



by Roy Lee Jernigan  
Sports Editor

# SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

## A COLLEGIATE MINIMUM WAGE

Believe me, I'm not so naive that I think the following will happen; I am, however, positive that it should. Athletes that participate in varsity collegiate athletics should be paid for the revenues they generate and head coaches should be made to honor their contracts.

College sports have become a multi-million dollar business and the participants get absolutely nothing. If your argument is the free education, forget it. How many graduate? College has become little more than a training and proving ground for professional leagues. In fact, some pro leagues deem college preparation as a mandatory prerequisite prior to entry into the pay for play ranks.

Youngsters that come from low income families are recruited to college

campuses where obvious wealth is prevalent. They are compelled to steal stereos and bootleg game tickets for pocket money in order to feel equal to their peers. Rather than make headline news of these kids' problems, I say let's look at ways of preventing these unfortunate instances and try to eliminate the compulsion. Pay them!

When it comes to paying coaches, it seems that the purse-strings are unlimited. Many colleges pay their head basketball and football coaches more than the salary of the President of the United States. In the case of Ronnie Reagan, that seems almost justified.

Let's look at just one of the inequities between coaches and players. A lead coach from the PAC 10 finds a talented athlete in Chicago and sets out to recruit him. Coach tells the player that he wants him and will be there for the kid throughout his collegiate career to guide him, counsel him, help him become a better player, and of course, be his friend. Coach has a five-year contract so the high schooler puts his faith in coach and heads for the PAC 10 after graduation.

Once at college, the kid signs his scholarship and suddenly finds that Coach has 12 other friends there and not enough time for them all. Nothing can be done now so the kid makes the best of the situation. One year later, Coach has been offered a similar position in the Big 10. The PAC 10 was paying close to \$50,000, and the new job offers \$200,000 per year, a basketball camp that pays another \$50,000, and Coach's own television show, which pays a few thousand more. You got it — Coach is gone!

The kid that Coach recruited feels betrayed, and wants to transfer to the Big 10 also, but there's a hitch. Our young athlete has to forfeit a year's eligibility to make the same move. In

most instances the athlete will be Black and the coach will be white but leaving that point aside, there's obviously a need for some of these inequities to be remedied.

As always, when I discuss a problem, I will offer a solution. Start at the minimum wage and pay varsity athletes whenever they practice and play their sport. When on the road, they should be paid for missing their classes and a per diem allowance for food. The hourly wage should increase with seniority and bonuses paid for individual honors such as all-conference and All-America, etc.

Coaches should be made to honor their contracts and sign letters of intent to the players he recruits. When a coach leaves a player, after contracting to be there, that student should be allowed to transfer without loss of eligibility. If the coach is fired, the contract is voided.

Athletes must maintain a minimum grade point average to remain eligible. Why not require coaches to maintain a certain percentage of graduates to maintain their eligibility to coach. Am I a dreamer, or what?



Grant's Tony Ross scored 28 points to lead in the Generals' 66-47 victory over Molalla in the playoff game held at Grant last Thursday.

(Photo: Dan Long)

## Tough Grant defense stops Molalla

Thursday night at Grant High School was the end of the line for the Indians from Molalla. Grant's pressing defense and Tony Ross were too much for the Indians to handle. Grant won 66-47 in the opening-round game of the Class AAA state playoffs.

The Generals started out in a full court man to man pressure defense and the Indians could only respond with some great play by one player, Joe Clarizio. Tony Ross took control early on the offensive end, and team defense did the rest. The Indians were forced into turnovers at the top of the key and the Generals turned the steals into points more often than Molalla could stand. With 1:30 to go in the first quarter and down 13-4, Molalla Head Coach Rick Hassman decided to play for the last shot. It was like a boxer that came to last but not to win.

Clarizio played like a man possessed under the boards but had no help because no one else was looking to shoot the ball. That was the story for Molalla in the second quarter, and Grant just kept playing strong defense to lead at the half 32-21.

The Generals started the third period in a 2-3 zone defense and promptly turned a steal into 2 points. The Indians couldn't put up enough shots in the third quarter to even challenge Grant and went into the fourth period down 46-29.

