long)

in the NBA was, their vote was overwhelmingly in favor of Boston's 6-9 forward, Larry Bird. Now that's incredible! Are they telling us that if Bird was put on the Sixers roster to replace Malone that the Sixers would be a better team? No way. And there's little doubt to anyone that the mere presence of Moses in the Celtic line-up would bring back the glory of yesteryear to the Boston Garden. Then just what does best player actually mean? Bird is a good player, but hardly a better player than Moses. Moses Malone is up there by himself. If one is to compare players, the ultimate comparison to Bird would be Magic Johnson of the Lakers. Both players stand 6-9, so there's a standstill there. Not taking anything away from all-pro Bird, but the feeling here is that he's overrated. Good, sure, but the media has a tendency to over-hype his (Bird's) achievements. Somewhat like Howard Cosell does to Pete Rose. Bird and Johnson are very similar, only Magic plays all positions and that gives him the edge that the media never mentions. Magic can bring the ball down court against the press—Bird would have extreme difficulty. Magic can move into the middle and play well—Bird cannot. The edge to the Magic man. And the beat goes on.

More on Moses—Malone, throughout his career, has earned the reputation as a blue collar worker, mainly because of his relentless pace. After winning the NBA Championship last spring, the hard-working Moses called Major Jones, his good friend in Houston, to find out when the boys would be getting

together at the park for workouts. When told the schedule was for Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Malone reportedly replied, "I'll be there." And along with him would be University of Houston Center Akeem Olajuwon. Two year ago, Moses took the Nigerian under his tutelage.

And Akeem has become to the college game what his mentor is to the pros. Olajuwon has taken Moses as his older adopted brother and is quick to give Moses credit for his development.

During the summer the two are inseparable. They often take their meals together and usually work out two times a day. Moses was instrumental in removing the timidness from Akeem's game. Malone has taught his protegee the proper use of his jumper and how to go to the hoop strong when the opportunity presents itself. Akeem is learning well, as witnessed by his awesome NCAA Championship play. And well he should because he's got a darn good teacher.

Billy Ray Bates, despite his personal problems in Portland, emerged as one of the Blazers' best

play-off performers. When the going got tough Billy wanted the ball and always came through.

On April 5, 1981, in the third and final game against Kansas City, Billy scored 34 points on 16 field goals, a record that still stands on the Portland all-time play-off records. Billy's 8-8 free throw record against KC also is in the record books.

Yes, when Billy's head was straight he was something to watch. Mr. Excitement.

Big Ralph made his NBA debut a success as the Houston Rockets downed the San Antonio Spurs last Saturday afternoon. Over 14,000 fans showed up to witness a new era in the NBA and big Ralph didn't disappoint them.

He displayed all the necessary talent to ensure Rocket fans that their day is not too far away. With the return of 6-8 forward/guard Robert Reid and the acquisition of Louis Lloyd, the Rockets are going to surprise a few people. And remember, Rodney McCray, the third selection in this year's draft, hasn't started to play yet.

Bias and myths keep women from Olympic participation

Women are barred from all events in nine of the 27 sports categories in the Olympics. In only 15 events do men and women compete against one another (and women have won medals in these). Of the remaining events, 168 are restricted to men and 73 to females.

There is bias against women from some Moslem countries—where women cannot compete in any sport—and South American countries—where they rarely join in highly competitive sports. That, combined with myths about the damage sports can do to their sexuality, appears to be the culprit for this discrimination. In a recent article, medical writer Walter Ross examines these bugbears and de-bunks them.

•Sports will damage women's reproductive function. "In fact athletic women have fewer problems in giving birth than inactive ones do," Ross reports. "A study of 729 Hungarian women athletes found that their labor was shorter, and the need for Caesarian section 50 percent less, than that of nonathletic women."

•Pregnant women should not participate in sports. According to Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, herself a 1960 Olympic medalist in diving, there were ten medal winners in the 1956 Olympics who were pregnant.

•Jumping, or blows to the abdo-

men, will damage the uterus. Dr. Denis Barrault, physician for the French National Institute of Sport and Physical Education, says, "The uterus and ovaries are better protected by nature than are the male sex organs."

•Women are inherently weaker than men. Two professors of physical education, both women, tested this notion a few years ago by entering the weight-lifting exam given to Philadelphia's fireman applicants. Both were about five-four and weighed around 120 pounds. After two months of training, one did better than 55 percent of the men; the other came in ahead of 69 percent.

There are, of course, other such myths. But Ross concludes: "The verdict of the sports-medicine experts is that women should not compete against men in contact sports because their smaller stature, lighter weight and lesser muscle mass expose them to injury. But they believe that women should be free to compete against other women in any sport they wish. And all agree that there should be more open events such as the marathon. There is no scientific, medical, physiological, societal, psychological or sexual justification for prohibiting women from entering Olympic competition in most sports."

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