

SPORTS/EVENTS

The Locker Room

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



HBO Special . . .

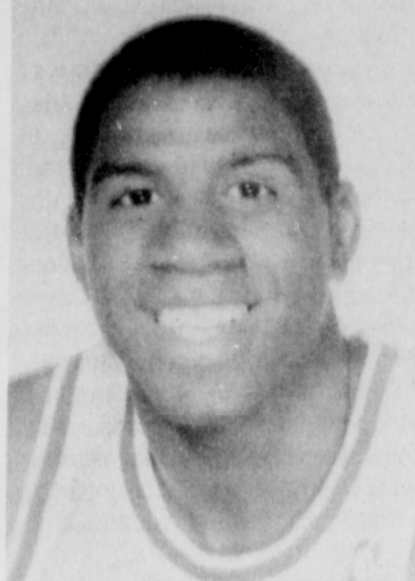
Professional hoop "junkies" should get a kick out of the April 24 HBO Sports highlighting the "History of the NBA" (8-9 p.m.-Eastern and Pacific Time).

"History of the NBA" will be hosted by LA Laker Coach Pat Riley, and he'll be joined by several past and present NBA greats serving as co-hosts including George Nikan, Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson. The program will be rebroadcast on 4/25, 4/29, 5/2, and 5/11. It will trace the history of basketball from its invention by Dr. James Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1891, up to the 1980s when the NBA exploded in interest and popularity.

A segment entitled "Origins of the Game" takes a look at basketball's

early days, with rare footage of touring teams from the Roaring Twenties, including the Original Celtics and New York Rens. Two basketball legends, former Boston Coach Red Auerbach and Minneapolis Lakers center George Mikan, then take a look at the NBA's birth in 1946 and the early days of the league in the 1950s.

In "Dynasties and Rivalries", Boston's Hall of Fame center, Bill Russell, joins Riley in recalling the Celtics championship teams from 1959-66. Jabbar remembers his 20 year career in the "Centers of Attention" segment, which highlights great performances of the big men of the 1970s. Magic Johnson then joins his coach in the "New Era" segment which examines the NBA rise in popularity during the eighties . . .



"Magic" Johnson

. . . And The NBA Playoffs

After completing the regular season against the L.A. Lakers last Sunday, Buck Williams and Jerome Kersey and center Kevin Duckworth are one of two trios to start every game this season.



Buck Williams

Akeem Alajuwon, Buck Johnson, and Otis Thorpe of the Houston Rockets are the other front court. The two backcourts that started every game this season are Chicago's "Air" Micheal Jordan and John Paxson and Reggie "Thriller" Miller and Vern Fleming of the Indiana Pacers.

After the Blazers recent blow out of the LA Lakers, Magic Johnson suggested that "Showtime" is about to go into overdrive and start the mission towards their sixth NBA title. It was said that the Houston Rockets were the last team they wanted to see in the playoffs.

"The playoffs is our time," said Johnson. "We will be ready for anybody we play. We fear no team and believe me, The Lakers will be ready."

The Lakers resident philosopher and team comic, Mychal Thompson, was very serious for a change. He knows that Houston will play the Lakers tough and create some problems inside.

