

SPORTS

Strickland Status Stays In Limbo

When, or if, Rod Strickland will return to the Portland Trail Blazers is anybody's guess.

Strickland has been suspended indefinitely by the club after storming off the practice court Thursday and vowing to never return to the team.

So far, he's followed through on the promise, giving up a salary of about \$28,000 per game plus any fine the team might impose.

"I just look at it as one of the sad symptoms of pro sports today," Blazers president Bob Whitsitt said Sunday.

Whitsitt said he'd expected Strickland to rejoin the team at Saturday's practice, but that didn't happen.

Whitsitt declined to predict when Strickland might return.

"We're hopeful down the road that sometime he can get right and rejoin us and be a positive part of the team again," he said.

Whitsitt said there have been communications between the Blazers and Strickland, but he declined to be specific.

"There's a lot of delicate stuff being talked about and I think it's better for all the parties to do it firsthand and not to start reading or hearing things second- or third-hand," Whitsitt said.

The Blazers' management has taken a lot of criticism locally for allowing the longstanding feud between Strickland and coach P.J. Carlesimo escalate to what might be

a point of no return.

"I don't mind. That's fair game," Whitsitt said. "I'm fair game. I've been beat up worse and I'll be beat up worse again. That's part of my job."

Whitsitt insists that Strickland didn't ask to be traded until last Wednesday, leaving just one day to try to make a deal under the NBA's trading deadline.

When no deal was made, the stage was set for the impasse.

If Strickland follows through on his threat to sit out the rest of the season, he would forfeit about \$800,000 in salary alone. He still has two years left on his six-year contract that was to pay him \$2.3 million this season.

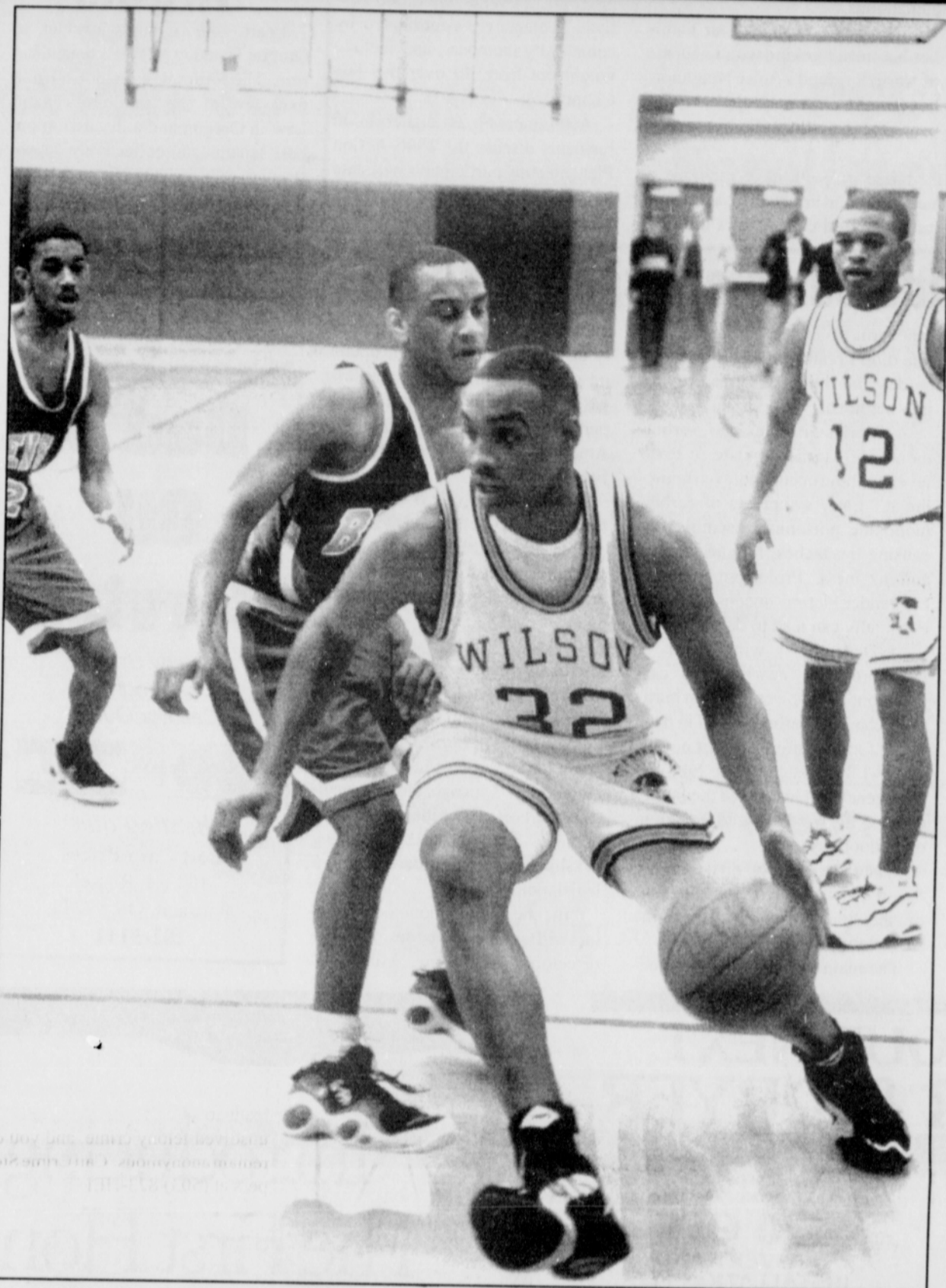
Whitsitt and Carlesimo have taken a conciliatory approach, at least in public, to try to get Strickland to return.

