

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL

Dominique Defection Stirs NBA

National Basketball Association may challenge the planned defection of Boston Celtic forward Dominique Wilkins to a professional team in Greece.

Panathinaikos Athens announced the signing of Wilkins to a two-year contract worth \$7 million, the richest deal for a player outside the NBA.

Wilkins had two years left on his contract with the Celtics, but the deal contained a buyout clause. Celtic officials refused comment, but apparently are not interested in retaining Wilkins, who is coming off the worst season of his career.

The NBA is reportedly concerned about permitting a player under contract to leave for an overseas team without the league receiving proper notification.

Rockets Buy Out Maxwell Contract

The Houston Rockets have bought out troubled guard Vernon Maxwell's contract and the two parties have dropped grievances against one another.

The team reportedly bought out Maxwell's contract for \$500,000.

Maxwell had filed his grievance with the team in July, a week after the Rockets waived him. Maxwell cleared waivers the day before the current NBA lockout.

Maxwell, who claimed he injured his leg and did not play in the playoffs, later said he was frustrated with a lack of playing time.

Maxwell's role diminished greatly when Houston acquired veteran guard Clyde Drexler from Portland in a mid-season deal for forward Otis Thorpe.

The troubled guard also was suspended for 10 games during the regular season after he charged into the stands at Portland during a game and assaulted a fan.

Maxwell later claimed the man was heckling Maxwell about his deceased daughter, who was still-born.

FOOTBALL

Player Fined For Striking Reporter

Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula has fined starting free safety Gene Atkins an undisclosed amount for striking a newspaper reporter.

The incident apparently happened after an article by Jason Cole appeared in the Fort Lauderdale News/Sun Sentinel.

Cole, who covers the Dolphins for the newspaper, claimed in his article that Atkins' new contract had drawn the ire of some of the other Miami players.

The Dolphins confirmed that Atkins physically confronted Cole, but would not reveal any other details.

No medical attention was needed for the reporter and officials at the newspaper would not comment on the matter.

"I've talked to both parties concerned and first and foremost, I want to make it clear that I don't condone any physical behavior toward the media by members of the Dolphins for any reason," Shula said. "On behalf of Gene Atkins and the club, I want to apologize to Jason Cole for the unfortunate occurrence that took place."

Tyson Is Still A Very Big Question

It was a scene out of "Casablanca."

Everyone was shocked - shocked - that something wrong had happened Saturday night to mar the theatrical return of Mike Tyson.

The bout lasted all of 1 minute 29 seconds - taking less time than the singing of the national anthem - before Peter McNeeley's manager jumped into the ring to embrace his fallen young lion, thus disqualifying him.

Yet, after the outrage expressed by the referee, by the Nevada boxing commissioner, by the fans who had paid up to \$1,500 a ticket and by the pay-per-view audience at home, there remained the same question everyone asked before the bout: What do we know about Mike Tyson?

The answer, for the \$70 million spent on the bout, including \$25 million to Tyson, is nothing. And that could affect his future and the opponents he chooses.

Tyson, 29, had been away from the ring more than four years, in prison on a rape conviction for three of those, and yet his legend had grown. He no longer was the champion. His greatest fights were in the 1980s.

This was no test. The 6-foot-2-inch McNeeley did what he promised he would. He charged out, crouched to try to get down to Tyson's 5-11 height and started throwing punches. Tyson got caught up in the street fight for a moment, flailing.

