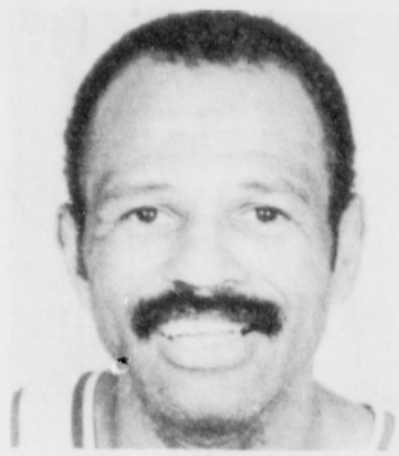




THE LOCKER ROOM

NBA Failing To Sign Top Picks



JOHN LUCAS

BY: ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

The National Basketball Association opened camp last week with most of the top picks threatening to eat pasta in Italy next year or sit out for more money. Top pick Derrick Coleman, out of Syracuse, has cut off talks with the New Jersey Nets and second pick Gary Payton is demanding about \$2.75 million annually from the Seattle SuperSonics, who are offering around \$1.3 million per season. Chris Jackson, the third pick in the draft out of LSU, is also at a standstill with the Denver Nuggets. Payton wants to enter the NBA as one of the highest paid point guards in the league without scoring a point or dishing out an assist. Magic Johnson, a three time NBA most valuable player, will earn about \$3.1 million for this upcoming season. Other instant winners in the NBA million dollar derby include Dennis Scott, Orlando; Lionel Simmons, Sacramento; Bo Kimble, LA Clippers; Loy Vaught, LA Clippers; Willie Burton, Minnesota; and Dee Brown, Boston. Stay tuned...

John Lucas, traded recently by the Houston Rockets to the Atlanta Hawks, retired after fourteen years and six teams. In 928 regular season games, Lucas averaged 10.7 points per game and dished out 454 assists. An All-American in basketball and tennis at the University of Maryland, Lucas had problems early on in his career with drug and alcohol abuse. He overcame his addiction and now runs two successful drug treatment programs in the Houston area. Lucas still holds the NBA record for the most assists in one quarter.

Ralph Sampson, center for the Sacramento Kings is at the crossroads in his basketball career. Plagued by knee injuries since he was traded by the Houston Rockets to the Golden State Warriors two years ago, Sampson needs to retire or have a pro-

ductive season, that's if his knees are healed. Don Nelson shipped Sampson to Sacramento last season after he grew impatient with his attitude and work habits. He played in only 26 games with the Kings last year, who are in their rebuilding years and had four first round picks in the draft last June. Sampson has three years and \$8 million left on his contract and the Kings must decide whether to wait on Sampson or eat the contract. The Kings have a promising young team coached by Dick Motta. Sampson barely survived an opening day two-mile run last week and he looked terrible in last place. He finished the run in 18:22 and was lapped by several teammates.

Former Portland Trailblazer Jim Paxson is a man without a home these days. He was given permission by the Celtics to work out any deal he can with another team or retire. Paxson also has coaching opportunities with other NBA teams. He is a two-time NBA All-Star and a veteran of eleven seasons. Paxson played little with the Celtics last season and with the addition of rookie Dee Brown (Jacksonville) and the return of Brian Shaw from Italy sealed his fate.

Speaking of the Trail Blazers, they promised pay raises to Clyde Drexler and Jerome Kersey this year. They can help their cause by trading Drazen Petrovic and his million dollar salary to get some extra cash or perhaps a draft pick. The Blazers are loaded with guards...Maurice Cheeks, steady point guard for the New York Knicks wants a pay raise and the Knicks are still trying to trade Mark Jackson. No takers. Cheeks earns a million dollars annually...Has anybody seen Jerome Kersey lately? He looks like a Baby Karl Malone. It's evident that Kersey worked out in the weight room this summer and plans to pick up this fall where he ended last year. Kersey proved that he is one of the best small forwards in the NBA. Actually, he is a power-forward in a small forward body.

Champ Offers Car Care Tips

Cooling system failure is a leading cause of car trouble, especially during hot weather when more people take to the road. Rusty Wallace, the nation's top stock car racer, believes most such breakdowns are preventable. The following are three simple precautions suggested by the NASCAR Winston Cup champion:



Rusty Wallace

- Inspect the hoses and belts under the hood and replace them if they seem dry or brittle. It's wise to change these components every three years anyway, Wallace believes.

- Every time you fill up with gasoline, check the plastic reservoir next to the radiator to make sure the antifreeze coolant hasn't run low. If the coolant seems dirty or if more than a year has passed since you last changed it, drain, flush and refill the cooling system. Wallace suggests using Zerex® antifreeze coolant because of the protection it provides against freeze-ups, overheating and corrosion even under extreme conditions.

- Finally, have the battery checked if it's more than two years old, especially if you frequently use the air conditioner.

"Auto racing makes you particularly aware of the more vulnerable parts of a car," Wallace said. "You learn that the best way to avoid trouble is to anticipate it."

PSU takes steps to get back on track

By AARON FENTRESS

Since losing two of their last three, and two straight Western Football Conference games, the Portland State Vikings prove that nothing in sports is sacred. They've benched their all-American quarterback Darren Del'Andrae.

Heading into the 1990 season the PSU Vikings seemed to be headed straight for their fourth consecutive playoff season. The regular season simply seemed to be a formality. But after a quick 3-0 start the Vikings have fallen on hard times, and it has come at the worst time. The Vikings are currently in the middle of their conference schedule. Losing conference games of course makes it hard to win the conference championship, which plays heavy in the minds of NCAA officials when it comes time to pick the 16 team field for the Division II football playoffs.

