

SPORTS

Earning A Prestigious Rank In The PGA

Robert Clark, 52, has never give up on his dream.

The assistant golf pro at Heron Lakes Golf Course is the only African-American assistant professional golfer in Portland, thanks to Byron Wood, head professional at the course.

"There's pressure, being the only one of anything. But it's something you can deal with, if you want it bad enough," Clark said.

Portland has seen black assistant golf pros before, but none have completed the rigid requirements of the Professional Golfer's Association.

Clark is on his way to obtaining his Class A membership.

"It's more difficult than I thought it would be," he said. "First of all you have to work under a professional. Once you find someone to work for, you can get into the program."

Other requirements include a six month probation period, rules test, player ability test, two sessions of business school and completion of the PGA work book.

Clark said he took up golf late in life, at age 24.

The Toledo, Ohio native was a four-sport letterman in high school, participating in baseball, track, football and basketball.

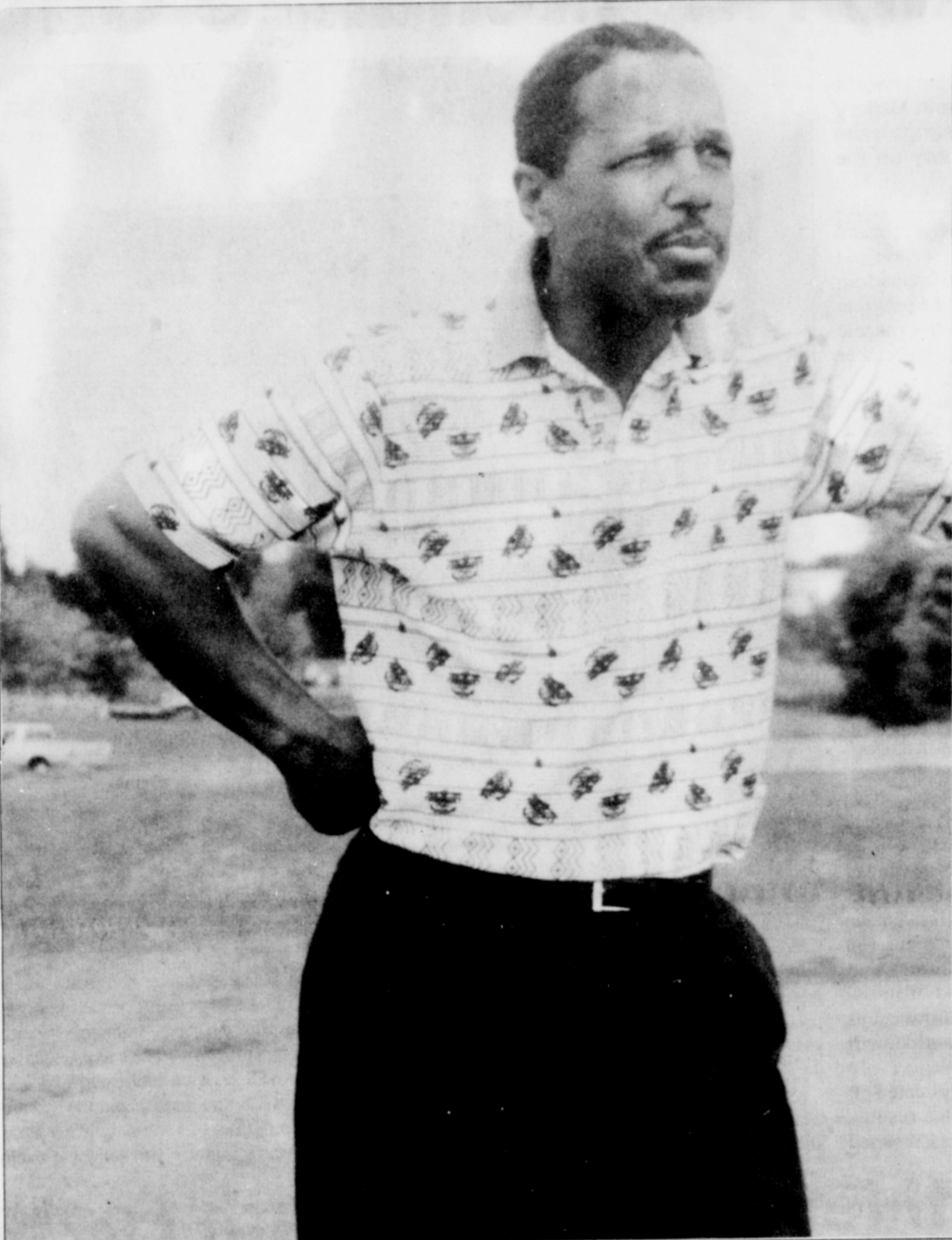
Employed as a salesman, he moved around a lot, including Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Detroit. He settled in Portland 15 years ago and operates an insurance business.

His advice to black youngsters is the same for any youth.

"Don't give up on your dream, if there's something you want to do, keep working at it and you'll achieve it," he said.

Clark knows what persistence is all about.

He first wanted to be a golf pro in 1969. The sport had few



Robert Clark of Portland is completing the requirements to earn Class A membership in the Professional Golfer's Association.

African-Americans then, and he couldn't find a Class A professional to work for.

The PGA did not open its doors to blacks until 1960.

Charlie Sifford was the first

African-American golfer to break the barrier. At 73, Sifford still plays on the PGA's Senior Tour.

