



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

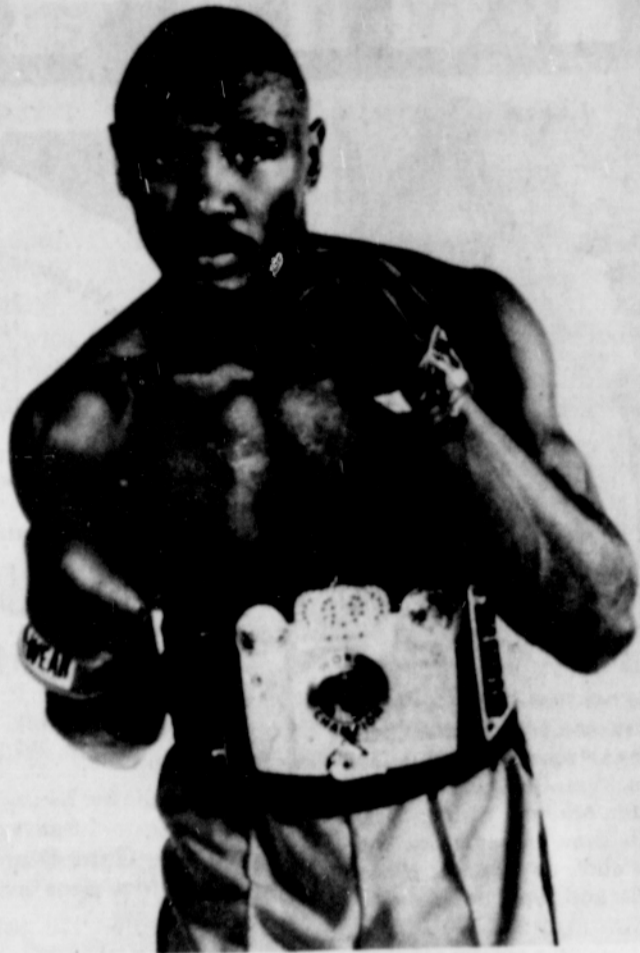
SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

THE WAR IS OVER

The setting was perfect, two glorious gladiators approaching battle in the arena. It wasn't Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. The combatants weren't Spartacus or Ben-Hur but Marvellous Marvin Hagler and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns. The battle was not to the death, just close. Any similarities to anything else, ever seen or done, ends here.

All of the talk about pre-fight hype for the media to beef up the ante can go by the boards; these brothers came to make war on each other and neither had a place to keep prisoners. The challenger came to take it, and the Champ had an emphatic "no" waiting for him. There was no strategy or tactics to agonize over for either fighter — there was no time. The stakes? The World Middleweight Championship and a few million in loot.

The bell rang and they squared off in the center of their stage. Hearns wasn't quite scared because his first move was to duck a vicious left to his head. Hearns countered this action by trying to establish his left jab. Once the jab was set up, Hearns quickly went to his right hand, and put hurt on the Champ's jaw. For the first 45 seconds, they tested each other's metal by standing in front of each other throwing bombs. A sweet short right hand buckled the Champ's knees so the Champ hit him right back. Not understanding how this man could still be in front of him, Hearns busted Hagler in the center of his forehead and drew blood. At the two-minute mark, referee Richard Steele broke up the first clench of the fight.



