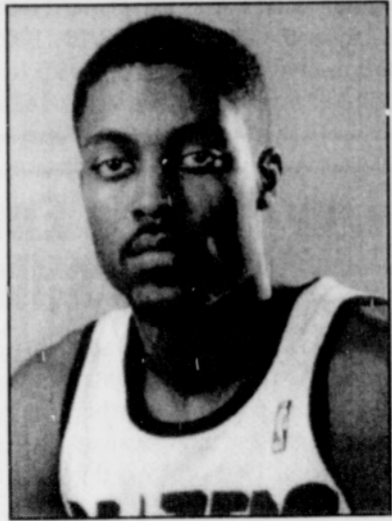


SPORTS

Q&A ROD STRICKLAND

by Eric Noon
It's a good chance that the Portland Trailblazers will be playing their last games with Rod Strickland in this year of play-offs, and this is just another of a long line of players the fans and this organization are going to miss. Strickland, one of the premier point guards in the league, has had another all-star caliber year while overcoming controversy and playing injured.



The nine-year veteran's relationship with head coach PJ Carlisimo seems well beyond repair and Strickland, to his credit is playing out his Blazer career by playing some of his best basketball to date.

Presenting Bob Whitsitt has a huge challenge ahead of him as Strickland demanded to be traded and insists he will not play for Carlisimo in the future. The challenge for Whitsitt is getting equal value for one of the top five point guards in the league. Strickland's trade value has fallen with the publicity of his fall-out with Carlisimo. Whitsitt hands are tied and the general managers around the league know it. The Blazer in fans are going to miss Strickland in many ways, but most of all, this team is losing its best player and that will hurt everytime. I got a chance to sit down with Strickland and ask a few questions and as always he's a first class act when it comes to interviews.

OBSERVER: Are you having fun out there considering your hurt?

STRICKLAND: It's a little frustrating being out there, not being able to be at full strength.

OBSERVER: A lot of times you've had trouble with players in-

ishing plays, is it a little different with Sabonis?

STRICKLAND: Well I don't even want to say that because I think I have had guys who could finish in the past. But Sabonis is a great finisher, I mean he just knows how to move without the ball. He gives you a big target, I mean it's easy with him.

OBSERVER: You've played through a lot of injuries in your career, is this the toughest?

STRICKLAND: Oh yeah, no question. This is the toughest because it's tough being out there when your used to doing certain things and you just can't do it.

OBSERVER: Do you think that your somewhat learning to play with injuries?

STRICKLAND: I've always played with injuries, so that's not a big deal.

OBSERVER: Is part of you struggling with wanting to play and part of you struggling with wanting to rest.

STRICKLAND: Yeah I think so. Rest would be the only thing that would make it better. But the only thing, we don't know how much rest. It may take two, three weeks and I don't know if I want to sit out that long. Obviously I want to play, because I want to be out there.

OBSERVER: You grew up playing ball in the city how much do you think that attributes you being able to have that knack of taking it to the basket and not getting your shot blocked and finishing?

STRICKLAND: I think that's a big part of it, you know most of the guys from New York know how to go to the basket and put the ball in the hole. Out in the streets we tried all kinds of tricks and I think I learned how to use the backboard and use my body.

OBSERVER: What is the toughest part of playing in the NBA for you?

STRICKLAND: I don't know, I mean I think it gets easier as you go along I think now probably just the monotony of getting up and going to the shoot-around and going to practice and doing the same thing over and over again.

OBSERVER: What has been the most disappointing part of the season so far?

STRICKLAND: Of this season?

OBSERVER: Do you think today's professional athletes should be judged more on their play on the field, on the court than they are away from the game?

STRICKLAND: Well I think, I don't know. That's a tough question

because that's a business and NBA, NFL, those guys up in those offices they got to run their businesses like they want to run it. So I don't, I mean that's a tough question. I mean, obviously the easiest thing for me to say would, you know just judge by what you do on the court, but I mean I don't know.

OBSERVER: What type of player in this league is the toughest for you to defend?

STRICKLAND: I think a guy like Kevin Johnson whose quick. When his jump-shot is on your at his mercy most of the time.

OBSERVER: What can you say about the nucleus of this team and the future with what they have far as young talent?

STRICKLAND: Well I mean, I can't even speak on that because I don't know what their (management) going to do and what direction their going in. So that's kind of hard question for me to ask because I don't know.

