

# THE LOCKER ROOM



## The Ainge Factor Reaps Benefits

BY: ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Though it's a bit young in the 1990-91 NBA season, many writers, coaches, and announcers are already jumping on the Portland Trail Blazers bandwagon. Among them, TNT analyst Hubie Brown and Paul Silas, Assistant coach with the New York Knicks. Brown covered the Blazers 113-101 victory over the Detroit Pistons and walked away very impressed. When asked to compare the team he saw lose 4-1 in the finals last season, Brown said that they could win it all.

Paul Silas has seen a lot of basketball in his twenty-plus years as a player/coach in the NBA and he too is impressed with the locals. He admitted that the Knicks biggest mistake was trying to run with the Blazers. According to Silas the worst thing that a team could do is attempt to play fastbreak basketball against Portland. Portland is too talented in the open and has a strong bench, he says. A member of NBA Championship teams three times, Silas has a theory that he applies to the 1990-91 TrailBlazer team. Portland beat New York 141-125.

"There are two factors one must consider when you look at the TrailBlazers this year," he said. First, Danny Ainge is the best thing that ever could have happened to them. He gives them depth and stability at both guard positions. Last year, Portland lacked the outside shot, somewhat, and he gives them that element. Secondly, Portland has been to the well and tasted the water. Now, they want to drink it all the time. Portland is going to taste the water again

son said. "We haven't deviated from it one bit. It's building a team slowly, maybe making a key trade or two, not trying to do it all overnight. You've got to try to get good before you can get great, and these things do not happen overnight." Nelson 8-2 Warriors are led by Chris Mullins, a two time NBA All-Star, 1989 Minute Maid Orange Soda NBA Rookie of the year, and 1990 All-Rookie team point guard Tim Hardaway, who is developing into one of the toughest guards in the league. Nelson is hoping that Tyrone Hill, a 6-10 rookie, lives up to his First Round fanfare and



MITCH RICHMOND

college stardom. He says that the Warriors are one player away from competing for the Western Conference Title.

Three weeks ago, The Locker Room criticized the behavior of EX-NBA player David Wingate, who after being charged with two sexual assaults, was released by the San Antonio Spurs and Mike Tyson for their behavior or attitude towards women. The column also suggested that athletes be more responsible and realize that they are not above the law. James Worthy, a five time NBA All-Star selection and married man, was arrested recently in Houston. Worthy was charged with soliciting of prostitution. Worthy solicited sex from two undercover officers, who posed as prostitutes after police shut down an escort service. Worthy contacted the service through the Yellow Pages and requested that two women meet him at his hotel room. Were both women for him or was one for a teammate? After Worthy told the undercover officers what he wanted and how much he would pay, he was arrested. Some might call this entrapment, but this is pure sexual irresponsibility and stupid. What does he tell his wife Angela? All the Locker Room wants to know is, who is going to turn in their role model credentials next?

## Giants, Bears pose threat to 49ers

by Aaron Fentress

With ten weeks now gone by in the NFL the regular season is starting to look like a simple formality before the real games begin. With the disappearance of parody and the emergence of the elite the playoffs promise to be filled with wars of the mighty, not the weak.

Last season the Cleveland Browns (9-6-1), Pittsburgh Steelers (9-7), Buffalo Bills (9-7), Houston Oilers (9-7), Minnesota Vikings (10-6), Denver Broncos (10-6), New York Giants (10-6) and Philadelphia Eagles (10-6) all limped their way into the playoffs only to end up crippled food for the 14-2 San Francisco 49ers to feast upon. Only the Los Angeles Rams with their record of 12-4 seemed to pose any kind of threat to the 49ers. They met in the NFC Championship. Final score 30-3, 49ers.

All told the 49ers cruised through the playoffs winning three games by a margin of 120-27. This year things won't be so easy. In fact the 49ers appear to only be one of the pack despite their 10-0 record.

With six games remaining the New York Giants (10-0), Chicago Bears (9-1), Buffalo Bills (9-1) and Miami Dolphins (8-2) have all risen from the level of just being respectable to lay claim on greatness. All have a shot at knocking off the 49ers. For the Giants their chance will come Dec. 3, when they meet the 49ers on Monday Night. The Giants, who have pretty much clinched the NFC East title, will win.

Looking at the results from recent years it may not seem like a wise prediction to pick the Giants over the 49ers. But if you look at both teams performances so far this season. There's no

reason why the Giants can't beat the 49ers.

The Giants have out scored their opponents by 136 points scoring 246 themselves. The 49ers with their high powered offense have out scored their opponents by 102 points while scoring 253 points. The significance to this statistic is that the 49ers offense hasn't scored many more points than the Giants despite the presence of Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and Roger Craig. In fact Giants quarterback Phil Simms is rated higher than Montana. And Giants running back Otis Anderson has out rushed the often injured Craig.

As for the teams individual defense the Giants' ranks number one while the 49ers are seated 8th in the NFL.

Another interesting fact that points in favor of the Giants lies in the competition they have faced this year. The 49ers have only faced one team with a winning record all season, the (6-4) Washington Redskins. Meanwhile the Giants have faced the Redskins twice, the Philadelphia Eagles (6-4) and Miami Dolphins (8-2), who the Giants beat convincingly, 20-3.

The Giants are the team to beat in the NFL.

Aside from the Giants there are other strong teams who can cause the 49ers problems in this years playoffs.

The Chicago Bears have regained their old form using the same formula of the ground game matched with a dangerous defense. Through 10 games the Bears have intercepted 23 passes and registered 30 sacks. Running back Neal Anderson has scored 12 touchdowns. The Bears have all but won the

NFC Central division.

