

# SPORTS

## Trailblazer Robert Pack is a Keeper

by Bill Barber

The most direct route to the Portland Trailblazers may be through New Orleans. Clyde Drexler was born there. Wayne Cooper played at the University of New Orleans, and now comes Robert Pack.

Robert Pack was all-conference, all-district MVP, Louisiana all-star. All everything at Lawless Senior High School in New Orleans! The biggest adjustment from high school in New Orleans to college and then to the Pros was:

- A. The uniforms
B. The practice time
C. The food

"The food is a lot different," Robert Pack said. "I've had to get adjusted to it since being on the west coast at USC and now in Portland. The food is a big change. I love cajun food. I miss the gumbo, the jambalaya and the red beans and rice." The subject of food didn't come up when the college recruiters came around.

Pack talked about the recruiting process: "You always have to look beyond the coach. Check out the school, to see if you're going to fit in that environment. Remember it's not just the coaches. Some of the coaches are re-recruiting you just for basketball. Honestly, that's what their job is, to win as many games as possible. As a student-athlete, first you have to look at the school's environment. When you visit the school, talk to the other players. Ask intelligent questions of the students you meet about the school. The coaches don't always give you the full deal about what's going on. It's important because the next four years of your life are going to be spent at that school, in that area. You have to see if your going to fit in, not just as a basketball player, but also as a student...the social life and everything else. You have to have a good rapport with the head coach. Most kids only meet with assistant coaches. They only have a certain amount of pull when it comes to playing time or dealing with the whole college situation. That's why you have to have a good rapport with the head coach."

USC coach George Raveling started things off right with Pack. He came down to Tyler (Texas) Junior College to talk with Robert. "Before we even talked about coming to USC, we just talked about life in general, and different things. Once I went to USC it was like a big family. That's the way he treated everyone--equally. He meant a lot to me. He still means a lot to me in my life. Coach Raveling was always there for me, even when things weren't going well for me (trying to get into the NBA). His interest went beyond school and my playing basketball. He is a good friend of mine."

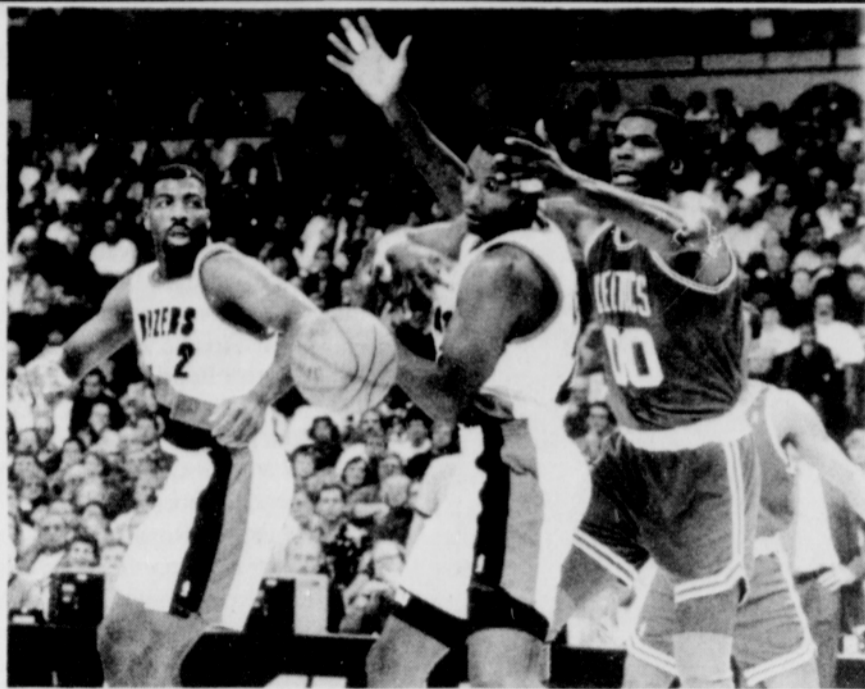
Fack has a healthy amount of self-confidence, but he is not a cocky guy. He has a lot of heart. That was demonstrated by his unlikely entrance into the NBA. Not only was he not drafted in the first round...he wasn't drafted at all. Not one NBA team even asked him to try out in a rookie camp. Most people would have taken this as a "hit you over the head" sign that you were through. Not Robert Pack. He played in the Pro Summer League. "I just wanted a shot," Pack said. "Brad Greenberg saw me and invited me to the veteran camp. "I treated it as my only shot. I came into camp and worked hard and things worked out for me."