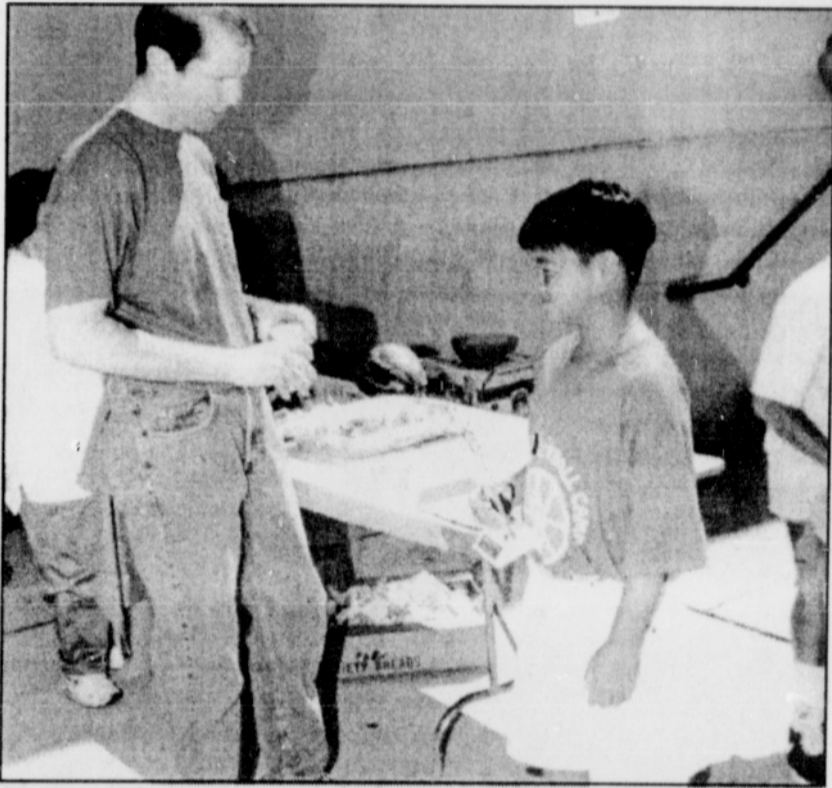
Then he connected with a right just seconds into the fight and McNeeley went down, but got up quickly. More wild swinging. Then two lefts by Tyson, a right and McNeeley fell backward while sneering at Tyson.

While Referee Mills Lane was ushering Tyson to a neutral corner, Vinny Vecchione, McNeeley's manager, ran into the ring and waved his arms and, in effect, disqualified his fighter. Tyson had thrown eight or

nine punches, and landed four or five. He wasn't sweating when he entered the ring. And he wasn't sweating when he left the ring.

"It gives the impression the McNeeley camp came here to take the money and run," the executive producer of Showtime Boxing, Jay Larkin, said Sunday. "I could not blame the public for being angry at this."

That anger, and the public's cynicism, is sure to affect what happens next for Tyson.



Area kids get a lesson about politics as Congressman Ron Wyden visits the Police Activities League's Asian Basketball Camp. Wyden donated 12 autographed basketballs and participated in a free throw shooting contest. (Photo by Duane Lewis)

Hoop It Up With The Blazers

Waterfront Park to be transformed into 3-on-3 basketball fun fest

More than 1,800 players will transform Waterfront Park into a basketball fantasyland, on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17, as the first annual Bank of America Hoop It Up festival comes to Portland beginning at 9 a.m. each day. Hoop It Up is the official 3-on-3 street basketball tour of the NBA.

"Hoop It Up is a carnival where all of the attractions are about basket-

ball," says Wally Scales, Blazers vice president, special events. "The weekend makes NBA entertainment a hands on experience for fans. The great thing about Hoop It Up is that it allows players of all abilities to be basketball stars for a weekend."

Blazers wannabees of all shapes and sizes will compete on four person teams within divisions based on age, size and experience. While every Hoop It Up participant receives a commemorative event tank top, winners in the

"Top Gun" division advance to regional competition in Huntington Beach, CA, and then possibly to the 1995 Hoop It Up World Final, where the champions face a team of NBA Legends on the Hoop It Up "Court of Dreams." Winners in all other division are named city champions and earn official Hoop It Up merchandise.

The Hoop It Up registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 8 with the \$84 team entry fee guaranteeing each squad at least three games.

Blazers Offer Least Expensive Ticket

For the first time ever, Trail Blazers fans will have the opportunity to purchase four-game mini packages priced at \$5, \$15 and \$25 per ticket. "Four Packs" went on sale Saturday at all G.I. Joes Ticketmaster outlets, memorial coliseum box office and Blazers on Broadway.

