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Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

OPEN THE DOORS

Now that the prep basketball season has wound down to the state playoffs and championships, it's time to do a little recapping. I am a basketball purist by nature so watching the kids go to the hoop is to watch the game in its purest form. Watching the Boys Class AAA finals at the Coliseum made me aware of a few things that Oregon must do in order to upgrade the skills of these kids.

As I watched the game between Parkrose and Corvallis in the quarter-finals I was amazed that these two teams were ranked Number 1 and 2 in the state. Corvallis has a well disciplined team and a few good players but that was it. Parkrose had nothing. Both teams had front line size that would prove a worthy match against Oregon State U., but neither team went to their strengths. Parkrose and Corvallis obviously played against much smaller teams that could not stay in the game with them but both teams had no real ability.

I don't know much about the Coach at Parkrose and I choose not to pick him to pieces but there's something wrong when your senior big man has not learned the basic fundamentals of moving towards the ball when it's thrown inside. Mike Doherty realized his mistake after the first half and went exclusively to his big men in the last two quarters as Corvallis tried to battle back but it was too late to change the outcome by then. Coaching plays a big part in a state tournament and I was not impressed by what I saw at the tournament. Dick Beachell guided his Trojans to the title with flawless ability and easily outclassed the other coaches in the field. I must also mention John Stilwell and the job he did with Grant. By emphasizing defense in his preparation for the playoffs, Stilwell gave his team a foundation that allowed them to reach the finals with a poise that they had not displayed all year.

There were many excellent individual ball players in the tournament but most seem destined to be handicapped by the lack of competition to improve. Oregon needs to open the doors of its schools to let these kids play some ball after school. The biggest difference between east and west coast players is that the kids back east eat, sleep and drink basketball with players of varying abilities and ages.

It is not a coincidence that Ray Blume, Mark Radford, Richard Wash-

ington and Mel Counts couldn't establish themselves in the big leagues. Most prep coaches here don't have the time to devote to guiding an athlete through the maze of necessary fundamentals that are critical to development. When you open the doors of the schools you get people in the community that will staff the schools for recreational activity and want to aid in the development of skills.

In New York City, our schools were opened in the afternoon and early evening to allow people in the neighborhood to learn crafts, work in the shop areas and use the gyms to allow kids of all ages to play together and improve their abilities. When I was thirteen, I played on a basketball team with guys that were in their late twenties. That's how you improve your game, you try to play with and against anyone.

How often does a 6-foot-7 high schooler get to play against someone his size or taller in Portland? Open up the gyms in the evenings and Bobby Flowers, Stretch Braxton and Cowboy will give some solid lessons on the hardwood. Unless you parents want your kids to go to OSU for four years and come back home wondering what happened, make some noise to open up the buildings that you pay for but can't use.



Grant's Joe McFerrin II lets loose for 2 of his 4 points in the third overtime State Championship semifinals against Beaverton. McFerrin earned 16 points in all to spark the Generals' victory in this 57-50 screamer. (Photo: Dan Long)

Wilson wins city and state bragging rights

It was an all PIL final for the Class AAA boys basketball tournament, and the two teams that met were indeed the best of the field. Wilson won the PIL and runner-up, Grant, met for the rubber match in the confines of the Memorial Coliseum to do battle in the championship final. During the regular season they met twice with each winning at home.

Grant had to fight their way into the finals by moving through the sub-tournament, but once there, they displayed their versatility as a team, and were up to the challenge that Wilson presented. The road for Wilson wasn't as rocky, but that meant nothing Saturday night.

As I saw the teams coming out onto the floor, I visualized a game of defense and transition by the Generals, and ball control through offensive execution by Wilson. That's what it turned out to be. Grant began the game in their suffocating 2-3 zone defense and the Trojans did likewise. Both teams are guard-oriented, so it wasn't long before Keith Smith and Gary Rubin made their combined presence felt. Tony Ross caught on