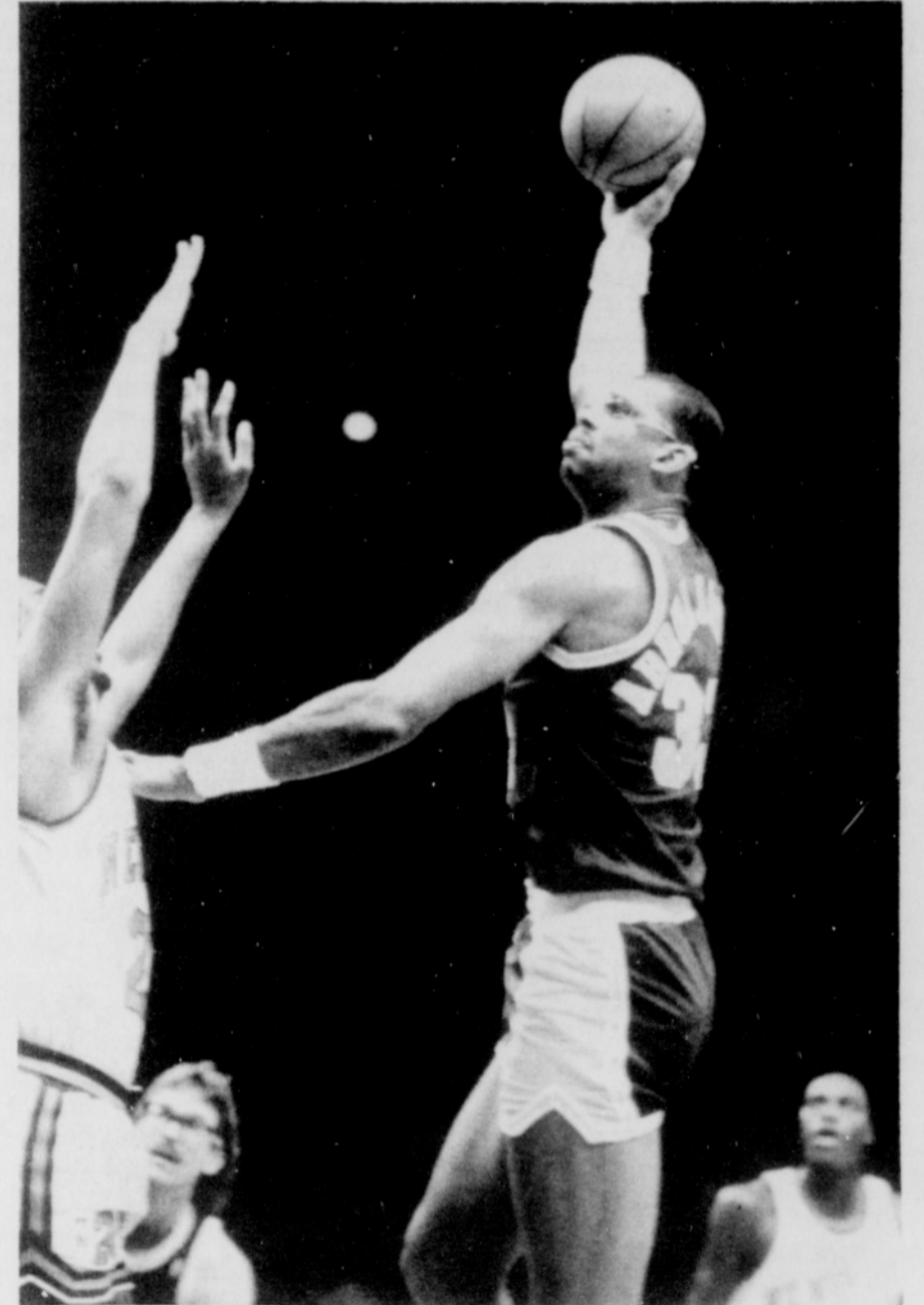
"Well, Houston is a team we have had problems against. They have some real physical players," he said. "I think if we just go out there and play our style of ball, not let them intimidate us, we will have a good chance . . ." Should the Lakers get by the Rockets, there will definitely be some sore bodies against their second round opponent. When you look at the NBA playoff brackets, LA will have a tougher time reaching the Western Conference finals than the Blazers. Portland has had great success against Dallas (first round) and potential second round opponents San Antonio/Denver. Prediction? Originally, the Locker Room picked the Lakers/Jazz in the Western finals, but that can not happen. One of the two teams has to go. Portland and Los Angeles in the Western Conference finals. Take your picks in the east! Keep an eye on the Milwaukee bucks and The Cleveland Cans, both are capable of surprising some teams. Welcome to NBA madness.

Exclusive Interview: KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

Basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was in town Tuesday morning to promote his new book entitled, "KAREEM", published by Random House, Inc. and co-authored with Mignon McCarthy.

Jabbar holds the records for Most Valuable Player awards and the most points (38,387) in NBA history. He has 19 All-Star game appearances. He also holds the NBA record for most (5,762) playoff points.

In addition to his book signing at Powells Book store, Jabbar appeared on KATU-TV's "AM Northwest", with Jim Bosley and Mary Starrett. It was his only television appearance in Portland. Without the efforts of Nancy Bolton, Peter Clem, Janice Bangs, and Paula Estoup, the television program may not have happened.



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who holds the record for Most Valuable Player awards and points, in action. Kareem was in Portland Tuesday to promote his new book KAREEM.

"He resents me and has taken every opportunity to take cheap shots or snipes at me from the sidelines while he's not playing . . ."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on Wilt Chamberlain

The creative crew worked the publisher and KATU salesperson, Gwen Osaki-Smith, who in turn worked her husband, Greg Smith, who in turn worked Jabbar. Smith, the national Sales Manager at KGON, was a teammate of Jabbar at Milwaukee in 1971 when the Bucks won the NBA title. Jabbar, who affectionately called Smith "Killer", was pleased to see his old friend. Smith was part of the packed audience and is also a former Portland Trailblazer.