"I don't think we have any choice but to do that," Carlesimo said before Sunday's 93-81 loss to Detroit. "I don't think this is the time to be killing a guy or anything like that. Rod's still a member of the team and it would be better if we could work things out."

Not only do the Blazers need Strickland's 19.3 points and 9.5 assists per game, their ability to trade him after this season can only be hurt by a long holdout.

But Strickland would not return without some discussions taking place to try to prevent a future blowup.

"He can't just show up," Whitsitt said.



Craig Lewis (from left) and Dyon Spencer defend while Tyrone Manlove and Jermaine Tompson advance the ball, as the number one-rated team in the state, Wilson beats Benson Saturday to win the Portland Interscholastic League title.

(Photo by Michael G. Halle)

Jury Finds Moon Innocent

A Texas jury found Minnesota Vikings quarterback Warren Moon not guilty Thursday of charges that he beat and choked his wife in a family dispute last July.

Prosecutors had charged that Moon assaulted his wife Felicia when they argued about money at their plush Houston area home, but the Moons both testified he had not.

Moon would have faced up to a year in prison if convicted.

The jury took just 25 minutes to reach its decision in a case where the alleged victim took the stand in favor of the defendant.

The crowded courtroom, filled with Moon's family and friends, erupted into cheers when the verdict was read.

Afterwards, Moon and his circle held hands and prayed.

The prosecution's case was weakened when Felicia Moon told the jury she started the fight July 18.

Reid Fined For Flagrant Elbow

The National Basketball Association Monday suspended New York Knicks forward J.R. Reid for two games and fined him \$10,000 for flagrantly elbowing A.C. Green of Phoenix during Sunday's game.

NBA Senior Vice President of Basketball Operations Rod Thorn said the \$10,000 fine is the stiffest penalty in league history for an elbowing incident.

Reid struck Green in the mouth with his elbow early in the fourth quarter of the Suns' 113-105 victory. Green lost two teeth and had to have them replaced.

OAKS LEADS TEAM IN TOURNEY

Cicely Marcella Oaks led her team to victory by scoring 24 points out of 28 points in the last game of a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) fifth grade girls basketball tournament.



Cicely Marcella Oaks

Oaks, 10, is the daughter of Beryl Sylvia McNair and the granddaughter of Willie Beatrice McNair of northeast Port-

land. She is an honor student at Cathedral School in northwest Portland.

The tournament game was played Feb. 18 at Christ the King gym in Clackamas County.

Cathedral School went on to win the contest, 28-20. Keep up the good work, Cicely!

PCC CASCADE CAMPUS OPENS FITNESS CENTER

Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland sponsors an open house, Wednesday, March 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., to showcase its new fitness center.

The new center is located in the Cascade Campus Gymnasium, 705 N. Killingsworth. The event is free and open to the public.

Scheduled activities include demonstrations of the fitness equipment, drawings for a free fitness class and other door prizes. Refreshments will be served.

The center is equipped with six Universal stations, stair steppers,

aerodyne bicycles, free weights and other items.

PCC Physical Education Instructor John Lee, who developed the program, said, "The new fitness center is another demonstration of the commitment to upgrade facilities at Cascade. I am very excited about the new facility."

Come prepared to see how you can increase your strength, reduce stress, and build endurance and self-esteem through regular exercise.

Contact Joy Ruplinger at Cascade Campus, 503-978-5377, for further information.

No. 13 Arizona Routs Beavers

Michael Dickerson scored 16 points and Reggie Geary added 15 as 13th-ranked Arizona routed Oregon State, 84-60, in a Pac-10 Conference game Saturday.

