



THE LOCKER ROOM

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.



Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and "Big Slim"

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Sixteen years ago (1974), Earl "The Pearl" Monroe served as a basketball camp counselor at Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A member of the New York Knicks at the time, Monroe, always went back to his old college to help former coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines. Gaines is the winningest basketball coach in college history.

Monroe's college teammate, Harold Bell, now a radio broadcaster and community organizer in Washington, D.C. at the time, organized the camp for a group of at risk inner-city youngsters. Though many of the youngsters were talented athletes, at some point, the majority of them had been involved in criminal activity or sat on the edge of good and evil.

Gaines, who stood 6'5" and weighed 300+ pounds, was a strong disciplinarian and his ubiquitous presence sent out intimidating vibrations. He had the ability to make people, especially athletes in his program, look over their shoulders at all times. The thought of being caught doing something wrong by "Big House" made many athletes think about right and wrong before acting foolish or attempting some college prank. Loud and noisy classrooms or gyms fell silent when Gaines entered. He was the King. Harold Bell knew that if the group of inner-city youngsters could survive a week with Gaines, they would be more than able to cope with life's complexities or be sent home because he did not tolerate bad attitudes or disrespectful behavior. "My Way Or Trailways" was a motto Gaines shouted consistently to the campers, many of whom were high/junior high schoolers.

"Big Slim", a 6'4" lanky forward with raw skills was one of the 50 campers. He had a chip on his shoulder, no respect for authority, and a terrible attitude. To say the least, "Big Slim" was the most disruptive player in the camp. He goofed around during lectures, never worked hard, or listened to the coaches or camp directors. One day, "Big House" pulled "Big Slim" out of a lay-up drill and blasted him verbally. It was the worst verbal lashing he had ever re-

ceived in his young life. Embarrassed and humiliated because everyone laughed at him, "Big Slim" asked to be sent back home. He no longer wanted to

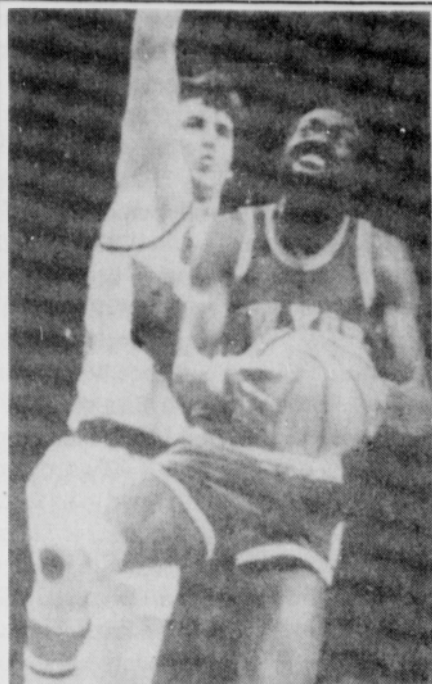
quit and respect people.

"Big Slim", who had been kicked out of school in the sixth grade and dropped out in the tenth grade, went back to D.C. with a totally new perspective about life and school. A marginal student most of his life, "Big Slim" finished his senior year with the best grades of his life. He was selected to play in several high school All-Star games despite being (over the age limit) ineligible to play in the city. "Big Slim" also secured a scholarship to a junior college and he later transferred to a four year institution. "Big Slim" had a decent college career, but more importantly, he obtained undergraduate and graduate school degrees. "Big

Slim" became a symbol of hope in his old neighborhood and family. Three weeks ago, "Big Slim" ran into Earl "The Pearl" Monroe for the first time since the basketball camp incident in 1974. Monroe, a four time NBA All-Star and recent inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame, was in Portland to cover the N.B.A. Finals. He is a basketball announcer for ABC Radio/Madison Square Garden, Inc., and partners in a record company (Pretty Pearl Records). "Big Slim" thanked "The Pearl" for being a positive force in his life and for helping him to turn things around. He told Monroe that most of the guys from that camp were dead or in jail (only 4 out of 50 made it to college). "Big Slim" also praised coach Gaines for being so firm and patient with him. Monroe smiled with joy as he and "Big Slim" talked about current career endeavors and dreams. They even exchanged numbers and promised to keep in touch. Monroe, very moved by the spontaneous encounter, remembered the camp vividly and often wondered what happened to the "Big Slims" of the world. Pleased that he at least helped to save one.

