



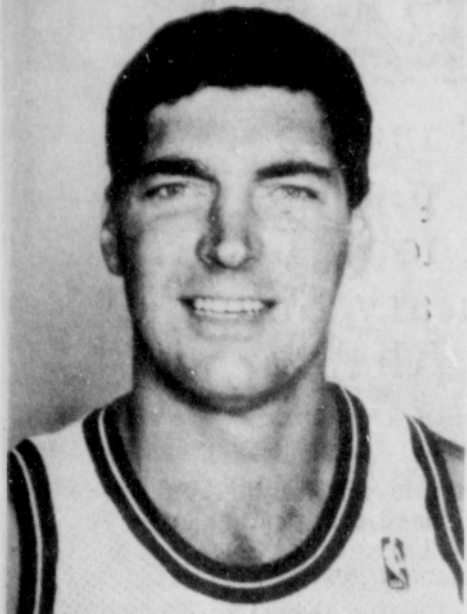
# THE LOCKER ROOM

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.



## Title: Bill Laimbeer: Bad Boy Supreme

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



BILL LAIMBEER

Contrary to public opinion, Bill Laimbeer thinks that he's not a bad guy. The Detroit Piston center suggested that fans, critics, and media types spend more time addressing his on court contributions (points and rebounds) as opposed to the "bad boy" tactics (elbows, hard fouls, and flopping) Laimbeer is well hated around the National Basketball Association among players-some officials too. Michael "Air" Jordan, on a recent Arsenio Hall show, called Laimbeer the "dirtiest player in the league." He laughs it off. Laimbeer has left many of the locals, the Portland Trail Blazers, shaking their heads in anguish and frustration during the current NBA finals. He has averaged an impressive 12.4 rebounds and 16.0 points against the Blazers.

When questioned about how he is perceived by the public and players around the league, Laimbeer said that all he cares about is winning basketball games. According to him, he is the guy everyone loves to hate.

"I don't care what they say and think about me," he said after winning game three in the Memorial Coliseum. "If I did I'd probably be a little crazy by now. I can't spend my life worrying and wondering what people think about me."

Mark Bryant, back up power forward for the Blazers, feels that all players get away with certain tactics. "The key",

he says, "is to keep playing and not allow the officials to alter your style or intimidate you."

"You can only get away with what they let you do", he said. "Laimbeer is no

worst than the next guy. He's big. He's strong and he plays hard. We should be used to that by now. Laimbeer might throw a couple of ones (elbows) here and there, but everybody throws a couple here and there if they can get away with it. I don't think his play is out of the norm." Laimbeer agreed with Bryant. A third round draft pick (1979) out of Notre Dame, Laimbeer played in Italy and with the Cleveland Cavs (81-82) before joining the Pistons in 1983. Laimbeer and Kenny Carr were shipped to Detroit for Phil Hubbard, Paul Mokeski, a first round draft choice (1982), and a second round pick (1982).

Last season, Laimbeer paid the price for being a "bad boy" when he was suspended by the league for fighting Brad Daugherty of the Cleveland Cavs for one game. The suspension snapped his Iron Man streak at 685 games, fourth longest in NBA history. "The World Championship ring", he says, "more than made up for the one game; he spent not banging under the boards". During his nine year career, Laimbeer has missed only two games, the other being a coaches decision.

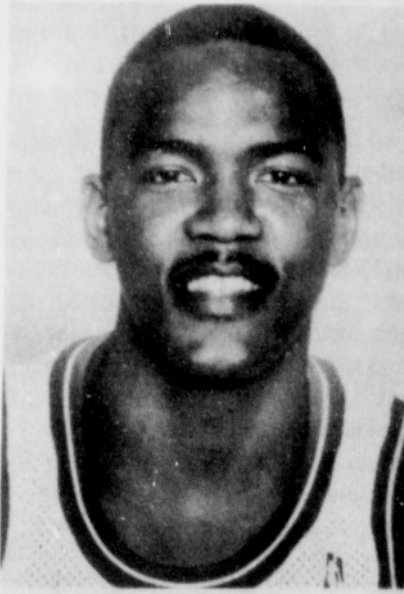
Laimbeer feels that being defending world Champions made a big difference in the Pistons 121-106 victory over the Blazers Sunday afternoon. He said that it was a must win situation for his team. Laimbeer scored 11 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, threw 13 elbows, and bowed to the crowd enroute to the bench after fouling out. The crowd booed and heckled him.

"It was a win, so, we won't lose (the title) here in Portland. We had to get a game and we feel that we can win every game we play, whether it's at home or on the road. It doesn't matter where we play, we're not underdogs-we think that we're the best team."

On that note, Laimbeer excused himself to comb his hair. Still wrapped in a towel after showering, he reached into his designated space and grabbed a black fidora hat, the type made famous by the Blues Brothers. "It's time for the T.V. cameras. . ."

