

Wilson Trojans Lead Pack In P.I.L.

By ERIC NOON

The top-ranked Wilson Trojans boys basketball team looks to be living up to the high expectations from the seasons start, and coming together as a team early on at 5-1.

The highly talented Trojans are getting contributions from all five starters, and Basil Duncantell, whose known for this steady defense, led the Trojans with 24 points in a 86-69 over the Grant General Friday night.

Duncantell, who had an outstanding football season for the Trojans, hit seven of nine shots in route to his career-high in points, to steal the

spotlight for the night.

Wilson, which is undefeated since an opening loss to Mountain View (Wash.) on Dec. 1, remained undefeated in the Portland Interscholastic League along with Benson and surprising Roosevelt.

Wilson's biggest win of the season came over Beaverton two weeks before Christmas 65-64 and gave the Trojans the top spot in the polls.

Timmy Owens, whose averaging 22.4 points for the Generals, led Grant with 33 as the Generals fell to 1-2 in league.

"Ever since the Beaverton game,

we are playing like no one can beat us...like we are No. 1 in the state," said the starting senior wing Duncantell. "Until that night, Beaverton was like No. 1 and there was all the hype, so beating them made us feel like No. 1."

Wilson's big guns, Tyron Manlove and David Jackson combined for 40 points in the win.

Manlove, who had a near Quad-Double with 19 points 10 rebounds, 10 steals and six assists, has committed to Oregon and is really living up to the hype with his all-around play. Jackson, who is bound for Utah for

college, added 21 points and four steals.

P.I.L. Wide Open

Wilson should take the P.I.L. boys title with plenty of movement in the league for the last three spots. Benson (3-0), who has another strong squad this year, remained undefeated in league with a 66-45 victory over Franklin.

Benson has a solid squad and is getting contributions from the bench that will make a big difference throughout the season.

Jefferson (2-1), who squeezed by Lincoln (0-3) 56-50, without leading

scorers Tyrone Hammick, has a number of players who can step up a nut the Democrats back in the play-offs this year. Demetries Hardin led the Demo's scoring with 20.

Roosevelt, whose coming off a great football season, is a surprising 3-0 in the league, as Scott Millage led Roosevelt 69-67 over Marshall (2-1).

Cleveland (1-2), who has struggled early on in the P.I.L., nabbed its first win in the league with Amos Allen pouring in almost half of Cleveland's points with 42, as Madison (0-3) fell 88-78.

Look for Grant to bounce back from its loss to Wilson and make a run.

The top three spots in P.I.L. are wide open with six teams looking to gain a spot in the play-offs and Wilson taking the tie if they remain healthy.

Although it's early, the P.I.L. looks like another great league to watch some top-notch high-school hoops action.

On any given night, anyone of the teams can beat another with the great rivalries and home court advantages the teams have.

SPORTS

BULLS OUT OF GATE AT RECORD PACE

Are the Chicago Bulls the NBA's all-time greatest team?

That question has been raised now that the Bulls are off to a 28-3 start, only the fourth team to do so in National Basketball Association history. And it will be debated throughout the season as the Bulls continue to challenge the league's best record ever - 69-13, set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

Those Lakers, the Bulls, the 1969-70 Knicks, and the 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers, are the only teams to begin a season 28-3. And the previous three teams who started 28-3 all won championships.

One thing is certain. The Bulls won't be compared to 28-3 teams of past years unless they win the title as well. In fact, the Bulls won't even be rated with their three championship

teams of '91, '92, and '93 unless they win it all.

"If you want to compare us to the other Bulls teams, we better win a championship because they won three of them," said Steve Kerr, a Bulls backup guard.

Like all great teams, the Bulls have Hall of Fame talent. Michael Jordan may be the greatest player of all time, but some believe that Scottie Pippen is actually having a better all-round season. And Dennis Rodman - hair changes, tattoos and all - has fit in beautifully with the Bulls so far.

