

## FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

### Viking Defeat Western Illinois University

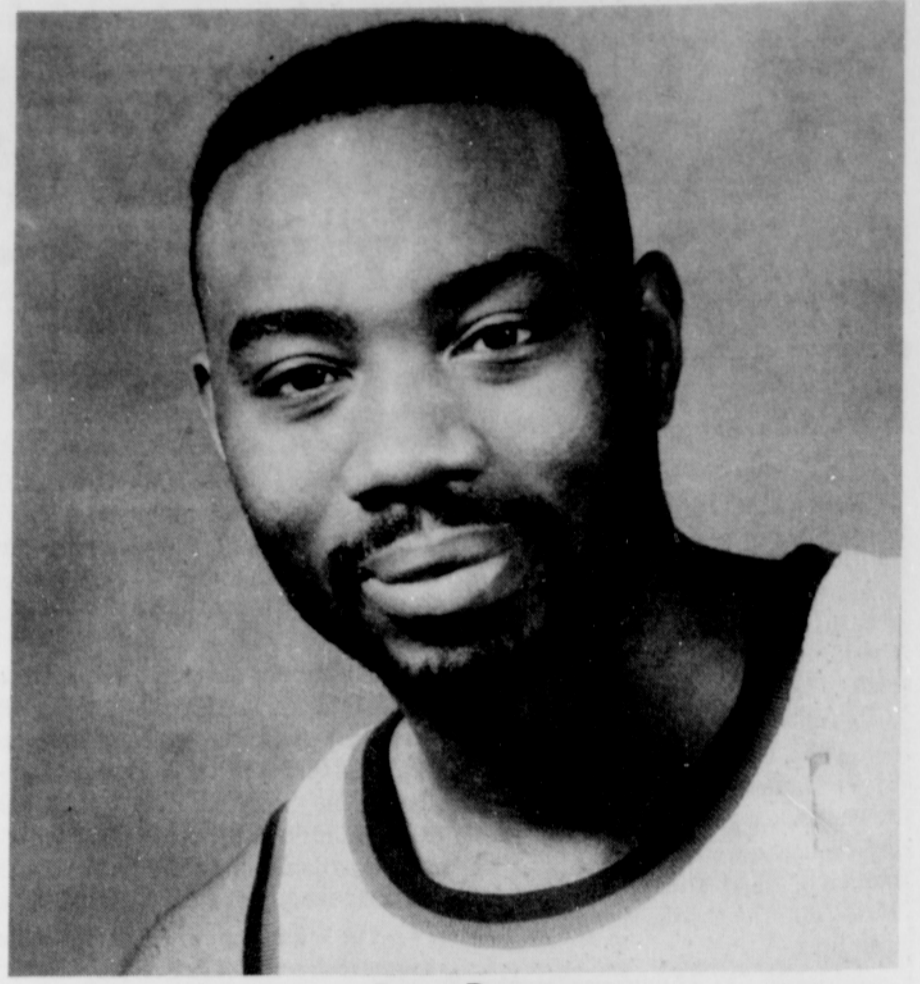
*by Dan Bell*  
Saturday was a battle of two powerhouse titans as P.S.U. strove to keep its play-off hopes alive against division NCAAI-AA Western Illinois University. Although WIU has been racked by injuries to its top 4 running backs, Portland State was in a similar situation with lost of standouts Curtis Delgado and Burnell Harvin.  
This game was a defensive battle that saw only 3 scores all evening. W.I.U. gave P.S.U. the blues on the ground behind the running of Doug Romano a red shirt Freshman who gained 158 yards on 35 carries.  
Befitting a defensive battle there was no scoring until the second quarter when W.I.U. drove 93 yards, pulling off a gutsy fourth down fake punt in the process.  
In the second half P.S.U. buckled up to meet the challenge and with some good field position manage to come up with a touchdown. P.S.U. gambled on fourth and 10 to keep their eventual