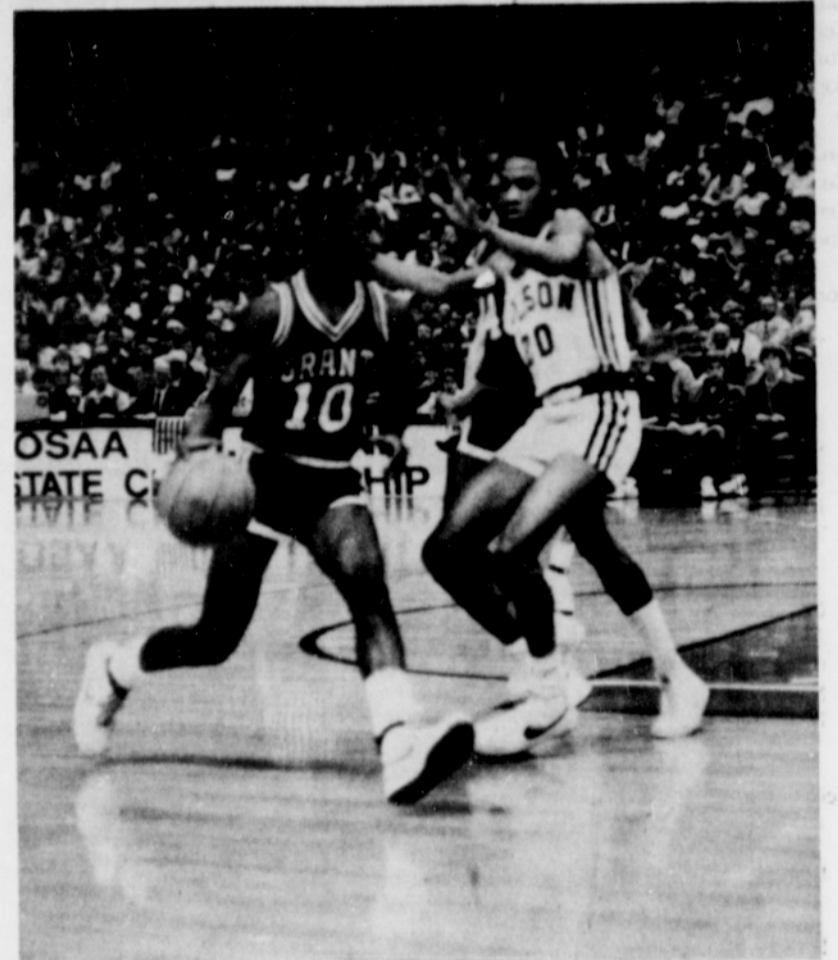
and fired a few salvos right back at them.

Hindsight tells me that the first quarter proved to be the undoing of the Generals because they came out looking for the long range jumpers to fall, and they died that death in their last meeting with the Trojans. Laffaira Taylor went into his impersonation of Windex again and cleaned the glass whenever Grant's long jumpers wouldn't fall. Rubin was hitting nothing but net from the corners and Keith kept the tempo at Wilson's beat close to the quarter at 13-11, Trojan's.

Pressure often forces the return of bad habits and Grant came out taking poor percentage shots to start the second period. Ross hit a few but not enough to bring Wilson out of the 2-3 zone. Wilson worked the ball patiently and set some good picks and screens inside, working exclusively for the good percentage shots, hitting them often enough for a 30-21 lead to close the half.

Grant came out for the second half with what appeared to be an adjustment in their offensive strategy. Joe McFerrin got the ball inside to Big Ron Smith for 2-points, and on the next trip down the floor, McFerrin hit Mark West low for another score. At 6:20 it was 30-25 Wilson. Coach Stilwell had still another thought for the second half: he substituted LaVon Van for Stan Roberts and went to a box and 1 on Keith Smith. Smith, a very heady youngster, responded by finding Gary Rubin and Rubin ignited a 6-point run that boosted the score to 36-25 at 5:15. With Smith at the controls, Wilson had a 44-37 advantage at the end of the third.

With Taylor doing such a fine job on the boards at both ends of the floor, the Generals were getting just one opportunity to score when panic seemed to set in again. The Generals completely got away from what Stilwell wanted, to go inside, and they



Grant High School's Tony Ross works his way around Wilson's Keith Smith in Saturday's State AAA Championship game. Smith earned 18 points to Ross' 16 and Wilson won the championship 62 to 54. (Photo: Dan Long)

began taking those poor percentage jumpers again. At 6:42, Ross made a steal and converted the layup to close to 46-40 and things were looking up for Grant. Mike Goodlow turned demon on the boards for Grant and at 4:49 it was only a 4-point difference, 48-44 Wilson.

The Generals worked hard the rest of the way but it was just too much Keith Smith orchestrating and Taylor

muscle. At 1:09 Taylor picked up his fifth personal foul but Grant just didn't have enough time left to take advantage. Both schools exhibited good sportsmanship throughout the game so when the horn sounded and the scoreboard read 62-54 Wilson, we knew who the Champions were but more importantly, we had seen some good ball played by some good sports.

KUZ-INS LEAGUE taking teams

KUZ-INS presents the N.B.A. Pro-AM Basketball Summer League sponsored by Miller High Life, Spalding, Pro-Keds and Medalist. Opening day of the season will be June 8, 1985 at Irving Park, 7th and Fremont.

Uniforms (shirts and shorts), sneakers, a 13-game schedule, a play-off and championship series, NBA Rules, NBA Affiliated Referees, plus trophies and awards will be provided. The series is open to men 18 and older. There will be ten 10-man teams. Teams must be entered by April 15, 1985. To enter, contact Byron Brown, 284-3580, or Tracy Cagle, 287-0062.

