

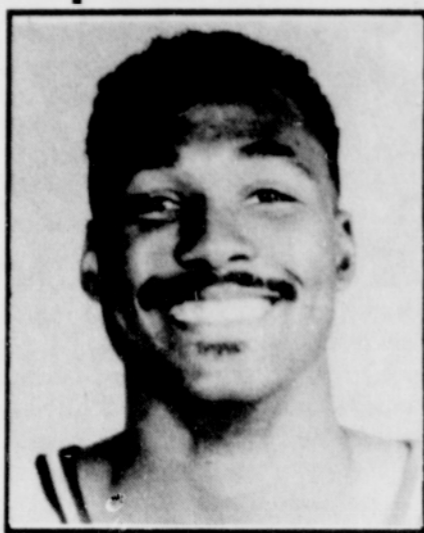


THE LOCKER ROOM

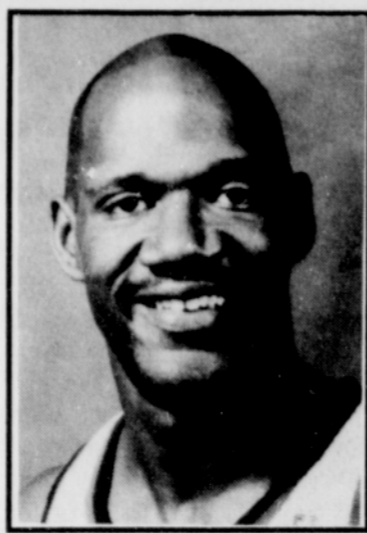
Blazers Prepare For Sacramento



Clyde Drexler



Karl Malone



Terry Porter

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

With Orlando and Houston out of the way, the Portland Trail Blazers are looking to complete their home schedule against the Sacramento Kings this Friday night. The Kings, led by **Waymon Tisdale** (20.9) and **Antoine Capp** (18.7), are the worst road team in the National Basketball Association. The Blazers conclude the regular season against the Phoenix Suns on Sunday afternoon.

The Blazers, winners of 15 straight games and the only Pacific Division team to win the title outside of the Los Angeles Lakers the last two years, also own the best record in NBA. Star guard **Terry Porter** says that the Blazers are right on schedule for making a run at the NBA title and peaking at the right time of the season. "We are playing real well right now," he said. The bench has been playing good and it's good to have **Big Mark (Bryant)** back. All along, our goal was to win the Division and have the best record in the league."

Mychal Thompson, the former Blazer and Los Angeles Lakers center/forward also believes that the Blazers are the team to beat right now. "If any team is going to get to the NBA finals, they have to beat Portland," he said. "I think the only team that can stop them from making a championship run is us. I think that we have the experience, talent to play with them, determination, and bench. The Lakers are the only team standing in their way. We feel that if we get another shot at them, we can earn another title shot."

Standing in the way of a potential rematch between the Lakers/Blazers is the Houston Rockets and **Hakeem**

Olajuwon or **Karl Malone** and the Utah Jazz. Both teams could present the Lakers with match-up problems in the first round of the play-offs. More than likely, Portland will open up at home against the Seattle SuperSonics. The Blazers will have home court advantage as long as they are in the play-offs.

* **Magic Johnson** on the shooting of **Clyde Drexler** shooting in Portland's 118-113 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. "Ahhhh man, I told him he was just hitting," laughed Johnson, who just recently broke the NBA's All-Time Assist record held by **Oscar Robertson**. "He was hitting from everywhere. That first quarter was unreal, three pointers and everything." Drexler scored 31 points (14 of 20 shots), grabbed 5 rebounds, dished four assists, and had three steals.

* Former NBA veteran **Darryl Dawkins**, now playing for Auxilium Torino of the Italian league, has taken to coaching a local women's club basketball team in his spare time. "I like to coach women," said Dawkins. "For once, they're giving me the impression that they are listening to me and doing what I want them to do. Not bad." Dawkins, the former Philadelphia 76er center, is averaging 21.5 ppg, ranking 10th in scoring in the A-1 division....Did you know that five current NBA head coaches were coached by Sacramento Kings Coach **Dick Motta**? These products are **Rick Adelman** of Portland, **Matt Guokas** of Orlando, **Jerry Sloan** of Utah, **Wes Unseld** of Washington, and **Bob Weiss** of Atlanta. All of the coaches have better records than their former mentor, but they are still in the rebuilding stage as franchises say when

they simply stink...