## There is More to Life Than Basketball

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



JOE DUMARS

Joe Dumars played his best game of the NBA finals last Sunday against the Portland Trail Blazers as the Detroit Pistons rolled to a 121-106 victory.

Last week, the Locker Room reported that Joe Dumars wanted another championship ring because he gave the one from last year's NBA Title to his dad, his hero and best friend. Dumars' dad died shortly before Sunday's game and Dumars did not find out until afterwards. After sitting and reflecting in a dark security office at the Memorial Coliseum, Dumars left immediately for the Benson Hotel in downtown Portland, where he and his family decided that he should continue playing basketball. His father wanted it that way. With the support of his wife Debbie and his friend Isiah Thomas, Joe Dumars came back strong against the Blazers (26 points) in a thrilling 112-109 victory. The Portland fans gave Dumars a warm ovation when introduced before the game, but they booed everyone else. Should the Pistons wrap up the series tonight, Dumars will fly immediately to Natchitoches, La., the place where his father built him a backyard court with a door and a bicycle rim. The funeral is scheduled for Saturday.

Forget basketball for a moment, it does not mean anything right now. It's just a game. Forget James Brown, Dick Stockton, Woody winning the Lite Beer Bike race, and how much you hate the finger pointing Dennis Rodman or Bill Laim-

beer. Think about how death has a way of forcing people to put their life in perspective or make others realize how much they take for granted. Joe Dumars did not need death for him to catch a grip on

"Communications is a field that requires flexibility--you should have skills to work in sales, advertising, t.v., radio, newspaper, and marketing. It's like one-stop shopping. A degree would help, too..."

-Ulysses Tucker, Jr., T.V. Producer/Freelance Writer

life. He already had a grip on life. Maybe the death of his dad will help his teammates check out their attitudes, values, or the way they treat people. On a team perceived by the public as a very rude, arrogant, and cocky bunch of players, Dumars is the ray of hope at the end of the tunnel. He is gentle, soft spoken, and humble. His father taught him to work hard and appreciate one's blessings. Dumars does and knows that the ride through the NBA is a short one, so is the ride through life for that matter.

Forget that CBS will not cancel that game because Dumars has to attend a funeral and be there for his family. Forget all the revenue that CBS will generate whether Dumars plays or not and the melodrama they will create by him continuing to play. Do not listen to Dick and Hubie when they suggest that he, Dumars is trying to win it for his father. It's deeper than that, CBS!

Sometimes, human needs should supercede net-profit. This is one of those situations. Warmest regards to Joe Dumars from Mark Bryant and Terry Porter of the Blazers. They felt your pain earlier in the year when each lost their mother. Warmest regards from the Portland Observer and the Locker Room also.

Ten years ago, Bryon Irvin was watching the "big boys" win championships and titles throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. The "big boys" included "homeboys" Mark Aguirre and Isiah Thomas of the Pistons and Terry Cummings of the San Antonio Spurs. In college at Missouri, where he was an

## Children And Sports Preventing Injuries

Statistics show that each year thousands of children are victims of sports-related injuries.

But, according to Dr. David J. Collon, the director of athletic medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan—and the team physician for three of Detroit's professional sports teams, many of these injuries can be avoided by following a few simple guidelines.

Dr. Collon offers advice to parents whose children participate in sports in a new brochure available through Little Caesars Pizza, the world's largest carry-out pizza chain, and long-time advocate and sponsor of amateur sports.

Collon says that making sure children are in good physical condition before allowing them to compete in sports is the first precaution a parent should take against injury.

He adds that children should have a complete physical examination before joining a sports team. This will reveal any unknown physical abnormalities that could be dangerous during strenuous activities.

Other sports safety tips offered by Dr. Collon include:

**PHYSICAL CONDITIONING**—The greatest deterrent to sports injuries is to be properly prepared to begin sports play.

•Light jogging, cycling, swimming and calisthenics are good warm-up activities.

•It is important to warm-up before stretching.

•Each sport has specific skills and drills necessary to play well.

•Weight training is permissible with some caution.

**EQUIPMENT**—When properly used, sports equipment can serve as a primary safe-guard against physical injury.

•Children should never wear



Little Caesars Pizza offers parents information to help prevent children's sports-related injuries.

their sibling's hand-me-down shoes, especially when playing sports.

•Each sport has protective gear that must be worn to prevent injuries.

•Dress for the weather, as well as for the sport.

**TEAM COACHING**—It is important to seek qualified coaches who not only have the enthusiasm, but the knowledge needed, to teach the proper techniques for safe sports play.

**DIET**—

•Children should maintain a balanced diet from the four food groups.

•Children must stay hydrated and should drink plenty of fluids before, during and after sports activities.