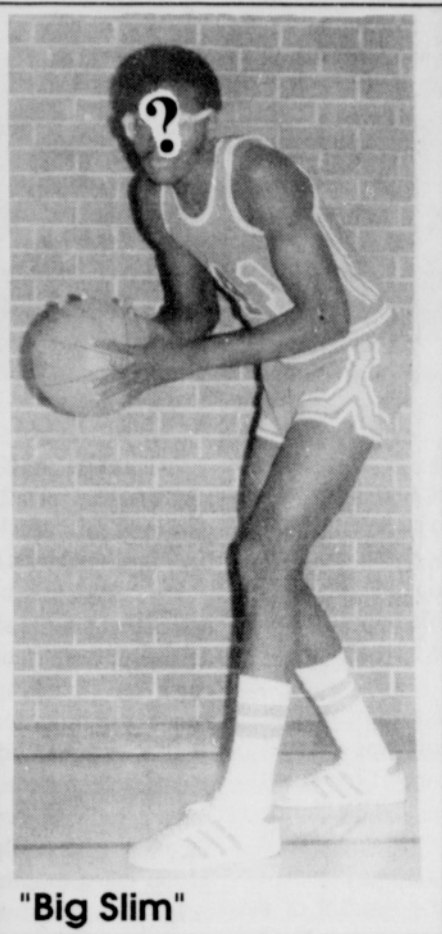
One more thing readers should know about "Big Slim", his real name is Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Next Week: An update on Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and life after Basketball.



Earl "The Pearl" Monroe

Enter Earl "The Pearl" Monroe...He told "Big Slim" that he had enough talent to play college ball and suggested that he get his life in order...to correct his attitude and think about what he wanted out of life.



"Big Slim"

participate at the camp. "Big House" told him to "shut up and sit down". Enter Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, who stopped directing a drill with the other players and walked over to speak with "Big Slim". He told "Big Slim" that he had enough talent to play college ball and suggested that he get his life in order. Monroe also told him to correct his attitude and think about what he wanted out of life. "Big Slim" excused himself and went back to the room where he started packing his belongings.

Later that afternoon, "Big House" Gaines called "Big Slim" into his office and asked him if he still wanted to go home. "Big Slim", ego still bruised, answered yes. Gaines told "Big Slim" that he could not run from his bad attitude all of his life and noted that a real man would stand up for himself. Gaines dared "Big Slim" to prove him wrong and with a little elementary psychology, convinced him to stay and prove that he was not a jerk and hardhead. "Big Slim", not only stayed for the duration of the basketball camp, he led his team to the Camp Title, won the mile run title, and finished second in the "One On One" championship and in free-throws. Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and "Big House" Gaines were very pleased with the progress of "Big Slim", who finally learned that hard work can pay off. "Big Slim" also learned not to

Top dollar sometimes in wrong hands

By Aaron Fentress

Last week Oakland Athletics right-fielder Jose Canseco became a rich...excuse me, Richer man. In fact Canseco became the richest man in baseball history when he signed a contract worth \$23 million over five years. As outrageous as Canseco's contract may appear, the reality is that the market value of a player of Canseco's caliber could reach \$10 million a year by 1995.

In the last two years Major League Baseball has seen the crown worn by the highest paid player change heads 15 times. From Roger Clemens \$2.6 million a year deal, signed in February of 1988, to Canseco's \$4.6 million a year signed last week, the ego's get bigger and the checks must follow. With Canseco's contract every ego in the game will be wincing at season's end. Some have gotten an early start.

"I'm worth more than I get paid," said Oakland left-fielder Rickey Henderson after Canseco's big contract was signed. "Now everyone who signed as a free agent is making more than me. I'm the only guy going to the hall of fame who makes that much less than Jose."

There are four key elements to Henderson's statement. 1) Irony; Henderson just signed a new contract last December which made him the highest paid player in baseball at \$3 million a year. 2) A severe Dilution of grandeur; he's not in the hall of fame yet. 3) Disrespect towards other players; There are at least 10 players in baseball who make far less than Henderson and have as good, if not a better, chance of making the hall of fame. The

fact is, if Henderson feels he's getting a raw deal, some players are outright being robbed.

When looking at a list of the highest paid players and comparing it to a list of the best performers (listed at right) you learn real quick why there is a frequent changing of the crown. The highest paid players are not necessarily the best players, and when the best players realize this, and stats don't lie, the stakes get higher.

New York Yankee's first baseman Don Mattingly was the highest paid player prior to Canseco. Mattingly signed his contract before the season began. Looking at his numbers, would you say he's worth \$3.8 a year? Will Clark was the money champ before Mattingly, signing for \$3.75 a year. Compare his numbers to that of his teammate Matt Williams. Does Clark's performance look like it's \$3.5 million dollars better than Williams? Hell, Williams is actually having a better year, and you can bet he'll make note of Clark's salary and demand a raise before next season.

Running down the statistics the comparison's go on and on. Kenn Griffey Jr. versus Ricky Henderson. Robin Yount versus, teammate, Dave Parker. Dodger pitcher Fernando Valenzuela versus, another Dodger pitcher, Ramon Martinez. And probably the most ridiculous example, pitcher Mark Langston of California, compared to Chicago White Sox pitcher, Barry Jones. No comparison.

At the end of every Major League baseball season one team is crowned as

champion. During the off-season there are several money champions. The season champions proved to be the best. While the money champions claim to be the best, throw their past season stats around the negotiating room, get their money, then realize maybe they aren't the best. Someday maybe players like Henderson will wake up and read the box scores, then be thankful they even got \$3 million.

