



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

Sports in the month of December is more fun than a pig in slop. The NFL season is winding down and the best teams have truly prevailed. Collegiate basketball is preparing for a host of holiday tournaments before plunging into conference schedules. The NBA is well underway and teams are jockeying for position prior to the All-Star game in January. Winter baseball trades and free agent signings seem to flourish in December also.

So far this month I have traveled to Miami, Houston, Philly, Phoenix and New York. . . while sitting in front of my television. I've watched the Blazers get whipped all over America and Georgetown U whip every team in America. In all of my travels this month I have only one regret — sports is in severe danger of being too commercialized. It's not enough to be good, today's players must also be personalities for the television viewers. Athletes are selling everything from cars to pantyhoses.

The age of specialization is upon us and I feel a little shortchanged. What ever happened to the days when a basketball team started the best five players on the team? Why are there no more football players that play both ways during a game? Where those days went is a mystery but there's no doubt that those days are gone! If you desire proof, try this. During any of the many Bowl games or NFL play-off games, bet a stopwatch and time the action on the field. Stop your watch during the huddles, timeouts and penalties. I would do this myself but I get teary-eyed during the commercials and forget to start the watch.

Steve Colter: a dream come true

Little boys' dreams are filled with fun and fantasies. Steve Colter of the Portland Trail Blazers grew up with a dream that became a reality. He remembers that he wanted to be a professional basketball player since he was in the second grade. He wasn't alone. Bernard Thompson, also of the Blazers, was his classmate.

Basketball is in the blood of the Colter family. When Steve was a baby, his father would put him in the bassinet and carry him to games at the Phoenix, Arizona playgrounds where he grew up. When

he was older, a 12-foot hoop was set up in the backyard. "It helped me a lot," Colter said, "because it gave me a chance to put an extra arc on my shot."



With a lot of basketball experience behind Colter, his future is very promising. Drafted in the second round, the 33rd se-

lection overall, he demonstrates intelligence and an appreciation of the game. "The mental aspect is more demanding than the physical part. You need not be the most physically talented, but you do need to out-think your opponent."

Watching from the bench is not an easy part of the game but Colter is a good student. "I play as hard as I can," he said, "and then hope the coach gives me a shot at it."

Once in, he's asked to be the leader and run the offense. Though averaging only 11.1 minutes per game his average for a full 48 minutes is an impressive 7.9 assists and 15 points a game.

Colter is a natural leader. "When I was growing up people would come to me with their problems and I'd help them out. I want to work with the mentally handicapped when my career is over. I want to be remembered not as Steve Colter, the basketball player, but as an individual who gave a lot to his community."

The Blazer backslide

Upon hearing a quote from Jack Ramsey about his All-Star forward Adrian Dantley, Coach Frank Layden of the Utah Jazz responded, "I'm sick of listening to it. Ramsey has never lost a game yet. It's either they played poorly or the officials cost him the game. And I don't like him picking on one of my players. I never say anything about another player unless it's praise." The current slump of the Trail-blazers is proof of what Layden said. Jack will not look for fault in himself and until he does the team will suffer.

I'm sure you Blazer fans saw the game against the SuperSonics in Seattle last week. Going into the last quarter the Blazers were down by 18-points and looking terrible. Obviously dismayed by the starting unit's work, Jack decided to start the 4th period with Steve Colter, Drexler, Bowie, Kersey and Bernard Thompson. This team fought and scrapped their way back to a 4-point deficit and Jack started substituting the starters back into the game. Jack's supporters will say that the unit got tired because of expending so much energy with the press and they needed rest. Well, as soon as the starters got back on the floor, the tempo of the game changed and the Sonics put away a 109-99 victory. Bill Russell says it best, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Second team players need their rewards too. Those guys hadn't played enough minutes to get that tired and should have been allowed the opportunity to win that game. At the very least, Jack couldn't have brought them back later to close it out. Bernard Thompson had nine minutes total playing time; the being tired story doesn't wash.

I remember vividly how Jack ruined Ron Brewer and Lionel Hollins. When Brewer left Portland his confidence was shot and his game was never quite the same. What Jack Ramsey is doing to Jerome Kersey and Bernard Thompson is criminal. Drexler could start for any team in the league and we all know it. Ramsey wants to teach and if you haven't learned the lessons he's teaching at this juncture, you shouldn't be in the league.

There were 5 minutes to go in the game against Phoenix and Portland was down by two points. A timeout had been called and when the cameras returned to the game there was a closeup of Ramsey explaining how to deny the baseline. I fully realize that I'm citing two small examples from a myriad of games but it does not alter the fact that Ramsey needs to adjust his philosophies to fit the team he has now. This Blazer team has many strong personalities and Jack is going to have difficulty telling these guys that their abilities need to be nurtured slowly. NFL

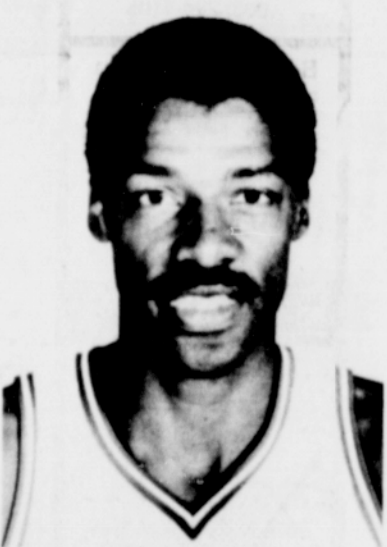
Coach of the Year, Chuck Knox, has proven that adjustments are necessary for success over the long haul.

