



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

This may seem improper to some, but that's not my problem. Thank you, Ron Herndon. That was for me and mine, surely you owe him yours.

New York receives No. 1 draft pick

The Pat Ewing lottery has been won by the N.Y. Knickerbockers. Pat Ewing, the obvious No. 1 pick in the upcoming NBA draft will take his game to the Big Apple next year, unless New York runs out of money again. The first 7 picks are as follows:

1. N.Y. Knicks
2. Indiana
3. L.A. Clippers
4. Seattle
5. Atlanta
6. Sacramento
7. Golden State

The order of the first 7 picks was determined by lottery but once again, the rich got richer. Seemingly, the purpose of the lottery would eliminate the end of the season race for the league's worst record. Golden State, the team with the worst record in the league, gets the No. 7 pick. That's buzzard's luck.

John Thompson remains at Georgetown

There had been rumors flying around speculating as to whether John Thompson would enter the professional coaching ranks. Three NBA teams made offers and Thompson responded at Pat Ewing's press conference. Coach said, "I'm evaluating and making an assessment. But at this point in time I'm not ready to leave Georgetown."

Offering Big John some big bucks to leave the collegiate arena is in keeping with attempts to diminish the number of positive role models for minorities. Get him out of college ball with a weak pro team and after a few years of building, fire him. For some reason, when a Black coach is fired in the NBA he can't find work as readily as his white counterparts. Paul Silas got one shot. Elgin Baylor only had one chance. K.C. had to work as an assistant coach on the Boston bench for years before he received his second chance. K.C. was fired after playing in the Championship final by the Bullets.

The commitments that Coach Thompson has made to his underclassmen are too sacred to be violated for money. When the rest are continually going for the gold, it's refreshing to see a man with principle stand alone.



JOHN THOMPSON

Boston leads 2-0

The homecourt advantage has prevailed all year in the meetings between these two teams. Boston and Philly won three games apiece on their own floor during the regular season, and thus far nothing has changed. The Celtics have taken the first two playoff games at their place and are now heading to Philly for the second set of two.

Dennis Johnson is turning on to give the Celtics what they wanted when Red traded for him. . . . to kill the 76ers. Danny Ainge has upgraded his offensive potential enough to counteract Philadelphia's advantage in the backcourt.

Robert Parish has gotten serious about his board play and defense. If "The Chief" continues to play inside things could get difficult for the 76ers.

Philadelphia has not played that poorly; it's just that Boston has played so well. Great coaching from both benches, and the excellent bench play from both teams are the ingredients that make this matchup too unpredictable to assume that Boston will leave Philadelphia with anything but a 2-2 tie.

Lakers and Nuggets split at the Forum

Fair exchange ain't no robbery! The Lakers ran up 80 points at half-time against Denver in Game No. 1 and blew the Nuggets off the Forum floor. Game No. 2 found the Lakers being run out of the Forum by 22 points. Fair exchange.

Prior to the start of game No. 2, Doug Moe predicted that his team would win by 25, and Rick Barry laughed. When the horn blew and

the clock read 136-114, Moe laughed.

An excellent passing offense that forced L.A. to play defense was the difference. Dan Issel played like the wily old pro that he is and forced Kareem outside the lane. Alex English went inside with his smoothness and canned 41 points. Alex's 21 fourth-quarter points put the icing on the cake for Denver.

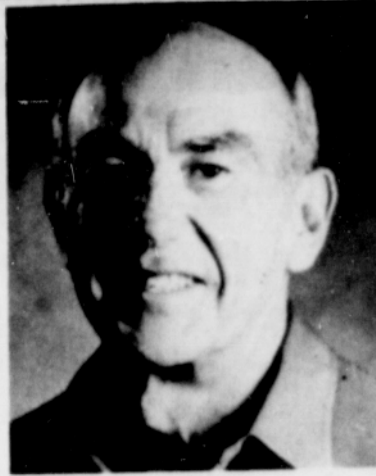
Doug Moe's strategy to pass more and to be more patient in shot selection forced the Lakers to work so hard on the defensive end that they couldn't get the famed Laker break out of first gear.

Kareem lost it in the fourth period and was ejected for wrestling. Denver was up by 16 points with 6:18 remaining when the big man left the arena. Not only have the Lakers lost one game, they have lost the home-court advantage at this point, and must now head to Denver to regain that coveted advantage. The other Blazers are alive and well in Denver.

A No. 1 draft choice for Jack Ramsey

Prior to reading Dr. Jack Ramsey's column last Sunday in the *Oregonian*, I enjoyed and thought that Jack should retire from coaching and become a writer. Now I think he should just retire. This past season is another perfect example of Ramsey's inability to adjust to his players. That alone should be enough to deal with, but to be insulted with his personal statistics is too cold.

The NBA season is 82 games long, and to break the season up before and after the All-Star break to find something positive is truly creative writing. Jack penned, "From the All-Star Game, when the Blazers were a dismal 20-28, the team won 22 and lost 12. That pace was third best in the league during that time span. A full of that level of play



JACK RAMSEY

would result in more than 50 wins. That is indicative of good basketball." That is indicative of a poor attempt at brainwashing fans.

Jack has been hailed as being one of the finer teachers in the league, but he can't teach Bowie that his strengths are inside the paint, not at the top of the circle shooting jumpers to draw the opposing big man outside. When is Jack going to teach Kiki and Mychal to play some defense? If you don't have it at this level, you seldom get the time to get it.

At the start of the season, Ramsey had a won-lost record of 703-609. That's .536 percentage. No matter how you look at it, that's a .500 coach. The expanded playoff format permits more teams to participate, although many, as in the case of the Trail Blazers, Cleveland, Milwaukee and New Jersey, have no real chance of winning it all.

As long as Jack remains here in Portland, we will hear excuse after excuse as to why the team is faltering and that they deserve our full support without criticism. Give us a break, Jack, and move on. We've tried the draft and the trade route with no success. Let's trade the Coach.



HOUSE OF SOUND TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Alexander O'Neal
2. Luther Vandross..... *The Night I Fell in Love*
3. Run-DMC..... *King of Rock*
4. Rick James..... *Glow*
5. Freddie Jackson..... *Rock Me Tonight*
6. Atlantic-Starr..... *As the Band Turns*
7. Whitney Houst..... *Hous Tu U*
8. Jesse Johnson's Revue
9. Wilton Feider..... *Secrets*
10. Con Funk-Shun..... *Eieric Lady*

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