CHAMPIONSHIP BOX SCORE

	MP	FG	FT	R	A	P	St	TO	TP
West.....	32	11-22	0-0	13	0	3	0	0	22
Lawrence.....	13	0-3	0-0	4	0	1	0	1	0
Roberts.....	22	3-5	0-0	5	1	1	1	3	6
Ross.....	31	6-20	4-6	3	2	5	2	0	16
McFerrin.....	32	0-7	0-0	2	7	5	1	1	0
Van.....	11	1-4	1-2	2	1	3	0	0	3
Goodlow.....	9	2-4	1-2	6	0	2	0	1	5
R. Smith.....	9	1-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	2	2
Kinney.....	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	162	45-65	6-0	35	11	21	4	8	54

WILSON 62

	MP	F	FT	R	A	P	St	TO	TP
Johnson.....	31	1-3	6-9	5	5	2	0	1	8
Allen.....	30	4-6	0-0	6	1	2	1	2	8
Taylor.....	31	4-9	0-2	13	0	5	3	2	8
K. Smith.....	31	5-6	8-10	3	3	1	0	1	18
Rubin.....	31	9-17	2-5	2	3	1	2	3	20
Coblen.....	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beal.....	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaw.....	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grasvik.....	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	160	23-41	16-26	29	12	11	6	9	62

Ebony tells truth about Muhammad Ali



Former three-time world heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali mirrors his mural as he tells his fans, "Don't count me out."

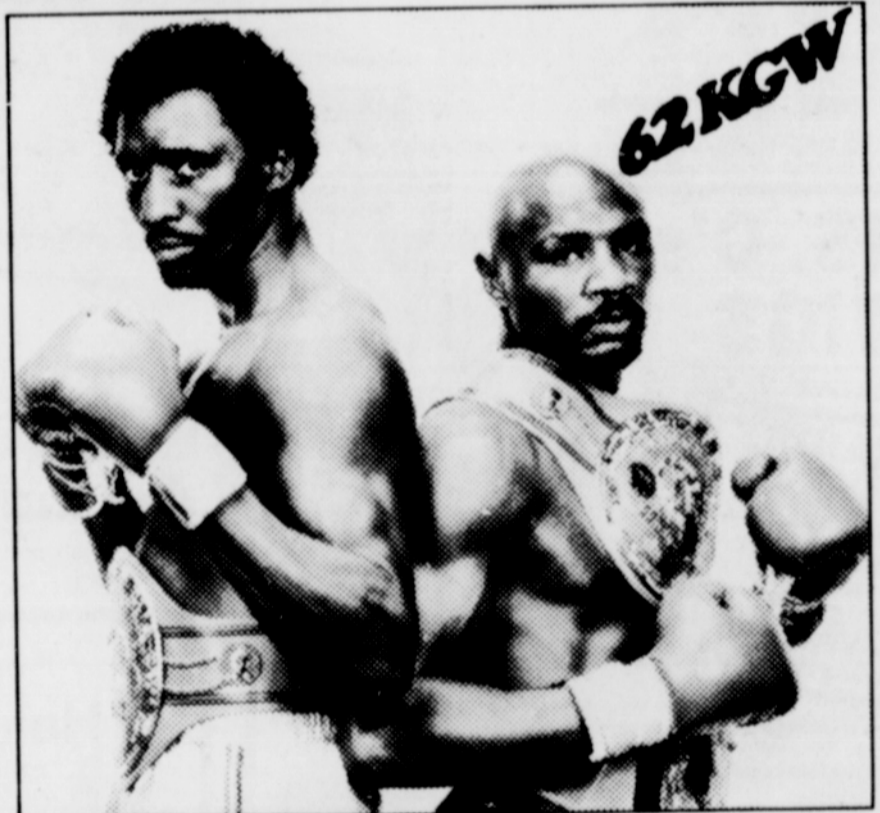
Today Muhammad Ali is a shadow of the man who could "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," but he says, "I'm not suffering, I'm not crazy and I'm not dying." For the truth about Muhammad Ali, read the March *Ebony*.

Ali's doctors say he is suffering from Parkinson's syndrome, a condition responsible for his slurred speech, loss of coordination, shaking hands and fatigue. Unlike Parkinson's disease, the syndrome is not fatal and can be controlled with medication. Ali has had to deal with a lot of rumors that say he's brain damaged or on his deathbed. Says Ali, "This whole thing has been blown out of proportion, and people have made it appear that I'm in critical shape. It's not true!"

Also in the March *Ebony* don't miss these features: "New Faces On TV and In Films," "The Fight Against Hunger in Africa," "Pro Basketball's Incredible Michael Jordan," and "Thirty Leaders Of The Future."

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