•Caffeine and large amounts of sugar should be avoided prior to and during participation in sports activities.

To receive a copy of Little Caesars sports injury brochure, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Children and Sports—Preventing Injuries", Little Caesar Enterprises, 2211 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201-3400.

**Go Blazers!**

### The Portland Observer: Reflecting Community Pride

# 2 FOR 1 SHOE SALE!

MEN'S ★ WOMEN'S ★ CHILDREN'S  
(These and Many, Many More!)

"SPRING BLOWOUT"



ALSO: QUALITY SHOES FOR RUNNING, AEROBICS, HIKING, CHILDREN'S WEAR, SOCCER AND OTHERS!

## BUY BELOW COST AND SAVE!!!

(BELOW COST ... GOOD ONLY ON STYLES SELECTED FOR ELIMINATION)

#### How It Works:

1. Select any 2 DIFFERENT models of sportshoes stacked on our floor, and
2. Play suggested retail price of one and get the lower-priced one for FREE OR, buy any shoe displayed on our wall at our normal discount price, and
4. Buy any second paid off the floor at only one-half of its suggested retail price
5. Mix or match, share with a friend, but on 2-for-1 shoes. ALL SALES ARE FINAL!

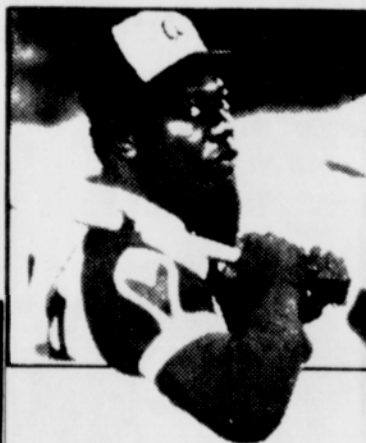
**B&R Sportshoes**

OPEN 7 DAYS

281-5819

HOURS: MON-FRI 10-7  
SATURDAYS 10-6  
SUNDAYS 12-5

N.E. 30th & ALBERTA • PORTLAND, OR



## AARON AT BAT

### That First Summer of Baseball

The weather has gotten warm, and daylight lasts well into the evening hours. Summertime is here and that means it's time for baseball. All around America, bats, balls and gloves will be in constant use until fall turns to winter.

It's hard for me to remember exactly when or how this all began for me. That first summer of baseball happened about 50 years ago.

We didn't have too much of a baseball team back then. When I was growing up in Mobile, Ala., in the 1930s and '40s, everything wasn't as organized as it is now. In fact, very little was organized at all.

If you had a baseball, other kids in the neighborhood were drawn to it just like the adults were drawn to visit whoever owned the first television set. Usually there would be just that one ball, and every kid would come around to beat on it.

Everything was shared. It wasn't like we had a lot of equipment. If you had a glove, you had to share it. If you played first base, you had to give your glove to the first baseman on the other team when he came out to field.

Now there are sculptured baseball diamonds everywhere for children to play their games. Back then, we had to find an empty field and then step off what we guessed was the proper distance between first, second and third bases and from home plate to the pitcher's "mound." No, we never had a pitcher's mound. We just stood where we thought it should be and used our imagination when we wound up to throw the ball.

When did it dawn on me that I might be good at this game? Actually, it wasn't until I left home to play baseball for money. Before that I was only playing about once a week, and you never know how good you are until you play it on a daily basis. That was when I started feeling like I had a little potential.

We didn't have a high school baseball team. We had a softball team and a football team, but baseball was not part of the curriculum.

Today there is no excuse for a kid not to play baseball if he has any talent for the game. Everything is so much more convenient for young athletes today.

But, hey, we didn't do so badly turning out athletes in Mobile. After I came along, there were Willie McCovey, Billy Williams, Tommy Aggie, Cleon Jones, Frank Bolling, Amos Otis and my brother Tommy Aaron. So maybe fancy equipment isn't everything. **Id**

Hank Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

©1990, PM Editorial Services

### SPORTS SHORTS

Tennis can be a game of funny bounces. If you know what to expect on grass, clay and hard surface courts, however, you can turn those funny bounces into winners.

\*\*\*

Grass courts are the fastest, with unpredictable bounces. Tom Gullikson, touring pro at Palm Coast, Florida, advises you play an aggressive serve-and-volley game on grass. Use a shorter backswing to hit the ball quickly off the bounce. The less the ball bounces, the better chance you have of winning the point.

\*\*\*

Clay courts are the slowest, with higher bounces, says Gullikson, who works with top players at the Palm Coast Players Club, one of only four all-surface resorts in the country. Be patient and consistent here, using full-swing top-spin groundstrokes and drop shots as weapons. You have more time to prepare your shot since the court is slower and the ball bounces higher.

### CENTENNIAL LOGO

**BASKETBALL**



**CENTENNIAL**