Tim Hardaway of the Golden State Warriors donates \$5 for every one of his assists to the American Cancer Society. Hardaway became a supporter of the ACS after losing his high school coach, **Bob Walters** of Chicago Carver HS, to cancer over four years ago. To date, Hardaway has racked up 756 assist at a pace of 9.7 per contest. That totals \$3,780 as of last Sunday or \$48.5 per game...

Last year, Utah Jazz forward **Karl Malone** finished the season averaging 31.0 points and 11.1 rebounds per game. Not bad, you say? Well, Malone's feat was more impressive than you realize considering he became the first person in the NBA since **Moses Malone**, in 1982, to average more than 30 points and ten rebounds per game. This year, Philadelphia 76ers forward **Charles Barkley** was in reach until his injury. Barkley rebound totals (10.1) were in line to break the record, but his 28.8 scoring average would not have qualified him to be listed with **K. Adul-Jabbar**, **Bob McAdoo**, **Walt Bellamy**, **Elgin Baylor**, **Wilt Chamberlain**, **Oscar Robertson**, **Bob Pettit**, **Moses Malone**, and "Mr. Mail Man" **Malone**...Had the chance this weekend, **Lawrence Taylor** of the Super Bowl Champs **New York Giants**. Taylor, in town for a card show to sign autographs was impressed with the beauty of Portland and the Trail Blazers. "I don't keep up with basketball as much as Carl Banks (Giant teammate), but I know that Portland is the team to beat. I might come back for the NBA Finals..." Does Taylor know something that Portlanders don't know? "It has to come through Portland," he said.

Auction/Portland Saints Basketball Team

The Portland Saints Women's Basketball team, a non-profit organization coached by John Phillips and Jeff Gamble, will host an auction at Champions Sports Bar in the Marriott Hotel (downtown) this Saturday, April 20th at 4 P.M.

Auctioned off will be sets of Blazer tickets for all play-off and championship games. There are 15 possible home games. Autographed basketballs will also be auctioned off. For more information, please call 282-5494.

Blazers To Air Third Prime Time Special

The Portland Trail Blazers will wrap up their highly successful 1990-91 regular season with a 60-minute prime time special entitled: "Blazer Trail...The Second Season", scheduled to air Tuesday, April 23 from 8 to 9:00 p.m. on KOIN-TV (channel 6).

Hosted by Bill Schonely, game action highlights will center on how the Blazers fared from the NBA All-Star Game through the end of the regular season. Fans can look forward to profiles on **Cliff Robinson**, All-Star **Terry Porter** and assistant coaches **Jack Schallow** and **John Wetzel**. Mike Rice will host an in-depth, one-on-one interview with head coach **Rick Adelman**, focusing on the just-concluded regular season. Pat Lafferty will update fans on the community activities the Trail Blazers have been involved with, while **Steve Jones** hands out his regular season awards and handicaps the 1991 NBA Playoffs. A segment on how team physician **Dr. Robert Cook** and trainer **Mike Shimensky** have kept the Trail Blazers on the court and off the injury list is also planned.

The Blazer Broadcasting special will also air on TCI in Medford (which feeds to Grants Pass and Klamath Falls). Blazer fans in the greater Eugene area will be able to catch this special program on KLSR-TV.

Fund-Raisers Offer Scholarships

The National Society of Fund-raising Executives (NSFRE) is offering a limited number of scholarships to underwrite the costs of memberships in the Oregon Chapter of NSFRE. These scholarships are open to all fund-raising professionals in the Portland metro area.

The purpose of these scholarships are to extend professional services designed to encourage and enhance the development of sound fund-raising skills for persons working in a non-profit organization which need but cannot afford this expense in their operating budgets.