"They're obviously the best team, they may be one of the best teams ever," Milwaukee Coach Mike Dunleavy said Saturday after the Bulls beat the Bucks, 113-84.

"They've got a great chance to break the record. They should. In Pippen and Jordan, you've got the two best players other than centers in the league. You've got the best rebounder in the game in Rodman. And they've got a bunch of other guys who know their roles. They've got the whole formula," Dunleavy

said.

But a lot could happen between now and the playoffs. What happens if Rodman becomes a distraction during the post-season, as he did last year in San Antonio? And is Chicago really better than Houston or Orlando?

Remember, Orlando played its first 22 games without Shaquille O'Neal. Also, the center position

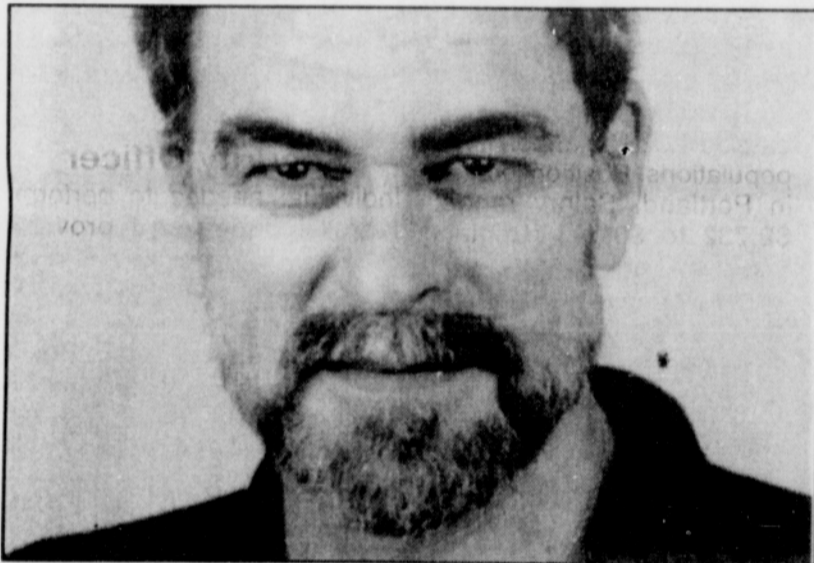
remains one of Chicago's few question marks, and the Bulls may have to deal with both O'Neal and Hakeem Olajuwon to win a championship.

Chicago's true measuring stick will be the post-season. But the quest to win 70 games has given the Bulls something to keep the regular season interesting.

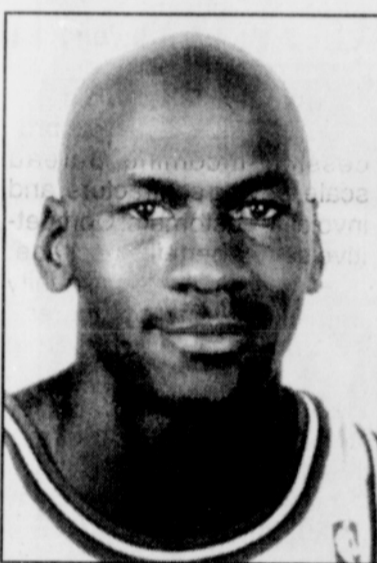
To reach 70 victories, the Bulls need a 42-9 record from this point

on. Tough, but hardly impossible, especially with the league's talent base watered down this season by expansion. There are plenty of bad teams out there for Chicago to beat up on.

