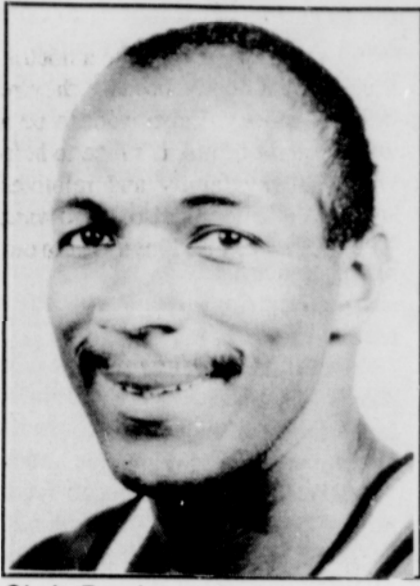


SPORTS

The Trail Blazers Are Half Way Home



Clyde Drexler

BY BILL BARBER

Congratulations to Clyde Drexler on being named the starting guard of the NBA All-Star game. With the NBA season at the half way point, it looks as if some of the problems experienced by the Portland Trail Blazers are starting to fade like the morning fog.

The average Blazer fan would probably key in on the same two problems when looking back at the early part of the season. First, the shooting percentages we uncharacteristically low for the same team that set its own

winning franchise record a year earlier. It made a lot of us think that the opposing teams were sneaking into the Coliseum early, so that they could string chicken wire over our baskets before the game. The part we couldn't figure out was how they were able to wire the basket on the other end of the court at halftime with over 12,000 of us watching. The second problem that the Trail Blazers have addressed in recent times is that when they take a leading score into the last few minutes of the game they have been able to leave the building with a new notch in the win column. That was not the case earlier in the season. Several times they lost games that seemed to be in the bag. The fact of losing all five of those games in the last few minutes has not escaped most Portland fans. After all, if those games had gone the other way, the Portland Trail Blazers would be right where they were last year at this time.

It is a good thing the home town team has played such good defense this year. Many fans think that the defense has improved over last years team. Admittedly the defensive game has to pick up the slack when the ball is not falling through the hoop. The encouraging thing to note about the defense going into the second half of the season, is that it seems to be holding up. At

this point in the season we are second in the NBA in field goal defense! From the floor the Blazers have only allowed their opponents to hit on .445 of their shots. When you couple that with the Blazers ability to control the boards by having the highest rebounding percentage in the league, you have to think they are in pretty good shape going into the second half of the season.

The team seems to be returning to its true form. Coach Rick Adelman hit the nail on the head when he said "We have a lot of the guys who are back in the groove again, and we are pretty much healthy." December was a rough month with so many of the players hurting. Terry Porter continued to play through a sprained left ankle, as did Jerome Kersey with daily treatments on his sprained right ankle. Danny Ainge was not 100 percent with his strained right knee. Then Kevin Duckworth no more than got healthy from a painful groin pull when he injured his left achilles. They are all Professionals and part of the job involves playing with pain. For the most part, everyone seems to be in good health as they pursue the brass ring.

If things keep improving with the Portland Trail Blazers, it is certainly going to be a lot of fun to be a basketball fan this spring.

Artists' Applications Sought

The Salem Art Association is now seeking applications from artists wishing to participate in the 1992-1994 Arts In Education Program (AIE).

AIE is a program of the Oregon Arts Commission providing arts education services to schools, institutions and community centers throughout the state. The Salem Art Association regional program serves Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. Residencies are generally from one to three weeks at an individual site and are funded equally by the site and the Salem Art Association.

Participating artists must be professionally accomplished. Some experience in an educational setting is preferred. Approximately 20 artists are selected representing the visual, performing and literary arts. These artists conduct residencies designed to enhance existing school curriculum and promote life-long learning in the arts.

Applications will be available in early February at Salem Art Association, 600 Mission Street SE, Salem, OR 97302, Mid-Valley Arts Council, 265 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301. A brief resume, references, documentation of work, plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of materials must accompany applications. Mail or hand-deliver to the AIE Program,

Salem Art Association. Deadline for submission is March 31, 1992.

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Youth Basketball Signups

On February 1, the NE Portland Salvation Army will hold basketball tryouts for its annual youth basketball league. This program is open to boys and girls 9-14 years of age and league play begins February 8th.

Any players interested in playing, please contact the NE Portland Salvation Army by phone at 282-2571, or stop in and sign up.

If you have any questions, contact Nate Owens or Derrick Williams at the Salvation Army, Monday-Friday after 5:00pm.