MARVIN HAGLER

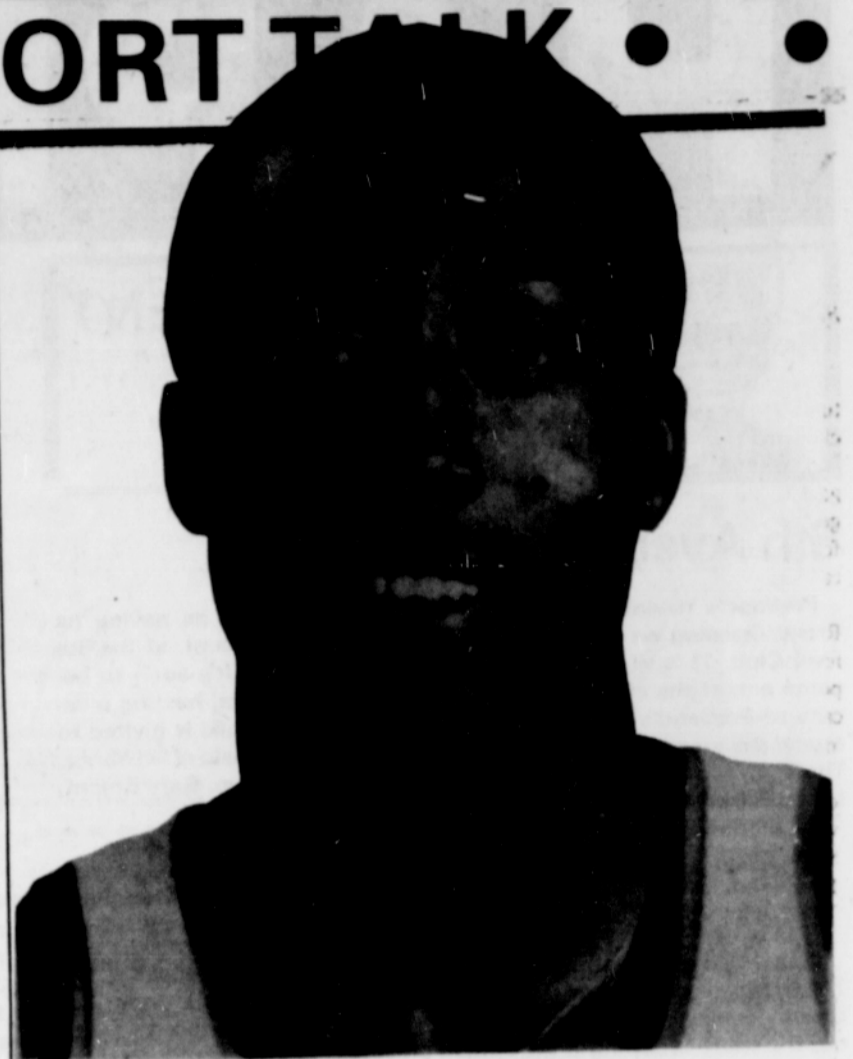
Hagler wanted to get inside and force the action and put Hearns' back against the ropes. Hearns fought his way off the ropes but Hagler maneuvered the challenger back against the ropes and landed a hard right hand, countered by a hard right hand from Hearns. Are you getting the picture?

Round 2 began with relentless pressure by Hagler, forcing Hearns to fight inside. Hearns didn't care, and once again they were toe to toe throwing bombs. The action was non-stop, fast and furious with neither man able to get a moment's rest. The referee left them alone until the one-minute mark when he broke up the second clench of the fight. Hearns then threw two rights to the head and a mean left

sure by Hagler, forcing Hearns to fight inside. Hearns didn't care, and once again they were toe to toe throwing bombs. The action was non-stop, fast and furious with neither man able to get a moment's rest. The referee left them alone until the one-minute mark when he broke up the second clench of the fight. Hearns then threw two rights to the head and a mean left

to the body of Hagler. Marvellous had enough of that and rocked Hearns with three solid blows to the head. The Champ manhandled the "Hit Man" into the ropes, and Hearns fought his way out once again. Marvin used his ring savvy to spin the "Motor City Cobra" back on the ropes but when the smoke cleared, and the bell rang, Marvin had been cut under his right eye.

Hearns felt that he had the Champ in trouble because he came across the ring to start round three throwing two big rights to the body, and then went up side the Champ's head with two more strong rights. When Marvin tried to retaliate, that just bought him two more rights to the head, and a flow of blood under his right eye. The ref halted the clock and had the ringside physician check out the eye. The Doc was not going to be the one to tell this man he had to stop fighting, so the fight resumed. Sensing that the cut might halt the fight, the Champ went into his act. Hagler closed down the space between them and now Hearns was moving backwards. Everybody knows that you can't fight moving backwards. Just when Hearns found that fact out for himself, it was too late. Hagler threw two rights to the head, the last one knocked Hearns out on his feet. At the count of nine Hearns was barely on his feet but the ref did the proper thing by stopping the fight here. Hearns was in no condition to take any more punishment on this night in the desert. The fight ended at 2:01 of the third round. The winner and still the undisputed Middleweight Champion of the World, Marvellous Marvin Hagler.



BERNARD THOMPSON

Usually it's a massive crowd that roars de-fense, de-fense. But for rookie guard/forward Bernard Thompson of the Portland Trail Blazers, it's a mental conversation that he's rehearsed many times.

