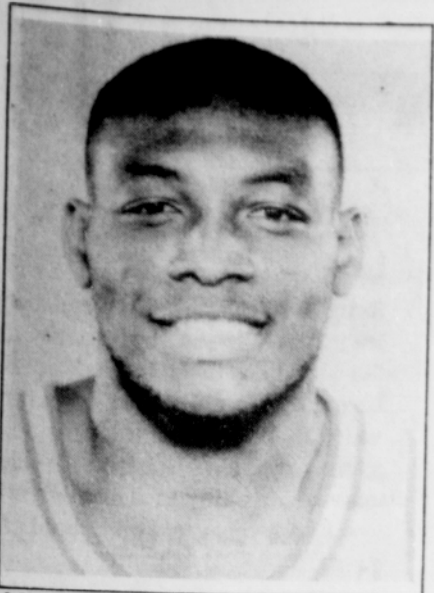


Blazers Embark On Six Game Swing

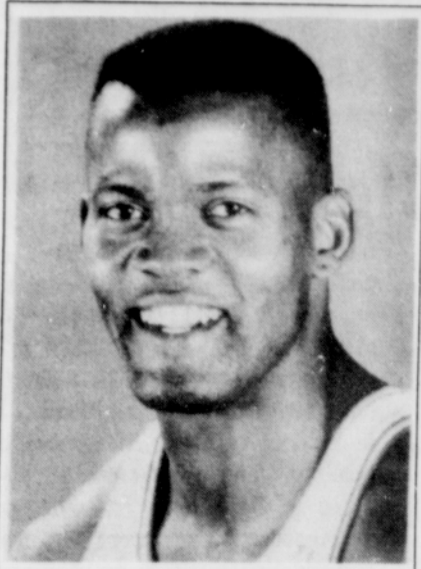


Mitch Richmond - Golden State
BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.

With the completion of last night's contest in Minnesota, the Portland Trail Blazers still have five tough road games ahead before meeting the Los Angeles Lakers in a nationally televised game (NBC) on April 13 (Saturday). What is described by some blazers as a "very critical" road trip, takes the locals to Washington next, Orlando, and through the state of Texas (Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio). No NBA team, playing all three teams on the same road trip, has swept Texas since 1987. Portland can ill-afford another slump at this stage of the season, especially since the Lakers and the Phoenix Suns are right on their heels. As "Magic" Johnson told the *Locker Room* recently, "It is now time to put up and play your basketball. It's crunch time as they say."

*As the 1991 regular season winds down into its final stage, Dale Ellis figures he's just hitting his own mid-season form. Ellis, the NBA's all-time leader in three pointers made, missed their first 20 games of the season with a foot injury. Then, in mid-February, he was traded from the Seattle SuperSonics to the Milwaukee Bucks in exchange for two-time Miller Lite NBA Sixth Man Award winner Ricky Pierce.

So Ellis, who was already trying to make up for lost time due to the injury, was forced to learn a new system in a hurry with the Bucks preparing for its 12th consecutive berth in the NBA Playoffs. "It (switching systems) is a little harder than I thought," said the 6-7 Ellis, who is averaging 18.6 ppg with Milwaukee. "It takes time for me to adjust to my teammates, and for them to adjust to me. It also takes a while to learn all the plays, and for my teammates to learn where and when I like to get the ball. I think it's just a matter of



Dale Ellis - Former Seattle Sonic
getting the feel for each other out on the court."

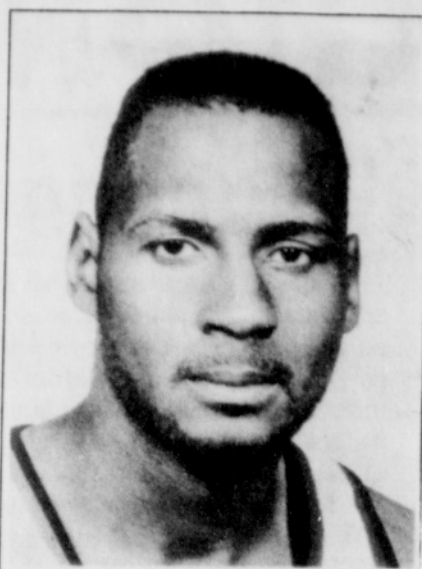
A seven year veteran, Ellis has played in Dallas and Seattle. He teams with Alvin Robertson and Jay Humphries to give the Bucks one of the best guard trios in the league. The other Del, that's head Coach Del Harris of the Milwaukee Bucks, is pleased to have Ellis playing for his team. "He's a good player" said Harris. "He's smart too. He will get better with us as the games go by. And next year, when he goes through a camp with us, then he'll really come into his own. But, we expect him to finish this season on a very high level for us."

*Portland center Kevin Duckworth, a two-time NBA All-Star and one of the best shooting big men in the league, says that learning to control his weight has enhanced his stay and career in the NBA.