## The Locker Room

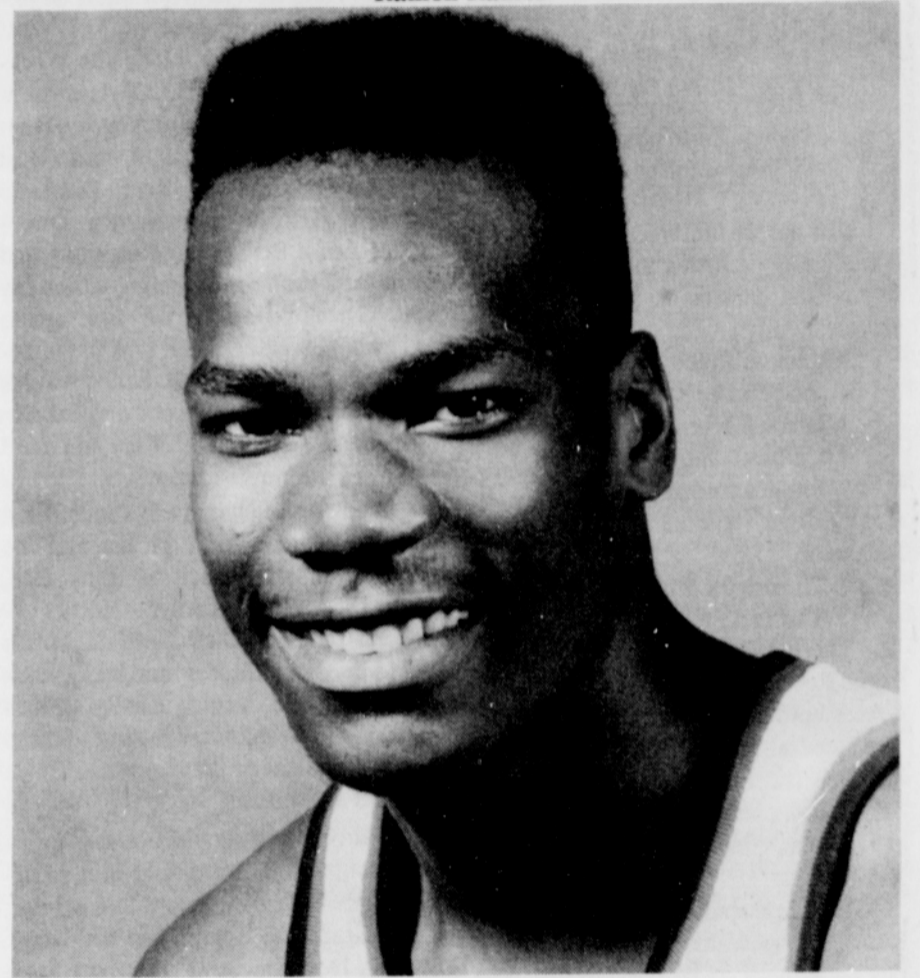
by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Imagine the best weekend of your life, and you will know the joy felt by Portland Trailblazer rookie Cliff Robinson after reflecting on his first two games in the National Basketball Association.  
Robinson, a second round selection out of Connecticut in the 1989 NBA Draft, spoke softly about the experience after scoring 12 points (6-8 free throws) and grabbing four rebounds in a 93-83 victory over the newest team in the NBA, the Minnesota Timberwolves. Robinson played thirty-one minutes off the bench. In the season opener against Sacramento, he had 10 points and 5 rebounds (18 minutes).  
"I'm real satisfied," he said, "I didn't shoot the ball like I wanted too and I could have done a better job of rebounding. Hopefully, it will get better as we go along."  
When questioned about the adjustments to play on the NBA level, reinforcing that he was not being critical, Robinson explains the difference between officials in college and in the pros.  
"In college, officials took the time to explain what you could and could not get away with on the court. Things like positioning and use of the hands, etc. . . Here (NBA), when you ask a question, the officials think that you're being sarcastic or smart with them. I'm just trying to get a better understanding of the game on this level and be the best that I can be. I want to learn as much as possible," he said.  
A native of Buffalo, New York, Robinson was rated among the top 100 scholastic recruits in the nation by *Basketball Times* and *Basketball Weekly*. He played at Riverside High School.  
At Connecticut, he led his team in scoring for three straight seasons and scored double figures in 72 of 81 games. He has never missed a game because of injury or illness. Robinson ranks fourth (1,664 points) and had a career high of 42 points against Hartford University. He once blocked nine shots in a conference title game against Georgetown.  
"We had some tough battles in the Big East with Cliff too," said Ramon Ramos, an All Big East performer at