Like any good captain who sees his ship sinking head coach Pokey Allen has gone to red alert, and he's taking action. Weather or not it's the right action to take

remains to be seen but for the Vikings any action taken could prove to be valuable. The team has the talent to be as good as they want to be, and right now that talent simply needs a shot in the arm. Enter back up quarterback turned starter Don Bailey.

What the Vikings quarterback change should show to all sports fans is that nothing is etched in stone. It's not what you've done or who you are, it's what you have done for me lately. For Del'Andrae it hasn't been much. Del'Andrae is 0-2 in his last two starts with six interceptions and two touchdown passes. Consequently Bailey gets the call.

Ironically, for Del'Andrae his benching comes two weeks after he was forced to sit out the Sacramento State game due to illness. This gave Bailey a chance to show his stuff, which he did with a 16 of 24 performance for 296 yards, three TDs and two interceptions. The Vikings won 41-24 and Bailey won some confidence from the coaches which undoubtedly played a part in their decision to start him this

week against Santa Clara.

For the Vikings this weeks game is a do or die situation. Another conference loss and the Vikings playoff hopes are also lost. With such a disaster goes the band wagon jumping fans who will jump off as quickly as they jumped on. This of course hurts revenue, which is sparse anyway, and in the end hurts Pokey and his staff. It's more than football for the coaches, it's their livelihood. The success of PSU football pays their rent.

If Bailey does fail to provide the spark for the Vikings that the coaches are looking for then you can bet that Del'Andrae will replace Bailey in a light second. Remember Del'Andrae is still an all-American. In 1989 he passed for 3,586 yards and 22 touchdowns. He's proven he can get it done. But that was last year, and this is this year, 1989 is history and doesn't really matter. When asked if the quarterback change could be permanent offensive coordinator, Al Borges said, "If Don moves the team, you bet." To Borges and Pokey that's all that really matters.

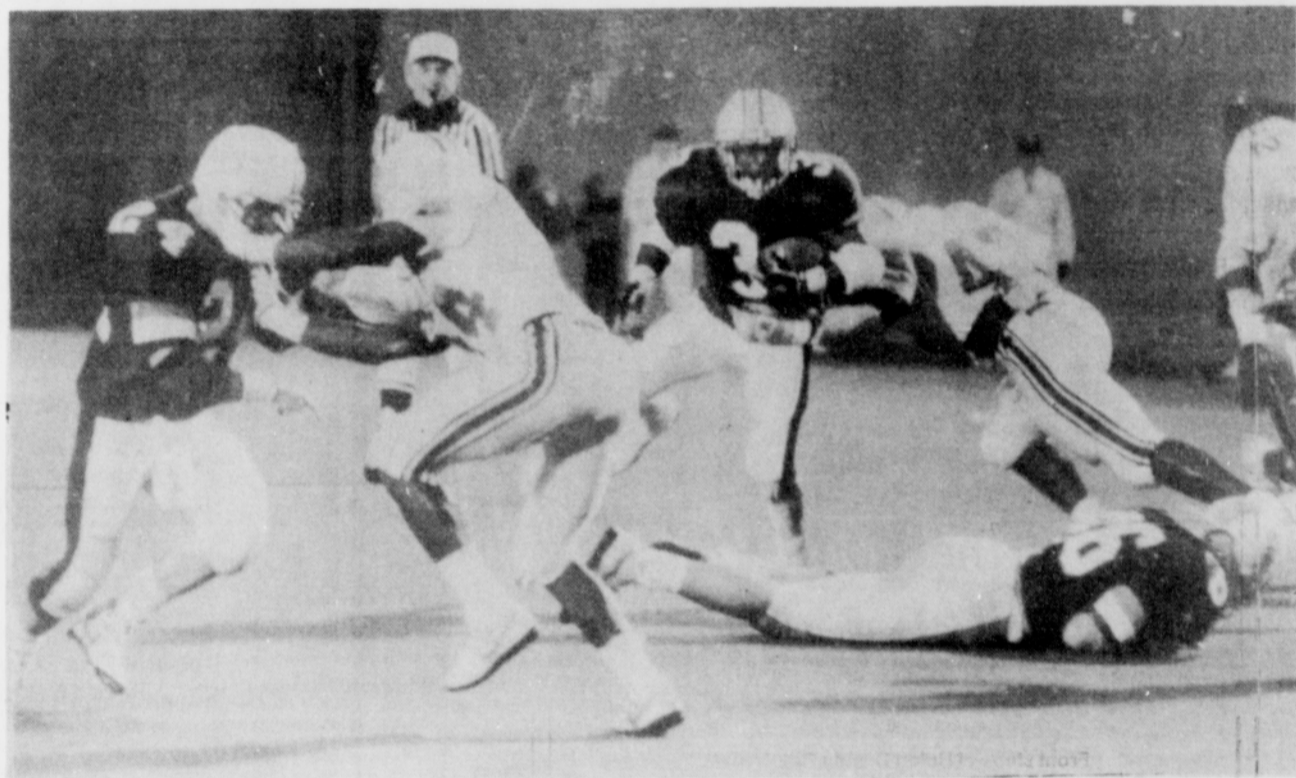


Photo by AARON FENTRESS

Curtis Delgado (3) and the Vikings are trying to get back on the winning track

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