As a player at Fresno State in California, his coach, Boyd Grant, drilled that message into him repeatedly. The results were impressive. Bernard Thompson and Fresno State gained their national reputations through defensive toughness.

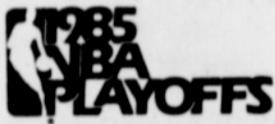
"I worked hard to get to the pros, everyone here has worked hard," said Thompson. "When you play the equivalent of three basketball seasons in one pro season, you always have to be mentally and physically ready."

Nobody likes to be on the bench, but Bernard has spent most of the season watching from the sidelines. Only

recently, with an injury to Jim Paxson, has he had the opportunity to play more.

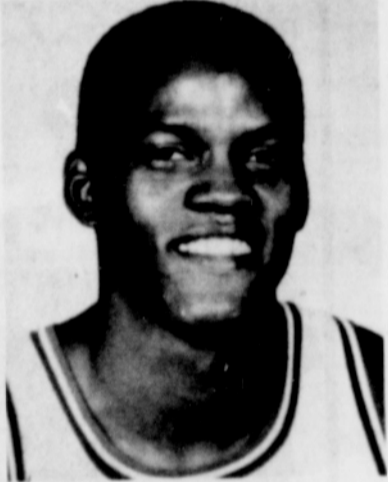
"It's helped watching from the sidelines. I can see how the veterans get by screens," Bernard said, "learn tactics on defense, find ways to sneak in and get offensive rebounds, and know when to shoot or not in given situations."

Bernard Thompson has not shot well as of late, though he does have a fine outside jumper. Blame it on inexperience. His reputation was built on playing defense and when you talk to him about guarding Magic Johnson, who he says, "is most difficult to guard because of his passing," or George Gervin, who's a "great shooter," Bernard stiffens a bit as if he's pausing to rewind and play: a mental tape that roars de-fense, de-fense, de-fense.



It has been a long and grueling season under the big top of professional basketball, individual talents have been showcased coast to coast, and all of the wolf tickets have been bought or sold. Player combinations have been ironed out or discarded by the coaches and the new season is set to begin. If any player thought that he was a diamond in the rough waiting to shine, his playing time during the second season will reveal whether he's a gem or rhinestone.

When 16 teams out of 23 qualify for the playoffs there's a good argument as to whether the playoffs have any meaning other than extending the revenues of the league but in the case of NBA, the cream usually rises to the top. Have you ever heard that riding raggedly beats dressed up walking? Well, that's the philosophy that's prevalent among the teams that barely made it in the door. Getting in is the key; after that's accomplished, anything can happen.



If Blazers are to win playoff series against the Mavericks, Dale Ellis must be controlled.

The Blazers have drawn the Mavericks from Dallas in the first round of a best of five series. Portland must win one in Texas or they will be among those that are dressed up walking. The momentum is there and the team is healthy so all that remains is execution on the court. The team has proven that they can beat any team in the league, as well as be beaten by any team in the league so execution is paramount when the Blazers reach the

one star state.

The so-called "smart money" has the Lakers out of the west to do battle against the Celtics from the east. When you look at the season's win/loss records, that matchup appears inevitable, but taking a bite out of that appealing apple could send you to the same Doctor that treated Adam. The Lakers have run roughshod over western competition all year on their way to the Western Conference title and they are healthy entering the playoff's first round against an injury riddled Phoenix team. That spells trouble for the Blazers if they get by Dallas because Kareem will get plenty of rest for the next series. If the Lakers do play Portland, that means the big man will have to run his buns off. Bring on Houston, San Antonio or Denver after that and the Lakers will be put to the test. The Lakers are good, but they're no cinch to clinch.

If you want to talk about a cinch team, try Boston. When they finish pounding on Cleveland's heads with big numbers, the east will be on notice. Neither New Jersey nor Detroit will stop the Celts in the second series because neither team has enough bench.

If Philly gets by Washington they'll be so beat up inside that Milwaukee's chances would be tremendously enhanced in a series between these two teams. Chicago won't roll over for the Bucks, especially if young Michael Jordan gets off on the geared up playoff atmosphere. Unfortunately, one dimensional teams like Chicago's, can't make it through the eastern wars. By the time the winner of this bracket gets Boston in their sights, the thought of trying to stop that fast break machine from rolling over them will be just the edge that the Celts are famous for. When you start out trying to stop them rather than beat them, you're in trouble from the jump.