With 1,034 tickets available per

game, fans will have 11 different packages to choose from. There are 234 \$5 tickets, 595 \$15 tickets and 205 \$25 tickets available for each game, offered in four game increments. Over the course of the NBA per- and regular season (44 home games total), that translates to 2,574 mini packages available in the \$5 price category,

6,545 mini packages in the \$15 price category and 2,255 in the \$25 price category. Mini package tickets are located in the upper sides and upper end zones of the arena. Disabled ticket packages are also available.

Credit card phone orders will be accepted, through the Ticketmaster phone center at 224-4400.

AUTOMOTIVE

Keep Your Car Running Cool

Summer temperatures can be as brutal on a poorly maintained automobile as the most chilling winter weather.

"It is trouble for many motorists when the temperature hits 90 degrees, said AAA President Roger Graybeal. "Vehicles with weak batteries may have difficulty starting, air conditioning systems can fail and poorly maintained cooling systems can overheat. Cracked belts may snap and worn hoses can blister and begin leaking as temperatures rise inside and outside the engine.

Have the car inspected by an auto technician to keep vehicles free from heat-related problems. Throughout the summer, motorists can conduct their own visual inspection of hoses, tires and fluid levels, but only when the engine is cold. Keep a list handy of the items that need checking.

Keep the antifreeze/coolant level high to prevent the radiator from overheating. Make certain proper 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and coolant is present. If the coolant is rust colored, have the radiator flushed out. Once every 2 years, have the radiator flushed out.

Check the owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommendation. Your car may require a summer grade oil.

Replace cracked belts, and worn, cracked, blistered or soft hoses. A \$15 hose could save as much as \$1,000 in repairs on an overheated engine.

Have the air conditioning system checked for leaks.

Battery performance is compromised by extremes in temperatures. A weak battery should be tested and replaced.

Keep you engine tuned-up. A

misfiring spark plug can reduce fuel efficiency by up to 30 percent.

Check your tire pressure. Under-inflated tires can overheat, increase wear, reduce fuel efficiency and make your vehicle handling more difficult.

Rotate and balance your car's tires every 6,000 to 8,000 miles. It will help guard against blow-outs.

Motorists can keep the cabin area cooler by using a cardboard sunshade in the windshield when the car is parked. Avoid discomfort and minor burns by shading the vinyl and plastic surfaces of the car's interior. It will also help prevent cracks in the seats, dashboard and doors.

"Even a well-maintained car can bread down," said Graybeal. It is a good idea to carry drinking water. Also, carry a cellular telephone or a citizens band radio so you can call for help."

Road Construction Information Available

Over 180 Department of Transportation road improvement projects are underway throughout Oregon. The odds are not in your favor - you're bound to run into one of them.

There is something you can do about it.

An Oregon Road Construction informational brochure is available that will let you know where the road projects are, plan for the delays or avoid the construction entirely.

Nearly 100 projects are listed. If the route you're taking is not shown, you can call ODOT's Road Construction Hotline numbers at 731-3081 for the Portland area, or 1-503-976-7277 (30 cents toll) or 1-503-889-3999 (long distance rate). The phone reports include

ODOT construction and maintenance delay information on routes, in addition to those shown on the brochure. The brochure is available at Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and State Police offices and at visitor information centers and chambers of commerce around the state.

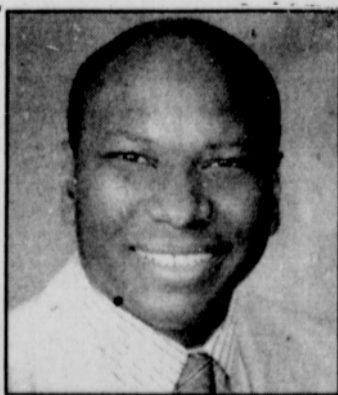
Also, the new 1995-96 ODOT Official Highway Map of Oregon is available now at the same locations.

Officials also remind motorists to remember to obey all work zone signing, stay alert for construction related traffic impacts, watch out for construction workers and remember that when it comes to road construction workers: "Give 'Em A Brake."

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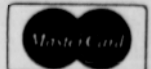


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