

SPORTS

THE JURY IS STILL OUT

BY ERIC NOON

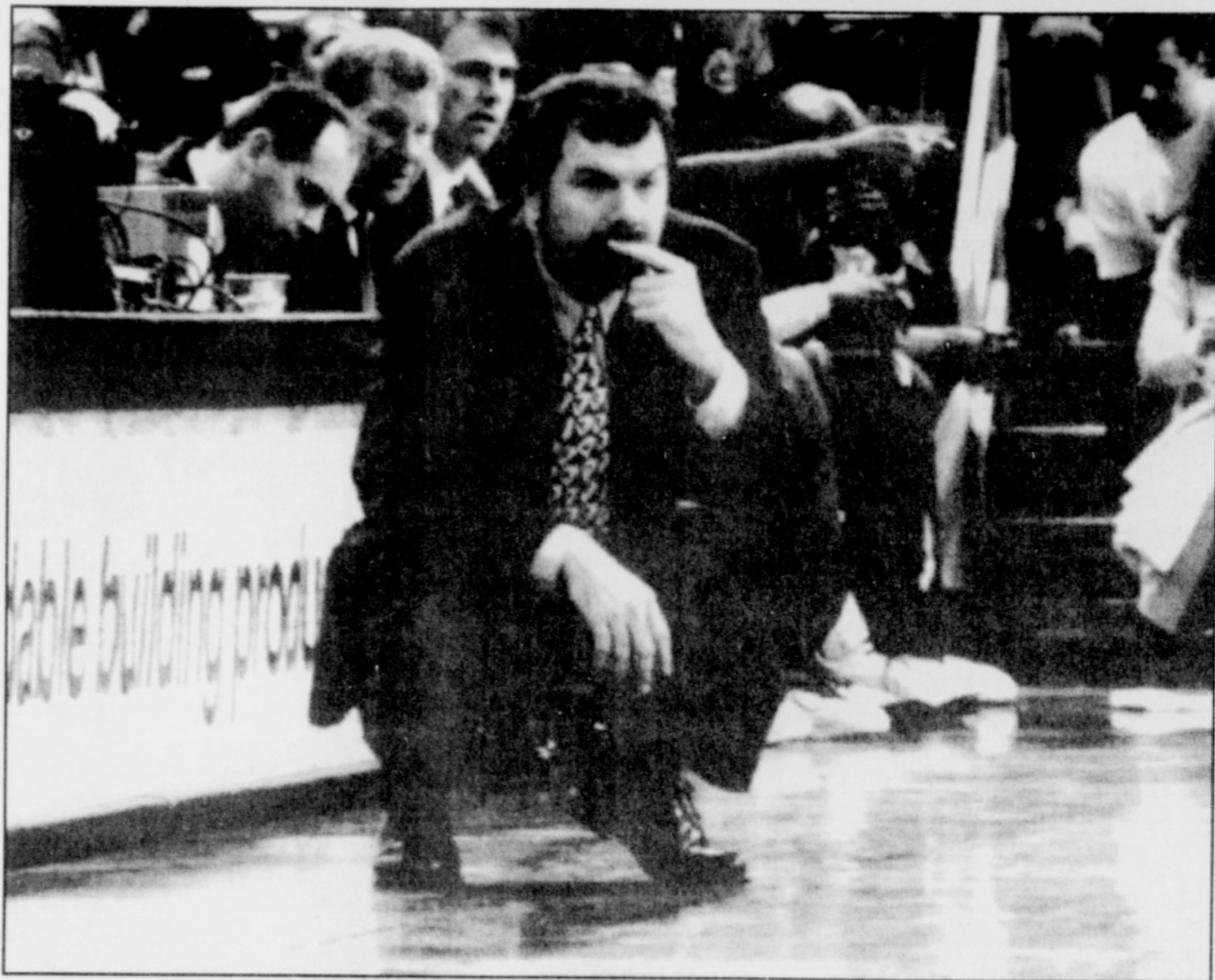
With the Portland Trail Blazers 25th anniversary season well under way, head coach P.J. Carlesimo is getting his inaugural season in the NBA going also. The eighth head coach in franchise history has had mixed results so far this season as the Blazers have flirted with a .500 record most of the year.

Carlesimo, who spent 12 years coaching at Seton Hall in New Jersey, comes to town with a well-respected coaching record in the college ranks. But the NBA is a different ball game, and fortunately Carlesimo has surrounded himself with quality assistant coaches to nurture him through his rookie season. Dick Harter, assistant coach with Pat Riley and New York Knicks for three seasons, gives Carlesimo a seasoned veteran to confide in the NBA coaching arena.

