



by Roy Lee Jernigan  
Sports Editor

# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

A portion of last week's Sport Talk was very confusing to you I'm sure. I apologize for misprint! The paragraph should have read: I get more enjoyment out of our local P.I.I. games than the brand of basketball these two schools (Oregon State and U. of Oregon) play. Let's skip across country and talk about some basketball played by a Black university in Atlanta, Ga. . . I hope that clears things up for you . . . and me.

Last week, the World Champion Boston Celtics came into town and promptly ran into a buzzsaw. The Trail Blazers were ready to avenge that 1-point loss they suffered in Boston on the Blazers' swing through the east. Although the Blazers had won their two previous games, the games against the Celtics will prove to be the turning point in the season. Circumstance, that's what won the championship in 1977 when Twardzik went down and John Davis spearheaded the Blazers' drive through the playoffs, and ultimately the ring. Circumstance has raised it's head again for the Trail Blazers and once again the team has benefited. During a practice session prior to the Boston game, Jerome Kersey and Kiki Vandeweghe played out of his way and takes out for 7-10 days. Clyde has stepped right in and has given the team all that it had been lacking to win — explosiveness and rebounds.

Boston began the game trying to post up Clyde down low because he was defending Larry Bird. That maneuver might have been the downfall for the Celts because Clyde turned those first three plays, to Bird, into 6-points for the Blazers. Bird had the task of defending Sam Bowie and that was quickly changed when Sam hit a few 18' jumpers to establish his outside shooting ability. Down 10-4, K.C. Jones called a timeout. Boston came out with full court pressure but to no avail, Portland was into their running game and couldn't be stopped. At 8:01 it was 20-6 Trail Blazers, K.C. spent another timeout. Drexler was starting the fast break off of rebounds and defense while Darnell was running the ball down Boston's throat. This was fun and getting better each time Portland controlled the ball. Sam was blocking shots, Darnell was penetrating at full speed without turning the ball over, Clyde was playing both ends of the court and Kersey was just checking in. The speed of the game was going to force Jack to substitute liberally, and often. The pace slowed just a tad in the second quarter but Boston was still being beaten by their own game, the fast break off transition. The halftime score read 66-46, home team on top.

The third quarter began, as the game did, with Bird taking Clyde low but the results were the same, fast break baskets for Portland. Boston

made several runs to close the scoring gap because the Blazers began to play tentatively in spots and were standing around trying to hang onto the lead.

It was 90-81 Portland, going into the fourth period when Darnell got his running shoes back on and Portland was ready to respond to any runs the Celtics were going to make. Clyde reached back to Texas to slam a breakaway and the team ran right through the final period to win going away 111-103.

By now you know the box scores, so I will just tell you who the true ring-leaders were, in this rout of the World Champs. Jack Ramsey coached his butt off, Sam intimidated everyone and Darnell and Clyde provided the spark that lit the Blazers' fire. Larry Bird gets away with more pushing and shoving than the law allows. When the man from French Lick, Indiana, decides that he wants position, he simply pushes plays out of his way and takes it, fitness is not his game. Remember how Michael Cooper kept flying over the sidelines during last year's playoffs? Well, Bird just picks players up and moves them. There's no use complaining to the refs, either; they simply raise their hands and move on down the floor. Robert Parish sprained an ankle after leaving Portland so now we'll see who Boston's real MVP is. We will also see what Jack does when Kiki returns to the lineup. Sam Bowie has made the starting lineup very difficult for Kenny Carr to crack. It's going to be interesting, isn't it Jack?

The Washington Bullets and the Kansas City Kings came to the MC after Boston and took their lumps here, also. The team has new life now and all of the momentum it needs to play some good ball on their upcoming road schedule.

Have you ever noticed that when Black athletes attain greatness in sports and become heroes in the eyes of our Black youth, they are promptly arrested? Edwin Moses is a prime example of this national conspiracy to deprive our youth of their own heroes. The jury returned a not guilty verdict faster than Kathy Smith changes the color of her hair, to vindicate the ridiculous charges of solicitation against Moses. Even with the not guilty verdict, sportswriters coast to coast have begun to speculate how this arrest will effect the endorsements that Moses is paid to represent. Putting negative ideas in the public's mind and force the brother to lose his money-making ability, can be the only purpose for what has been done to this man.