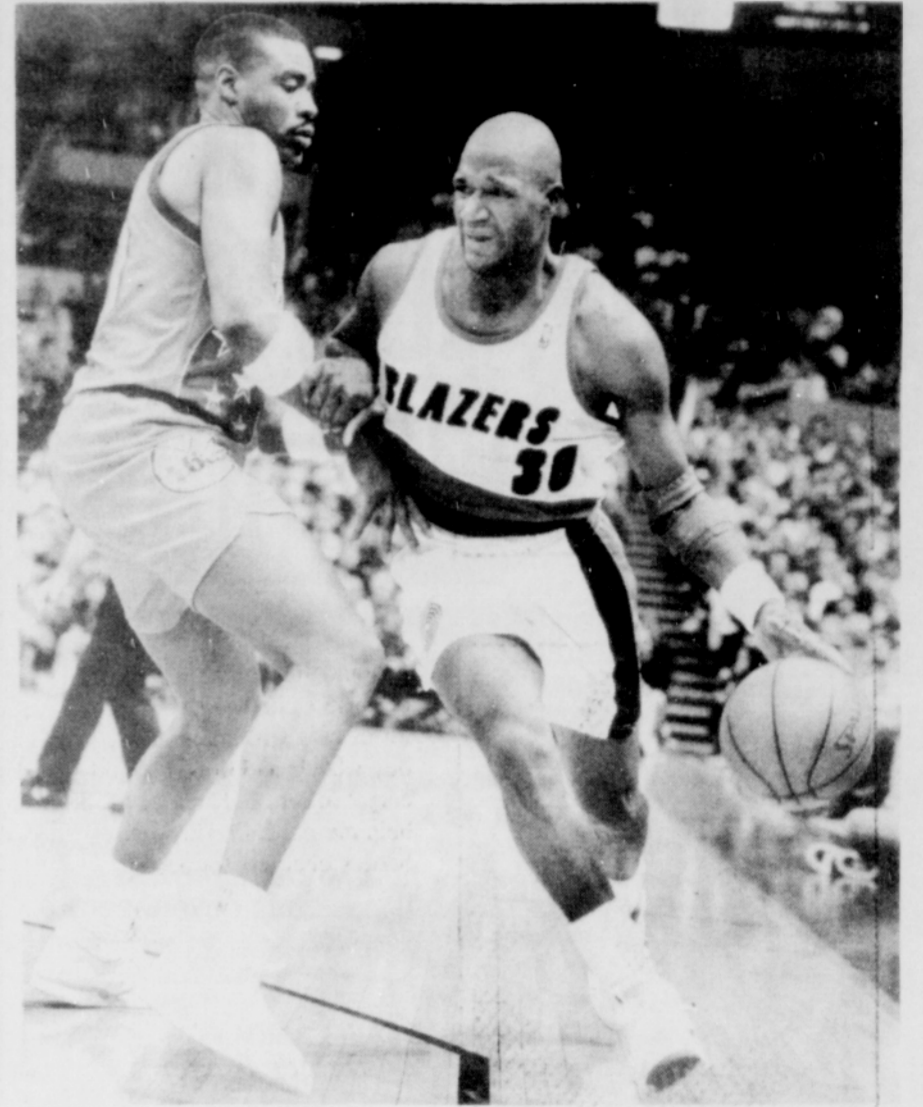


Photo by Veronica Green

Despite getting off to a slow start this season, Portland guard Terry Porter is averaging 16.3 points and 6.2 assists per game. Porter also leads the team in steals with 76.

Black Cultural Affairs Board Presents an Evening with

Nikki Giovanni

Saturday, February 15, 1992
 Smith Memorial Center Ballroom 7:00pm

Nikki Giovanni is a black poet, best-selling author, and activist. Tickets are available at Portland State's Ticket office, \$7 General, \$5 Students. A reception and book signing will follow at 9:00 pm in the Cascade Room.

Co-sponsored by Diversity Coordinating Committee and Women's Union. For more information call BCAB at 725-5660.

Portland Trail Blazers And The Oregonian To Recognize Young Sportswriters

The Portland Trail Blazers and the Oregonian have initiated a new program to inspire and reward high school sportswriters. The Northwest High School Sportswriters Challenge has been designed to recognize the top sportswriters in high schools throughout Oregon and southwest Washington. Students have the opportunity to cover one of their high school's boys or girls basketball games and, if their story is selected best in their school, have that story judged by members of the sports department staff at the Oregonian. While all participants will have received recognition for their efforts, ten finalists will earn special honors. Three students will come to Portland to cover the March 28 game between the Trail Blazers and Houston Rockets, earning the privilege of spending valuable learning time with professional sportswriters, as well as with the players and coaches.

