

# SPORTS

## Blazers as Football Players?



ALAA ABDELNABY

BY BILL BARBER

There has been a lot of speculation about the Portland Trail Blazers buying a Canadian Football league franchise. The biggest problem with an expansion team has always been that you always get the least experienced athletes. Most of the time the athletic ability of the new team is the major reason they dwell in the cellar for the first decade.

Portland may not have to wait ten years to have the Championship of the CFL under its Rose City (or Rip City) belt.

What would happen if the Blazers enacted a little used "personnel services" clause that is standard in its basketball players contracts?

We have all seen the lousy expansion teams like Tampa Bay and New Orleans as they struggle year after year. It is no fun being razed by your friends from around North America, who call to tell you they just saw your hometown team get beat by the Toronto Argonauts (103 - 6).

Alaa Abdelnaby has some ideas. In an exclusive Portland Observer interview Abdelnaby nominated himself as Director of player personnel. We asked him how he would utilize the players' talents if the Blazers were pressed into service on the new Portland Lightning Bolts football team. "First off, I would change the

name to the 'Lazers.' We would just drop the 'B,' which stands for Basketball in Portland. Besides, it would give Marshall Glickman the opportunity to invent 'Lazer Cable.' "What about tailgate parties? "That is the second thing on the list!" Alaa said. "No booze, but the food! It would be the world's most diversified tail gate party. There would be a wide variety of food. We would have "Buffalo wings" for Cliff Robinson (from Buffalo, NY), Chitlins for Buck Williams (from Rocky Mount, NC), lotsa Cajun food for our Cajun contingency, Robert Pack and Wayne Cooper (New Orleans), plenty of Texas beef for Clyde, deep dish Chicago-style pizza for Duck, Virginia ham for Jerome, and some Wisconsin Cheese for Terry Porter so he won't be homesick (U. of Wisc. - Stevens Point). At half time I would give out Pita Bread sandwiches with lamb, for the authentic Arabs, or Tuna and Turkey for the neuvel-cuisine eaters in the stadium, because we know how diversified football fans are. Fact is, since we don't have physicals until October, so everytime we score we'll have a tailgate party. We won't score that much so we will stay pretty thin. We will score so infrequently that not only will we spike the ball, our fans will be allowed to come down on the field and spike the ball. Heck, we will even give them all a ball, if we ever score."

OK Alaa, what positions would you play your teammates at on the (B)Lazers Football Team?

"Buck Williams and I would be defensive ends and tight ends too," Abdelnaby stated. "Clyde would be a flanker, running deep patterns, because of his speed. Terry Porter would be our Quarterback, especially on passing downs, because he completes so many passes on the basketball court. Danny Ainge would also be a QB because he is always bragging about how good a football player he was in high school. He said he played every position and he was great at all of them." (We had to halt the interview until Abdelnaby could stop laughing and regain his composure.) Alaa wasn't done yet however.

"If everyone was covered, Ainge could throw himself the ball, thereby making CFL history as the first man to complete a one-man outlet pass." (We had to halt the interview again - same reason). "I'm going to put Robert Pack in the backfield. They can't stop him on the basketball floor so they can't stop him on the football field either. Kevin Duckworth would play the entire offensive line on passing downs, because nobody can get to the guy with the ball when Duck sets a pick. Jerome Kersey will be our high flying receiver. Mark Bryant is our fullback and lead blocker. He is powerful. Lamont Strothers is at center, because they have to have big helmets and facemasks. Ennis Wheatley was going to be our free safety at the start of the season, but he has been lifting so many weights, that I have no choice but to make him a very strong safety now. I have been saying Wayne Cooper for Middle Line Backer, with a few anti-inflammatory medications he has got another good ten years in him." Rick Adelman would still be the head coach. Since the "Lazers" will be on a very tight budget the first few years the management may also have to play. Alaa agreed "Yes, Marshall Glickman will be on the field. He will have the biggest uniform on the field. Not because he the biggest guy, but because, as Marketing Director, he can use the oversized jersey for advertising corporate sponsors emblems and logos. Even logos of the other teams, if the price is right. It was Marshall's idea to take out the East Wall of the Civic Stadium and replace it with the 40 foot high "Lazer Vision" screen.

Alaa says, "Marshall Glickman, (who takes a lot of ribbing about his Marketing and advertising strategies) has an idea for the opening ceremonies of the first game. Geoff Petrie, #45, our starting wide receiver, will have his game jersey retired."

