

SPORTS/EVENTS

The Locker Room

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



Hello Oregonians, it's a wonderful day in the neighborhood, won't you be my neighbor? Mr. Robinson, David that is, found out the hard way that his neighbors in San Antonio appreciate him more than the ones at Memorial Coliseum.

The neighbors, Cliff Robinson, Buck Williams, Wayne Cooper, and Mark Bryant did a serious muscle job on Mr. Robinson as the Blazers opened the best of seven NBA playoff series with a 107-94 victory before a rowdy sell-out crowd. No cookies and punch to welcome this visitor; only bumps, pushes, bruises, hacks, taunts from the fans, a bloody nose, and a rare technical foul. The Trailblazers came at Robinson in droves and it was established from the opening tip that he would have his work cut out for him. He was visibly upset and frustrated.

Robinson acknowledged that the game was very physical, but he likes it that way. He also likes fouls to be called when they are made. The Trailblazers shot thirty more free-throws than the Spurs (45-15) and lost by only thirteen points and grabbed nine rebounds. He averaged 24.0 and 12.0 during the regular season respectively.

"Maybe we were beating them up a little bit more than they beat us up," he laughed about the difference at the free throw line. "They got some bloody noses over there too? I don't know...it's just something you've got to bounce back from and get a little tougher."

Robinson, known more for his dominating play and not "running off at the mouth", surprised the fans when he drew a technical foul from official Earl Strom. It was only the second technical foul called on him this season and the first for his conversation with an official. Robinson says that the Naval Academy taught him poise, and the two year wait to play in the NBA brought him greater maturity. He, however,

will question authority. "If something happens on the court that you don't like, you've got to stand up for yourself," he said. "I tried to do it in a diplomatic way and I think referees appreciate that for the most part, but there was a lot of intensity out there today. You can't blame the refs getting me the way he got me. I was a little excited so maybe it came off some way that I didn't intend for it to come off."

Spurs' coach Larry Brown agreed with Robinson. He said that Robinson is a class guy and not the type who baits officials. "I thought Earl misunderstood his actions," said Brown. "It really bothered David and affected his play. Earl's the best, but he definitely misunderstood David on this one."

Currently ranked as a lieutenant J.G. in the U.S. Naval, Robinson holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and hopes to attend graduate school someday. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Robinson scored 1,320 on his college board examinations (SAT).

As a college senior, he led the nation (4.5) in blocked shots, finished third in scoring (28.2), and fourth in rebounding (11.8). He won the Wooden, Rupp, and Naismith post-season awards. He was everyone's All-American and holds 33 records at the Naval Academy.

When questioned about the last time he played such a terrible game, Robinson was quick to bring up his performance against the Sacramento Kings late in the season. He scored only five points that game. Robinson said that it will be easy to forget about the first game against the Trailblazers, but only after he watched the sports report on local news and the video of the game.

"You just go back to the hotel and drop this one in the garbage," he said. "We're on the road and all you want to do is put yourself in a position to win. I

think we put ourselves in the position to win, but we just didn't perform at crunch time. I'll watch this tape and see what I need to work on or do different. We didn't play our game for the most part."

Clyde Drexler, who missed a triple-double (23 points, 11 assists, and nine rebounds) by a rebound was pleased with the victory and defensive effort against Robinson.

"I think the team did a great job on him," he said. "The team was there to help out every time Robinson received the ball. It was a great effort. We expected to win. We all knew that we had to up our game another level since Kevin (Duckworth) was out and we did."

Despite the defensive effort by the Trailblazers, Robinson is confident of one thing, that he will not play two games in a row like the series opener. "I've never had two terrible games in a row," he said. Mr. Robinson will be back in the neighborhood soon, he is going to be a persistent neighbor.

S*H*O*R*T*S*H*A*K*E*S

Mr. Robinson came back to the rough neighborhood (Memorial Coliseum), again, trying to convince the Trailblazers that he is a good neighbor. "The Nasty Boys" (Cliff Robinson, Mark Bryant, Buck Williams, and Cooooo!) did not welcome him.

As promised, Mr. Robinson played a much better game (31 points and 8 boards), but they were still blasted by the Blazers 122-112 to fall behind in the best of seven series 2-0. If the Spurs are serious about their quest for an NBA title, Willie Anderson and Rod Strickland had better pick up their play another notch. So should Sean Elliott, who has been "dogged" by Jerome Kersey. The third game is tonight, in Mr. Robinson's neighborhood. Stay tuned, ladies and gentlemen.

PENINSULA PARK LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK



PENINSULA LITTLE LEAGUE 1990
Jay Hernandez, Coach

Row 1 - William Booker, Norman "Bo" Grant, Jacqueline Johnson, Lawson Taylor, Damien Warner, Carl Warner, Charles Fitz Jr., Corey Pitman, Andre Lawrence; Row 2 - Jay Hernandez, George Reed, Stanaford Blacknail, Martin Lockett, Michael Thompson, Milton Lockett, Shawn Ollison, Coach Milton Lockett.

ROBINSON NAMED MINUTE MAID ORANGE SODA NBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs, the No. 1 pick of the 1987 NBA Draft who waited two years to begin his pro basketball career while serving a commitment in the U.S. Navy, was named the unanimous winner of the Eddie Gottlieb Trophy as the 1990 Minute Maid Orange Soda NBA Rookie of the Year.

Robinson, who received all 92 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters, ranked 10th in the league in scoring with a 24.3 ppg average, second in rebounding with 12.0 rpg and third in blocked shots with 3.89 bpg. His .531 FG percentage led all rookies.

The Spurs, in large part due to Robinson's contributions, were 56-26 this season — a franchise record for wins — and champions of the Midwest Division for the first time since 1983. The 56 wins represented an NBA record turnaround of 35 games from the 1988-89 campaign, when San Antonio struggled with a 21-61 mark.

"What's happened is that, in one season, this has become David's team," said San Antonio Coach Larry Brown. "He is its heart and soul. I'm not sure he realizes that yet because everything happened so quickly."

Earth Day Reflections

August Bodine Grand Prize

Andrea Vucinich 1st Prize

Jennifer Vogel Grand Prize

Jamila Allen Grand Prize

John Pelster 1st Prize

Ashleigh E. Weitzel Grant Prize

Donathum Kindred 1st Prize

Eric Wolf 1st Prize

Patricia Ann Cox 1st Prize

Nathan Post 1st Prize

Sheena Lee Shook Grand Prize

Robby Everitt 1st Prize

from Beech Elementary School