



by Roy Lee Jernigan  
Sports Editor

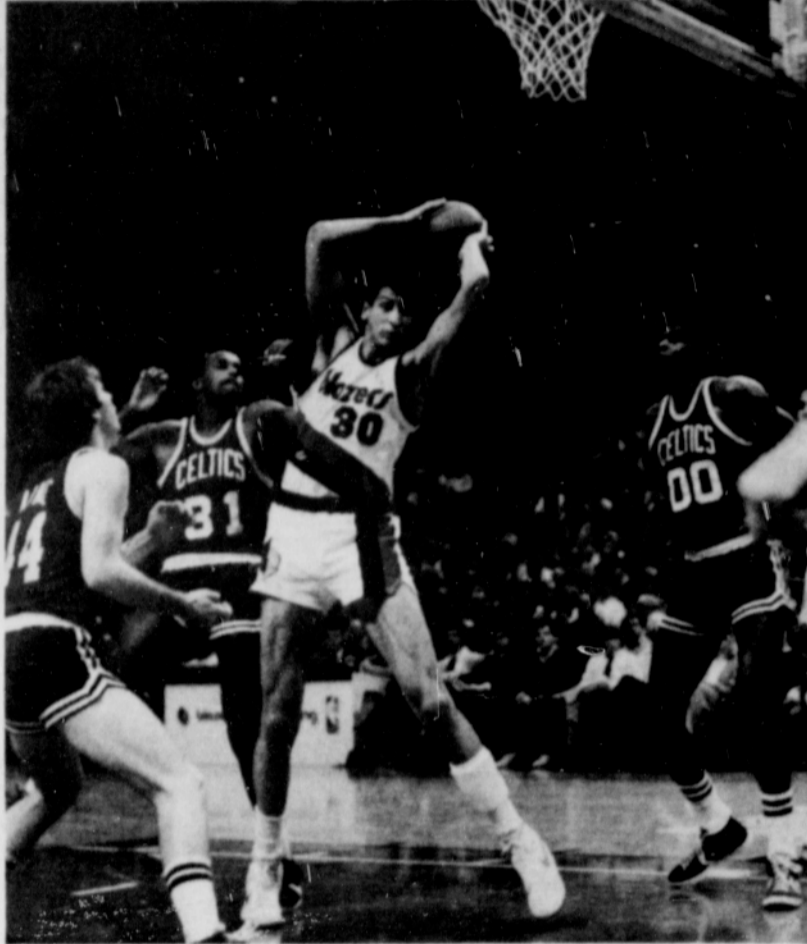
# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

The NBA changed the name from the old-timers game to the NBA Legends but the squatty body pros still couldn't hide the fact that instead of losing one step, they've lost three. I enjoyed the game and attitudes of all the participants. Seeing Oscar roll those big eyes after he had his first foul called against him was priceless. The "Big O" still believes he's so good he doesn't commit fouls. It took the ball a little longer to go around Oscar's back but his around-the-back feed to T. VanArsdale was vintage Oscar. Believe me, Oscar was upset when VanArsdale missed the layup.

The "Slam-Dunk" contest had its moments also. Clyde Drexler was in with some heavy competition and couldn't make it to the finals again but he's gaining some valuable experience for the coming years of the contest. Dominique Wilkins claimed the \$12,000 prize this year dethroning Larry Nance. These guys just flat out attack the basket with the intensity of a wounded animal. Even in his twilight years, the Doctor is still flying with the eagles. Michael Jordan needs a locator box attached to his uniform. The kid put a piece of tape on the floor to indicate his takeoff spot, just behind the foul line, and began to soar ever upward from that spot. Cousy looked at Oscar and they both just cracked up laughing and shaking their heads in amazement.

The All-Star game was more a changing of the guard than any all-star game I've ever seen. Ralph Sampson and Magic Johnson have proven that playing a position according to height is a thing of the distant past. These two players are the proof that today's coaches can't rely on old offensive systems for playing in the NBA today. It is almost impossible to place restrictions on the offensive capabilities today's players possess.

The West won 140-129 and halted, at least temporarily, the dominance of



Portland's Sam Bowie gathers in one of his game-high 13 rebounds. He also garnered 16 points and 4 blocked shots. The rest of the team did equally well this Tuesday, beating the world champion Boston Celtics 111 to 103.

the East. I couldn't wait for the last five minutes of the game to see the ten players on the floor that would be expected to win the game. Bernard, Moses and Bird almost made my heart stop. Magic, Kareem and Sampson made the East's heart stop. MVP honors went to Sampson. A 7'4" forward, the game has changed.

My hat is off to Alex English for coming up with the idea to donate the salaries of the players to aid in the ef-

fort in Ethiopia. Congratulations to the NBA also for matching the gesture and monies. Right on Calvin Natt, had Calvin stayed here he never would have made the All-Star team. Who would he have replaced? A little trivia. Who were the players on the floor with 5 minutes to go in the game? I will list the players for you next week.

The only comments that I can make concerning Oregon State and U of Oregon basketball would be negative

so I will pass on the highly touted civil war game, played in Eugene. I get more enjoyment out of our local PIL games than the brand of basketball played by a Black university in Atlanta, Georgia. Most people would naturally think that orchestrating a team featuring the nation's leading scorer would be a coach's delight. Clark College, in Atlanta, men's basketball coach Robert Pritchett would be the first to disagree. Instead of basking in the limelight, he says he finds himself struggling with an albatross.