"I haven't licked it (the weight problem)," said Duckworth, who carries in the neighborhood of 270 pounds on his seven foot frame. "But I have an understanding of the situation. I know I'm a big guy. I will always have a weight problem because of my genes. It's something that's just there."

The key to it is to try to use it to my advantage, and I do. Instead of taking all the negative stuff that everybody gives me about my weight, telling me I shouldn't be able to do these things I do, I believe in myself. I believe that I got here (the NBA) only because I knew I can do things that no one else thought I could. And it's always based on surprising guys.

Not noted as a strong rebounder and shot blocker, Duckworth knows his limitations. Currently averaging 16.4 points per contest and almost seven rebounds, Duckworth believed that opponents took him for granted. "I



Kevin Duckworth - Blazers

mean, when I started scoring a lot of points, those guys didn't know what I was going to do. They thought I was just going to be out there. Then they started double-teaming me and I had to work on my passing. Now, I'm trying to get the total game, scoring when I have the opportunity, and if not, passing to the open man. once you set a sight on what you want to accomplish, the sky's the limit."

*In the effort to help give Golden State players more of an identity, the San Francisco Examiner recently ran a contest to come up with a nickname for the NBA's highest-scoring trio-guards Mitch Richmond and Tim Hardaway and forward Chris Mullins. The newspaper received 1,500 entries from hoop fans in the Bay Area, and the winning selection was "Run TMC." Some of the entries that were eliminated? "The Joint Chiefs of Stats," "Heat, Meat, and Sweet," and of course, "The Blood-thirsty Gymrats from Hell."

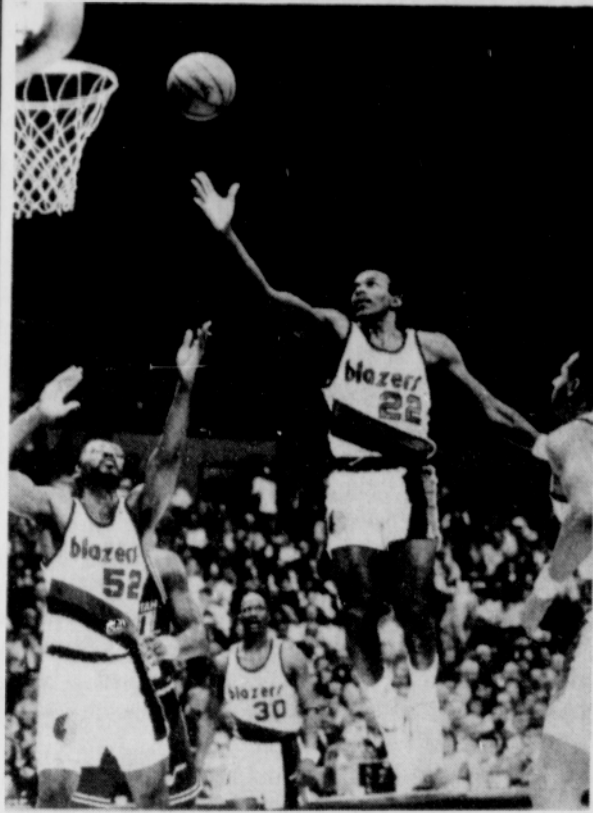
Short Shakes: If Commissioner David Stern can not control the behavior of Philadelphia 76ers forward Charles Barkley on the basketball court then perhaps he had better contact Barkley's mother or grandmother, who he holds in high esteem. A few seasons ago, both told him to chill out the "child like" behavior and focus on basketball. Sir Charles was recently fined \$10,000 for spitting at a fan after some harsh words were directed his way. Barkley's shower hit an eight year old girl instead. "I was tired and didn't have enough foam in my mouth," he said about the incident. He was suspended one game. Sir Charles, get a grip and grow up. In the meantime, phone home and get reminded of how you did not get raised as a child...Boston was the last NBA team to sweep Texas.



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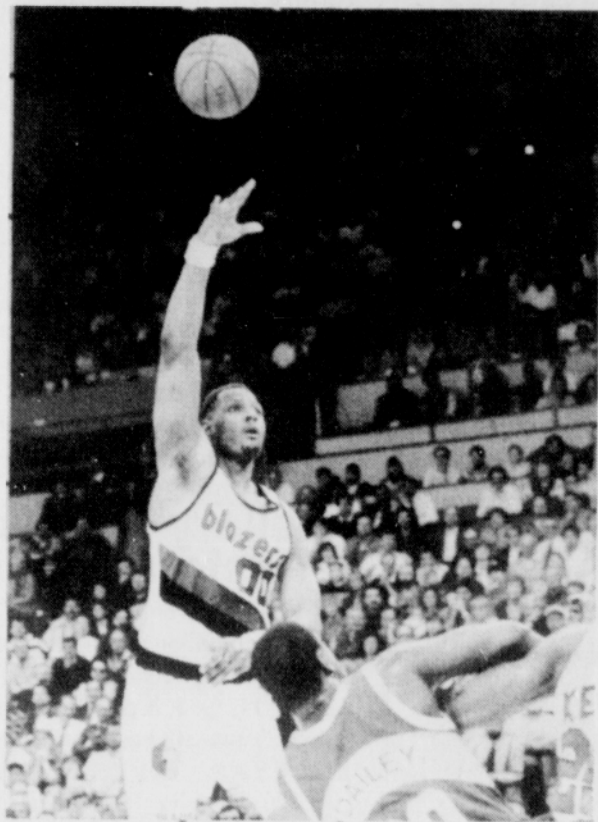
Red Hot And Rollin'

