

SPORTS

BENSON WINS MEET

BY DANNY BELL

Eddie Lincoln who played basketball for the Benson Techmen, came out last Wednesday on the Grant High School track and equaled a state record for the fastest time in the high hurdles, helping Benson continue their unbeaten mark.

Lincoln won three events, leading the Techmen past Grant, 81-64 in a battle of two 4-0 track and field teams.

The win puts Benson at the head of the pack for the Portland Interscholastic League dual meet championship.

The girls competition was a different story, with the Grant girls team defeating the previously undefeated Benson team 81-64. That pulls Grant into a first place tie with Benson, both posting 4-1 records.

Grant sprinter Emily Pokorny, won the 100 meters in 12.9 seconds, the 200 in 26.8 seconds and anchored the winning 1600 relay team. Teammate Megan Faris, a sophomore, won both hurdle competitions.

Their combined efforts were enough to negate the performance of

Benson's Shei'meka Newman who won the long jump, javelin and triple jump.

Lincoln, a senior who turned out late for track because he also played in Benson's Class 4A semi-finals in basketball, was the pivotal factor in deciding Benson's win. Posting a time of 14.5 seconds in the high hurdles, then winning the long jump at 21 feet 1.5 inches and the 300 meter hurdles in 41.3 seconds.

"I didn't think the 14.5 seconds was that fast when I was done," Lincoln said. "I don't think I'm as good as I can be."

Benson's coach Leon McKenzie agreed.

"Technically, it was not a good race for him. He's only been out a month too, so he's not in top shape yet," McKenzie said.

Grant's Kenny Carter was able to come from behind and pass Benson's Russell Jackson in the final yards as the Generals lowered their state best 400 relay time to 42.3 seconds. Carter also bettered Jackson in the 200 meters, but Jackson was able to get the better of him in the 100 meters.



Eddie Lincoln of Benson High School is out front in the hurdles. (Photo courtesy of the Oregonian)

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL

Collins To Coach Pistons

Doug Collins will replace Don Chaney as the coach of the Detroit Pistons. Collins, who now serves as the color analyst for TNT cable network, said that he had agreed to terms with the Pistons.

He was reportedly will make \$1 million a year on a five year contract. Collins has been out of coaching since being fired from the Chicago Bulls after 1989.

Pack Injured

Point guard Robert Pack of the Denver Nuggets has re-injured his knee and missed games 1 and 2 of the playoffs. Denver lost both games.

FOOTBALL

Sapp Signs

Warren Sapp whose stock fell in the NFL draft after testing positive for a drug test signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The four year contract is worth \$4.4 million, a lot lower than if he would have been selected in the top five as expected. He will have to submit twice weekly to random drug tests as part of his agreement with the team.

BASEBALL

Arbitration

After spending nearly a year trying to eliminate arbitration, the owners were court-ordered to go through the process. Thirty-nine players have exchanged figures with the owners.

California's Chili Davis asked for the most at \$5.1 million and St. Louis pitcher Ken Hill asked for \$5 million.

A Home For The Devil Rays

Tampa Bay's new baseball team, The Devil Rays, has got the go ahead to a 30-year lease for the Thunder Dome. Operations are expected to begin in January 1998.