Sports personality Howard Cosell has tried to spearhead a campaign to ban boxing with the help of the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Neurological Society.

Howard says he used to believe that the sport is an avenue of opportunity for the underprivileged. "But the whole argument is specious," he now says. "Only a handful ever succeed at it. The rest wind up fractured people."

The fractured people that I believe Howard is talking about and worried over are the white fighters that promoters try to find to dethrone the minority title holders. Blacks and hispanics own practically every crown in the boxing game. Promoters beat the bush to find someone to take the title from Muhammed Ali, as soon as he changed his name. That didn't work, so they tried to arrest him and take the title that way. Larry Holmes didn't have to face jail, he only had to whip Jerry Cooney. Had you

heard of Cooney before his fight with Holmes? Now they've gone to South Africa to get a white heavyweight contender and that hasn't worked, either. Lightweight champion Livingstone Bramble hit "Boom Boom" Mancini everywhere but under his tongue in their rematch, and the judges all had Bramble ahead by one point in their final decision. Things got so bad for Mancini that his corner was trying to tell the ref that Bramble was cutting their fighter with the braids in his (Bramble's) hair.

The drive to ban boxing can only deprive minority fighters of a decent livelihood. How many race car drivers are killed each year? That's a predominately white sport so there's no ground swell to abolish racing. Hockey can be an extremely dangerous sport and the number of fights and high

stickings can cause the same brain damage that the above mentioned American associations eluded to. How many Blacks or Hispanics are there in the NHL?

Baseball, football and basketball are dominated by Black athletes that have been forced to deal with the stigma of drug abuse because the white press wants to tear down our children's heroes. Bobby Knight is a fugitive from Puerto Rico but he still coaches at Indiana. If he were Black or Hispanic, do you think he would still have a job? Knight was the coach for the U.S. Olympic basketball team and was

only praised for the tremendous job he did with no mention of his past indiscretions. Only in America!

Minority athletes have a tough road ahead ahead of them and the last thing they need is Howard Cosell pushing them backwards. Look through the weight divisions in boxing and I'm sure you will find that the white athletes are substantially in the minority. As far as I'm concerned, these white fighters should not be denied the opportunity to earn a living unless they are given an alternative lifestyle by those who wish to take their present occupation away.



## Drexler put his education first

Why would a high school basketball star miss a year of playing, right in the midst of an outstanding high school career?

For some players, there are just too many demands placed on them. In the case of Clyde Drexler, a guard/forward for the Portland trail Blazers, the reason was decidedly different. He chose to stop playing for a year to concentrate on maintaining his "A" average in school. "I was so involved in academics I didn't have time for basketball. But mom and my brother encouraged me a lot and made sure I played again the next year."

As for now, his primary devotion is to the game of basketball. Drexler describes his excitement for the game: "It enlightens my whole world. It's similar to the game of life. You're not going to win all the time, but if you can bounce back when you lose, it'll make you a better person." His two thrilling clutch shots towards the end of a recent Boston Celtics game indicate he is the right Blazer to go to at crunch time. "At the end of a game I'm at my best," says Clyde. "I concentrate so much during the course of the game that at the end, especially in the clutch, I want the ball and I want it bad."

With the Blazers' ups and downs this year, it would be easy for Drexler to point the finger at others. But rather than doing that, he tries to do a little extra by going for loose balls, playing strong defense, rebounding more and making a pass that leads to a score.



CLYDE DREXLER

So be it education or basketball, Drexler and his family take their responsibilities seriously. Six brothers and sisters are either going to college or have graduated. Clyde is working on his finance degree during summers at the University of Houston, and plans to work in the banking industry when his basketball career is over.

Clyde the Glide's charisma affects many in the Portland community. He's established himself for his basketball abilities and now he's agreed to become Chairman of the Blazer/Avia Reading Fitness Program. In this program, he will be in the position to encourage thousands of students to read more.

The education of Clyde Drexler continues in all facets of his life. It will be exciting for everyone to share in his continued success.

## Portland Meadows update:



BUFORD MILLS, JR.

