



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES A CHAMPION

Saturday night at the U.S. National Bank-OSAA Class AAA state tournament at the University of Portland's Earle A. Chiles Center, Benson High School's Travis West won his third straight state wrestling title.

West won his title with an 11-3 major decision over Newberg's Neil Russo in the 123-pound championship final. In his junior year Travis won at 106 pounds and as a sophomore he took the 98-pound crown. That makes three and only two other PIL wrestlers have accomplished that feat. Rick Sanders pulled it off in 1961-62-63 for Lincoln and Marc Sprague, from Madison, did it in 1980-81-82.

Travis pinned his first three opponents on his way to the semifinals, where he defeated Barlow's Kevin Campbell with a 9-2 decision. In his four years at Benson, West has carved out a record of 93-7-1 and went undefeated this season at 22-0. A well deserved CONGRATULATIONS, CHAMP!

THE SPINKS JINX

The Light Heavyweight Championship crown still rests upon the head of Michael Spinks. At 1:02 of the third round, referee Larry Hazzard stopped the fight and awarded Michael, what he came to defend, his title. Always a low starter, until he figures his opponent out, Michael unleashed a crushing straight right hand to the temple of challenger David Sears, that sent Sears to the canvas for an 8-count early in the third. After taking some more solid hits to the head, Sears was out of it and Larry Hazzard did the proper thing by stopping the bout.

There was rightside talk of Michael fighting Larry Holmes for the heavyweight title, but I'm sure Michael will come to his senses concerning that after a good night's rest.

BREAKERS GET BAD BREAK

Far worse than the 9-7 loss to the Arizona Outlaws, the Portland Breakers may have lost Marcus Dupree for the season. Marcus went down with 2:31 to play in the game, when he dove out of bounds, after picking up 8 yards on a draw play. Preliminary X-rays indicated he had torn the collateral ligament in his left knee.

The Breakers open their home schedule against the Los Angeles Express at Civic Stadium Saturday night so maybe their fortunes will take a turn for the better. Buford Jordan now has the ball. I'm going to go and see if he can run with it.

A TEAM LOOKING FOR SOME HOOP COMPETITION

Clayton Howard, head coach of the O.S.P. Jr. Blazers, is looking for some competition for his team. His team can only play home games, so if you have a basketball team and want to play one on the road, contact me at the *Observer* and I will set it up.

Don't think that it will be an easy game, either. Ron Martin tells me that these guys can fill it up. Once things are set, I will cover the game. All players must be 18 and over.

BAD KNIGHT

Indiana's Bobby Knight, basketball coach, apologized publicly for throwing a chair in a game last Saturday against Purdue U. I'll say it again, let a player throw a chair or rant and rave like Knight and that player is gone. This is the great coach that teaches sportsmanship and attempts to build character. Apology my ear. . . . He should be made to do much more than apologize. I think that he is a disgrace to the coaching profession. Anyone think that he will be fired?



Head Coach Bobby Harris of Jefferson High School.
No one does it better. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Observer PIL coach of the year

Bobby Harris
Jefferson High School

I have never believed that achievements in sports can or should be made on the basis of won and lost records. Coach Harris epitomizes that ideology.

Bobby Harris has taken a team that began as marginal individual ball players and transformed them into a very competitive basketball team.

Individually and collectively his team improved their abilities both on and off the basketball floor.

Jefferson High School should be proud to have a man of Coach Harris' compassion and ability on their staff. No other coach in the PIL came close to matching Coach Harris' ability on the hardwood; they just had more field goals.

New PIL champions of hoop

When you live by the jump shot, you can die by the jump shot, and that's what killed the Grant Generals Friday night at Wilson.

The defending PIL champs lost their final season encounter with the Trojans 55-51 but this team has the talent to come through the sub-tournament to reach the finals at the MC, March 5-9.

With the victory, the Trojans laid claim to their first league basketball title since the 1980 season. Grant had won the championship for the last two seasons. Wilson now has the luxury of sitting back and waiting for the winner of sub-tournament "A" to bring their show to the Glass Palace.

The gym was packed and the kids were ready to rock by the time the two teams hit the floor. Once the game got started the only one rocking was Wilson's 6-foot-3 center Laffaire Taylor. Taylor took on the front line of the Generals and grabbed 22 rebounds to insure second and third opportunities for the Wilson shooters. The kid was cleaning the glass like Windex during the second period when Wilson turned a 5-point deficit into a 10-point lead. Taylor ended the quarter with 4 offensive boards and 3 on the defensive end. Not to be totally out-

done, the Generals gathered themselves for a run at the Trojans during the final minute, and narrowed the margin to 27-21 to close the half.

Grant wanted to run but the Trojans would have none of that. Wilson controlled the tempo with their rebounding advantage and Grant was never comfortable playing from behind. The game was a contest throughout but Grant just couldn't nail those outside jumpers that they thrive on. Combine that with Taylor's one shot allowance and you have the outcome.