The referees let the kids play a

physical game under the boards and Clarizio remained up to the task but still had no help. The fans began to get into the game and suddenly the Indians began to put the ball up to the hoop with authority. It was 48-37 at 5:19 when the Grant student body began to cry, BORING. That must have lit the Indians' fire because they closed to 55-45 at 2:36. Sensing another run by the Indians, Grant partisans chanted, "We have sidewalks, yes we do. We have sidewalks, how about you?"

At 1:39, the game was all but over and the cry from the stands was now, "Warm up the horses." The Molalla faithful saw the writing on the walls at this point and resorted to the old axiom. If you can't win the game, attack the personality. As time was running out and Tony Ross was heading for a layup, off a steal, the Indian followers chanted, "We finish high school, yes we do. We finish high school, how about you?" It ended 66-47 Grant.

When the game ended I was out of there. Had there been any more time on the clock I was prepared to hear. Your Mama!

### Molalla 47

Joe Clarizio 23, Sutter 3, Melhorn 2, Harris 10, Hester 9.

### Grant 66

Tony Ross 28, West 17, Van 2, Roberts 5, McFerrin 9, Kinney 2, Adams 2, Goodlow 1.

## PIL results

Saturday, March 2

Grant got 21 points from Mark West and got by Crescent Valley 68-61. Tony Ross hit for 18 and 5 foot 7 sophomore Joe McFerrin scored 8 points in the final four minutes to spark the Generals' victory on the road.

Aaron Bell hit for 27 and Courtney Celestine bagged 20 to lead Benson over canby 66-57.

The Roosevelt Roughriders were thrown off their horses by Sheldon 50-38. Andre George had 11 points and was the only player in double figures for the Roughriders.

The next issue of the *Observer* will feature the PIL All-Star Team.

# T-BONE STEAKS

USDA CHOICE BEEF lb.

# \$2.99

## PRAIRIE MARKET

FRESH MEAT IS AVAILABLE AT .

LOMBARD - 7611 N. Exeter  
PORTLAND - 14410 S.E. Division  
PORTLAND - 3955 S.E. Powell Blvd.  
SAN RAFAEL - 1910 N.E. 122nd

OREGON CITY - 878 Molalla Ave.  
HILLSBORO - 960 S.E. Oak  
FOREST GROVE - 1531 Pacific Ave.  
PORTLAND - 74th and Glisan

Support our advertisers  
Say You Saw It in The **PORTLAND OBSERVER**

# WELCOME To Miller Time

There's work time. Dues-paying time. Other people's time. And then there's your time. Time to make every minute count with the rich, smooth taste of Miller High Life. So grab a cold one. And "Welcome To Miller Time."

© 1982 Miller Brewing Co. Milwaukee, Wis.



Mayor Bud Clark jokes with Portland athletes who will be competing in the first International Sister

Cities Association Festival of Sport in New Zealand March 30th through April 8th.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## International Sportsfest draws athletes

by Robert Lothian

Ted Mayes, a junior at Jefferson High School, is one of 50 young Portland athletes looking forward to representing Portland at the first International Sister Cities Association Festival of Sport to be held in Manakau City, New Zealand, from March 30-April 8.

The athletes, mostly high school students, have already paid registration fees but need to raise \$62,500 to cover additional costs. They are asking for donations.

Mayor Bud Clark met with the

athletes last week. "Please join with me in support of this rewarding endeavor and make a generous contribution now," he urged Portlanders.

Mayes, a power forward on the Jefferson basketball team, will play basketball in New Zealand on a team from Portland. Portland athletes will play basketball in New Zealand on a team from Portland. Portland athletes will play against athletes from 40 countries. Rugby, soccer tennis and many other sports will be represented.

Competition at the Sportfest is not as important as international under-

standing and cooperation, said Mayes. He's looking forward to the trip because "it will give us a chance to meet different people from different countries and see how they do things," he said.

Subsequent Sportfests will take place in Japan in 1987 and Australia in 1989. Portland is a candidate for the 1991 Sportfest.

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to the Sports Exchange Committee, Portland Sister Cities Association, 1220 S.W. 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204, 248-4120.