"I've never really believed in one person being such a dominant offensive force," says Pritchett, whose job includes directing sophomore guard Ernest Lee, who leads all division scorers with 32.4 points per game, while playing on a freshman-sophomore oriented squad. "It helps us on one end and hurts us on another."

Last year, when Clark overcame youthfulness and a rugged schedule enroute to a 17-12 record and its third consecutive Southern Intercollegiate Athletic title, he did so with only two returning seniors and the consistent firepower of Lee. Playing for the first time in four years without the scoring and leadership by Carlton Boston, Harvey Giddens and Elder Mincey, many thought Pritchett turned in his finest coaching effort since going to Clark.

This year, however, the challenge is murky, at best. Lee, the only freshman to rank among the nation's top 20 NCAA Div. II scorers, is Clark's lone returning starter. How, Pritchett asked himself, can he get the rest of his wide-eyed young team to get involved in the offense instead of standing around gawking at the nation's most prolific scorer?

"It hasn't been easy," says Pritchett, now in his sixth year at the Atlanta University Center school. "In the Paine (College) game, they put three guys on him and our guys were just standing around, not taking advantage of it. If we had an experienced team, they'd love to see him double-teamed."

"The team is maturing a little bit," conceded Pritchett, who also starts one senior, one junior and two freshmen.

"They are beginning to realize where their bread and butter is. They're starting to understand you've got to know where the bank is before you can go to your savings account, so we've added a few special plays for Lee."

So far, Clark's "bread and butter," and everything else has been Lee, a muscular 6-3, 215-pounder who befuddles every type of defense that has been erected to slow him down.

"At Tuskegee (Jan. 23) they came out trying to intimidate him," chuckled Pritchett. "He hit 41 and ended up

fouling two or three of 'em out and blocking three shots."

Initially, Pritchett resisted maximizing Lee's scoring prowess because he feared it would disrupt the team concept he had built a reputation with. But life is, after all, he says, perpetual change. "It's taken me a long time to come to this," admits Pritchett.

I know, it's a sneaky way to make a point, but I couldn't help myself. The players are bigger, stronger and faster than ever before. Consequently, coaching the game has to change, also.

## NBA All-Stars West 140

	MP	PG	PT	R	A	P	S	TO	TF
Dantley.....	25	2-6	6-6	2	1	4	1	2	10
Sampson.....	29	10-15	4-6	10	1	5	0	1	24
Abdul-Jabbar.....	23	5-10	1-2	6	1	5	1	1	11
M. Johnson.....	31	7-14	7-8	5	15	2	1	3	21
Gervin.....	25	10-12	3-4	3	1	2	3	4	23
English.....	14	0-3	0-0	2	1	1	0	2	0
Nixon.....	19	5-7	1-2	2	8	0	1	1	11
Nance.....	15	7-8	2-2	5	0	5	0	2	16
Blackman.....	23	7-14	1-2	3	2	1	1	0	15
Sikma.....	12	0-2	0-0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Natt.....	11	1-3	1-2	3	1	1	0	0	3
Olajuwon.....	15	2-2	2-6	5	1	1	0	0	6
TOTALS.....	240	56-96	28-40	48	32	28	8	17	140

## East 129

	MP	PG	PT	R	A	P	S	TO	TF
Erving.....	25	5-15	2-2	4	3	3	1	1	12
Bird.....	31	8-16	5-6	8	2	3	0	4	21
Palone.....	33	2-10	3-6	12	1	4	0	3	7
Thomas.....	25	9-14	1-1	2	5	2	2	1	22*
Jordan.....	22	2-9	3-4	6	2	4	3	1	7
Richardson.....	13	2-8	1-2	2	1	3	2	2	5
Varsh.....	10	2-5	0-0	6	1	0	0	0	4
King.....	22	6-10	1-2	7	1	5	0	0	13
Honerief.....	22	1-5	6-6	5	4	1	0	2	8
Lainbeer.....	11	2-4	1-2	3	1	1	0	0	5
D. Johnson.....	12	3-7	2-2	6	3	2	0	0	8
Cummings.....	16	7-17	3-4	7	0	1	0	0	17
TOTALS.....	240	49-120	28-37	68	24	29	8	16	129

West.....40 28 29 43 - 140  
East.....35 33 24 37 - 129

Blocked shots: Bird, Jordan, Cummings, Nance, Olajuwon, Sampson, Abdul-Jabbar, Gervin, Blackman, Sikma 2. Three-point goals: Thomas 3-4, Bird 0-1, Jordan 0-1, Richardson 0-2. Technical fouls: none. Officials: Rush, Mathis. A: 43,146.

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## The Excitement Resumes

# THIS WEEKEND

FRI.-SAT.-SUN.



JOHN THOMPSON

## Brawn and brains

The Championship Georgetown University Hoyas know they have to star in the classroom or Coach Thompson won't let them star on the court.

Coach John Thompson, the first Black coach to win an NCAA Division I title and a former backup center to Bill Russell on two Boston Celtics championship teams, is very rare in his profession because of the ideas he holds about the importance of education. Says Thompson, "I see my total responsibility in a higher educational institution as one of being able to win ball games and making sure that my players graduate. If one of those components is missing, then I don't see myself as being successful."

For more insight on this giant of a man who is widely respected yet misunderstood, don't miss the February *Ebony*.

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