Although quarterback has been a question for the Bears in recent years fourth year man Jim Harbaugh has proven himself more than adequate with his 92.2 quarterback rating, ranking him third in the NFC behind Simms and Montana

With the Giants and 49ers both staying perfect through 10 games many people have over looked the Bears. But with the Giants and 49ers meeting once the winner will have to remain undefeated or face the possibility of traveling to Chicago during the playoffs.

If Chicago can manage to get the Giants or 49ers to travel to Chicago either team could be in trouble. Come January there will be snow in Chicago. And they don't call Chicago the windy city for nothing. Passing in Chicago in January is not pleasant and if the Bears can get on top and ride the legs of Anderson and their defense they will be tough to beat. This makes the 49ers date with the Giants all the more important.

Over in the AFC things are a little less clear as far as division titles are concerned. The Dolphins and Buffalo Bills (9-1) seem to be waiting til their week 16 matchup to decide the AFC East title. Miami won their week two meeting 30-7.

In the AFC Central parody is king as the Cincinnati Bengals (6-4), Oilers (5-5), and Pittsburgh Steelers (5-5) are all still in the hunt.

In the AFC West the Los Angeles Raiders (7-3) lead the Kansas City Chiefs (6-4) by one game. The two teams will meet this Sunday for the outright AFC West lead.



DANNY AINGE

"Portland is 12 guys deep," said Brown. "There are no loopholes in their line-up right now. With the addition of Danny Ainge, you've got another three-point guard, another guard who can play point or the scoring guard, and he can play big defensively for you. Also, they are much stronger on the front line. If any injuries occur, Alaa Abdelnaby will contribute greatly for a rookie and Cliff Robinson has really matured. Portland has a good first and second unit. I was happy with (Kevin) Duckworth too. He has really improved tremendously this year. Tonight, he showed me that I didn't see the real Duckworth last season in the play-offs. I'm predicting that he will have a big-time season.

"We mentioned twice on the telecast that Terry Porter played last season's playoffs hurt. When Isiah (Thomas) got the best of him last season, it was unfair to criticize his play. Tonight, a healthy Porter dominated Thomas all night. That's the Porter that will help take Portland back to the Finals. You've got to love this team. In order to make the next step, you've got to have consistency and come back with a big year. I like their confidence, intensity on defense, and their talent. Portland has the total package."



PAUL SILAS, Assistant Coach

this season, but this time they are going to jump in it, rub it on their faces, and shower in it. Champagne is going to reign supreme in Portland.

"Portland has everything they need. The only problem I see is in the middle. I think that (Kevin) Duckworth is good enough, but they are stronger at all of the other positions. Portland is a solid club". Portland is undefeated in nine contests this season. The next home game is against the Golden State Warriors on Friday, November 23, at 7:30pm.

Speaking of the Warriors, coach Don Nelson is excited about his teams chances for the playoffs, despite trading Manute Bol (76ers) and Terry Teagle (Lakers) for First Round draft picks in 1991. Nelson believes that the organization's "master plan" is right on schedule.

"Yes, there is a master plan," Nel-

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## Youth Basketball Tournament set to begin

The sixth annual Fred Meyer/Trail Blazer Youth Basketball Tournament is slated to begin on January 6, 1991. Boys and girls in the sixth grade that are involved in a registered basketball league are eligible to participate in the competition.

The tournament, a single-elimination event, will hold its preliminary rounds at local high schools in the greater Portland area. Two teams from each grade level will advance to the championship round, which will be played prior to a Portland Trail Blazer home game at Memorial Coliseum. All participants will receive a free athletic bag, compliments of Fred Meyer and the Portland Trail Blazers.

"The Fred Meyer/Trail Blazer Youth Basketball Tournament is the largest youth basket ball tournament in the state of Oregon," said Wally Scales, the Trail Blazers vice-president, special events. "Last year we had over 1,200 boys and girls take part in the competition."

Entries for the tournament must be postmarked by December 7, and can be found at all 46 Fred Meyer Customer Service Desks in Portland and southwest Washington, and at the Trail Blazer office (700 NE Multnomah, 6th floor). The entry fee for the tournament is \$20.00 per team, and teams cannot exceed 15 players. A team roster must be submitted with the application and entry fee.

## Black Cowboy Expert to Kick Off Black Studies Fundraiser

Paul W. Stewart, founder and curator of the Black American West Museum in Denver, Colorado, will be the guest speaker at a reception for the Friends of Black Studies/Portland State University.



The event will be held on Friday, November 30, 1990 at the Red Lion/Lloyd Center. The hors d'oeuvre/no-host bar reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.; at 6:00 p.m. Paul Stewart will narrate a slide show featuring the history of black cowboys and pioneers. Stewart has written two books, entitled Westward Soul

and Black Cowboys. He has received the Black Educators United Award, the George Washington Honor Medal and is in Who's Who in Black America and Who's Who in Intellectuals of the World.

Documents, letters, scrapbooks, pictures, photographs, regalia...all comprise the Black American west museum collection, which began as a personal interest and developed into a hobby. Over the years, Paul Stewart's "hobby" has evolved into a national center for research, education, and cultural resources on the history of Black Americans in the West. Stewart's favorite exhibit is the one focusing on the life of Ferdinand Shavers, a bodyguard to Abraham Lincoln.

The Friends of Black Studies at Portland State University is a newly-formed affiliate of the PSU Foundation. The Friends of Black Studies promotes excellence in the teaching and study of Black history within the University and strives to increase awareness of this resource in the community. Funds raised will be used to support activities such as: supplementing references in PSU library; community outreach; supporting faculty/student research activities; and funds for an annual visiting scholar/speaker.

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