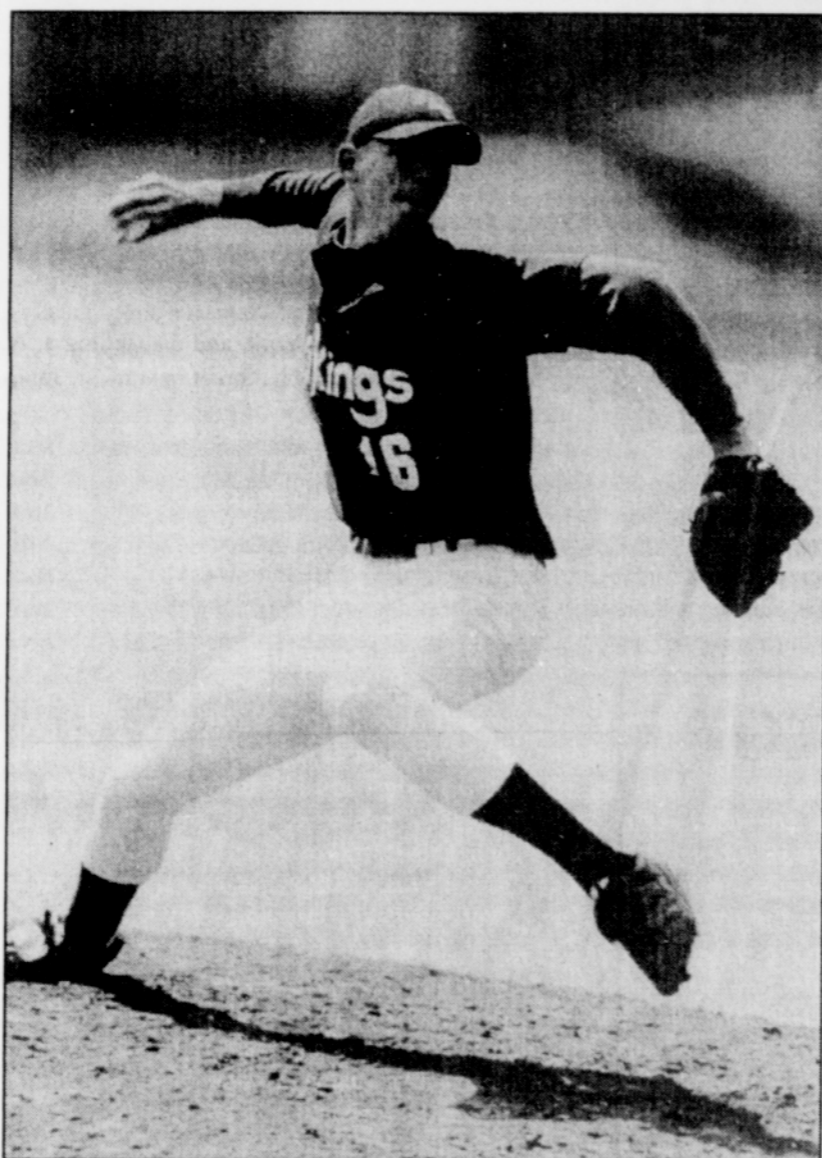
BOXING

WBU Upholds Foreman Win

After viewing the videotape of the George Foreman-Axel Schulz fight the World Boxing Union Championship committee unanimously agreed the officials were beyond reproach.

Possible Rematch

George Foreman's next fight may very well be with Axel Schulz in Germany in September. The promoter for Foreman, Bob Arum, said that such a fight could mean \$30 million for Foreman who made \$10 million in his last fight with Schulz.



Greg Wooten, star pitcher for Portland State University.

PSU PITCHER EYES MAJORS

BY DANNY BELL

Greg Wooten at 6 foot 7 inches is an athlete, but not the sport usually associated with players of that stature.

Instead of being on the basketball court, he's an ace pitcher for the Portland State University baseball team.

The alert, astute, and observant 21-year-old sophomore is already one of the premiere pitchers in the Northern Division of the Pacific 10 Conference. Wooten possesses the natural attributes of a pitcher and is developing techniques to take him all the way to the big leagues.

"I was offered scholarships to Mt. Hood Community College, Willamette University and Linfield College to play baseball and basketball," he said. "But I decided to go to Portland State because it has a Division I (baseball) school, and I thought I had a better chance of making it in baseball."

Emulating the Seattle Mariner 6'10" pitcher Randy Johnson, Wooten uses his height to his advantage on the mound. "It helps a lot to be tall," Wooten said. "Your arms are a lot longer and that helps you throw harder. My height is also in-

timidating to hitters because they don't see a 6'7" pitcher everyday."

Intimidating is an understatement. Wooten has won his last five decisions and is 8-3.

He has earned a 1.11 earned-run average which leads the division. With 93 strike-outs in 97.67 innings and four shut-outs, he has displayed a significant improvement over his freshman year. In his freshman year, he was 6'4" and had 2.55 ERA and 85 strikeouts in 113 innings.