These scholarships would give the recipient one year's membership in the Oregon chapter of NSFRE, attendance at the annual NSFRE Philanthropy Day Conference, and subsidized rates to attend monthly NSFRE programs and educational roundtable discussions. Scholarship recipients will also benefit from a mentoring relationship with experienced professionals to provide introduction and networking opportunities.

Applicants must be full-time employee of a 501 (C) (3) and one who has full or significant responsibility to fund-raising. Preference will be given to applicants from small agencies with limited fund-raising programs whose programs are targeted for underserved populations. Applicant organizations must be able to agree to pay a portion of the recipient fee to the annual NSFRE Philanthropy Day Conference.

To apply interested parties should send a brief proposal describing the need for assistance, the organization and how NSFRE membership will benefit the recipient. Application must also contain an endorsement by the agency's director indicating their willingness to commit to the NSFRE Philanthropy Day conference. Interested applicants can obtain more information by writing NSFRE, PO Box 9339, Portland, OR 97207, 9339.

Hank Aaron's book about racism, not HRs

by Aaron Fentress

Hank Aaron appeared on ESPN's "UP Close With Roy Firestone" last week. But not as a legendary baseball star to talk about past glory. Aaron appeared to talk about his book, "I Had a Hammer."

It has become fashionable and almost expected that former star athletes put down their memories of their great playing days on paper and sell them. But unlike **Joe Montana's** "Audibles", which recounts every game winning drive engineered by the San Francisco quarterback, Aaron's book isn't necessarily about how many homeruns he hit or how great a baseball player he was. In fact it's not about being a great baseball player because in the days Hank Aaron played baseball he was not considered a great baseball player. He was considered a great black baseball player. And he was treated as such.

Aaron was born the same year Babe Ruth retired from baseball. Aaron's dad wasn't allowed to attend the games of the man who's homerun record his son would break some day, due to the racial segregation of the times. Aaron did indeed shatter Ruth's homerun record, hitting 755. Aaron also became the major league's all-time RBI leader, total base leader, won an MVP and a World Series. But Aaron's road to the record books wasn't as glorious as that of Ruth's. And not because Aaron was a bad person or had problems off the field like Ruth's alcohol problem. But because Aaron was black.

"At some of the hotels we stayed in there was an assertive effort to always put blacks on the other side," said Aaron. "You would never get on the side of the pool where you could have a good view. You were always put on the side where you could see nothing but walls."

Although looking at walls and playing baseball was a long way from working in the fields Aaron's recollections serve to demonstrate the indignities of being black even if you were successful in the white man's world. You can run, swing a bat and throw a ball, but that's it. Blacks still had their place.

"I remember staying in St. Louis where they said we could stay in our rooms but they didn't want us to come down stairs and eat dinner or breakfast in the cafeteria," said Aaron.

If it wasn't bad enough being treated differently in encounters with everyday people Aaron said that there was some problems with teammates. Who despite wearing the same uniform, were not all together willing to act like they were on the same team. But according to Aaron, he always knew where he stood with his teammates.

"You knew exactly where most of your teammates were coming from," said Aaron. "I knew where they stood, what their thinking was."

In the midst of the equal rights activities of 1953-54 Aaron was asked one day by a teammate, "What do you people want?" According to Aaron he responded by saying, "The same thing you've had all your life. The freedom to do the things you want to do."

The few examples noted by Aaron on "Up Close" only give brief insights into the way Aaron dealt with life in a game in which he was the superior but treated as an inferior due to his skin color. The true impact of Aaron's life can be found

in the book, "I Had a Hammer." But despite Aaron's portrayal of the world the way it was during his playing days some critics looked to the book for other things besides the truth.

Los Angeles Times reviewer, **Jim Brovnan**, a former pitcher, stated, "I Had a Hammer" is a frustrating book, it's an irritating book. It's lacking wit and Grace. It's a hash of unappetizing grievances difficult to swallow. If your an African-American you've got a bitch about the white society. But if you beat the odds and achieve success shouldn't there be a useful lesson learned, a positive to be passed on. Aaron's chief complaint is that the African-American big leaguers have a tough time getting jobs in baseball when their careers are over. But so do whites."

