

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

And is all this talk about Jim Brown coming out of retirement just talk? Brown, appearing on the Phil Donahue show with Walter Payton and Franco Harris, did more than just allude to the fact. "I will race Both Harris and Payton," Brown said, "and if Harris beats me, I will remain in retirement."

Brown is particularly irked with Harris' running style of going out of bounds to avoid being tackled. Brown believes that a runner should give more than he takes. Jim Brown was a punishing runner in his day.

At 6'2" and 235 pounds, Brown had the speed to run around defenders, while also possessing the power to run over them. Naturally, Brown would show disdain toward Franco's running out of bounds to avoid the hit.

Now, could Jim Brown, the greatest running back in the history of the game, really make a comeback at age 48? No way. The game, as it is played today, doesn't allow for plus-40 running backs.

It doesn't really allow very many plus-30 running backs. The average life expectancy, for a running back in the NFL, is only four years.

Brown, who never missed a game due to injury, would probably have that string broken if he ever tried to resume his playing days.

Let's hope that a runner as great as Jim Brown won't put himself in such an embarrassing situation. Brown should remember records are made to be broken and will always

be broken.

Bob Beamon's leap of 29'2" in the long jump was thought by many experts to last throughout this century. Up until then no athlete had ever reached the 28 foot plateau. Well, we all know that it's just a matter of time now, until Carl Lewis will shatter Beamon's incredible leap. Lewis opened the indoor season with a 28'10 1/4" jump. Brown should be satisfied to shake Franco's hand when he finally does surpass him. It really doesn't matter that it took Franco some 14 years compared to Brown's eight. And the amount of games played each year is of no significance. Each runner will ultimately be judged by his ability. Mr. Brown is, then and now, the greatest running back that ever played the game.

Beaver basketball is on a roller coaster ride as evidenced in their 70-66 win over Oregon and their 46-45 loss to Michigan State.

Ralph Miller, Beaver head coach, has come under a good deal of criticism lately, and, perhaps, deservedly so. Ralph certainly can't be criticized for his win over Oregon. He led his team sky high for that one. The game was played on an up tempo; he completely abandoned his low risk, dull offense and the team excelled. But just as baffling to me as chinese math, was his complete change for the Michigan State Spartans. Ralph, for some strange reason, decided to abandon the up tempo for the

slower game. Now, some will ask what's wrong with that.

While Miller continuously preaches that the game is played by five men, his slow tempo game completely excludes the guards. Everything is designed to go inside; leaving the guards out. As a result, starting guards Alan Tait and Darryl Flowers only put up five shots between them. Tait going 0-1, while Flowers was 2-4.

Miller tells us the game hasn't changed in some forty years. And, if you want to believe that, then you'll also believe the earth is flat. Miller is a fine coach, his record will prove that. Some, though, will say that time has passed him by. Whatever the case, it's hard to envision OSU winning against the better teams when opposing coaches know exactly what OSU is going to do without exception. They know that his guards are reluctant to take the outside shot in fear of the wrath from Miller that will surely come. It seems only A.C. Green and Charlie Sitton can take the outside shot without drawing the coach's ire.

Ralph has surely taken his knocks lately. All this criticism may seem unjust to some. Why are these people knocking a coach that is the

fourth winningest active major college coach in the country? Ralph Miller entered the 1983-84 campaign sporting a very good record. He had a total of 557 wins. Only De Paul's Ray Meyer(697) and Washington's Marv Harshman(596) have more wins.

In 32 years of coaching, Miller has won 64% of his games. While at Iowa, from 1965-1970, Ralph was chosen Big-10 Coach of the Year in 1968 and again in 1970. While at OSU, Miller has had numerous coaching honors.

In 1975 Oregon State finished second in the conference; and Ralph, Dist. 8 Pac-8 Coach of the Year. In 1979, it was third place and an invitation to the N.I.T. Miller's teams have made five N.I.T. trips, two at OSU and 3 while leading the Hawkeyes. Since taking the Beaver helm, Miller has finished no lower than third. . . that being in his first year as Beaver coach. Ralph's Pac-10 record is indeed impeccable.

There are three straight championships in 1980, '81 and '82. Only one thing has eluded Ralph; that being a trip to the final four. Ralph has been able to get to the edge, but never over the hill.

