

# Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

## Right or Wrong: Was Russell the best?

And the beat goes on, as it did in the past, as it is now, and as it will be in the future. Who is the greatest center ever to play the game? Recently a syndicated columnist wrote that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did not measure up to the game's greats.

Now, this writer just has to wonder what measuring stick was being used and by whom. To say Kareem doesn't rate with today's greats is tantamount to saying Mt. St. Helens' eruption didn't measure on the Richter scale. Jabbar passed the 30,000 career points scored plateau in a game played two weeks ago in Portland and is a good bet to eventually beat Wilt Chamberlain's all-time mark of 31,419. Jabbar and Chamberlain are surely the best of the last two decades. It's been some 14 years since Bill Russell laid them up, and even as good as Bill was he was not the best.

Bill Russell, 6-9, 215 pounds, could not dominate the game today as he did then. Bill Russell had only one legitimate center to face during his career and he certainly didn't dominate Wilt. Sure, Russell had the better won-lost record, but that can be easily attributed to a better supporting cast.

Statistics will show that Wilt dominated Russell. It's beyond comprehension that even Boston fans could believe otherwise.

When Chamberlain averaged 50.4 ppg during the 1961-62 season it was said that all Wilt could do was score.

So what happened was that Wilt decided to concentrate on rebounding. The outcome was 27 retrieves a game to lead the NBA in that category. Next it was said that Wilt wasn't a team player, so Chamberlain left the league agog by leading the NBA in assists. The first and last center to do so. Bill Russell would rate far behind both Chamberlain and Jabbar. This mystery writer says, "Be assured that Bill Russell would dominate rival centers today, just as he did in his prime." No way—Russell stood just 6-9 and today's centers like Moses Malone and San Antonio's Artis Gilmore would have muscled Bill right out of the Boston Garden.

Jabbar has been criticized for his lack of rebounding. But that's only because some people think the 7-3 giant should garner every errant shot put up. A careful check of the records will show that Kareem's lifetime average is better than 12 boards a game. Kareem is the best offensive center the game has ever known, Chamberlain the most dominant and Russell would rate somewhere behind Moses Malone. At 6-9, Bill just didn't have the size to match up with the real legitimate pivot men of today.

This mystery writer was downright absurd when he stated, "Kareem must be marked as a failure. He is 7-3, or whatever. He has marvelous coordination, but his results have always been lacking." Ridiculous... Jabbar's results have always been as a winner.

From high school to the pros Jab-

bar has never played on a losing team. That's failure.

But then this illustrious writer from the East also claimed Bill Walton was better than all three.

Just wonder what he has to back up that statement?

### Boxing

There's rumors that ex-welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard will end his retirement by fighting an exhibition match this month. Leonard is not hurting for money, but it's the glory and adulation that drives these great athletes to return to the arena. Sugar Ray is reportedly worth somewhere around 30 million. He seemingly has everything... except the title.

After watching Roberto Duran take Marvelous Marvin Hagler to the end. Sugar must have thought that he could undoubtedly whip the Marvelous one. And he probably can.

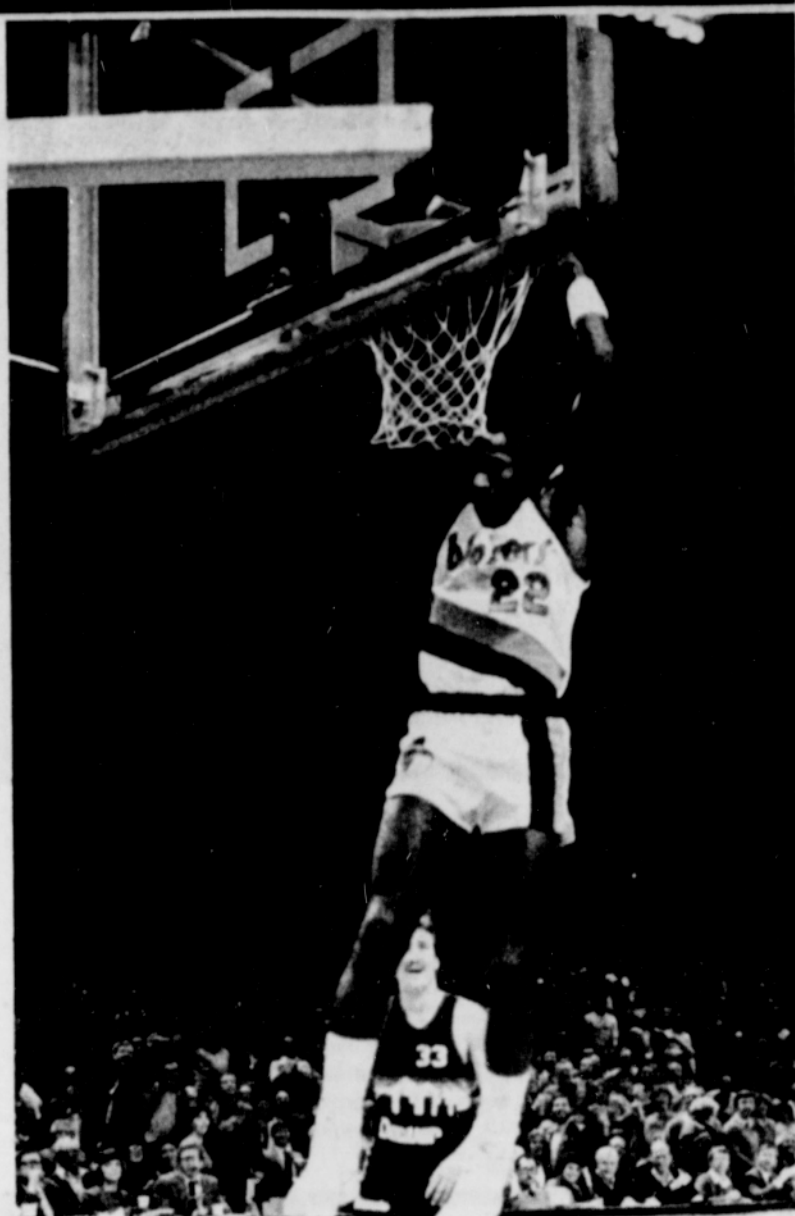
After defeating young Marvis Frazier in the Friday night massacre at Caesar's Palace, heavyweight champion Larry Holmes spoke of retiring.