Self-defense for women offered by Portland Police

The Portland Police Bureau's sexual assault prevention program will offer its monthly, 9-hour "women-strength" self-defense classes in May at the following locations:

NORTHEAST—Mondays: May 6, 13, and 20, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Old Firehouse, 5540 NE Sandy Blvd.

SOUTHWEST — Tuesdays: May 7, 14, and 21, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Riverdale Community School, 11733 SW Breyman Ave.

Registration began Tuesday, April 16 and continues until classes are full. Registration is done by phone. Call 796-3139.

The classes are free and are available to women and girls age 13 and up. Those registering must be able to attend all three sessions of the class. Assertiveness is emphasized and survival level fighting skills are taught.

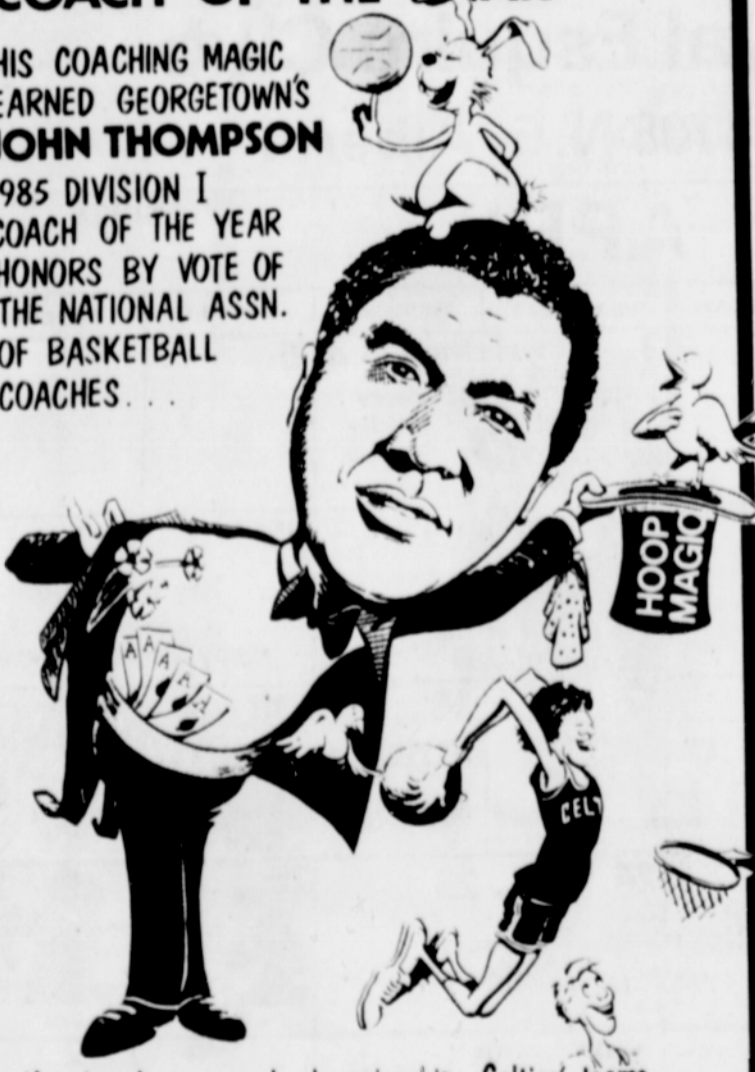


Portland Women's Crisis Line

A Public Service of the Portland Observer

COACH OF THE YEAR

HIS COACHING MAGIC EARNED GEORGETOWN'S JOHN THOMPSON 1985 DIVISION I COACH OF THE YEAR HONORS BY VOTE OF THE NATIONAL ASSN. OF BASKETBALL COACHES.



He played on several championship Celtics' teams.

1984-85 NBA WESTERN / EASTERN

CONFERENCE TEAMS



WESTERN CONFERENCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

(1) L.A. LAKERS

(8) PHOENIX

(4) DALLAS

(5) PORTLAND

(3) HOUSTON

(6) UTAH

(7) SAN ANTONIO

(2) DENVER

PLAYOFFS

(1) BOSTON

(8) CLEVELAND

(5) NEW JERSEY

(4) DETROIT

(3) PHILADELPHIA

(6) WASHINGTON

(7) CHICAGO

(2) MILWAUKEE

HORSERACING AT PORTLAND MEADOWS



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