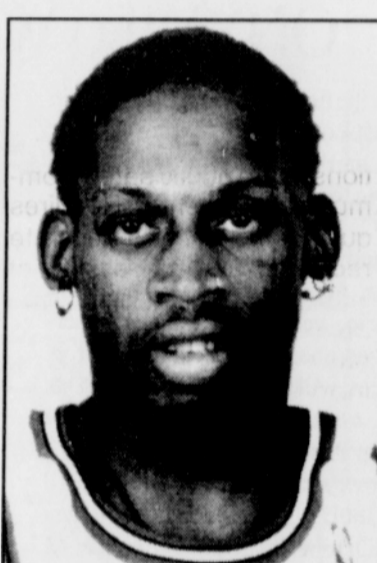
"It's one stage of what everybody is pretty much expecting - for us to win 70 games," Jordan said. "It's a mental challenge not to get too complacent."



Chicago Coach Phil Jackson



Michael Jordan



Dennis Rodman

ROMERO DEFENDS IN MANDATORY BOUT

International Boxing Federation flyweight champion Danny (kid Dynamite) Romero makes the second defense of his title against mandatory challenger Mark (Too Sharp) Johnson on Friday, February 2, at the Convention Center here, promoter Bob Arum announced.

The 12-round title bout is the main event of a five-fight card to be televised live on ESPN at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT.

Romero (25-1, 22 KOs) will return to the ring for the first time since an eye injury suffered in a loss to hard-hitting Willy Salazar. In the first round, Salazar caught Romero under the left eye, fracturing the orbital

cavity. Despite a closed eye and double vision, Romero fought like a true champion.

Showing tremendous heart and courage, Romero rallied to almost score a knockout in the fourth, and was ahead on two of three scorecards when the doctor stopped the bout after the seventh round.

Still one of the hottest young stars in boxing today, "Romero is fast, quick, with tremendous power. I've never seen anyone at this age possess the advanced skills he has this early in his career. He's for real," boasts Bob Arum.

The newly-crowned champion lived up to Arum's boasts on April

22, when he battered Francisco Tejedor for 12-rounds en route to a unanimous decision and the world title.

On July 29, Romero defended his title against Miguel Martinez. A national pay-per-view audience and a packed arena saw Romero brutalize the challenger from the opening bell. "He tried to take what I own, and he paid for it," said Romero. The beating came to an end when the referee counted Martinez out in the sixth round.

The 21-year-old from Albuquerque made his first defense of the title three weeks later with a punishing six-round knockout of veteran Hugo Torres.

Strickland May Make All Star Team

Despite Portland's disappointing 14-18 record heading into Sunday night's game, Rod Strickland has a chance to play in the All-Star Game for the first time in his NBA career.

The Trail Blazers point guard entered Sunday's game averaging 20.4 points and 9.8 assists.

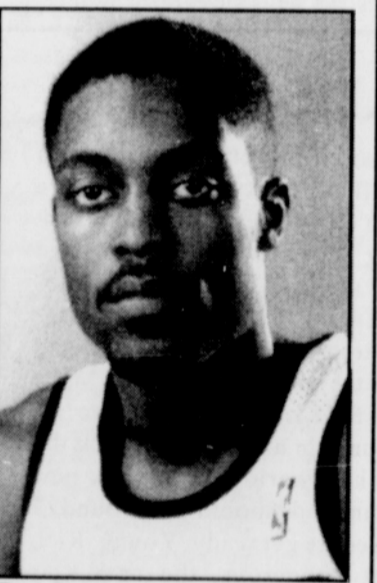
Strickland has had several clashes with Coach P.J. Carlesimo, but Strickland has not let that hurt

his play.

"I've just concentrated on doing my job because that's what I get paid to do," Strickland said.

Strickland felt strongly that he would be traded during the off season, and he has still not ruled out the possibility.

"It's not over," said Strickland, referring to the Feb. 22 trade deadline. "I'm by no means untradable. Anything can happen in this business."



Rod Strickland

Ice Bowl Recalled For Green Bay, Dallas

For the first time since the famed Ice Bowl game of 1967, the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys meet for a berth in the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys will appear in an NFC Championship game for the fourth straight season after playing San Francisco the last three years.