With 7:22 remaining the scoreboard read 41-35, home, and suddenly it was Gary Rubin for Wilson. Rubin hit nothing but net from the corner, converted a layup off a steal and canned another jumper from the corner, and it was 48-35 with 5:00 to go. Grant made another run but they could only get within four for the rest of the contest.

Grant 51
Tony Ross 17, West 12, SMith 6, Roberts 6, Lawrence 6, McFerrin 2, Van 2.
Wilson 55
Gary Rubin 22, Smith 11, Johnson 7, Taylor 6, Allen 6, Shaw 3.
Grant. 12 9 12 18-51
Wilson. 10 17 12 16-55

PIL Boys' final standings

League	Season		Tournament Bound	
	W	L	W	L
Wilson.	16	2	18	2
Grant.	15	3	16	4
Roosevelt.	14	4	16	4
Benson.	11	7	12	8
Jefferson.	11	7	12	8
Marshall.	7	11	8	12
Lincoln.	6	12	6	14
Madison.	4	14	5	15
Franklin.	4	14	4	16
Cleveland.	2	16	2	18

Jefferson 85, Franklin 66
Lincoln 63, Cleveland 57
Marshall 77, Madison 62
Roosevelt 77, Benson 70
Wilson 55, Grant 51

PLAYER OF THE WEEK
ANDRE GEORGE
Roosevelt High School

Prep Playoffs Class AAA

Boys basketball

STATE PLAYOFFS
Feb. 28 and March 2
Sub-Tournament A
Lebanon (11-9) at McNary (10-10) at Putnam (15-15)
Glencoe (11-9) at South Eugene (12-9)
Sub-Tournament B
David Douglas (11-9) at La Grande (13-7)
Clackamas (12-8) at Sunset (13-7)
Sub-Tournament C
Redmond (12-8) at Canby (12-7)
Benson (12-8) at Klamath Union (13-7)
Sub-Tournament D
Molalla (10-10) at Grant (16-4)
Gresham (14-6) at Crescent Valley (13-7)
Sub-Tournament E
Churchill (13-8) or North Eugene (11-11) at Medford (12-8)
Central Catholic (13-7) at Centennial (13-7)

Sub-Tournament F
Crater (12-8) at Sheldon (13-7)
Baker (10-10) at Roosevelt (16-4)

STATE TOURNAMENT
March 5-9, Portland
"A" winner vs. Wilson (18-2), Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
"B" winner vs. Ashland (17-3), Tuesday, 3 p.m.
"C" winner vs. Corvallis (20-0), Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Parkrose (20-0) vs. Springfield (17-3) Tuesday, 8:45 p.m.
"D" winner vs. Lakeridge (18-2), Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.
"E" winner vs. Ontario (16-3), Wednesday, 3 p.m.
"F" winner vs. McMinnville (12-7) Wednesday, 7 p.m.
McKay (14-6) vs. Beaverton (17-3), Wednesday, 8:45 p.m.



Carl Lewis (center), proud winner of the 1985 Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award, stands with Mrs. Jesse Owens (left) and Herbert P. Douglas, founder of the award and Vice President, Urban Market Development for Schieffelin & Co.

Lewis wins Owens Award

Quadruple Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis has been named the winner of the fifth annual Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award.

The award, which is named after the legendary Olympian who won four gold medals at Berlin in 1936, is given to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performances as well as sincere cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations.

Lewis was chosen from a list of 21 candidates who were selected by a worldwide panel of electors from North America, Europe, Asia, South America, Central America, the Caribbean and Africa.

Lewis was awarded the award at the Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award dinner February 6 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The event co-benefitted the United States Olympic Committee and the Jesse Owens Memorial Foundation.

Lewis regarded by many as the world's premier athlete, became the first track and field competitor since Owens to win four gold medals in one Olympics. A 23-year-old member of the Santa Monica Track Club,

Lewis captured his gold medals in the 100 and 200 meters, the long jump and the 4x100 relay. In the latter event, he ran the anchor leg of America's world record 37.83 performance.

Prior to the Olympics, Lewis in January of 1984 broke his own world indoor record in the long jump by an astonishing 9 1/4 inches when he leaped 28-10 1/4 at the Wanamaker Millrose Games. The distance equalled his outdoor best and fell short by 4 1/4 inches of Bob Beamon's seemingly unbreakable record set in the high altitude of Mexico City in 1968.

In February of 1984 Lewis won his third consecutive long jump title at the USA/Mobil Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Lewis, who was named Track and Field Athlete of the Year for the third straight year by Track and Field News, gave a preview of his Olympic heroics when he won three gold medals at the inaugural World Track and Field Championships in Helsinki in 1983.

Previous recipients of the Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award were Edwin Moses in 1984, Mary Decker in 1983, Sebastian Coe in 1982, and Eric Heiden in 1981.

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