Pack talked about his first experience in Blazer camp. "When I came to veteran camp it was a great feeling to play with Clyde Drexler, Terry Porter and guys I had watched play. I knew I was here for business. I'm trying to win a spot on this team that has 12 returning players. I just had to put that on the side, knowing all these guys are great players. I had to put myself in their position and figure it's time for business now. I just realized sometimes that I was playing with some of the best athletes in the world. It's a great feeling."

The rookie also had an important message for kids. "A pro basketball career wasn't promised to me. Even though it was something I had always dreamed about, I knew the chances of making it were slim. I put things in perspective. I knew I had to get a degree, so I would have something to fall back on. If I hadn't made it to the NBA I would have been lost without my degree." Ever since he left high school Pack focused on getting his degree in sociology. He got it in four years, and plans to return to school for an advanced degree in counseling & education. Pack likes to work with kids.

There are those who would say Robert Pack was lucky to be added to the Blazers. With the assists, steals and free throw percentage he has brought to the game, the Blazers made a good deal. With the hearts and willingness to give something back to the game and the community, the City of Roses will probably be the long term winner.

Welcome to Portland, Robert.



Jerome Kersey and Robert Parish, fight for the loose ball. Portland demolished Boston 116-90. Photo by Veronica Green



The 7th and 8th grade Pop Warner Football League held its championship game. Alpenrose defeated Jefferson-Self Enhancement, 19-13. (pictured is #32 Jeff Bennett of Jefferson on a 45 yard run to score a touchdown.) Photo by Veronica Green

## Fred Meyer/Trail Blazer Youth Basketball Tournament Set To Begin

The ninth annual Fred Meyer/Trail Blazer Youth Basketball Tournament is slated to begin on January 5, 1992. Boys and girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth 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 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 entry gift, compliments of Fred Meyer and the Portland Trail Blazers.

"The Fred Meyer/Trail Blazer Youth Basketball Tournament is the largest youth basketball 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 9, 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 \$25.00 per team, and teams cannot exceed 15 players. A team roster must be submitted with the application and entry fee.

## Congratulations! Gresham High School Class 4A Volley Ball Champions

## Prep Football

### Class 4A Second Round Friday, November 15

#### Upper Bracket

McNary (8-2) At Tigard (7-3) 7:30 pm
Ashland (9-1) At Newberg (6-4) 7:30 pm
Jesuit (10-0) At Mazama (8-2) 7:30 pm
Barlow (9-1) At Milwaukie (7-3) 7:30 pm

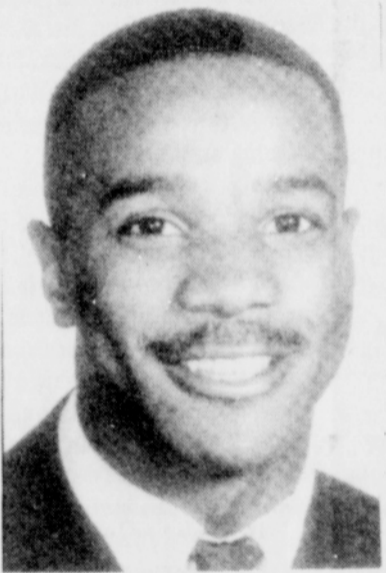
#### Lower Bracket

South Medford (9-1) At Glencoe (8-2) 7:30 pm
Reynolds (4-6) At Lake Oswego (7-3) 7:30 pm
Sunset (8-2) At South Salem (10-0) 7:30 pm
Grants Pass (7-3) At Marshfield (7-3) 7:30 pm