By contrast, the Packers are in a title game for the first time in 28 years, when Bart Starr's touchdown in the final seconds gave Green Bay a 21-17 win in the NFL title. The game time temperature at Lambeau Field was 16 below zero. The Packers went on to defeat the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl 2.

The Packers defeated the Atlanta Falcons in the wild card round and dethroned the defending Super Bowl champion 49ers, 27-17, in the divisional playoffs at San Francisco.

Brett Favre backed up his distinction as the NFL's Most Valuable Player, completing 21-of-28 for 299 yards and two scores.

Tight end Keith Jackson had his best game since signing with the Packers at midseason, catching four passes for 101 yards and a touchdown. Robert Brooks caught four passes for 103 yards.

Sunday marks the first championship game for star defensive end Reggie White, who is in his third season with Green Bay and 11th in the NFL.

White and his teammates must contend with Deion Sanders, who scored on a 21-yard reverse for his first NFL rushing touchdown for Detroit in a 30-11 rout of the Philadelphia Eagles in the divisional playoffs.

Emmitt Smith ran for 99 yards and a touchdown and Kevin Williams caught six passes for 124 yards. Dallas' Chris Boniol kicked three field goals against the Eagles and has been successful on his last 28 attempts.

Troy Aikman of Dallas was almost as effective as Favre last week,

completing 17-of-24 passes for 253 yards. Dallas defeated the Packers, 34-24, on October 8th at Texas Stadium.

Aikman shook off an injured right calf and passed for 316 yards and two touchdowns and Smith scored twice

and rushed for 106 yards. The Cowboys have defeated the Packers in divisional playoff games

each of the last two seasons and have won six straight games overall against Green Bay.

Colts, Steelers Meet For AFC Title

The Indianapolis Colts and Pittsburgh Steelers, two teams whose Super Bowl appearances are from decades past, seek a return trip when they meet Sunday in the AFC title game at Three Rivers Stadium.

The Colts continued their improbable ride through the playoffs with a 10-7 win over the Kansas City Chiefs and will appear in their first AFC title game since the 1971 season.

The last Super Bowl appearance for the Colts, then based in Baltimore, was a 16-13 loss to Dallas in Super Bowl 5 following the 1970 season.

The Steelers have won four Super Bowls but have not been to the

NFL's ultimate game since the 1979 season, when they defeated the Los Angeles Rams, 31-19.

The Colts, who stunned the San Diego Chargers in the wild card round, were without star running back Marshall Faulk due to a knee injury in the win over Kansas City. Rookie Zack Crockett was the hero against the Chargers, rushing for 147 yards.

Lamont Warren was the primary rusher against the Chiefs with 76 yards. The Colts finished with 147 yards on the ground.

The heart of the Colts is quarterback Jim Harbaugh, who threw a five-yard touchdown pass to Floyd Turner to key the win over the Chiefs.

Harbaugh also rushed nine times for 48 yards.

The Colts are the first wild card team to appear in a conference title game since the Buffalo Bills went to the Super Bowl in 1992.

Indianapolis can become just the fourth wild card team to advance to the Super Bowl since the AFL/NFL merger, joining the 1975 Cowboys, 1980 Oakland Raiders, 1985 New England Patriots and the 1992 Bills.

Kansas City was a second-place finisher in the AFL when it went to Super Bowl 4 following the 1969 season.

Pittsburgh advanced to its second straight trip to the AFC title game

with a 40-21 win over the Buffalo Bills. Bam Morris ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns, and Neil O'Donnell threw a 10-yard scoring pass to Ernie Mills and Norm Johnson kicked four field goals.

Mills, who had 100-yard receiving efforts in each of the Steelers' two playoff games last season, caught five passes for 66 yards against the Bills.

The Steelers lost the AFC title game at home to San Diego last season, 17-13, as O'Donnell's fourth-down pass to Barry Foster was knocked away at the 1-yard line.

The Colts and Steelers did not meet in the regular season.