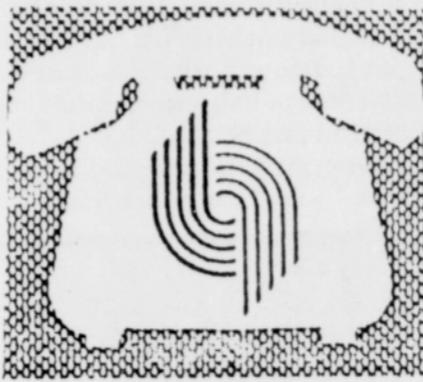
There are a lot of advantages to the Blazers playing football according to Alaa Abdelnaby. "There is a lot more time to rest between plays...we would establish a new football term, 'The Pick', when Mark and Duck were

blocking on sweeps...we'd be able to play for more than 12,000 fans...We could slam dunk over the field goal after touchdowns...cut way down on the dribbling...there are more refs on the field to argue with...and we are already a TEAM of men who like to play to win."

They are such a team in fact that there is only one rule change that might prevent the Blazers from becoming "Lazers." The CFL is still deciding if they will let players (Cliff Robinson) wear head bands on the outside of their helmets. Good Luck (B)Lazers.

portland trail blazers

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TAPED NOTES AND QUOTES



Support LITTLE LEAGUE

Celebrate Black History Month and St. Valentine's Day Special Sisterhood Luncheon

In celebration of Black History Month and St. Valentine's Day we are hosting a Special Sisterhood Luncheon at the Texas Two Annex, 1625 NE Alberta, on Friday, February 14, 1992 from 11:30-1:00 p.m. This luncheon will be a joint effort between the Sisterhood Luncheon Committee, The Urban League Guild and The National Council of Negro Women.

The lunch will consist of a buffet. The cost is \$8.50 per person paid in advance. Please send payment to the Black United Fund no later than Friday, January 24th, 1992. Come out and learn about the different sister organizations in our community, and help us celebrate Black History Month & St. Valentine's Day.

We look forward to your support of this worthwhile effort.

KXL-AM is Portland Area's Number-One Morning Radio Station!

KXL Newsradio 750 is now the number one morning radio station in the Portland market, according to the latest Arbitron Ratings. The Fall 1991 Arbitron Book reports KXL Newsradio 750 has a 9.8 share of the radio listening public (12+) from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., making it Portland's most listened to radio station during Morning-Drive.

Steve Leader and Diana Jordan comprise the morning team on KXL Newsradio 750 from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., providing listeners with a mix of news, traffic, weather, sports, business news and more! One hour of Morning-Drive includes the Rush Limbaugh Show which is now the Portland area's number two most listened to radio program (12+).

## 1992 Team Nautica USA Announced

Seven junior sailors have been named to 1992's Team Nautica USA after qualifying at the 1991 Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta, held at the U.S. Sailing Center, here, December 28-30. Named to the team were singlehanded sailors Mike Hare (La Porte, TX) and Danielle Brennan (New York, NY); doublehanded sailors Peter Wells (La Canada, CA) and crew Robbie Dean (Newbury Park, CA), and Tracy Hayley (Coral Gables, FL) and crew Linda Wennerstrom (Key Biscayne, FL); and boardsailor Scott Haladay (Lake Oswego, OR).

All of the team members have qualified to represent the United States at the IYRU Nautica World Youth Sailing Championship in Vilamoura-Algarve, Portugal, April 9-19, 1992. This year marks the first time Nautica will be the title sponsor of the World Youth Sailing Championship, and the second year that the Nautica Cup will be awarded to the overall national team which has gathered the most combined points in each of the five class divisions.

Classes for the event will be Laser (men's singlehanded), Europe (women's singlehanded), International 420 (men's and women's doublehanded) and Mistral IMCO (men's and women's board). The team will be funded by USSF grants and Nautica International, Inc.

Nautica will also provide uniforms for all team members.

"We are pleased to award, for the second consecutive year, the Nautica Cup -- a symbol of outstanding performance and excellence -- as a demonstration of our on-going commitment to youth sailing," said David Chu, president and founder of Nautica International, Inc.

A training camp will be held April 6-7 at the U.S. Sailing Center in Miami, FL. Coaches for the team have not yet been named.

Gay Lynn (Newport, RI), a US Sailing Senior and International Judge, will represent the U.S. as a member of the International Jury at the Worlds in Portugal.

The Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta was chosen as the qualifier for Team Nautica USA as the dates of this year's IYRU Nautica World Youth Sailing Championship are quite early.

The US Sailing/Nautica Youth Championship, the event which usually decides Team Nautica USA, will be held June 19-26, 1992, at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA. Applications are available to sailors 19 and under by calling Trish Walcott at the US Sailing office at (401) 849-5200. The deadline for submission is April 1, 1992.

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THANK YOU



Boogie Cat Productions would like to thank the Community for its support. With the help of local professional musicians who contributed their time, the "Happy Blue Year's" celebration at the Texas II lounge was a total success. A special thanks to Jeff Parks, Owner; Mary Alice Brett, Manager; and the Staff of the Texas II for their contribution to this event.

This event was promoted for the enhancement of entertainment in the Community. "The Community that works, plays, and prays together, stays together."

"Happy Blue Year" from Boogie Cat Productions Norman A. Sylvester

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