## PROFILES

## #23 CHARLES MCKINNEY

6-1 192 Junior 2V Guard
Portland, OR Wilson HS



OREGON STATE: Charles should be more consistent in his junior season...likely off-guard starting candidate...struggled from the field overall last season, but is a good shooter...OSU's biggest three-point threat heading into the season...member of Pacific-10 Conference All-Star team that toured Belgium and Holland over the summer...averaged 10.3 points and led the team in steals on the tour. (1990-91) Charles averaged 9.5 points, 3.1 rebounds and 3.4 assists while starting 24 of 28 games as a sophomore...hit game-winning 12-foot jumper with seven seconds remaining in double-overtime victory over UCLA, and had a similar shot rim out at the buzzer at New Orleans...scored a career-high 25 points on 8 of 14 (3-5 3FG) from the floor versus Gonzaga, and that started a season-long streak of seven games of scoring in double-figures...averaged 15.7 points during that streak...had 21 points on 7 of 10 from the floor, including 3 of 4 from the three-point line in the victory over Tennessee...drilled a season-high five threes versus USC...hit 14 of 25 (.560) threes in a midseason four-game stretch...averaged 12.6 points and 4.3 assists in games played at Gill Coliseum, but only 6.5 and 2.3 respectively on the road...deceptively strong rebounder, failing to get at least two cars in only three games...had a career-high nine boards at USC and had seven versus UCLA...had a career-high 10 assists against Arizona State...ended season in a slump, scoring in double-figures in just two of the final 10 games. (1989-90) Charles averaged 2.6 points as a true-freshman...saw limited minutes until the final three games of the season where he scored 33 of his season-total 55 points, including 18 (7-11) at Arizona State in the Pac-10 Tournament...also had nine points and four rebounds in NCAA Tournament contest versus Ball State...hit four straight free throws in a four-point overtime victory against USC...co-winner of Lew Beck Memorial Award (outstanding new player).

WILSON: USA Today's Oregon Player of the Year as a senior...Street and Smith's honorable mention selection...first team all-state as a senior as he led Wilson to the State 3-A title and a 26-0 record...Converse and McDonald's All-America nominee...averaged 16.7 points as a senior and 17.6 as a junior...buried 102 of 249 career three-point attempts...Wilson won 49 of 53 games during his junior and senior seasons...first team all-league, all-tournament and third team all-state as a junior.

PERSONAL: Born November 4, 1971 in Portland...son of Charles and Cecelia McKinney...has one brother, Aaron...hobbies include reading, skiing and bowling...majoring in speech communications.

### Career Statistics

Table with 17 columns: YEAR, G/GS, FG/FGA, PCT, 3-PT, FT/FTA, PTS, AVG, REB, PF/D, A, TO, BK, ST, MIN. Rows for 1990, 1991, and TOT.

### OSU CAREER BESTS

- Points 25, vs Gonzaga (1/7/91)
Rebounds 9, at USC (2/21/91)
Assists 10, vs Arizona State (3/2/91)
Steals 5, vs Memphis State (12/19/90)
Blocked Shots 1, vs California (1/5/91)
Field Goals 8, vs Gonzaga (1/7/91)
Field Goals Att. 14, three times
Field Goal Pct. .714, (5/7), vs Western Michigan (12/27/90)
3-Pt Field Goals 5, vs USC 2/21/91)
3-Pt Field Goals Att. 8, vs USC (2/21/91) & at California (1/31/91)
3-Pt FG Pct. .750, (3/4) vs Tennessee (12/22/90) & at Washington (1/19/91)
Free Throws 6, vs Gonzaga (1/7/91)
Free Throws Att. 8, vs Washington (2/14/91)
Free Throw Pct. 1.000, (6/6), vs Gonzaga (1/7/91)
Minutes 39, vs UCLA (1/24/91) & vs Oregon (1/12/91)



Advertisement for WWF Championship Title Match: Hulk Hogan vs Ric Flair. Text: 'FOR OVER A DECADE, MILLIONS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MATCH...AND NOW IT'S HERE!' Includes details about the match and ticket information.

## STANDINGS

League standings tables for AFC WEST, AFC EAST, AFC CENTRAL, NFC WEST, NFC EAST, and NFC CENTRAL. Columns include W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

The Blazers news section. Includes: RECAP: The Blazers opened by beating Cleveland 107-96... TOP PERFORMANCES: Scoring — 31, Clyde Drexler, vs. Cleveland... BEGAN THE WEEK: The Blazers opened the season Nov. 1, at home against Cleveland... FINISHED THE WEEK: The Blazers finished the week 2-3, 2 1/2 games behind Golden State.

The Blazers news section. Includes: BOSTON (Sunday, 5 p.m., BC): With point guards Brian Shaw and Dee Brown sidelined... DENVER (Tuesday, 7 p.m.): Nuggets, led by rookie center Dikembe Mutombo... AT MINNESOTA (Friday, 5 p.m., TNT): Wolves still can't score... AT DENVER (Saturday, 6 p.m.): In addition to Mutombo, rookie guard Mark Macon is making an impact for the Nuggets.

Western Conference Standings table. Columns include Division (Pacific, Midwest, Eastern, Central) and team records (W, L, Pct., etc.).