Top money makers

| Player | Salary | Avg. | Hr | RBI |
|----------------|--------|------|----|-----|
| Canseco, Oak | \$4.6 | .305 | 20 | 50 |
| Mattingly, NY | \$3.8 | .258 | 5 | 25 |
| Clark, SF | \$3.75 | .288 | 14 | 58 |
| Yount, Mil | \$3.2 | .245 | 6 | 33 |
| Henderson, Oak | \$3.0 | .336 | 13 | 27 |
| Puckett, Minn | \$3.0 | .305 | 10 | 43 |
| Murray, LA | \$2.5 | .286 | 9 | 36 |
| Molitor, Mil | \$2.4 | .291 | 7 | 25 |

Top Performers of 1990 (Through Sunday, July 1st)

| Player | Avg | IIR | RBI | Avg. Sal |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Griffey, Sea | .330 | 12 | 36 | \$180,000 |
| Parker, Mil | .325 | 9 | 50 | \$12 mill |
| Bonds, Pitt | .332 | 13 | 52 | \$850,000 |
| Sabo, Cinn | .332 | 13 | 52 | \$350,000 |
| Williams, SF | .302 | 15 | 61 | \$190,000 |
| Jefferies, NY | .314 | 10 | 33 | \$200,000 |

| Pitchers | Record | ERA | Salary |
|-----------------|--------|------|-----------|
| Jones, Chi | 9-1 | 1.43 | \$205,000 |
| Armstrong, Cinn | 10-3 | 2.72 | \$300,000 |
| Martinez, LA | 9-3 | 2.62 | \$150,000 |
| King, Chi | 8-1 | 2.18 | \$115,000 |
| Sampson, Mon | 6-1 | 2.00 | \$100,000 |

LOAVES & FISHES WEEKEND PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY

Loaves & Fishes Centers's weekend meal program is in jeopardy if volunteer drivers cannot be found. Loaves & Fishes recently launched a weekend meal delivery program to provide hot meals to the very frail, homebound seniors who are at risk of malnutrition in the Portland metropolitan area. While funding exists for the program, a long waiting list for meals now exists because of a serious volunteer driver shortage. If drivers cannot be found, the program may be forced to discontinue. The Loaves & Fishes weekend meal delivery program allows the city's frail elderly to stay in their own homes, rather than be institutionalized.

Loaves & Fishes Centers has been serving the nutritional needs of the elderly in our community since 1970. They provide approximately 4,000 hot, nutritious meals each weekday in group settings at 29 Centers in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties, and deliver noon meals to homebound seniors through the Meals-on-Wheels program.

Volunteer drivers must be at least 16 years old, have a valid driver's license and a car. Delivering meals takes about an hour on Saturday or Sunday and routes can be scheduled near the volunteer's home.

For more information on how to become a volunteer driver for Loaves & Fishes weekend meal program, please call the Loaves & Fishes Central Office at 777-2424.

Reebok International Ltd. Reaffirms its Position on South Africa



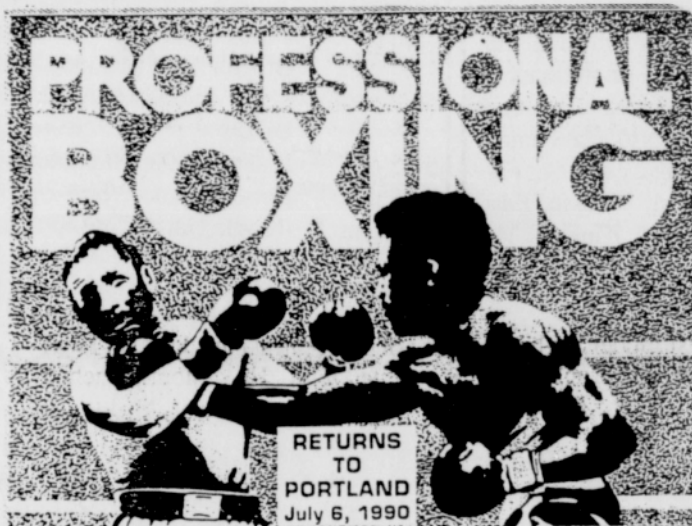
DETROIT, MI -- "If we've said it once, we've said a thousand times...Reebok is NOT in South Africa" read the T-Shirt that Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, (right), Chairman and Founder of the OICs of America proudly held at the 26th annual OICs of America convocation recently held in Detroit, Michigan.

Josh Culbreath, (left), 1956 Olympic Bronze Medalist and Head Track & Field Coach of Central State University in Ohio, and Warren Jackson (center), President & CEO of Circulation Expert Ltd, Consultant to Reebok International are also shown holding the Reebok T-Shirt proclaiming the com-

pany's anti-apartheid position.

Rev. Sullivan is the architect of the world renowned Sullivan Principles which were the initial catalysts for corporate sanctions against apartheid in South Africa.

OICs of America was founded in Philadelphia in 1964 by Rev. Leon H. Sullivan as a means of providing comprehensive employment training for the disadvantaged, unemployed and unskilled Americans of all races. Since that time, OIC has grown to encompass more than 75 regional offices and train over one million people for productive careers.



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Pablo Montano
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