Seton Hall. Ramos is a rookie freagent who "bumped" heads with Robinson for all of his college career.  
"Who would have thought that Mark (Bryant), Cliff, and I would end up in Portland. We're much closer, all three of us, than we were in college. Cliff is going to get better and better on the court," he said.  
Bryant played against Robinson for three years with Ramos at Seton Hall also.  
"There were some good ones," he smiled, referring to some of the Seton Hall-Connecticut confrontations. "Compared to college, Cliff has really gotten stronger and his confidence is great. I think that Cliff is really going to help our team."  
Blazer Coach Rick Adelman, who was a bit surprised to still see Robinson around when the time came for the 36 selection in the draft, put it all in perspective regarding Robinson's potential.  
"He is an excellent shooter. He runs the floor well for a man his size and he is a decent defender. I believe that he will contribute to the success of this team and we are glad to have him," he said.  
The 6'10", 225 lbs. Robinson believes that professional athletes have a social responsibility when it comes to young people and should take pride in being considered a role model.  
"I feel good about being a role model for young kids," he said. "I think that it's positive and I'll do whatever I can to keep a kid going in the right direction. They watch our behavior, as well as look up to us and many athletes need to be aware of this fact."  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Overtime . . . Wayne Cooper will be 33 on November 16, 1989 and Ramon Ramos will turn 23 on the 20th of November. Look for another great year of special events from Wally Scales, who is considered by many NBA experts, the best at his craft. He is the Vice President of Special Events. Darnell Valentine is back in town. He's a free-agent. Look for him to have a job soon. Valentine, like many ex-Blazers, still owns a home in town.



Ramon Ramos



Cliff Robinson

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## Western

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Pacific Division	
Los Angeles Lakers	60-22
Phoenix Suns	54-28
Seattle SuperSonics	50-32
Golden State Warriors	44-38
Portland Trailblazers	43-39
Sacramento Kings	40-42
Los Angeles Clippers	31-51

Business as usual in the West. "Magic" Johnson & Company should not have any difficulty securing their ninth consecutive division title in as many years. You know the story: Worthly, Scott, Mychal Thompson, a richer-happier A.C. Green, and the "Big Fella" -- No, not Abdul Jabbar, Vlade Divac, the 6'11" center-forward from (26th pick) Yugoslavia. According to some insider, Divac can flat out play basketball and be more than adequate behind Thompson. Also, look for Orlando Woolridge to blossom as a scorer and shot blocker. . . . Phoenix is pretty much the same on paper. Hopefully, another year of maturity will help Kevin Johnson, Tom Chambers, and Eddie "Best Sixth Man" Johnson, keep pace with the Lakers. Phoenix needs improvement in the point. Tim Perry and Armon Gilliam (6'9", 265 lbs.) need to come through for the Suns, as do Dan Majerle, who had a decent play-offs last year.

Midwest Division	
Utah Jazz	50-32
Houston Rockets	48-34
Denver Nuggets	47-35
San Antonio Spurs	44-38
Dallas Mavericks	42-40
Charlotte Hornets	38-44
Minnesota Timberwolves	20-62

After a dismal play-off series against the upstart Golden State Warriors last season, the Utah Jazz should be playing with an attitude. Mailman Karl Malone will deliver seven days a week, John Stockton is steady as they come at the point, and Thurl Bailey is an NBA All-Star with any other team. Seal off the inside with 7'4" Mark Eaton and you got a team that will lose to the Lakers in the conference finals. Like many of the non-elite teams in the league, Utah lacks in the conference finals. Like many of the non-elite teams in the league, Utah lacks a bench and speed. Take Eaton out of the game and they are dead in the water. Still, they will win the division. Other NBA teams shot 43.4 percent against the Jazz.  
As goes Akeem Olatuwon, so goes the Houston Rockets. "The Dream" had some circulation problems in his left leg this summer and will more than likely get off to a slow start. Olatuwon finished in the top ten in four categories last season. Don Chaney needs more than Walter Berry, Mike Woodson and Otis Thorpe to catch the Jazz. Look

## Conference

In short, the bench is suspect. Look for former Detroit Piston Michael Williams, a draft day acquisition and Kenny Battle of Illinois to get big minutes . . . Seattle has increased its victory total in each of the last years. 31 in '85-'86, 39 in '86-'87, 44 in '87-'88, and in '88-'89. This season should be no different. For one thing, Dale Ellis will shoot. Xavier McDaniel will do whatever he wants on the court, and Bernie Bickerstaff will worry. The Sonics need leadership and Derrick McKey needs to take at least 15 shots per game. He is sitting on the edge of stardom. Michael Cage is a powerful rebounder, who somehow, gets lost in the offensive flow of things. The inconsistent Olden Polynice, a third year man out of Virginia, will start in the post instead of Alton (traded to Golden State) Lister.