The feeling here is that it's not Holmes who should give it up, but Smokin' Joe Frazier. You see, old man Joe is trying to recapture his fighting days through his son Marvis. Frazier should step down as manager-trainer and turn the job over to someone who could be more objective. It seems that everyone knew the 10-0 Frazier was cons away from the champion, that is, except the challenger's manager/trainer/father. So the greatest mismatch of the decade was allowed to go on. Frazier, at 6-0, 200 pounds, was no match for the 6-4, 219 pound champion. Holmes throws a total of 39 punches and Frazier caught 35 of them, while mounting zero offense.

It was a farce witnessed by a huge television audience. The WBC refused to sanction this fiasco and NBC should have as well. And why is Larry Holmes so infuriated because the WBC has insisted that he fight Greg Page, who is ranked No. 1, before fighting South Africa's Gerry Coetzee? Could it be that Holmes knows he's on the decline and is trying to make all he can before meeting a legitimate challenger such as Page? Well, if so it's probably a sound financial practice, and one that is being closely emulated by lightweight champion Ray Mancini. Mancini absolutely refuses to fight the best in his division.

And he will not even consider a multimillion dollar fight with fellow Ohioan Aaron "The Hawk" Pryor. Boom Boom's handlers are not from the Joe Frazier managerial school. They know that Alexis Arguello destroyed their man in the 14th of a championship fight, and history tells us what Pryor did twice to Arguello.

Last Tuesday marked the beginning of something big for Duck basketball. It was the coming of the Don, that is, Don Monson, as head coach. Monson, from Idaho, brings an impressive 100-41 record to the U. of O. Monson is fresh off im-



Memorial Coliseum Complex

Clyde goes in for a "gimmie": Portland's Clyde Drexler nets two of the final points in the controversial Nov. 22nd game with Denver. The Nuggets quit defending in the last minute and a half allowing Portland to achieve a record high 156 points. Denver only got 116. (Photo: Dan Long)

pressive wins over Athletes-in-Action, a team that holds wins over Arizona, Arizona State and Washington of the Pac-10. Monson is the man that took Idaho into the top-10 a few years ago. So, all of Eugene is excited and looking forward to future duels between the fiery Monson and the crafty Ralph Miller.

Under Monson the Oregon Ducks will be competitive once again.

### Pac-10 predictions

1. UCLA
2. OSU
3. USC
4. Oregon
5. WSU
6. Arizona State
7. Arizona
8. California
9. Washington
10. Stanford

The Bruins of UCLA, coached by Larry Farmer, are the favorites to repeat. But OSU could make a strong challenge. The Bruins and Beavers split two contests last year. The Bruins winning 99-77 on their home court and the Beavers winning 69-65 at Gill Coliseum. The Bruins return starters Kenny Fields, 18.0 ppg; Ralph Jackson, 8.1 ppg, and all-conference center Stuary Gray, 7.7 ppg. Rocket Rod Foster and Darreu Days will be sorely missed by Coach Farmer. Both men are currently doing well in the pros. Foster is with Phoenix and Daye with Washington. UCLA had an excellent recruiting year. They've added Freshmen Montel Hatcher, 6-1 guard; Dave Immel, 6-3 guard from Hillsboro; and widely recruited Reg-

gie Miller, 6-7, from Riverside, CA. Miller is the younger brother of Cheryl Miller, USC's all-America guard.

