



# THE LOCKER ROOM

## Steve Adams: Letting Go Of The NBA Dream

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

All summer long, Steve Adams has been preaching to youngsters that life is full of options and opportunities. Now, Adams has to start practicing what he preaches. A counseling supervisor for Self-Enhancement Inc., the North-east Portland youth advocacy group, Adams is waiting for a telephone call that might land him a tryout for some NBA team. He was a member of the Portland Trailblazers summer basketball team and according to enlightened sources, Adams played well.

Like many youngsters growing up in America, Adams fantasized about playing against the likes of Charles Barkley, Magic Johnson, Air Jordan, Clyde Drexler, and a host of other superstars representing the league. Adams laid down a solid foundation at Benson Technical High School, where he was an All-State and All-City performer under Dick Gray, and later at the University of Idaho for three years before finishing his last season at Western Baptist. Adams also played in Frankfurt, Germany, but decided to come back to the states because the competition was weak. He averaged over 50 points per contest and ultimately ended up in the Blazer camp.

Adams knows that he is sitting on the edge of a dream, a dream that has allowed him the chance to secure a B.A. degree in Psychology and see the world. Adams is very thankful for all of the experiences basketball has provided him, but he knows that it is time to start considering other options outside of the professional arena. Chances are, Shawn

McDaniels, a free-agent point guard out of tiny Shaw University, will be the only player invited back to fall camp with the Blazers. Adams does not want to go back to Europe for less than he is making now.

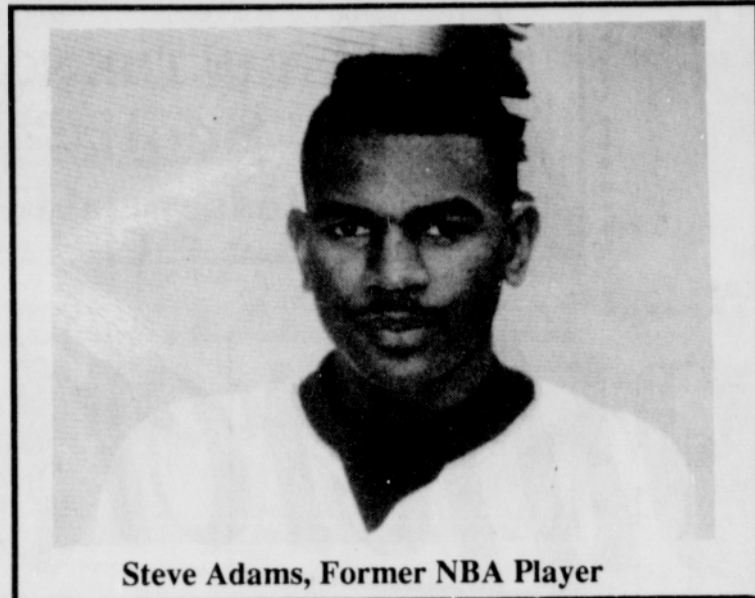
without an agent. Brad Greenberg, Director of Player Personnel for the Blazers has been real helpful."

According to Adams, an athlete out of UCLA or Notre Dame has a better chance at getting a "good look" by scouts because the ones from smaller colleges like Western Baptist go unnoticed. He said that it is not about talent.

"Talent has nothing to do with it," he said. "It's all about politics and numbers. I've talked to players who are already in the NBA and to those who have tried out, talent has very little to do with making it in the NBA. Teams have a good idea about who they want long before they invite you to camp. I'm just glad that I had a chance to try out and participate in the summer league."

At 25, Adams is wise beyond his years and lives his life based on reality. Determination, poise, confidence are natural elements in this young man. He knows what he wants out of life and goes after it. Adams has a great job with Self-Enhancement, a very supportive wife (Judy, a U of Washington graduate working at a downtown law firm) and family. What can people expect from Steve Adams in the future?

"I would like to open up an athlete store," he said. I also have an associates degree in fashion and I would like to make use of it. I'll continue to play basketball to stay in shape and keep preaching to the kids to get good grades and plan for life outside of athletics, options."