Jabbar, a native of New York and a UCLA graduate, talked about sports-manship, enjoying free time, and traveling without the stress of playing professional basketball. Other topics included:

Wilt Chamberlain, who he criticized heavily in his book and made public some ill feelings. Why does Wilt dislike you?

"I don't know. He resents me and has taken every opportunity to take cheap shots or snipes at me from the sidelines while he's not playing. I

didn't really respond to it while I was playing because I had better things to do. We were about the business of trying to win world championships."

Jabbar said that Chamberlain was a cry baby, a whiner, a quitter, and all the other claims he made (read it) in the book.

Jabbar went onto criticize "Chumperlame", as he is called in the book, as being jealous and accused him of using the media to discredit his glorious career. Jabbar said that he was very angry when he addressed the letter to Chamberlain.

"The tone of the letter is definitely hostile," said Jabbar. "I wanted it to be that way, but I had fun with it. It was fun to write that . . ."

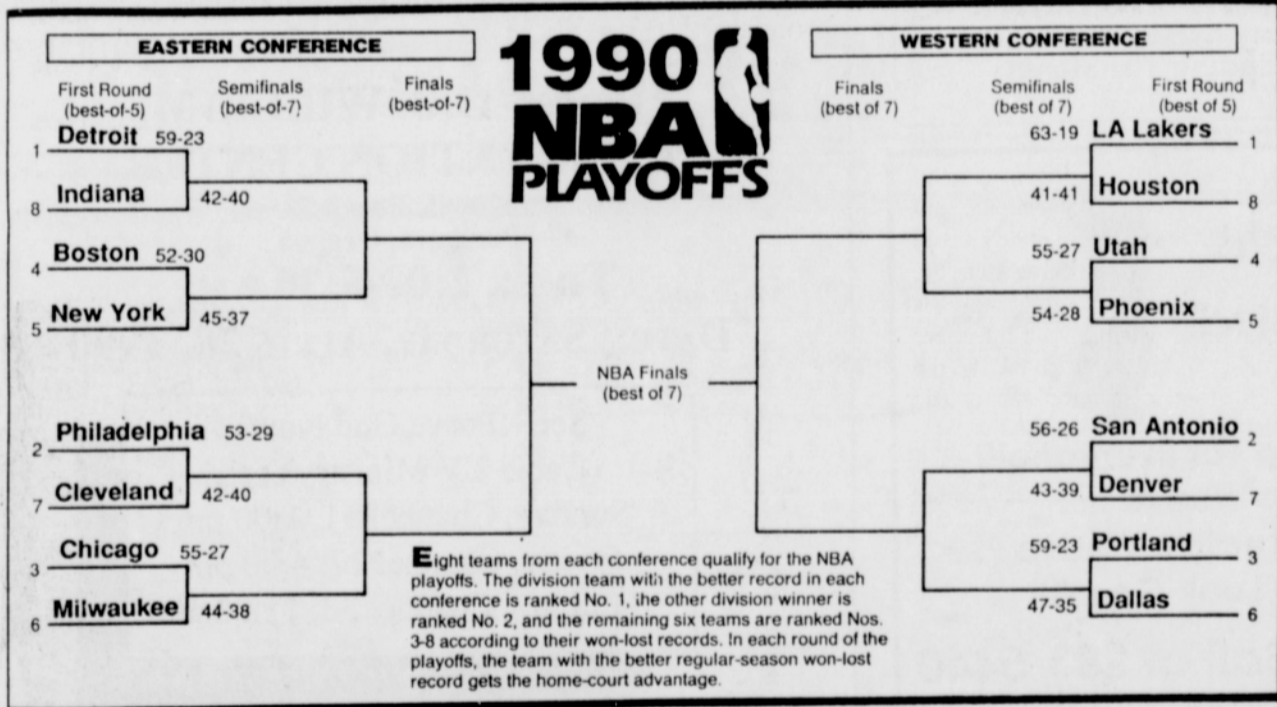
Mignon McCarthy, co-author of the

book, did not want to get in a "mud-slinging" contest with Chamberlain, but Jabbar persisted.

