



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

The Breakers are coming to Portland and I'm hoping for a new look and a few changes. The changes that I want to see are not just restricted to the playing field, either. In the NFL there is only one Black quarterback and no Black head coaches. Major league baseball has no Black managers as of this writing. NBA basketball has two Black head coaches and two Black assistant coaches. These sporting monopolies have one glaring similarity: they do not hire people of color in management positions. Al Davis, L.A. raider owner has the only Hispanic coach in all three major sports. Break the mold, Breakers, and put some people of color in your new offices.

Since Jackie Robinson forged the way in 1947, major league sports have been dominated by players of color, but no progress has been made in front office positions. Take a look at the TrailBlazer press guide and tell me this is 1984. Wally Scales is the only representative of a minority race listed under administration. Larry Steels and Dave Twardzik, formerly marginal players at best, are in front office positions on the Blazer staff. Remember former Blazers Lloyd Neal, LaRue Martin, Leroy Ellis and Greg Smith? These players all retired right here in Portland and looked for work... enough said!

White college coaches come into pro basketball with ease and take head coaching positions from former players both black and white. Jim Lynam came into the league a few years ago on Jack Ramsey's coattails and in no time at all he replaced Paul Silas as head coach of the Clippers. Lynam could not read the book that Silas can write about pro basketball. K.C. Jones and John Thompson of Georgetown U. have proven that former Black players can coach and win. Billy Cunningham of the 76ers got his shot with no prior experience in coaching, didn't he?

Former TrailBlazer assistant coach Jack McKinney retired from coaching yesterday and was promptly replaced by Phil Johnson, who has been an assistant coach for the Utah Jazz. Johnson was fired as the Kansas City Kings coach during the 1977-1978 season but now he goes back with a three-year contract to replace McKinney. Burnout was cited as the reason for McKinney's retirement. Trying to teach point guard and power forward to complete ball players would burn out any college coach. And that's what McKinney was, a college coach. Black assistant coaches Fred Carter and Bernie Bickerstaff never stood a chance of landing the job at Kansas City.

Be different, Breakers, and staff your offices with people of color and show what teamwork really means. Don't move your players to Lake Oswego and away from your hosts, dare to be different and become pioneers in your new home. Don't fire Cory but just in case he does falter, keep an open mind when considering a replacement.

Black promoter embarrasses anti-apartheid group

Boxing promoter Don King has embarrassed an anti-apartheid group to which he belongs by helping to send a heavyweight championship fighter to Bophuthatswana, according to former tennis star and group co-chairman Arthur Ashe.

Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa is scheduled to defend his WBA title against Greg Page, a black American, in Sun City December 1. King, a Black promoter from New York who had agreements with both Coetzee and Page sold the promotional rights to Sol Kerzner of South Africa for more than \$1 million.

"We've been very successful in convincing Black athletes and en-



Don Newcomb, former Brooklyn Dodgers star and recovered alcoholic addressed the Jefferson High School student body this week on drug and alcohol abuse. Shown here are (l-r) Major Kenneth Gibson, Salvation Army; Kerrie Mair, Salvation Army; Don Newcomb and Jefferson principal Nate Jones.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ertainers not to go down there," Ashe said. "As far as I know, Page is the only one who has slipped through in the last 12 months." IBF heavyweight champion Larry Holmes was quoted as saying that King "should be ashamed of himself" for his aid in staging the Bophuthatswana fight. "He's always talking about his principles. It seems he sold them," Holmes said. "If a man has principles you can't buy them." Ashe said there is a possibility that King will be expelled from Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid.

King, who paid the fees to have the Coetzee-Page fight sanctioned by the WBA, told the New York Times:

"I'm against apartheid today, and I was against apartheid yesterday. I'm not going to South Africa. All I did was sell my rights." Franklin Williams, president of the Phelps-Stokes fund in New York and a leading anti-apartheid activist, told the Times that King's sale of his rights was the same as if he was staging the bout himself.

says addressing the topic: "What Makes Me Feel Good About Myself." The Portland Council of the International Reading Association has prepared a seven to ten-day lesson plan designed to prepare students for the writing project.