Students, grade nine through twelve currently working for their school newspaper, throughout the state of Oregon and Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat,

Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in Washington state are eligible to participate. Advisors may also solicit entries from interested students not currently on the newspaper staff in addition to staff writers.

The program is running from January 13 through February 17. Participants must cover one of their school's boys or girls basketball games during that period. Schools will select one winning entry and the journalism advisor will forward that entry to the Trail Blazers so that it is received no later than February 27. Winners will be notified the week of March 16.

Many of the top sportswriters in the journalism field began their careers at the high school level writing for school newspapers. The writers, columnists and editors of tomorrow are honing their skills today in our region's schools. The Oregonian and Trail Blazers recognize that these students sometimes need special incentive to reach their potential. This program is intended to assist by providing incentive to these students.

Most Donors Ever Give Blood in King's Honor

The fourth annual American Red Cross, Albina Ministerial Alliance-sponsored King Memorial Blood Drive resulted in the collections of 52 pints of blood, the most ever given in Dr. King's honor.

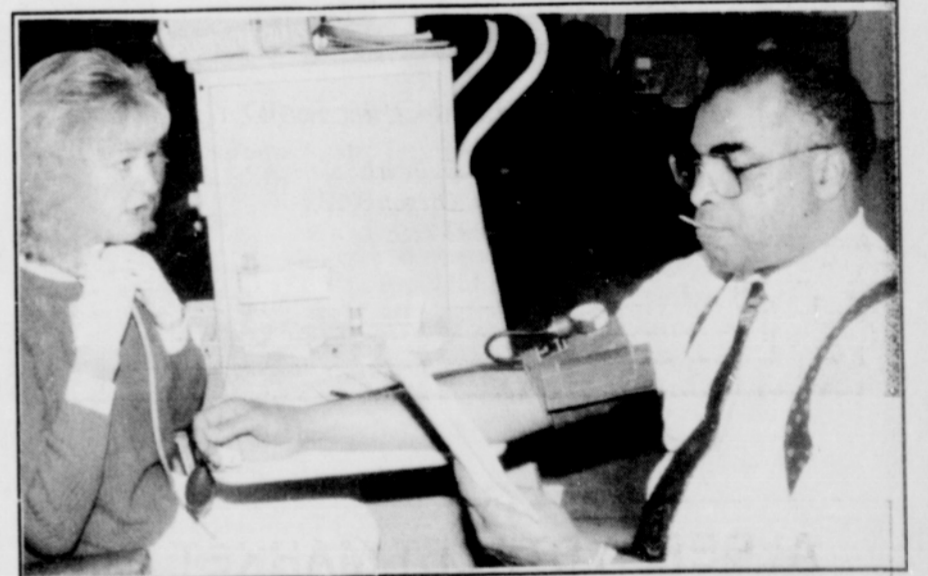
According to Volunteer Blood Drive Chairman, Charles Stoudamire, Red Cross Safety and Health Education director, the event, which was held on King's birthday rather than on the federal holiday, was successful in a number of ways.

"Our goal was not just to collect 50 units of blood," explained Stoudamire. "We hoped to draw new donors, particularly African Americans, into the blood system: We achieved this goal. More than half of our donors were people of color."

Additionally, 13 people from multi-cultural backgrounds joined the National Marrow Donor Registry. This is critical to patients because a person of a specific ethnic group is more likely to find a tissue match from people of the ethnic background.

Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services' donor base of 270,000 is made up of less than one percent African Americans. Multi-cultural representation on the National Bone Marrow Registry is also low.

"Red Cross must adequately represent the diversity of patients poten-



Bishop Wells, president of Albina Ministerial Alliance, goes through the health history screening process before donating blood at the AMA-Red Cross King Memorial Blood Drive. Wells was one of 52 blood donors.

tially needing life-sustaining blood and blood products," said Stoudamire. "Different groups of people have different blood types. About 20 percent of all black Americans have type B blood compared to about 10 percent of white Americans. Almost twice as many black Americans need type B blood if they have to be transfused."

Blood donors who attended the birthday celebration received refreshments donated from area merchants, which included Starbucks Coffee, Nabisco,

Helen Bernhard Bakery, Nature's Fresh Northwest, Doris Cafe, Ruth Ashbrook Bakery, Portland Bottling Company, Wonder Bread Bakery, and Poppers Supply. Donors also signed commemorative scrolls which Stoudamire sent to Coretta Scott King at the Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, GA.

African Americans interested in becoming blood or marrow donors can call Red Cross, 284-4040 to schedule an appointment or obtain additional information.

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.



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