Ralph Miller's Beavers must overcome their back court woes if they're to challenge the Bruins.

Charlie Sitton and A.C. Green are undoubtedly the two best forwards in the league. Steve Woodside, after shrinking from last year's 6-10 to 6-8½ this year, is showing steady improvement. Sophomore Darryl Flowers, another OSU player that lost couple inches, is going to be a good one.

Flowers averaged 26 minutes per game as a Frosh and started every Conference game. Tentative play hurt his game early, but once he settled down he became a strong player during the latter part of the season. The 6-2½, 170 pounder averaged 4.8 ppg, with a season high of 14. Flowers toured Russia last summer with the Pac-10 all-stars. Coach Miller is high on Rick Berry, the 6-7 guard-forward from Morgan Hill, CA. Berry came to OSU because his father, Bill, coach of San Jose State, thought it would be best if his son played elsewhere. Needless to say the Beaver coaching staff was delighted. Miller is going with a backcourt of Flowers and Alan Tait. Tait played well last year but his lack of speed will hurt. OSU must find a running mate for Flowers. Darrin Houston, 6-2 Sophomore from Chicago, could help, along with Greg West, 5-10 Junior from Portland's Benson Tech. The Pac-10 should be a race between the nationally ranked Bruins (9) and Beavers (10).

**PHIL'S Schwinn Cyclery**  
 Since 1945  
**SCHWINN**  
 MOTOCROSS PARTS & ACCESSORIES  
 REPAIRS ON ALL MAKES  
**281-4036**  
 701 N.E. BROADWAY ZIP 97238  
 Near The Lloyd Center

## CURL SALE

Curl Regular \$65.00  
**NOW \$40.00**  
 (Includes Cut, Curl, Conditioner and Style)

Cellophane Hair Color Regular \*20<sup>00</sup> \*25<sup>00</sup>  
**NOW \$10.00**

Hair Cuts Regular \$15.00-\$20.00  
**NOW \$10.00**

### butch coors

Hair Design For Men & Women  
 1410 N.E. Broadway, Portland, Oregon  
 (Expires Dec. 15, 1983) **284-1897**

## Give & Receive \$3 Off!

Bring a canned or dried food donation for our Sunshine Division Barrel and get \$3 off any large SunShine Pizza.

This holiday season, SunShine Pizza Exchange is teaming up with the Sunshine Division to help feed those in need. Please bring any canned or packaged dried food, and present it for \$3 off your order of any large pizza. In-Store Only. Other coupons or promotional offers excluded.

**SunShine Pizza Exchange**

Union Square 3038 N.E. Union Ave. 281-1875  
 Vancouver 516 S.E. Chkalov Dr. (206) 892-0128  
 Jantzen Beach Mall 283-1514

**No Coupon Necessary**

## DR. BRADY'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR SAVING TEETH FOR FAMILY DENTISTRY AT LOWER COSTS

"SAVING TEETH 1983"  
 HIGH QUALITY PORCELAIN CROWNS & BRIDGES  
 REINFORCED PORCELAIN CAPS  
 PHONE IN FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
 REPLACE YOUR MISSING OR DECAYED TEETH WITH PERMANENT CAPS

### "TWILIGHT SLEEP"

& OTHER ANESTHETICS BY REGISTERED ANESTHETIST WHILE PREPARING YOUR CROWNS & BRIDGES.

**COME IN FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**  
 Complete Cooperation on ALL DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS

**OPEN SATURDAYS**  
 NO ADVANCE APPOINTMENT NECESSARY  
 Hours Weekdays 8:30am to 5pm Saturday 8:30am to 1pm  
 Park Free—Any Park n Shop Lot

**DR. JEFFREY BRADY, DENTIST**  
 SEMLER BLDG. SALEM  
 S.W. 3rd & Yamhill 110 Commercial N.E.  
 Downtown-PORTLAND 581-8699

# 228-7545

**INTERESTING FACTS** brought to you every week by **ASB**

**AMERICAN STATE BANK**  
 MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

The cash register was devised in 1879 through a saloon-keeper's observations of an ocean liner propeller.

The first moving picture theater was the Electric Threater on South Main Street in Los Angeles, which opened in 1902 with an hour-long presentation. Admission was two cents.

At any given month there are more than 2,000 thunderstorms brewing in the earth's atmosphere.

Human beings are the only animals that can blush.

We do not do business with South Africa.

**American State Bank** AN INDEPENDENT BANK  
 Head Office 2737 N. E. Union Portland, Oregon 97212

★ **NOW OPEN** ★  
**NEW-BEAUTIFUL**  
 Rent Subsidized  
 Hi Rise Living  
 Downtown

- ★ Designed for Seniors and handicapped
- ★ Qualified Applicants pay only 30% of their income
- ★ 162 units completely refurbished
- ★ Most modern fire & security systems

For information call . . .  
**PARK TOWER**  
 731 SW SALMON  
**227-3367**