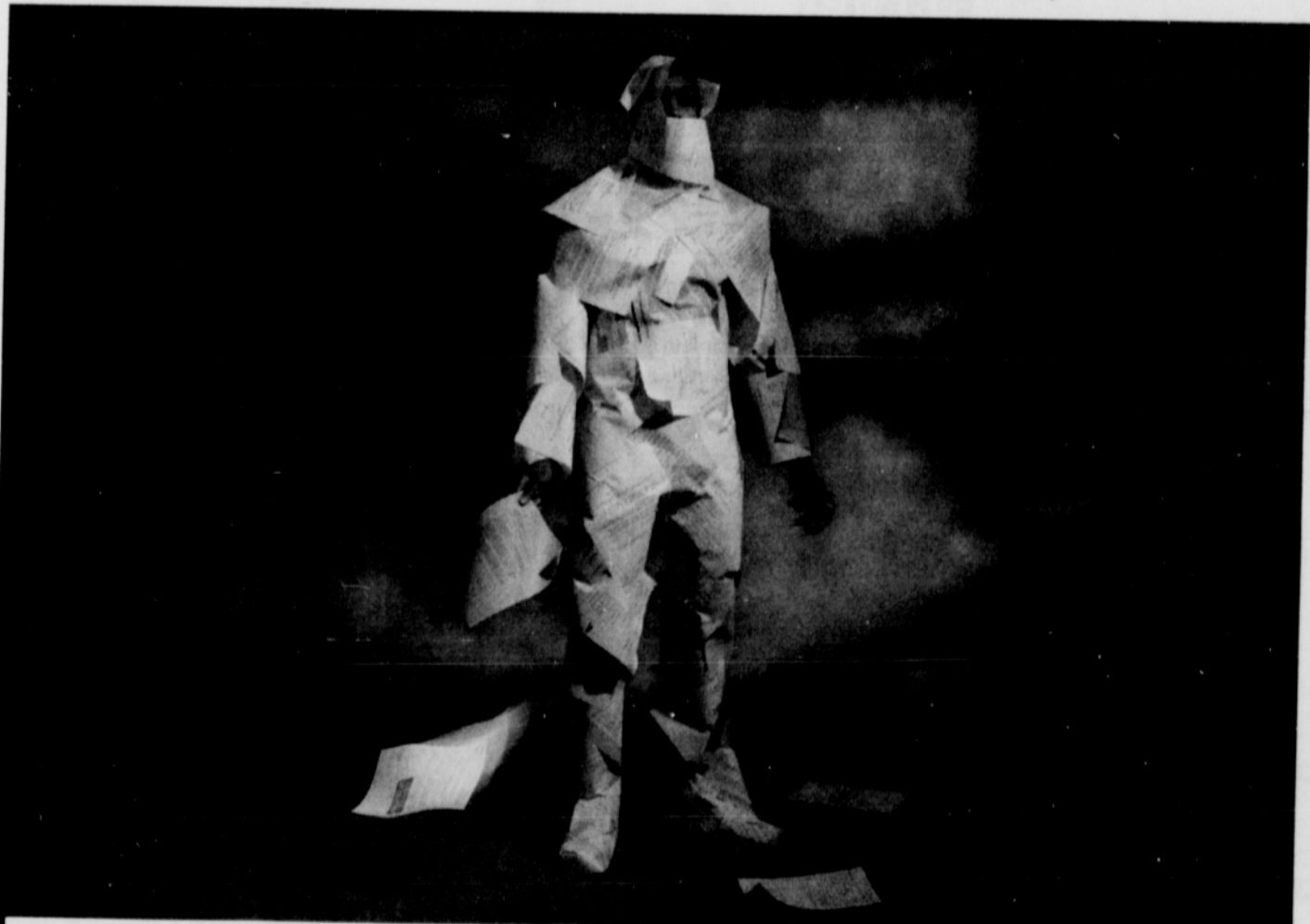
Ben Davis, Jason Terry and Corey Williams had 11 points apiece as the Wildcats (21-5, 10-4 Pac-10) won for the sixth time in seven games and strengthened their hold on second place in the conference.

Sonny Benjamin and Iyan Walker had 11 points apiece for the Beavers (3-21, 1-14), who have lost 13 straight games overall and 12 in a row to Arizona.

"They are a good passing team," Beavers coach Eddie Payne said.

"They moved the ball around well and when they are hitting the three's they're tough to beat. They have five guys that can score and five guys that can put the ball on the deck and create shots."

The two teams combined for just 26 points in the first 14:12 of the game as Arizona held a 14-12 advantage. The Wildcats went nearly seven minutes without a score as the Oregon State used a slow-down tempo and used most of the shot clock before attempting any shots.



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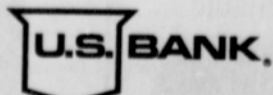
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