A pro basketball coach must take a group of talented and rich individuals, convince them to sacrifice personal goals for the teams benefit, push them when they're tired, pick them up when they're down, and hope that together they turn out winners.

What Does Carlesimo think about the NBA so far?

"I Love it," says the smiling coach after recent Blazer victory. "We have a very good team and great people to work with, but we'd like our record to be a lot better."



The Blazers have been really inconsistent so far this season, and with Rod Strickland missing 10 games and Clyde Drexler missing a half dozen himself, the Blazers haven't found their groove.

"We have a better team than we've been playing, said Strickland. "So I would hope everybody would not be disappointed."

Carlesimo, who played under Digger Phelps at Fordham University,

has had some professional experience with the Dream Team and an active roll with USA Basketball. He has coached NBA players at various levels and really looks forward to the challenge with his new role.

Some people see the Blazers as in a rebuilding mode, but coach Carlesimo refutes such a prognosis about this aging veteran team.

"It's hard to call this a rebuilding situation," says Carlesimo. "I don't think that's true, and I know our players don't think that's true."

Some time it's hard to tell the Blazers don't think their window of opportunity has closed, the energy and the drive isn't there like it was in the past. The word is the Blazers are getting to old and don't have the legs or the desire to maintain the level of intensity it takes to win in the NBA on a regular basis.

The key is the Blazers have players who know what it takes and have been there when they step out on the court and think there going to win every night. Getting key veterans like Buck Williams, Clyde Drexler and a healthy Terry Porter, working as a unit again leading this team is the job that Carlesimo and staff have ahead of them.

The NBA season is long, and if the Blazers gel at the end going into the playoffs they'll be fine. Owner Paul Allen made some big moves in the off-season, with big shake-ups while the roster basically remained the same. The old coaching staff was well liked and it will take some time for transition of a new system and even more time for the chemistry to gel.

SPORTS BRIEFS

SPORTS

Sterling Sharp

Green Bay wide receiver Sterling Sharp, may collect as much as 3 million dollars from his insurance coverage if he is unable to play football again.

Emitt Smith

Cowboys lose Smith again. Running Emitt Smith re-injured his left hamstring in Sundays game against the Green Bay Packers.

Miami Erickson Meets With Seahawk Owners

University of Miami coach Dennis Erickson met with Seahawk owner Ken Behring Saturday about the teams head coaching job.

"I'm interested in the situation because it was where I was born and raised" Erickson to the Seattle Times after his arrival at San Francisco Airport, Friday night.

Behring fired Tom Flores last month after the end of the regular season. Flores had compiled a 6-10 record last season and 14 34 overall.

Behring and his son, team president David Behring, met with Erickson for four hours Saturday.

Erickson 47 has two national championships and a 63-9 record in six seasons at Miami. The Hurricane was 10-2 this, losing to Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

BASKETBALL

Dallas Maverick

Jason Kidd Dallas Maverick rookie guard was accused of punching a man as he left a New Years Eve party in Dallas.

Kidd admits to being involved in a conflict however he denied that he punched anyone. No charges were filed.

Kenny Gattison Recieves Surgery

Kenny Gattison of the Charlotte Hornets had surgery to fuse two discs in his neck. He suffered a cervical spine contusion in a Nov. 15 game against Cleveland when he collided with Michael Cage. He still does not have full feeling in his hands.

The surgery will allow Gattison to live a normal life without fear of paralysis from another sudden jolt.

He will spend the next four to six weeks with his neck immobilized. It will be 10-12 weeks before it is known if he will be able to return to basketball.

BOXING

Carlos Monzon

Carlos Monzon, a former middle weight boxing champion was killed in a car accident in Argentina. He was 52 Monzon won the middleweight championship on Nov. 7, 1970 with a 12th round knock out of Nino Benvenuti in Rome. Monzons record was 89-3-8.

WILSON EDGES CLEVELAND

BY DANNY BELL

Cleveland in a pursuit of keeping its play-off hopes alive came up against number 2 Wilson Friday night at Wilson.

Wilson would ultimately prevail 66-61, but not without first facing a tough Cleveland team that gave them everything they could handle.

The win kept the Trojans (8-0, 4-0) undefeated and tied for first with Benson, and Jefferson in the PIL.

The Warriors fell to 2-2 its only other lost was to Jefferson "This was the first real competition we had to play" said Wilson coach Jack Bertell "To tell you the truth I think we came up short. We let them back into the game. We couldn't manage to keep McKelvey from being effective on the inside."

With 3:08 left in the third quarter Cleveland made 11-4 run sparked by the play of Leonard Prescott cutting a 50-39 deficit to 54-50.