Photos by Veronica Green

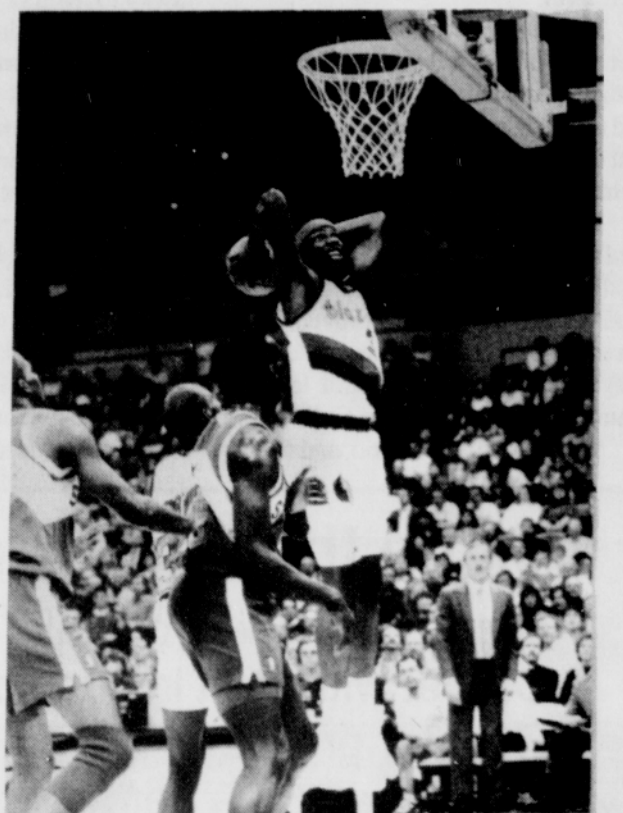


Clyde Drexler leads the team in scoring averaging 22 points per game.

With 10 games remaining in the season, Portland is in the drivers' seat to capture the Pacific Division crown. Last week Portland beat Charlotte 117-102, Seattle 126-113 and 112-107, they beat the Lakers 109-105 in overtime and they beat Minnesota 121-91.



Kevin Duckworth is averaging 16.3 points and 6.8 rebounds per game



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United Way Names Vice President

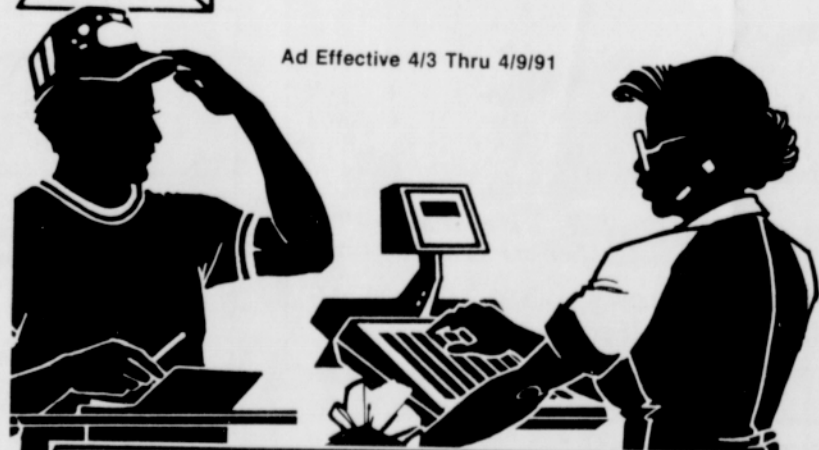
Priscilla Seaborg has been appointed vice president of public policy at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette.

Seaborg has been with United Way for one year as government relations director. She is currently working with other human services providers to encourage the 1991 Legislature to maintain funding levels for those programs, which face potential budget cuts because of Measure 5.

Before coming to United Way, Seaborg was a federal public defender in Portland, representing indigent people charged in U.S. District Court.

Seaborg received her law degree from Indiana University in 1981 and is a member of the Indiana State Bar. This follows a 1977 bachelor of arts degree in forensic studies from the same university. She passed the Oregon State Bar exam in 1990.

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