Aaron responded to this quote by saying, "I don't know where **Jim Brovnan's** been living for the past few years. I wish somebody would tell me where he can compare blacks getting jobs compared to whites once their careers are over with."

In response to Brovnan also saying that the book lacked humor Aaron put it simply, "It wasn't supposed to be a fun book. It wasn't supposed to be that because I didn't laugh a lot in '53."

How does Brovnan expect Aaron to laugh at people breaking dishes in restaurants after Aaron ate from that. Is this the humor Aaron should have delivered in his book. Or maybe anything to derive from the realities of black life that many people simply don't want to hear anymore. But for young people, like myself, these are the things we need to hear about. From people like Aaron and from our parents who weren't athletes but did experience the same things Aaron did but under different circumstances.

Hearing Aaron's stories gives me a different perspective on the game of baseball when I watch it today. You realize the road travelled by blacks to get to the point where players like **Rickey Henderson** complain about three million dollars. Times have changed, but not much. Aaron offered one more story of more recent note.

According to Aaron, when the Braves hired **Bobby Cox** year ago as a general manager Aaron was the Vice President of the franchise and sat on the board of the Braves. Along with such a job came the customary parking spot along side all the other board members for the Braves. With the hiring of someone knew there became a need for an extra parking space. But there was only one. A small one at the end of the line of spots.

One day Aaron had left work and when he came back his spot had been moved down on the end in the smaller spot. Aaron confronted controller **Charles Sanders** who made the parking decision and asked him about it. Sanders responded by saying "will who's spot should I have moved." Aaron being the vice president and of higher authority than anybody who parked in the line of spots said, "Why didn't you move your own damn spot?"

While Aaron's book is read by baseball fans around the country one has to hope that the realities of the past and the recurrence of racism in the present can give the fans of baseball a closer look at the game so commonly labeled, America's game. White America's game which allowed blacks to play as equals between the foul lines. But didn't let them live as equals outside the foul lines.

From The Pits To Prosperity Profile Of A Black Man Who Fell, But Got Up

Bruce Feathers had a great life ahead of him! Having just graduated from one of the most prestigious liberal art colleges in the county (Carleton College, Nersfield, MN) he was destined for a white collar career opportunities. He was well on the road to begin a lifestyle much different from the way he grew up in Oakland, California. He graduated from Carleton in 1975 then in 1978 arrived in Portland to start his career with General Motors as a District Sales Manager for the Chevrolet Division. He stayed 5 years at G.M., then went to work for KGW-TV8 as the only black television advertising salesperson in the city. Bruce admits that up until this point in his life he had no belief in God. His first year with KGW he doubled his salary from what he made his last year at G.M. He seemed to be on the way to climbing

the corporate ladder of success. However, the next year things were much different. His financial success became ill-fated. Like so many of our young black men he fell deep into alcohol and drugs. Suddenly he saw his life beginning to fall apart. He was close to losing his job, his family and the many opportunities he had worked so hard for. Then it happened. Bruce had a spiritual experience. He met and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

However, the problems he had were still staring him in the face. He was in financial ruins, owed 15,000 to the IRS, had liability in a civil matter, also totaling 15,000 while his social and family life stagnated. Despite these obstacles, Bruce put his total trust in the Lord. He cites the Bible verse in Matthew 6:24-36 as his constant moti-

vation, "...Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all other things shall be added unto you."

Five years later, Bruce is Board of Trustee chairman for the church, Sunday School teacher, free from debt, and will reaffirm his wedding vows this summer celebrating his 10th year anniversary. He has 3 young boys ages 5, 4, & 2. Bruce also bounced back from almost being let go at KGW-TV8 to recently resigning to become Director of Sales Development for AVIA Athletic Footwear.

Possible Questions?
-What happen to Bruce?
-What really changed his life?
-What specifically did God do?
-Should his story be encouraging to others?
-What lessons did he learn?
-What is he doing to help others?

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