Prescott hit a 15 foot jumper then drove to the basket for two more. He finished with 22 points, 15 in the first half.

Both Wilson and Cleveland came out in the fourth quarter making 3 pointers from Wilson Jermaine Thompson and Cleveland Justin Warren.

Monyell Hedgeman made a free-throw to bring the Warriors within 3 with just under six minutes to go.

Wilson had to play most of the second half with out their impact

player Tyrone Manlove due a cut he received on his forehead when he collided with Amos Allen.

By the time Manlove returned with 3 minutes left in the game Wilson was in the midst of building a 10 point lead.

Manlove still managed to score 19, playing limited minutes.

"I think our team played a little scared at the end" said Prescott who hit four 3 pointers but was held scoreless in the fourth quarter. "We didn't match up well underneath and we got intimidated."

Coach Tom Beatty for Cleveland summarize his point of view by saying "they're good, but we have got to start beating some of these good teams. We got within five in the second quarter and missed easy lay-ups and shots from the inside if we are going to win we have to make those shots."

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS "SALUTES THE FAMILY" NORTH AMERICAN TOUR SET TO TIP-OFF

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters tipped-off their 69th North American tour on Tuesday, Dec. 27, when they entertain fans at the Dayton Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. Fans of the World's Greatest Basketball Show will be able to see the team play in nearly 200 North American cities. The team has dedicated this year's tour to their families as the 1995 tour theme is the Harlem Globetrotters "Salutes The Family." The North American tour will end on April 6 in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Mannie Jackson, Globetrotters' chairman and owner, said fans should be extremely excited about this tour.

"We have added a new team to this year's tour in select markets where the players will magically make the basketball disappear. Our fans should also be ready to experience the latest innovations in game entertainment as well as high quality athletics," Jackson said.

Fans are already showing their excitement about the tour with ticket sales up from the same time last year.

This year's tour also marks the beginning of the "Sweet Lou" Dunbar farewell tour. After 16 years with the Harlem Globetrotters, Dunbar has decided to hang up his uniform at the end of the 1996 season.

Dunbar said, "I love being a Harlem Globetrotter. It has given me an opportunity to play the game I love and have fun doing it. I got a chance to see the world, but most of all I have the opportunity to do something that not many other people can do-- make people laugh."

The player roster has six all-star rookies as well as veteran NBA star the 6-11, 280 "Chocolate Thunder", Darryl Dawkins. Dawkins is fulfilling a life-long dream to play for the Harlem Globetrotters.

The Harlem Globetrotters are the most popular family entertainment show in the world as they have performed for over 100 million people in 113 countries in the past 69 years.

FAMILY RE-INVEST IN COMMUNITY

DANNY BELL

The La Beck family owners of Video Chest movie rentals has recently purchased a health club franchise and located it in North Portland on Lombard in the St Johns district.

Owners of Video Chest on Lombard and 42nd. They sold the operation on 42nd to finance their acquisition of World Gym a franchise health club most recently owned by Arnold Schwarznegger.

According to Terry La Beck the family wanted to re-invest in the community with an enterprise that would dismantle some of the negative perceptions that the city's residents have of north Portland.

World Gym emphasizes having nice and attractive facilities that cater to the many diverse needs of the community ranging families to blue collar workers and executives.

World Gym is open 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week.

The La Beck's have purchase the state of the art equipment such as: Hammer Strength, Body Master, Life Step, and Sybex.

The La Becks have made a special effort to provide such services as day-care for children for parents, they offer affordable rates such as unlimited day-care for \$15.00 A Month.

Another aspect of World Gym's appeal is that they are open 24 hours a day, this aspect accommodate several of their corporate accounts who have employees that work around the clock. Several of those accounts are Oregon Steel, Freightliner, and Kaiser Permanente. The format is a well thought out program that provides their clients with personal trainers all of whom have degrees in physical education. Their personal trainers are also employees rather than sub contract workers, this makes them more available to their clients.

The La Becks also have a dietitian

on staff to help with dietary needs of those who use World Gym.

There are also two exercise floors. Ally the aerobic instructor specializes in funk aerobics which is a combination of popular dance and exercise.

Over a thousand people have signed up to join World Gym since they opened in November.

They have made every effort to integrate personal consideration of different lifestyles in their marketing strategy.

They have tried to make those as different from another as senior citizens, to single parents, to grave yard and swing shift blue collar workers a place to work out and find a viable alternative to taverns and bars.

Cost of membership is \$39.00 initiation fee and \$29.00 a month on 12 month contract.

World Gym is the only private health club of its kind in North Portland.



WORLD GYM - ST. JOHNS

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Give The Gift of Health

25th
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