

SPORTS

Schrempf's A Starter, Robinson Now Best Sixth Man!

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

Last year Detlef Schrempf, the versatile 6'10" forward the Indiana Pacers who averaged 17.3 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game to lead his team to the NBA playoffs for the third straight year, was named the winner of the NBA Sixth Man Award for the second straight season. Schrempf, from the University of Washington, became the third two-time recipient of the Sixth Man Award in its 10-year, along with Kevin McHale of Boston (1984- and 1985) and Ricky Pierce of Seattle (with Milwaukee in 1987 and 1989).

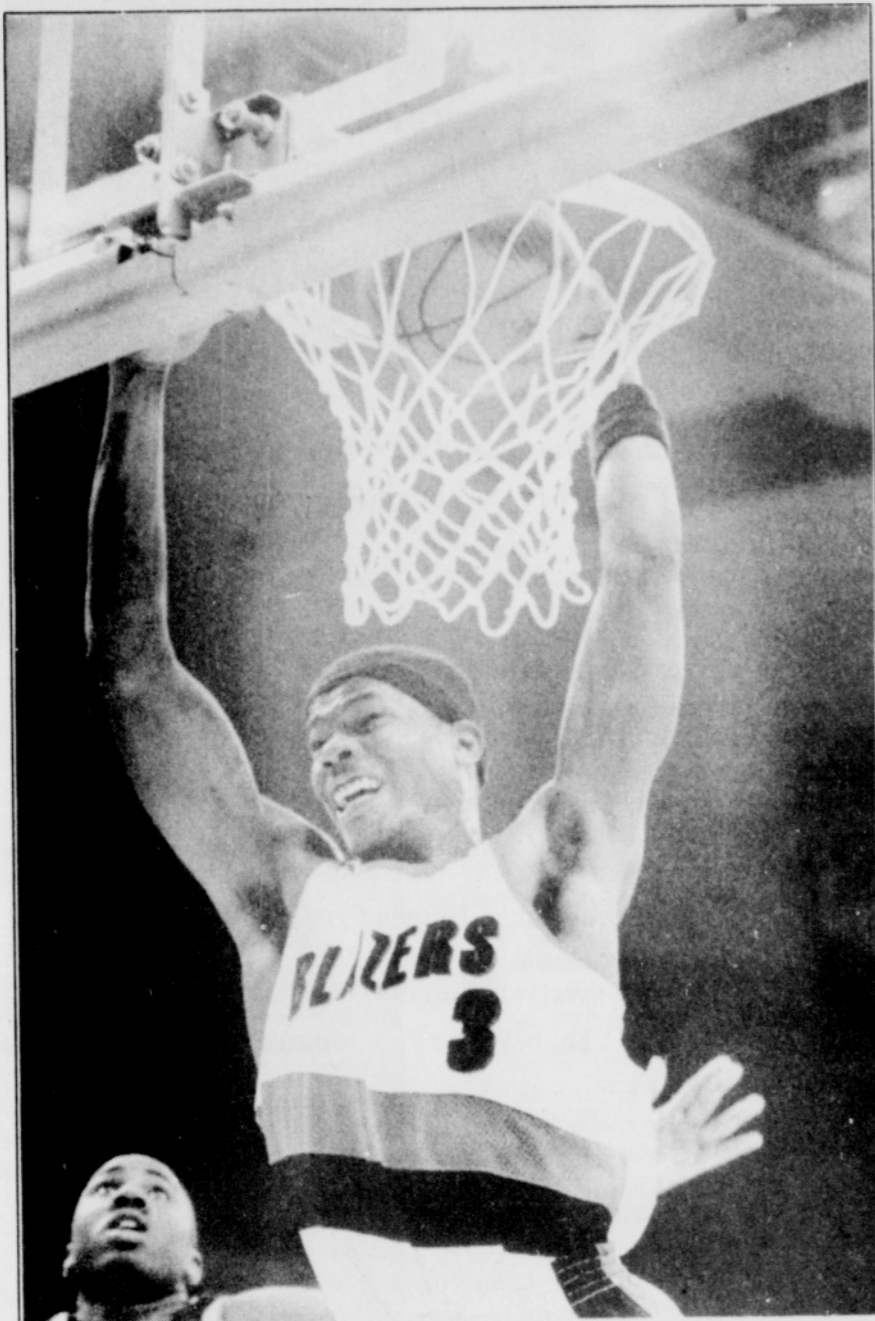
But, now, Schrempf has moved into the starting line-up for the Pacers and has left the Sixth Man Award wide open for one, Cliff Robinson, Cliff, the 6'10" swing man, in his fourth year with the Blazers and from the University of Connecticut has had a great start of the 1992-93 season.

After 19 games, Robinson has scored 19.7 points per game, along with all the other good things he adds to the Blazer team. He leads the team in blocked shots, and is a big reason the Blazers are off to a 13-6 record so far this season. Cliff's minutes are also up this year, he is playing 31.2 per game.

If Cliff keeps up this rate of play, he will also be picked to play in this year's NBA all-star game on February 21, 1993, in Salt Lake City.

I said in his first year with the Blazers, that he had what it takes to be a NBA all-star and now that will soon be a fact.

Cliff Robinson keep doing what you are doing and it will really pay off for you in many more ways than one. In closing, I must make note of



Cliff Robinson

the fact that Cliff Robinson is the SPOKESMAN for the Portland Saints AAU Women's Basketball Team. He

photo by Veronica Green

has helped raise money for the Saints for the last two years. Thanks Again, Cliff.