Two tickets will be awarded to student-authors as first, second and third place awards at each grade level. The judging will be conducted by members of the Portland Council of the reading association. All award winners will receive autographed TrailBlazer basketballs.

Additionally, first place winners will attend a Blazer practice session and have lunch with star Blazer forward, Kiki Vandeweghe, who is chairman of the "Write On" program. First and second place winners will also tour the TrailBlazer locker room.

"The BASIC program is an outstanding example of how private enterprise can play a leadership role in shaping the future of our community," say Henry Hillman Jr., CEO and Chairman for AVIA Athletic Shoes.

"With BASIC, the TrailBlazers and AVIA have pioneered an avenue through which those of us in the business of sports can make a unique contribution to our kids and their ability to excel, or even just survive. We are demonstrating that sports can provide the extra motivational tools needed to make the difference for a lot of our kids," he says.

The deadline for essays to be submitted is December 15. Interested students should contact their teachers for additional details. All participating students will receive a selection of stickers especially designed by the Blazers and AVIA.

The *Young American Student News*, a newspaper for kids, is assisting with the promotion of the BASIC programs, which will also include sections focused on reading

skills as well as general student improvement.

Wrestling sponsors needed now

The Peninsula Wrestling Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization registered with the Oregon Corporation Commission. All donations to the Club are tax deductible. The club serves young people ages 6-18 from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from inner-city to suburban youths. From its beginning in the early 1970s, the club has focused on developing a positive mental attitude among young boys to keep them off the streets and to channel their energies into more constructive pursuits.

The Peninsula Wrestling Club program has contributed substantially to the development of these boys both physically and mentally. Through practicing and competing the boys learn to develop the skills and coordination necessary for many physical activities in life. Mentally they learn to interact with their peers regardless of cultural or economic background, to teach and learn from others, and to make decisions and think under pressure. The wrestling program also gives the boys an invaluable measure of self-confidence and personal pride by developing skills, competing, persevering in the face of initial failure, and finally achieving success. From its beginning the program has placed an equal emphasis on academic achievement as well as athletic competition. A major requirement for participating in the program is to attend school on a regular basis.

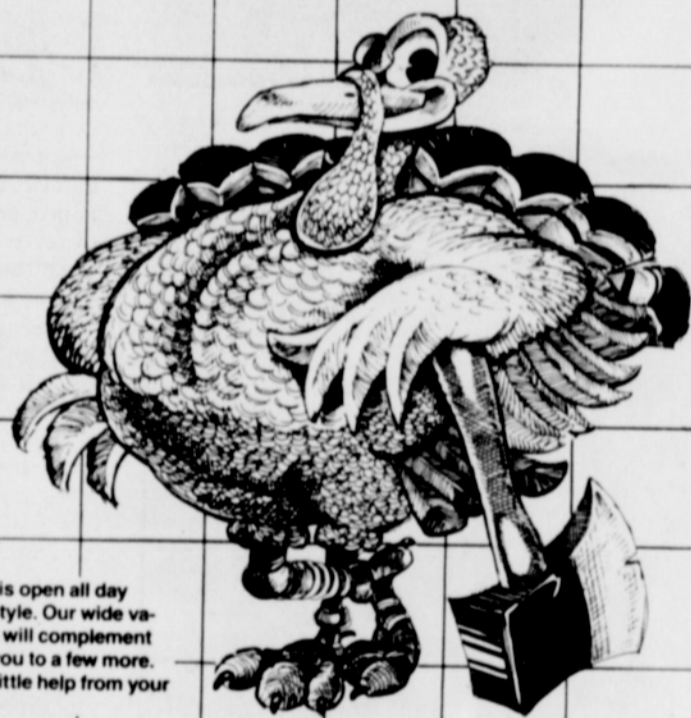
Because of ever-increasing costs of participation, we are asking for assistance in sponsoring one wrestler for several tournaments this season. For more information about the club, contact Roy A. Pittman, Head Coach, at 6400 North Albina, Portland, Oregon 97217 or phone 285-4222.

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