



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

SPORT TALK will live up to its name and touch on quite a few topics in the world of sports. It was a busy week but a few stories did evolve that require attention.

NBA DRAFT

Stu Inman and the Blazer brass have done it again. The Blazers had the 24th and 25th picks in the annual college draft and opted to go for a point guard with their first choice. Terry Foster, from Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was the first player chosen by the Blazers and to me that means goodbye Darnell Valentine. Although I have never seen Porter in action, his scouting report does sound impressive. The fact that Portland spent their No. 1 choice on a point guard, with a full guard roster, does not surprise me. Blazer history clearly indicates that point guards only last in Portland for an average of 3 years.

The No. 25 pick was a center, Mike Smrek from Canisius, who was promptly traded after the close of the second round. Smrek went to Chicago for the rights to Ken Johnson, 6-foot-8 from Michigan State, and Ben Coleman, 6-foot-9, who played last season in Europe. George Montgomery, 6-foot-9, from Illinois was the third Portland choice. That puts the heat on Audie Norris to hold down his power forward position. Glickman is not a Norris fan so Audie's late season heroics may well have been his final appearance in the Blazers' colors.

A. C. Green was taken by the World Champion Los Angeles Lakers with the No. 23 pick and eliminated the possibility of A. C. playing for the Blazers. I think the kid was fortunate. Pay Riley and Jerry West are looking to the age factor in the Laker front court and drafted for that floor position. Running the floor and rebounding are Green's strong suits and they fit the Laker needs perfectly.

Pinklon Thomas retains his WBC Heavyweight championship title with KO

Mike Weaver was game but his chin couldn't take it. WBC heavyweight champ, Pinklon Thomas, showed a devastating right hand that sent challenger, Mike Weaver, to the canvas for the full count, at 1:42 of the 8th round, in their title fight at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Weaver went down once in the first round but got to his feet and gave the reigning WBC champion a fight.

The fight was loaded with action and punching power by both fighters. Rarely have two heavyweights used the left jab more effectively than Thomas and Weaver. Pinklon Thomas may well be the next man to unify the heavyweight title picture and to hold the belt for some time. While he showed that he can punch with anyone, he displayed for me an excellent defense. Sugar Ray never did mention how masterfully Thomas used his elbows to block Weaver's heavy body shots. Sugar didn't even mention how expertly Thomas kept his head away from that good jab of Weaver's. The fight was fantastic, but the teaser that HBO showed prior to the bout was insulting. Ali, the REAL Sugar Ray, Alexis Arguello, Robert Duran, and Joe Louis were referred to as former champions that did not know what to do with their money. Rocky Marciano and Max Schmeling were the examples of former champs that did know what to do with theirs. People of color don't and white men do, was clearly the point of the story. Jimmy Jacobs, a fight manager and ring historian said, "Great fighters who come out of poverty generally don't understand how to handle money."

I don't dare write my initial reaction to that statement, using the same logic, however, I must assume that, "generally," most affluent white men want to believe that they know more about people of color than they actually do.

When the post fight interview started, Larry Merchant attempted to cut off Pinky in the middle of a comment and was politely told to be quiet and to let the champ continue his statement. Larry Merchant played it off but Pinky impressed me with his reaction to what was being attempted by Merchant. The young brothers are catching on. When a few other athletes of color start catching on and begin to hire agents of color to represent them, we may someday learn how to handle money.

Slam Dunk contest

Billy Ray Bates will slam dunk in Portland — for one night.

Bates, one of the most spectacular players in the Portland Trail Blazers' history, will participate in a slam dunk contest at the end of Portland's annual Rookie Game July 17 at the Memorial Coliseum.

Bates, who still owns the highest playoff scoring average (26.7) in Portland history, will be joined in the slam dunk contest by current Blazers Clyde Drexler and Jerome Kersey



and former Blazer Michael Harper. It is possible that a 1986 draft choice will join this group.

Bates played last season in Switzerland, and Harper played with the Antibes in France.

The slam dunk contest will climax a rookie camp that will be held July 13-16 prior to the Rookie Game.

Five judges for the contest will be Dave Gambaee, former Oregon State and professional basketball star who is now president of Western International Forest Productions; former Trail Blazer LaRue Martin; Karen Howell, basketball star at St. Mary's Academy who will play next season for USC; Rick Metzger, sports director of KOIN-TV, and Steve Duin, sports columnist with the Oregonian.

Tickets for the rookie game and slam dunk contest will be sold by members of the Downtown Rotary Club and will be on sale at G.I. Joe's. Tickets are priced at \$5 and \$3 and no seats will be reserved. They will go on sale June 18.

Game time July 17 will be 7 p.m. Four 10-minute quarters will be played.




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The widest single window ever manufactured is located in the Palace of Industry and Technology in Paris, France. It has the extreme width of 715.2 feet!

The world's widest hotel lobby is that of the Grand Hotel Taipa in Taiwan. It measures 154 feet by 114 feet and is 31 and a half feet high.



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The Summer League players preparing for the summer session, bang the boards for the rebounds. See schedule below.
(Photo: Jernigan)

1985 Summer League official schedule

Western Division

Lakers
Rockets
Suns
Blazers
Jazz

Eastern Division

Nets
Sixers
Cavs
Bucks
Pacers

June 20: Thursday, 6:00, Nets vs. Pacers
June 22: Saturday, 4:30, Jazz vs. Suns; 5:40, Blazers vs. Sixers; 6:50, Cavs vs. Nets.
June 23: Sunday, 5:00, Bucks vs. Pacers; 6:10, Lakers v. Rockets.
June 25: Tuesday, 5:30, Jazz vs. Cavs; 6:40, Pacers vs. Sixers.
June 26: Wednesday, 5:30, Bucks vs. Nets; 6:40, Lakers vs. Blazers.
June 27: Thursday, 6:00, rockets vs. Suns.

Standings

West

Blazers — 3-1
Lakers — 2-1
Suns — 2-1
Jazz — 2-2
Rockets — 1-2




East

Sixers — 3-1
Nets — 2-1
Pacers — 1-2
Cavs — 1-3
Bucks — 0-3

Exercise class

A basic exercise class designed to help participants trim off inches and weight has been scheduled at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, during summer term.

The class begins Tuesday, June 25, and runs Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Cascade gymnasium. Cost of the six-week class is \$15.50. Dorothy Weiderhold is instructor.

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