Steve Adams, Former NBA Player

"If nothing happens within the next couple of weeks, I can pretty much hang it up," he said. As far as the dream is concerned, I don't think that it (playing in the NBA) will ever stop-but chasing it is another story."

Adams believes that the biggest mistakes he made were not on the basketball court. He did not have an agent to market his skills or graduate from a large institution with great media exposure. Adams made contact with teams himself. "I think not having an agent was probably one of my biggest misfortunes," he said. You get a better chance when your name is on the market and someone is pushing for you. It's tough

## "It is Not the Persian Gulf, Folks..."

Continuation from front page

The gates opened...and the four doorkeepers emerged. Then came the steward and the bearers of the fire altars, followed by the three treasurers...Next came the priests of Horus, the Pure Priests, the Prophets and the Priests of the Sacred Writings.

"Next came the bearers of the Sacred Emblems and, then walking backwards, came several priests burning incense...the small golden barge containing the divine naos, the 'tabernacle'

appeared, carried on the shoulders of priests dressed in great robes of starched linen." ARE YOU GETTING THE PICTURE? This was the seminal model for the world. You see it when you watch the weddings of the British royal family, when you are fascinated by the rituals of the Catholic Church, and when you participate in the ceremonies of the Masons and Shriners, and at 'graduation ceremonies'; POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE-FROM AFRICA!

Lamy's description goes on to detail the 37 mile trip down the Nile to Edfu! Hundreds of barges, a half-million people in joyful procession along the banks, dignitaries from kings to governors of the provinces to mayors of the cities-soldiers and pilgrims following in smaller boats. A yearly spectacle that Hollywood is yet to duplicate. Who is so wizened-souled and racist that they would not let children know their fathers or mothers? WHO INDEED?

## Letter to the Editor

In order for children to learn they must be confident and comfortable with themselves. Children need an understanding shoulder to lean on. I know the teachers are not being paid to become mama, daddy, psychologist and counselor but some students won't get it at home, so they must get it somewhere. Teachers need to become more understanding and compassionate with their students. There is no one at home sometimes for the children to go and talk with, so they come to school and act out. If attention is not paid to these kids now, I guarantee it WILL be paid to them later. This atmosphere of compassion and true caring is not what our children are receiving in the school buildings of today. Children are being pressed to learn under duress, cold climates, too hot classrooms with sometimes hostile and incompetent teachers. I have a child on the honor roll who can't write a complete and correct sentence, this is not always the case but it is often enough that I have to question the motives of this school system. Another child is in enriched math, in the eighth grade but, doesn't know algebra. So, what is this enrichment? And don't try to ask the teacher for extra help they don't have time. Then when you go to conference the teacher wants to tell you your child can't keep up, I wonder why?

Children are not given the chance to defend themselves from the teachers and administration. They are automatically tired and judged without benefit of trial or defense. Sometimes the students do deserve to be punished and this is only right. When a teacher doesn't take the time to find out the facts because

they are too tired, how can the innocent child respect them. Some time fellow students will come to the aid of each other but, to no avail. Sometime other students have vendettas against each other but the teachers are not aware of this. And talk about peer pressure, what about teachers using other students to make others feel bad. Certain children are gathered together to pressure each other when the parents have gone to confront teachers and administration about conditions and curriculum at these schools and the children are made to feel as if their parents are wrong. How can we as parents teach our children to stand up for their beliefs in this kind of atmosphere. If we don't stand up for our children, who will?

It is difficult for children to learn without encouragement from teachers and staff. I mean individual encouragement not only when the T.V. cameras are rolling and visitors are present. Teachers need to be willing to help students outside of school hours. Students who seek extra help as well as those who need it should be able to receive it. We are raising a generation of illiterates and this trend will continue until the America job market is saturated with unemployable prospective employees who need training for even the simplest tasks. Students need to be tested and evaluated in fair and honest testing procedures and given the help they need to be productive members of society. The children should not be tested just to determine if they are M.R. and dropped with no help or consideration if they are found to be psychologically sound. PPS need testing systems as well as support for learn-

ing disabled students. These children are tested and found lacking in skills recommended for IEP's but there is no one to implement the plan. We are paying our tax dollars and not getting our monies worth out of PPS systems. The share is equal for those who have students as well as those who don't. America is slowly becoming a nation of illiterates. Not just by not being able to read and write but, computing, judgement usage, imagination, calculation and thought processing. Not to mention unilanguage. What happened to Latin, Greek, Spanish, French and German being REQUIRED classes, now they are brought to the level of arts and crafts. These shortcomings are affecting ALL Americans not just the innercities Africans, poor whites, Hispanics and Asians but the majority population as well.

