

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL

All-star Voting

David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs leads all Western Conference players in the voting of NBA all-stars. Robinson has 402,477 votes, 8,030 votes ahead of Houston's Hakeem Olajuwun. Charles Barkley of Phoenix leads among forwards, with 7,442 votes ahead of Seattle's Shawn Kemp. Golden State posts two top vote getters with Tim Hardaway and Latrell Sprewell.

Undefeated

Behind the play of Rebecca Lobo, who scored 13 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and had 9 blocked shots, Connecticut was able to maintain their undefeated record and number 2 ranking, in beating No. 19 Seton Hall in a Big Eight women's game last weekend at Connecticut.

UNLV Coach Leaves Hospital

University of Las Vegas Coach, Tim Grugovich was released from the hospital after spending a week of treatment for symptoms of exhaustion. Doctors found nothing significantly wrong in tests, but recommended that the coach continue to rest.

HOCKEY

NHL Players Ratify Contract

Partial returns show National Hockey League players have ratified the owner's last proposal by 85 percent. The vote opens the way to a 48-game season with the playoffs beginning May 6.

BASEBALL

Owners Consider Replacements

Baseball owners are prepared to use replacement players in the 1995 season and World Series. On the other hand, striking major league players, are considering a city-by-city barn storming of all-star team games this spring. "As difficult as it would be to conduct a World Series with replacement players, it would be something we would do," said John Harrington, Boston Red Sox chief executive officer and head of the management's operating committee. Spring training is scheduled to begin Feb. 16 with minor-leaguers and replacement players.

OREGON WINS CIVIL WAR

BY DANNY BELL

So far this has been a Cinderella year for the University of Oregon athletic department. After surprising most of the nation by winning the PAC 10 and going to the Rose Bowl, the basketball program gets off to a whirlwind start and sits atop the PAC 10 with an 11-1 record overall and 3-0 in conference.

Saturday night, Oregon met Oregon State for their 300th meeting. The Ducks went into the game at Corvallis rated 25 in the country after beating No. 2 UCLA.

The Ducks took it to the Beavers in front of 10,258 fans and came away with a 96-83 victory.

Oregon forced the usually sure-handed Beavers into 18 turnovers in the first half. Oregon State's season high had been 17 turnovers for a whole game.

The Ducks got points from 10 players, and 41 points off the bench. Orlando Williams gave the Beavers headaches as he scored 25 points and was 4 for 8 from three-point range. Henry Madden contributed 13 and Aaron Johnson 12.

"You never expect an in-state rivalry to get out of hand that way," said Oregon's Jeff Potter.

Oregon State got 31 points from Brent Barry, 19 from Mustafa Hoff and 13 from Vladimir Heredia, but the Beavers committed too many errors to come away with a win.

Standout shooter Williams commented, "We showed we cannot only win on the road we can do it, convincingly."

The Beavers were able to keep it close and make a game of it during the first half. They were within 30-27 with 4:16 left when Hoff hit two free throws. But 22 seconds later, forward Barry was hit with a foul, his third. Coach Jimmy Anderson had to bench him and suddenly the Beavers fell apart.

The Ducks went on a 7-0 run to make it 45-35 and the Beavers were never able to get within single digits for the rest of the game.

"I was a little frustrated that I had to sit out those minutes and see Oregon stretch out to a 10 point lead," said Barry, who tied his career high with 31 points.



Oregon State's Vladimir Heredia looks for a play around Oregon's tight defense in a civil war game Saturday at Corvallis. (Photo by Brent Wojahn)

"I couldn't believe I picked up three fouls in the first half," Barry added. "The one charging foul that they called was awful. But you have to expect that in a civil war game. It's always going to be a physical game and it always tends to be ugly. In the first half for us, it certainly was that."

As always, it was the defense and in this case early turnovers that led to Oregon State's early demise. Inefficient ball handling also accounted for lost opportunities which Oregon capitalized on.

Oregon State, which had been averaging 52 percent from the field,

fell to 29-68 shooting, while Oregon managed to score at a 36-75 clip.

Maybe last week's announcement of Anderson's early retirement effected the play of his team. But in the final analysis it was execution, hustle and defense that won the game for the Ducks.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO BE RECOGNIZED BY BUDWEISER AND BLAZERS

For the fourth consecutive year, Budweiser and the Trail Blazers are taking time out to recognize some of the outstanding community activists, concerned citizens and volunteers who help make a difference throughout Oregon and southwest Washington.

Nomination forms for the "Budweiser Blazers Community Superstars" team are available at all Chamber of Commerce offices in Oregon and southwest Washington, Trail Blazers radio affiliates and through the Trail Blazers office, 700 NE Multnomah, Portland, Oregon 97232.

All nominations must be submitted by no later than February 28th. A panel of judges will then review all nominations and select the ten Community Superstars who will be recognized during a special half-time presentation at the Trail Blazers home game against the Denver Nuggets on Sunday, March 26. Each member of the Community Superstars team will also receive a plaque and a check for \$500 that will be donated to the charity of their choice.



SPORTS AS A METAPHOR FOR LIFE

Journey Of The Hero

BY DANNY BELL

What is it that enralls sports fans? What is it about sports that causes such intense emotion?

Could it be that sports and the athletes that play represent to the fan something noble, something heroic that we all would aspire to if we had the skills?

In many ways sports fulfills the same need in sports fans as some soap operas do for their followers.

Sports represents a microcosm of the universe - the journey of the hero who may very well have his or her flaws, but who in the sports arena pursues excellence with reckless abandon.

Every sports hero is somehow clothed in vulnerability, from lapses of character as in the case of Magic Johnson or physical obstacles as in the case of Bo Jackson to even falling victim to fate like Michael Jordan.

All athletes embody what humankind can rise to, at the same time as humans they are subject to forces beyond their control.

The wealth and prestige that successful athletes command has elevated them to a class of new nobility.

And as the new nobility, we have

heightened expectations of them. We expect them to be loyal, morally upright, courageous, to endure pain, play hurt and to a certain extent be role models for our children.

But where does the journey begin? Many times it starts in grade school, if not then high school or college, especially in the sports of baseball, basketball and football.

Those who excel are given special attention by teachers, coaches and their peers.

They are taught the rituals of sports as they are groomed to move from one level to the next in their respective sport for what are more often than not brief careers.

What happens during these careers in which, in reality, the athlete serves as an entertainer?

Sometimes a performer plays in unscripted dramas - like making the winning basket as Larry Bird did on so many occasions with time running out on the game clock - or overcoming everyone's nemesis "age" as George Foreman did when he regained two heavyweight championship belts.

There is a little piece of us that every athlete carries when he or she enters the arena and that piece is hope. When the underdog faces the favorite, there's hope they will overcome and be victorious in the field of battle. That regardless of the odds, that the heart, spirit and skill of the hero-athlete can surmount any challenge.

Therein, it may be that the journey is not one man or one team,

rather it is with the passing of each generation, a new horizon is to arrive at and a higher standard of excellence is accomplished.

The journey continues for every sports fan everytime he or she sees his or her team play. The journey is to capture the imagination and to turn it into poetry in motion.

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