OVERTIME BLUES

By Eric Noon

Although the Portland Trailblazers have demonstrated that you can win with bad shooting in the past, they also have displayed that a defensive let down can be a problem. When the Blazer defensive intensity is strong, they create shots off turnovers. The Blazers, a chronically poor shooting team, need more field goals attempts than their opponents to be competitive on most nights. Turnovers are a critical statistic for the Blazers. The more missed opportunities, the less shot attempts.

Facing the Indiana Pacers, winners of four in a row, last Friday, the Blazers committed two less turnovers (23), but didn't capitalize like the Pacers did. In the 134-124 double-overtime loss, the points off turnovers played a key role in the outcome. The Pacers had 35 compared to 23 for the men in red and black. Vern Fleming had a season high 28 points, and many coming from the hands of Blazers, as turnovers.

Even though the Blazers got off more shots (109-104), they only sank 41 percent, while the Pacers hit 52 percent of theirs. To shoot that percentage, you have to put up more shots than your opponents or be hitting the three pointers fairly well.

The Blazers gave the Pacers a chance to win in the end and they took it, with a 112-112 tie the game, on a Ken

Williams jump shot, with 19 seconds left, the Blazers looked to have a chance. Then Clyde Drexler picked up a questionable offensive foul with 3.5 seconds left in regulation to give the Pacers another shot. But Drexler tipped an errant pass, that created a turnover to give Terry Porter the last chance, but Porter barely missed the 22 footer jumper to send the Blazers into their first overtime of the season.

The lead bounced back and forth until the Pacers looked in control, down one with 26.3 seconds left. Then the apparent Cliff Robinson block shot was whistled foul, and Vern Fleming made the first, but missed the second free throw as the Coliseum crowd roared, with still 3.1 seconds on the clock. But the Blazers were denied again, when Drexler was called for yet another offensive foul. The drive, a mirror image of the previous offensive call against Drexler, against Dale Davis left the Blazer coaching staff and crowd furious.

"The first drive Clyde was a little out of control," said Davis, "The second drive I don't know. I was just happy to get the call."

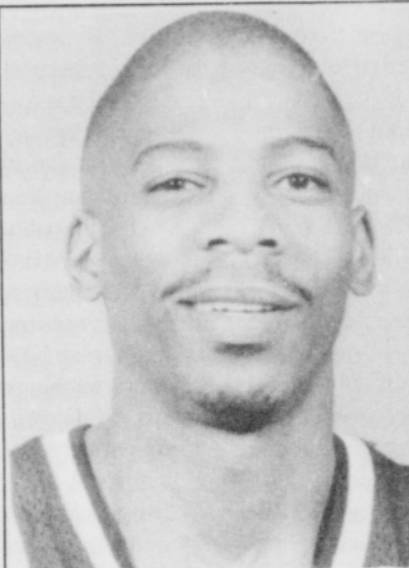
The second overtime was terrible for the Blazers, as they seemed drained. The 35 foot jump shot, as the shot clock expired, by Reggie Miller with 2:50

left took the wind out of the Blazers sails from then on. The Blazers were outscored 15-5 in that final overtime to seal the Pacers victory.

The tired and beat up Blazers bounced back to side step the Washington Bullets 117-98 Sunday night in fine fashion. The Bullets took a commanding 18-3 lead early on, and it looked to be another long night for blazer fans. But after Kevin Duckworth went out after only three minutes, Cliff Robinson came in to lead the way again. You just can't say enough about the way Robinson is playing. The valuable sixth man went 16-21 from the field with another career high, 32 points and 11 rebounds to lead the blazer comeback.

After the Blazers woke up, and Robinson outgunned Harvey Grant, who had a career high 37, the reserves finished up. Newly acquired forward/center Joe Wolf made the most of his time, getting six points in seven minutes. Dave Johnson and Reggie Smith also played good in limited minutes.

Although the Blazers are battered up pretty well with duck's knees, Mario's ankle, Jerome's knee, rod's fingers, and other small injuries, they have the same record as this time last year at 13-6. It's still early in the season and there's a lot of new faces to incorporate in to the Blazers scheme. Getting some early minutes as Tracy Murray has, will only help him later and the team, in the play-off stretch. With a long season ahead the Blazers need a little something from Santa themselves - consistency. The Blazers hit the road again to night against the Denver Nuggets. And for Blazer fans who never get see a live game, there are still tickets remaining for the Sonic's game up in Seattle Friday.



Vern Fleming

Swim Instructor Training Planned

Portland Parks and Recreation will offer a swim instructor training course December 27-30 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Dishman Pool, 77 NE Knott. Participants must be at least 15 years old. Swim Instructor certificates will be awarded to those who successfully complete the program.

Those who qualify will also be considered for Portland Parks swim instructor positions. The starting wage for swim instructors is \$6.25 per hour.

To register or for more information call Dishman Pool at 823-3673.

Volunteers Needed For St. Vincent De Paul's Christmas Drive

Volunteers play an essential role in the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas food Drive. The food drive collects and distributes 300,000 pounds of canned and dry food to more than 5,000 needy families in the Portland metropolitan area.

According to Janice Peltser, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, 4,500 volunteers help collect, sort, package and deliver food.

The peak of activity arrives December 19 when more than 1,500 volunteers will deliver generous food boxes to needy families in the tri-county area.

Pelster encourages individuals, families, schools, businesses and church and civic groups to volunteer. Anyone interested may call St. Vincent de Paul at 234-1114. Financial contributions may be mailed to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Program, P.O. Box 82849, Portland, Or 97282.

Merry Christmas



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