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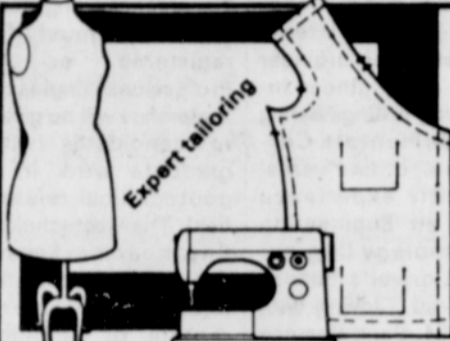
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"Special K" night set

Kermit Washington, one of the most popular players ever to wear the uniform of the Portland Trail Blazers, will be honored March 17 with an evening appropriately designated as "A Special Night for Special K."

There will be more than ceremonies on a night the Blazers will play the Golden State Warriors.

Washington, with the support of Far West Federal Bank, has organized a "Sixth-Man Foundation" with the primary aim of providing money, materials or equipment for persons who have had bad breaks and need a boost toward a new start in life.

Washington has contributed his personal funds to the project.

And on March 17 the Trail Blazers will contribute \$12,666 to the foundation.

This, of course, is Portland's sellout figure--which has been published an all-time NBA record of 293 straight games.

Harry Glickman, executive vice president of the Blazers, said in announcing the club's support, "Kermit has organized the Sixth-Man Foundation from his desire to return to the community the warmth, care and support that fans have vested in the unique sports institution known as the Portland Trail Blazers."

In describing Washington as a person, Glickman said, "It is not necessary to elaborate on the contributions Kermit Washington made as a player for the Portland Trail Blazers. It is more important to note that we are honoring a very special person, one of the finest gentlemen we have known in more than 40 years of involvement in sports.

Blazer officials are hoping that fans will contribute funds to the Sixth-Man Foundation in a total amount at least matching that contributed by the club.

"It is our hope to raise an additional \$12,666, an average of \$1.00 per fan," said Glickman.

Fans wishing to contribute can write a check payable to "Sixth-Man



KERMIT WASHINGTON

Foundation" and may mail it to:
A special Night for Special K
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 950
Portland, OR 97232

Contributions could make it a very special night for Special K on Saturday, March 17.

Real estate scholarships

The Portland Community Housing Resource Board(CHRB)has announced that it is making available three(3)scholarships for individuals interested in attaining a State of Oregon Real Estate License.

The scholarships, which will be awarded on a competitive basis, are available to candidates who demonstrate 1) an interest in real estate as a profession, and 2) a commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity.

Candidates must be at least twenty-one years of age and complete the required application. The application deadline is March 1, 1984. Applications are available at 1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland, Oregon 97204 or by calling 796-5136.



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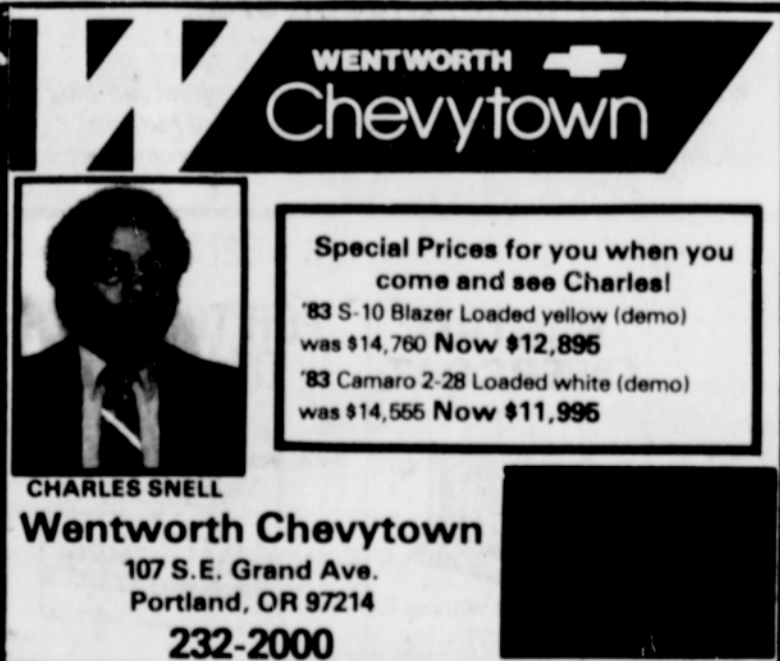
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