



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Kudos to coach John Stilwell and his Grant High Generals. The Generals, led by the super Rich Hollis, closed out their regular season by squeaking past a surprised Benson team 81-80. Hollis led the blue and grey with 28 points. In doing so, he beat out Tony Fair of Cleveland for the P.I.L. individual scoring championship. Hollis finished at 26.1 ppg to Fair's 25.9.

"I wasn't interested in winning the scoring title," Hollis proclaimed, "however, getting my teammates involved was more important." What was important was that Grant finished undefeated in conference play. The Generals are ranked second in the state, losing only to No. 1 ranked Parkrose in overtime in the season opener; a game played on the Bronco court. Secondly, Mr. Hollis stated that he was glad for his coach. The rap on John Stilwell, and I surely can't understand why, is that he couldn't coach a bunch of Black kids. Just who did he coach at Washington High School when he took those kids into Memorial Coliseum?

Anyone saying John Stilwell can't coach is crazy and even crazier if they're accusing Stilwell of not being able to relate to Blacks. This writer happens to know about John Stilwell and the wonderful things he's done, on his own time, to improve the lives of players on his team. If that knock is coming from down state coaches, then they had just better do their homework.

Sure, Stilwell does have the talent at Grant. But you better believe that the team is well prepared each time they take the court. John Stilwell is the kind of coach that wouldn't accept anything less. And the reason that he's doing so well is simply

because the players recognize what he's doing and respond well to it. Grant is a young team that does make mistakes at times. They drew a tough assignment in Beaverton, the metro champs, in the opening round.

Richard Hollis vs. Anthony Taylor

Folks get your tickets for this one. On the big MC court this one will be a dream. The state of Oregon has some dandy prep players this year and Hollis and Taylor could very well be the best. Taylor is silver quick and is more the point guard type while Hollis, at 6'5", can dominate a game inside with his outstanding leaping ability.

The 6'4" Taylor, too, is a leaper with a deadly accurate jump. In a Metro league contest, Taylor made a steal at mid-court, out-raced a Jesuit guard, was airborne at the free throw line and culminated the play with a "Dr. J" dunk.

When Taylor and Hollis take the court next week, you better believe college coaches will fill the stands. Grant does have good size. They go with senior center Steve Van-Ness (6'6"), sophomore Tony Ross (6'2"), and Jerry Weatherspoon (5'10") at guard, and at the forward, sophomore Mark West (6'6") along with Hollis.

Grant is far and away the best of the P.I.L. Coach Bobby Harris' 16-4 Demos must fight through the sub-tournament if they are to make it to the MC's big show.

Jeff travels to Forest Grove (11-9) on Thursday and if they win there, they will play Churchill (14-6) on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

Boxing

Light-heavy champ Michael

Spinks had to go the distance last Saturday and came away with another champion's decision. Little Eddie Davis, 5'9" and 173 pounds, hounded the bigger Spinks thru twelve rounds. Davis was clearly the aggressor as he relentlessly pursued Spinks throughout. In the closing seconds of the ninth round the challenger connected with a right hand to the head that had the champ visibly shaken.

The crowd sensed an upset and began chanting E-d-d-i-e, E-d-d-i-e. Spinks began to ride his bicycle a la the late rounds against Dwight Braxton or Qwami, whatever.

One has to wonder if the once present Spink jinx is a thing of the past.

Is Michael becoming fat and lazy? Has success gone to his head? These are but a few of the questions that have surfaced lately. He's been involved now in two "Champion" decisions. Just what is a champion decision? It has become an unwritten rule that the current champion must be beaten decisively or else his title won't change hands. Eddie Davis didn't beat Spinks badly, but he did beat him. The judges, however, gave Michael the decision as they also did when he fought Braxton.

The "champion" decision merely allows the champ to take a breather fight.

He can fight an opponent of lesser ability, say one ranked in the bottom of the top ten. He may then choose to train just hard enough to survive. In essence, he's not devoting the demanding training time as he would for a top challenger; knowing perfectly well that it will take a knock-out for his opponent to win.

The Portland Trailblazers are currently on a collision course with success. Rumor has it that Houston's 7'0" Areem Olajuwon is a sure bet to go hardship this year.

The Blazers are holding Indiana's No. 1 pick and the Pacers are holding onto last place in the east. A coin flip with Philadelphia, who holds San Diego's first round pick, will determine who Olajuwon will play for. Philadelphia doesn't really need a center, since they already hold Moses Malone, who is just simply the best around.

Philadelphia probably would go for a North Carolinian; either Sam Perkins or the irrepressible Michael Jordan, last year's player of the year as a sophomore. Clyde Drexler and Olajuwon in the open court... fantastic!

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CATCH THE MAGIC!

Tate to challenge Holmes

International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes will defend his crown against former WBA heavyweight champion John Tate at the 12,000 seat Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, on Friday, April 6.

The fight is a milestone in contemporary boxing as it is the first major world's heavyweight championship fight sanctioned by an American-based group since Frazier-Ellis was sanctioned by New York state on February 16, 1970.

It is Holmes first defense since resigning the WBC championship, on principle, and assuming the IBF title. It is another major, independent promotion for the champion.

Tate is undefeated over the past three years. He has won ten straight fights. That is the longest winning streak among the heavyweight contenders. Only Holmes' unblemished record surpasses Tate's success in that time period.

"Big" John has a record of 30-2 with 21 knockouts. He has one of the greatest jabs in the history of the game. He will be long remembered as one of the greatest champions of all times.

In fighting Tate, Holmes is fighting a man who has risen like the phoenix from the ashes of his two professional defeats. He is revitalized and hungry. Having once won the crown, Tate is doggedly determined to wear the crown again.

Former WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver will battle brawling Franco Thomas of West Virginia as a special added attraction on the supercard. The 10-round Weaver-Thomas fight promises to be bruising and crowd pleasing.

Weaver is considered the "uncrowned champion" by many because of his controversial loss and then draw with former champion Michael Dokes. He has also



Champion Larry Holmes and Challenger "Big" John Tate match the fists that will clash in their big punchout for the heavyweight championship, April 6th, in Reno, Nevada.

knocked out Gerrie Coetzee. Weaver's record is 25-10-1 with 17 knockouts. He is regarded as the hardest hitting heavyweight in the world today.

Thomas, the brutal street fighter from the West Virginia hills, never has a dull fight whether in the ring or out. He is a throw back to another era when fighters threw leather with brutal abandon. His record is 32-4-0 with 19 knockouts.

Other outstanding bouts on the spectacular supercard will soon be

announced.

The fight is being promoted by JPD Sports and Murad Muhammad, Inc.

James Patrick Devaney of Rolling Hills Estates, California, is Chairman of the Board of JPD Sports and Kenny Bounds of Dallas, Texas, is President.

Murad Muhammad of Newark, New Jersey, is President of Murad Muhammad, Inc.

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