Also, African children need to know their history and heritage in order to know where they've been, where they are going and why. The majority population in America needs to know the truth as well so that they can understand themselves that theirs is not the only history. Everyone has a history that needs to be told, not only the majority population in America or European history but all the world history. This should be done truthfully and correctly. Here in Portland we have the African baseline essays to assist our students but, it is not being implemented 95% of the time. So I've sent my children to Atlanta where it is being used and they can get what they can't get here.

Parents we must continue the struggle, even though mine are gone I still must fight for the ones left behind, this generation and the next. AMANDLA!!!!

### N.F.L. preview

By Aaron Fentress

### N.F.C.

## 49ers three-peat possible but not probable

### WEST

**The Gold Rush:** The 49ers have done everything any other team in NFL history has done. Now they want to do something no team has ever done, three-peat. If any team could do it it's this one. Unlike the Packers of the sixties and the Steelers of the seventies the 49ers have remained young and have every reason to believe they can win again. Joe Montana is undoubtedly the best quarterback in the league. Jerry Rice is undoubtedly the best receiver in the league, Rathman and Craig are undoubtedly the best running back tandem in the league. And led by Ronnie Lott the defense can be as good as any other in the league. If all holds up in San Francisco the 49ers could be dancing in the streets again. 13-3.

**Restless Rams:** If any team could unseat the 49ers it's the Rams and they will have two chances during the regular season to prove it. Quarterback Jim Everett emerged last season as one of the best in the NFL. In Anderson and Ellard, he possesses the best pair of receivers his side of Rice and Taylor of San Francisco. The running game has always been there and second year tail back Gaston Green should pull out a 1,000 yard season. The Rams only real suspect is the defense which finished 8th in the NFC last year. If the defense improves the Rams and 49ers will go down to the wire and the victor could wind up Super Bowl Champs. 13-3

**Slumping Saints:** In 1987 the Saints finished with their first winning season in franchise history at 12-3. They ended the season being upset by Minnesota in the NFC Wild Card game and have failed to make the playoffs since. Quarterback has become a controversy and the Saints face the Rams and 49ers twice a year. 7-9.

**Consistent Falcons:** Consistently bad. Atlanta has not had a winning season since 1980, and it looks like they won't have one again anytime soon. New coach Jerry Glanville will try to introduce the run and shoot offense in Atlanta but the Falcons don't have the talent to make it work, yet. Glanville built a winner in Houston and could do it in Atlanta. 5-11

### CENTRAL

**Mortgaged Minnesota:** The Vikings have put it all on the line. Win now, or forever hold your peace. In order to acquire Herschel Walker the Vikings gave up six high draft picks. They may not feel it now but look for the Vikings to descend to the cellar in a few years. For now the Vikings are a force who's worse enemy is themselves. They have the talent to go to the Super Bowl it's just a matter of putting it together. The defense is the best in the league led by Millard(DT), Doleman(LB) and Browner(DB). The Offense features Walker and receiver Anthony Carter, who is as deadly as the Jerry Rice. Wade Wilson was inconsistent at quarterback last year but should bounce back and regain his 88' pro-bowl form. 11-5.