"He's 6 foot 7 inches, but he was like 5' 5" last year," said Portland State Coach Dave Dangler. "He would hunch way down. During the off season, we talked to him about taking advantage of being 6'7" by standing tall and driving the ball to the plate with better leverage."

His improved statistics and height have caught the attention of major league scouts. Because of his size, leverage and arm angle, he's going to miss a lot of bats," said Gary McGraw, an area scout for the Mariners. "He's got movement on his fastball that will make batters miss. Based on his physical size and strength, he is potentially a No. 1 or 2 starter in the major leagues if he continues to improve."

Wooten said his best pitch is his fastball, followed by a slider. He's developing a split-finger fastball and change-up.

"My strong suit is that I have tremendous location with my pitch-

es," said Wooten who has walked only 21 batters this season. "I have total confidence of throwing a strike when I need it, and I have the most confidence when I get into trouble with men on base. That's when I really bear down and almost always get through it."

Expectations are that Wooten will be drafted in the June draft. "I'm unsure of whether or not I would sign this year or go on and graduate by the end of next year," Wooten said. "It's a tough decision. It depends on where I get drafted and by what team."

Wooten's current attentions are focused on helping the Vikings making a run for the division title. They got off to a bumpy start, but now are in the hunt for first place. Coach Dangler commented that in spite of poor hitting by the Vikings as a team early in the season, Wooten has pitched brilliantly all season. Naturally for anyone 6'7", the idea of awkwardness and clumsiness comes to mind. But Wooten's experience in basketball has helped him with his coordination.

"Being a heck of an athlete doesn't hurt," McGraw said. "You need a guy who can field at his position. Greg is a guy who can handle himself on the mound, and he's got a chance to help himself by being a good field end pitcher. With his size and arm strength, mental confidence and athleticism, you've got a great package."

THE GAME IS BACK

BY ERIC NOON

For being called a thinking man's game, baseball and the people who run it should have thought a little more about people who support it before coming back.

Professional sports are big businesses and full of greed and selfish people that so often come along with large amounts of revenue and earnings. Many fans are very disgruntled over the way baseball has handled the strike on both sides of the fence.

There's a lot of fingers that can be pointed, but the bottom line is, it's the fans, not the players or owners, that suffer the most from this still unresolved dispute.

The game has so many problems that many fans are to wits end and are not supporting the game that made them fans from their early childhood. The fans think about how they can get back at what the game has given them recently. The record low opening day crowds is an indication that many of the long-time fans and biggest supporters of the game are staying away in sup-

port of their views, that the games should be punished for its actions.

It's easy to see the point the fan's are making by not attending major league baseball, and in a lot of ways the owners or the players don't deserve the support that they've had in the past. They still don't have an agreement. The umpires are replacements. Rosters have shuffled so much that one's favorite team can have lost identity over the winter. The number of reasons baseball is in very deep trouble is troubling in itself, to the owners, players and fans. The number of reasons that the game will survive and make it through the times of turmoil is much smaller.

It only takes one reason for baseball to survive, and that is the game itself. The owners and players, have taken away an enormous amount away from the fans and have done damage beyond repair. But the point is the game is back. The reason fans are upset are understandable in a lot of ways, but these are still the best players in the world. The quality of baseball is as good as it gets. The best players in the world are playing one of the oldest and greatest sports of all

time and that remains for now.

A 144-game season, lost records from last year, no true pennant race, and an unclear future give the fans a clouded view of the game today. But for now, we have to take what we can as fans and support the game as a game, not as a business.

Ken Griffey Jr. is still one of the greatest players in the game and for now he still plays not far away in Seattle. Maybe Griffey won't be in Seattle forever, or even the Mariners due to the way they are losing money. But the fact is baseball is back and the same love for the game that got so many fans frustrated will bring them back if this is true. To have a true love for the game of Major League baseball, one has to understand the history, the strategy, and the talent it takes to play on the level the Major League plays. True love can be taken away and let go. What you do with it when it comes back is the biggest question. Just having it back isn't always enough, but knowing it is there will be awful tempting for even some of the biggest fans whose heart has been broken by the game.

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