Breakers' schedule 1985

Sunday, Feb. 24 - Arizona Outlaws at Phoenix, 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 2 - Los Angeles Express at Portland, 6 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 - Denver Gold at Denver, 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 16 - Orlando Renegades at Portland, 6 p.m.
Sunday, March 24 - Houston Gamblers at Houston, 1:30 p.m.
Monday, April 1 - San Antonio Gunslingers at Portland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 6 - Oakland Invaders at Portland, 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 14 - New Jersey Generals at New Jersey, 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 21 - Baltimore Stars at Baltimore, 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 27 - Los Angeles Express at Los Angeles, 5 p.m.
Monday, May 6 - Houston Gamblers at Portland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 11 - Birmingham Stallions at Birmingham, 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 19 - Arizona Outlaws at Portland, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 25 - Memphis Showboats at Portland, 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 2 - Oakland Invaders at Oakland, 1 p.m.
Saturday, June 8 - Tampa Bay Bandits at Portland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 15 - Denver Gold at Portland, 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 23 - San Antonio Gunslingers at San Antonio, 11:30 a.m.

76ers come to town!

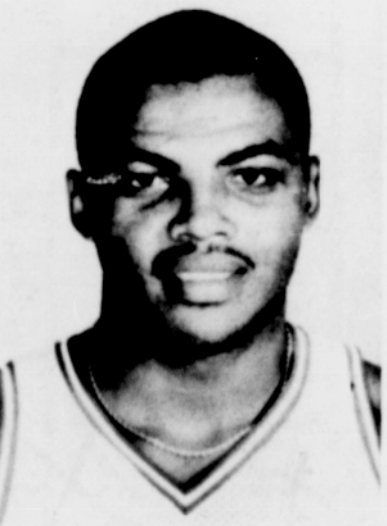
Santa isn't the only thing coming to town. The 76ers' Malone, Erving and Barkley will be here Jan. 1 at Memorial Coliseum.



JULIUS "DR. J." ERVING



MOSES MALONE



CHARLES BARKLEY

Agent Orange victims join lawsuit

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs would like to remind veterans that the deadline nears for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Vietnam veterans and their families have until January 2, 1985 to file claims for the 180 million Agent Orange liability lawsuit.

Claim forms may be obtained from the Veterans Services Division, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 700 Summer Street, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97310-1270; or your local county veterans service office.

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A dream and a prayer? Kiki Vandeweghe closes his eyes and lets one go in the Blazers' 118-113 loss to Kansas City last week. (Photo: Dan Long)

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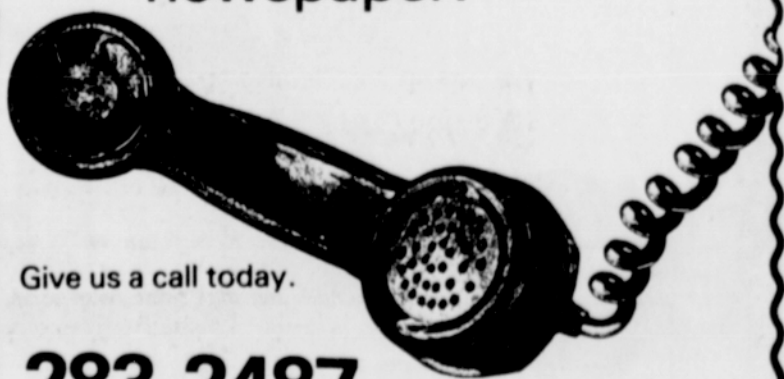
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TIRE TIPS QUICKIE GRIPPERS

If you find both the installation and removal of tire chains a pain, how would you like a quickie set of grippers that you can install or remove in less than a minute as winter driving conditions change, and which are small enough to fit in an ammunition box in your trunk or on your floorboard? Mind you, although traction is good with the homemade versions about to be described, they don't have all the gripping power of a regular set of snow chains and, therefore, don't have as much braking power. This should be considered if you expect to encounter steep grades. For normal terrain, however, these instant-installing tire chains will get you there and back reliably.

To make them, weld eight 3/8" single chain links—at equal distances from one another—on the inside and outside of a couple of spare tire rims. . . after grinding away all the paint in the areas where the links are to be attached. Take care not to inhale the fumes while welding, because the cadmium plating of the galvanized chain is highly toxic. Then, when you're finished, chip the slag, and prime and paint the rims as you see fit.

Next, install a good set of snow tires, have them balanced, cut lengths of 1/4" chain, install snap links to connect them to the rims, and you're ready to face Old Man Winter's variable moods. To extend the life of your chains, drop the tire pressure a few pounds to reduce the slapping of the metal on pavement.

A "DOUGHNUT" LOG HOLDER

When you're building fires for these chilly nights—or when getting a head start on next winter's wood-cutting chores—using a discarded 16" tire as a log holder will help you save time and energy while you're splitting firewood. The tire's "doughnut hole" will take logs up to 15" in diameter and has several advantages: It's portable and can be rolled from one woodpile to another, it'll last for years, and it's free! You'll like the fact that you don't have to reset your wood with every split you make, and the pieces won't fly all over the place (including into your shins). At the same time, the tire will cushion the maul's handle and will reduce the risk of splitting and splintering. The idea may be "tired," but you'll get your wood split a lot faster and with considerably less effort.

For FREE additional information on wood splitting and on THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS magazine, send your name and address and ask for Reprint No. 1553, "The Time-Honored Art of Splitting Wood." Write to: Doing MORE With LESS!, 105 Stoney Mountain Road, Hendersonville, NC 28791, or in care of this paper.



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