**Big Bad Bears ?:** The Bears may have been 6-10 last year but they have better than 6-10 talent. In fact the Bears have Super Bowl talent everywhere except quarterback. Jim Harbaugh should get the call at QB this season and Tomczak will be the relief pitcher so to speak. The defense will be back to it's old havoc causing self with the return of Dan Hampton, whom the Bears lost all 10 games without. 10-6

**Lions ready to roar:** The Lions came from no-mans-land to win their last five games and make a season ending statement. Running back Barry Sanders became the rookie of the year by gaining over 1,400 yds in what was supposed to be a passing offense. Add 1989 Heisman trophy winner, quarterback, Andre Ware, into the picture and you have an offense ready to score. Still the Lions need more defense and offensive line help to become serious contenders. 7-9

**Backing Packers:** Don't let their 89 record (10-6) fool you. The Pack is not back. They were the luckiest team in history last season winning six games by three points or less. It won't happen again. 6-10

**Bad Bugs:** The Buccaneers do have one thing going for them. There's no place to go but up. Someday maybe they will head in that direction. Until then.... 4-12

### EAST

**Gutty Giants:** The Giants were supposed to fold last season but found a way to win the East. Now they are better and should win the east again. The drafting of running back, Rodney Hampton, in the first round will provide the Giants with a steady running game that was barely kept alive by 34 year-old, Otis Anderson in 89'. Phil Simms proves time and time again that he is a consistently good, if not a great quarterback. On defense no one does it better than linebacker Lawrence Taylor, who added 15 more sacks to his career totals in 89'. The Giants don't quite have what it takes to win a Super Bowl right now but they have what it takes to make the race to the Super Bowl interesting. 11-5.

**Cunninghams Eagles:** There's no doubt that when quarterback Randall Cunningham is on the Eagles offense is unstoppable. The only problem is that Cunningham wasn't on much last season. The Eagles will need Cunningham to reach his full potential in order for them to win. On defense Reggie White fought off double teams and triple teams to finish with 11 sacks. The Eagles biggest concern is with their running game. Cunningham has been the teams leading rusher for three straight years. Until they find a consistent back the Eagles won't go very far. 10-6

**Unpredictable Redskins:** This team could do anything from, play .500 ball, to win the division. They have good talent but are about as consistent as snow in Miami. Although the finished 89' with a 10-6 record they were the only team to loose to Dallas, and won their last four against San Diego, Phoenix, Atlanta, and Seattle. Not exactly power house competition. 9-7.

**Calmly coming Cowboys:** One day Dallas will be there. They traded Herschel Walker to Minnesota and received enough draft picks to build a super bowl team. But it will take time. 4-12

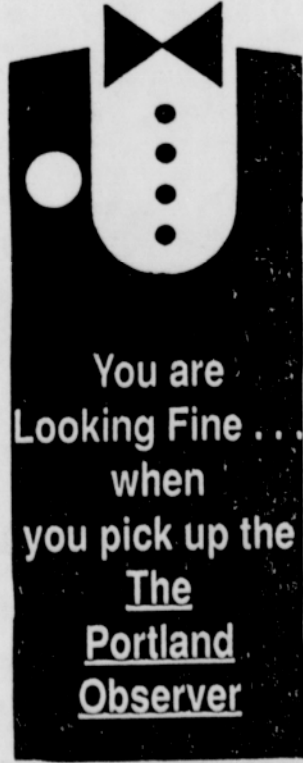
**Planning Phoenix:** Like Dallas Phoenix is starting over. The only problem is that they don't have much to work with. 4-12



## Letter to the Editor

In the Sunday, August 19th Oregonian, Nike, Inc. purchased an advertising to promote its factory outlet store. The address given in the ad for the store was 3044 NE Union. Is Nike so out of touch with the African American community or for that matter with front page news stories that it would be so insensitive as to not acknowledge the successful efforts of many to rename Union Avenue to MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD? Here is one local example of Nike's arrogant attitude of "Just NOT Doing It" when it comes to the African American community in the State of Oregon. One more reason why I support the boycott of Nike products, and appreciate Operation PUSH for bringing a national perspective to Nike's business practices.

Theresa Stoudamire



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Los Angeles Lakers star guard Earvin Johnson accepts a contribution from officials at Anheuser-Busch Companies in support of the fifth annual benefit for the United Negro College Fund. Celebrities, corporate supporters and individual contributors helped raise more than \$1 million for UNCF at a black-tie dinner and an NBA all-star basketball game as part of the weekend activities. Magic is shown here with Anheuser-Busch corporate affairs officials (from left) Mick Lewis, Victor Julien, and Ronald Smiley.