Buford Mills, Jr., a 19-year-old Canadian reinsman, has surged into the riding lead at Portland Meadows.

Mills headed into the Presidents' Day weekend at Portland Meadows with a total of 43 wins, six in front of Brian Long, a 22-year-old Californian who is picking up steam as the race meet progresses.

Jody Davidson, the 22-year-old Ridgefield booter, forfeited his lead in the jockey standings, after shipping out for Golden State Fields in San Francisco. Right off, Davidson piloted Apache Lark, owned by A. T. (Tex) Irwin of Battleground, to a stunning victory in a \$40,000 claiming race.

Mills has his sights set on Long-aces race track in Seattle where he plans to compete when Portland Meadows closes its spring meeting April 28. There is a possibility that he may spend the summer, however, at Exhibition Park in Vancouver, B.C., where he rode with great success last year.

Jockey Gary Baze was released from Emanuel Hospital earlier this week and sent home to recover from internal injuries suffered in a two-horse spill a couple of weeks ago.

### PORTLAND MEADOWS TOP 10 JOCKEY SURVEY AS OF 2-10-85

THOROUGHBRED JOCKEY STANDINGS						
PLACING	NAME	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	% OF WINS
1	HILLS BUFORD	271	43	43	31	15.9
2	DAVIDSON JODY	173	39	25	24	22.5
3	LONG BRIAN	257	37	29	24	14.4
4	HOORE DOUG	282	0	31	31	10.6
5	GONZALEZ FRANK	219	29	27	28	12.8
6	JAMES MIKE	153	29	28	22	18.3
7	HAELEFVET BRUNO	242	25	26	34	10.3
8	CUTHBERTSON ALLAN	106	16	17	13	15.1
9	TOHILL KEN	159	16	11	12	10.1
10	ARAGON JORGE	137	15	9	11	10.9

QUARTERHORSE JOCKEY STANDINGS						
PLACING	NAME	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	% OF WINS
1	BORG MARK	73	13	11	13	17.8
2	BURNS JIM	40	12	12	13	30.0
3	WALKER MICK	51	7	9	6	13.7
4	STEVENS SCOTT	60	7	9	2	11.7
5	GLENN JIM	69	7	13	6	10.1
6	SHRIVE SHANE	87	7	11	11	8
7	GONZALEZ FRANK	21	5	0	3	23.8
8	HOORE DOUG	72	5	7	0	6.9
9	KINSBRY RUSSELL	21	4	1	3	19
10	HOORE KATHY	32	4	4	4	12.5

### PORTLAND MEADOWS TOP 10 TRAINER SURVEY AS OF 2-10-85

THOROUGHBRED TRAINER STANDINGS						
PLACING	NAME	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	% OF WINS
1	PEERY CHECK	79	24	11	14	30.4
2	SMITH G.T.	69	19	17	6	31.7
3	GLATT BOB	40	12	9	7	30.0
4	PUGH STEVE	97	12	9	12	12.4
5	MC LEAN BILL	65	11	9	7	16.9
6	HONKAWKER H.H.	44	10	6	3	22.7
7	BIGARDI VICTOR	64	10	9	8	15.6
8	HARRIS MIKE	36	9	4	0	25
9	FORSTER DAVE	26	8	5	4	30.8
10	STAPLEY BOB	50	8	6	5	16

QUARTERHORSE TRAINER STANDINGS						
PLACING	NAME	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	% OF WINS
1	COPELAND CLAUDE	30	9	4	4	30
2	HARRIS JOHN	51	9	5	16	17.6
3	SPERUSS BARTER	40	9	9	3	20
4	HELTON LIN	47	5	10	2	10.6
5	HOODES LERAL E	11	4	0	3	36.4
6	DAVIS ROBERT	18	4	2	2	22.2
7	WHEELER MARCO	29	4	2	4	13.8
8	HILLSON JOHN J	4	3	0	0	75
9	HOBBS BILL	5	3	1	1	60
10	DEAL JOHN	19	3	2	0	15.7

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Some think mirrors draw lightning.

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The highest shade temperature on record is 136.4 deg. F noted at Al'Aziziyah, Libya, on September 13, 1922.

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