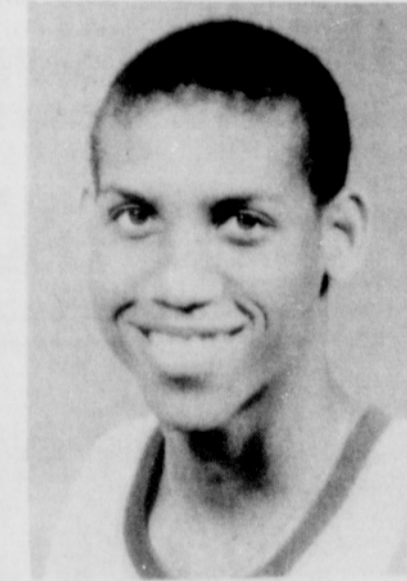
"He deserved all of it," said Jabbar. It was my chance to speak back. I've never said a word about it. I should have a choice (referring to the mud slinging) now that I'm covered from head to toe with mud. I should be able to get my licks in. I figured that now that I'm retired, got a little time, I'd write him a letter . . ."

Kareem also talks about his last year with the Lakers, various teammates, and growing up in the urban jungle. Get the book . . .

Next Week: Another Exclusive with former LA Laker/Clipper great Norm Nixon.



Teen Talk Show New Outlet For Indiana's Reggie Miller



Reggie Miller

Indiana guard Reggie Miller has been hosting Teen Talk, a locally-produced cable show dealing with topics of interest of teenagers with a studio audience of about 40 teens. Miller's guests have included Magic Johnson, New Kids On The Block, and Florence Griffith Joyner. "The teens are really what makes the show work," said Miller. "My job is easy. The kids ask good questions and I try to make them feel like they can say anything. The hardest thing for me is ad libbing the 45 second monologue."

Some NBA players might find it hard to believe that Miller has a problem coming up with words to say. In addition to his jumper, he is known as a "trash talker" on the court. Maybe the kids helped him to clean up his mouth.

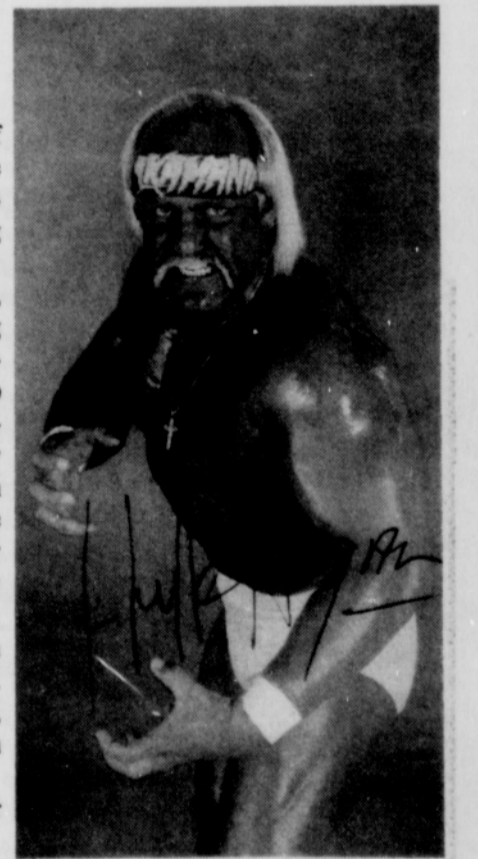
KGW-TV Brings WrestleMania to Portland

America has a chronic case of WrestleMania, and KGW-TV has the cure. Beginning Saturday, April 28 at 4 p.m. viewers will get all the exciting action they crave on channel eight.

Every Saturday at 4 p.m., KGW-TV and The World Wrestling Federation will bring viewers star-studded match-ups, with non-stop action from sold out arenas coast-to-coast. The show will feature new matches with some of the hottest in wrestling like Hulk Hogan, Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Superfly Jimmy Snuka, plus exclusive interview segments.

Gone are the days when wrestling was a second class sport. Wrestling has become a hot property, both as a live event and television programming.

KGW-TV's Program Director is Brenda Buratti.



NEW YORK-- Friends gathered to pay tribute to the broadcasting industry giant Percy Sutton (left) chairman, InnerCity Broadcasting Corp. at a reception hosted by Coca-Cola USA following the annual Jackie Robinson dinner at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Mr. Sutton was the recipient of the famed "Robie Award," presented by the Jackie Robinson Foundation for his many years of successful business and entrepreneurship in the New York area. During the reception Sutton was congratulated by Rachel Robinson (center), chairperson and founder of the foundation, and his friends (left to right) Jim Maloney, chairman and CEO, Coca-Cola Bottling Company of New York; Eugene McCullers, manager, Community Affairs, Coca-Cola USA, and Chuck Morrison, vice president, Black and Hispanic Markets, Coca-Cola USA.

Earth Year 1-9-9-0

Be Friendly to This Planet . . . It's the Only One We Have
Conserve · Recycle
Plant A Tree for the Ozone Layer
For Future Generations . . .

Remember Only You Can Make A Difference!
Brought to You as a public service announcement from the Portland Observer