Sedale Threatt and Nate McMillan will provide steady play at guard also. Brad Sellers doesn't score opposing players off the bench--Neither does Avery Johnson, or raw talent Shawn Kemp, who never played a college game. Watch out for Dana Barros, a rookie out of Boston College and a excellent shooter. The Sonics needs to keep Bernie out of the (ulcer) hospital and develop a good rotation off the bench. . . Golden States looks good on paper! Chris Mullins, Rooke of the Year ('88-'89) Mitch Richmond, Winston Garland, Terry Teagle, and Rod Higgins. Notice, no one stands taller than 6'7". You can't win in the NBA without a "big man" or someone to stop the opposing teams big man. The verdict is still out on the 14 foot 11 inch combo of

Manute Bol and Ralph Sampson. Rookie Tim Hardaway is a power forward in a point man's body. He should get adequate back up minutes. The Warriors also added Alton Lister, Soviet Sarunas Marciulionis, and unknown commodity Tellis Frank. Coaching Don Nelson, will get this team over the hump and keep them competitive.  
Portland cleaned house over the summer. Gone are a cast of CBA rejects like Clinton Wheeler, Adrain Branch, and Brooke Steppie. In comes Buck Williams from the Nets, Wayne Cooper from the Nuggets, Drazen Petrovic from the Yugoslavian National Team, and rookies Byron Irvin and Cliff Robinson (a second round steal). Throw in Drexler, Porter, Duckworth, Kersey, and (first full season as coach) Rick Adelman--and you have a good team, on paper. Making the play-offs won't be a problem for this team, winning will be. Portland has lost 16 times in their last 20 play-off games. . . . Portland should be competitive.

Worst of the Rest: The suicide death of future NBA star Ricky Berry will leave a dark cloud over the heads of a young Sacramento Team. Danny Ainge, Kenny Smith, and Wayne Tisdale should provide some exciting moments. Somebody send a wake-up call to Ralph Sampson, missing in action since his early days at Virginia. Hello-o-o-o Ralph! No comment on the Los Angeles Clipper, sorry Benoit (Benjamin). Danny took a ferry across the water to Italy and Manning is still limping to the bank. . . . Never Nervous Purvis Ellison of Sacramento is another "big buck" limper to the vault.

for second year man Derrick Chievons and Buck Johnson to contribute more. Chaney might need a job if the Rockets don't produce this season. Denver will continue to win at home and lose on the road. Wayne Cooper left a big hole at center and Fat Lever has yet to make it through a play-off or through a full season the last two years. Alex English is the smoothest player in the league. No bench.  
The "Ship," David Robinson, has finally docked in San Antonio. After a two year hitch in the Navy, Robinson, along with Mo Cheeks, Terry Cummings, Caldwell Jones and Sean Elliott behind Robinson, and Larry Brown might be "Coach of the Year." The Spurs, depending upon how this team blends together, could finish as high as second behind Utah. Excitement has finally arrived in San Antonio--I wish I could say the same for the Dallas Mavericks. Roy Tarpley needs to stay out of drug rehabs (two strikes) and Randy (sleeper) White will finish second in the Rookie of the Year chase behind David Robinson. Throw in veterans Adrain Dantley, Derek Harper, and Sam Perkins, only to finish near the bottom of the pack. Good luck to Minnesota and Charlotte.

**Other Predictions:**  
NBA Champions: New York Knicks

Atlantic Division	
New York Knicks	53-29
Philadelphia 76ers	50-32
Boston Celtics	45-37
Washington Bullets	42-40
New Jersey Nets	40-42
Miami Heat	25-57

Central Division	
Chicago Bulls	57-25
Detroit Piston	55-27
Atlanta Hawks	50-32
Cleveland Cavs	46-36
Milwaukee Bucks	45-37
Indiana Pacers	40-42
Orlando Magic	28-54

- \* Executive of the Year
- \* Coach of the Year
- \* Rookie of the Year
- \* MVP
- \* Comeback Player of the Year
- \* Best Sixth Man Award
- \* Best Team Turn-Around

- Jerry Krause - Chicago Bulls
- Larry Brown - San Antonio Spurs
- David Robinson - San Antonio Spurs
- Air Jordan, AKA Michael Jordan
- David Robinson - Larry Bird
- Thurl Bailey - Utah Jazz
- San Antonio - Spurs

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