The murder investigation of O.J. Simpson led a Portland resident to put his thoughts on the subject to words.

Don't Call Them Stars, Call Them Heroes

BY AARON MIAULLIS

O.J. Simpson where have you gone?

You were the hero I read about

And now you are charged with murder

I cannot, in my heart, judge you guilty

You will always be:

a golden boy on the playing field,

a gentle, smiling face talking about sports,

a thousand belly laughs in the "Naked Gun,"

a cheerful and funny rental car spokesman,

a symbol of the American Dream for all races,

and now, you will also be a tender, broken man,

who only wished to have his last breath beside his wife's grave.

Michael Jackson where have you gone?

You were the hero I read about

And then you were charged with child-molestation

I cannot, in my heart, judge you guilty

You will always be:

a dancer, a singer and a thriller on MTV,

a voice among many in "We are the World,"

a rock star who used money for people, not drugs,

a man of all races and self-made into that

and now, you will also be a scared, hidden man,

who paid millions to avoid media crucifixion.

Mike Tyson where have you gone?

You were the hero I read about

And now you are in jail for rape.

I cannot, in my heart, judge you guilty

You will always be:

an inhumanely fast powerhouse at the bouts,

a boxer named "Iron Mike,"

a laughing man in a "Fresh Prince" video,

a king of the ring ruling with style and grace

and now, you will also be a professed innocent man, in jail because a young girl's world counted more than yours.

Magic Johnson where have you gone?

You were the hero I read about

And now you have HIV

I cannot in my heart, judge you guilty

You will always be:

a basketball player who played more for fun than cash,

a panther of grace and beauty across the court,

a leader of the community and causes,

a honest, polite and civil ballplayer

and now you will also be a very big, brave man, facing death and public ridicule from an enemy we can't even see.

Black heroes where have you gone?

You are the heroes I read about

And now you hang in the wind

I cannot, in my heart, judge you guilty

You will always be:

a shining light out of my dark depressions,

an example of hard work, skill and talent,

a dream of being someone special,

a positive reflection of who we could be

and now, I ask Cosby, Jordan and Murphy to watch their backs

and Simpson, Jackson, Tyson and Johnson,

even in your darkest hour,

you are not stars

you are heroes.

Rockets Win NBA Championship

BY JOSH BRANCH

The city of Houston finally wins their first National Basketball Association championship. They got the win last week after beating the New York Knicks 90-84. What made this victory so unique was that it was at their own house, right there in Houston with hundreds of thousands of fans rooting them on.

As you may have saw, Hakeem Olajawon earned the Most Valuable Player spot with 25 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots, and to go with all that, he already won the Defensive Player of the Year Award.

After the game was over the court was flooded with people, in fact there was noting but people you could not even see the floor, the police held off as many as they could, but that wasn't enough as fans flooded the gates and weren't turning back.

"You can always imagine what it would feel like to win a world championship, but it is nothing like the real thing," said Kenny Smith, point guard for the Houston Rockets.

This had to be the most exciting series yet, because all the games of the seven-game series were decided in the last 2-3 minutes of the game, especially this one.

Houston led most of the game with the Knicks blazing right behind them the whole way, 22-21 after the first quarter and 63-60 after the third.

"It has been a very long year. I remember the first round against Portland. It seems like ages ago. The thin ice crackled under our feet on the way, we managed to get off the thin ice and walk on safer grounds, and that's how we won the game, this is a true team effort," said Rudy Tomjanovich, the Houston coach.

Boozer Golf Tourney Kicks Off

BY PROMISE KING

Late James "Jim" Boozer's name will resurrect at a memorial golf tournament named after him, courtesy of the Omega Boys and Girls Club and Coalition of Black Men.

Boozer was very active and highly regarded in the Portland community for his unselfishness, compassion and concern for youth.

"The tournament will be held at the Glendoveer Golf Course and will be a city-wide event with many local businesses and corporations participating," said Boozer's widow, Alcena Boozer, the tournament's honorary chairperson, who is also the principal of Jefferson High School.

The tournament is organized to raise funds to defray the Omega Boys and Girls Club expenses for the year. Dignitaries drawn from the Portland Trail Blazers Alumni Team, the Blazers' staff, the Portland Observer, the KGON/KFXX

broadcasting crew and Channel 6 news team, will square-up at the event. Other celebrities from other corporations will also participate at the tournament scheduled for July 9.

Organizers are seeking donations from corporate and business sponsors, at between \$100 and \$1,500. Entry fees for 18 holes is \$50 and with a celebrity guest the fee is \$75. Registration is limited to 150 players.

Prizes, include a 1994 BMW 3181 series, trophies, a paid vacation and golf equipment.

This is the fourth tournament in Boozer's memory. A dinner party will follow the event.

The Omega Boys and Girls Club is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Coalition of Black Men. The coalition serves as role models and mentors to club participants. Coalition members emphasize spirituality, pride, self-esteem, respect and reinforcing positive manners.

Notice Of Council Informal Meetings

Wednesday, June 29, 1994; 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Blue Room, The Mayor's Office

1120 SW 5th Ave

Subject: Non-resident Golf Fee Surcharge

This meeting is being coordinated by the Mayor's Office, 823-4120. Please note that the Council and City Auditor will meet informally for dinner at Sante, 3000 SE Division, at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 29. There is no agenda for the meeting and no official city business will be conducted.

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