OBSERVER: What do you see in some of the younger players?

STRICKLAND: I think they have some very talented young players. Gary Trent is going to be a player, he's shurtright now, he's been struggling but he's going to be a player. Randolph (Childress) been hurt all season but he's definitely going to be a player. Dontonion (Winfield) has talent. I mean Aaron (Mckie) is only in his second or third year and I think he's going to be an impact player for a long time once he gets the opportunity to get good shots. He's going to be real good.

OBSERVER: Proven the situation is right would you like to play here next year?

STRICKLAND: I don't want to talk about that.

Jamboree Day at Riverside Little League



Chuck Washington (Coach/Publisher of the Portland Observer), Presents a check from the Oregon Lottery to Barbara Marquez President of Riverside Little League. Also pictured Gabe Chase and Donnie Harrison (left to right).



The Portland Police Bureau G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training). Joins the already successful Salvation Army Moore Street Center Youth Basketball Program, providing basketball for youth, like those pictured above. For further information 823-2111.

Tyson In Trouble Again

Mike Tyson could go back to prison if it is determined that he violated the terms of his release after a complaint that he sexually assaulted another woman.

The WBA heavyweight champion, on probation for for a 1992 rape conviction, is restricted to Ohio whole police investigate the complaint. During the investigation in Chicago, Tyson can only leave is home state for emergencies for for other reasons approved in advance.

Last week a Gary, Ind. woman claimed she met Tyson at the Clique, a popular South Side Chicago nightclub and that he kissed her and bit her face. She also said he touched her on an unspecified part of her body and forced her to touch him.

Tyson served six years of a 10 year sentence for raping a contestant in the Miss Black America pageant before being placed on probation in 1995.

If authorities find Tyson violated his probation, they could tighten the restrictions or add other conditions like electronic monitoring. At worst he could have to finish the last four years of his original sentence.

JOHNSON SUSPENDED THREE GAMES, FINED

Los Angeles Lakers superstar Magic Johnson, suspended for three games and fined \$10,000 for bumping a referee, Monday called the punishment "justified" and apologized for his actions. Johnson was suspended and fined

Monday by the N-B-A after bumping second-year official Scott Foster in a nationally-televised game against the Phoenix Suns on Sunday. This came just five days after Johnson publicly admonished teammate Nick Van Exel.

The AUTO ADVANTAGE

AUTO BROKER Inc.
"For The Auto You Desire - At The Value You Deserve"
NEW AND USED CARS, TRUCKS, VANS
TRADE-INS WELCOME!

'90 Mercedes Benz: 190E - 2.6 - Auto
Lots of Hi-way mileage, but Extremely nice! Must see & Drive, \$9995.

'86 Jeep Cherokee: 4Dr, Laredo PKG, Auto, 6 cyl.
PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, Am Fm Cass, AC, \$5395.

'86 Nissan Pick-Up: 5spd, Am FM Cass, Mags, \$2995.

'87 Toyota Xtra-Cab: 4X4, 5spd, 4cyl., Lift Kit, New Tires & Wheels. Doesn't look that nice, but it runs great! \$4995.

(503) 281-9818

6717 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland, OR 97213

BP FOOD MART

Visit us for your best convenient shopping.
Our doors are open all day.
We sell oriental food.

We also offer automotive services on foreign & domestic cars.

- Tune Up, Brakes
- Engine & Transmission
- Repair & Rebuild
- Towing

WE HAVE 18 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY.

5520 NE MLK JR. BLVD., Portland, OR 97211

281-6483

Advertise In
The
Portland
Observer
Call 503-288-0033

JEANIE'S CLEANERS

5403 NE 42ND AVENUE • 287-0008

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
\$4.00 OFF
On Any Dry Cleaning Order
Of \$12.00 or More
Good On Incoming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
Drapery Cleaning
Lined & Unlined Any Size
99¢ A PLEAT
Cleaned - Pressed with Added
Professional Pleated • Pick-up & Rehung Extra
Incoming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
\$8.00 OFF
On Any Dry Cleaning Order
Of \$20.00 or More
Good On In Coming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

COUPON
Inflation Buster Laundry Special
Laundered Shirts
95¢ NO LIMIT
With \$10.00 Incoming Dry Cleaning Order
Good On Incoming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
\$10.00 OFF
On Any Dry Cleaning Order
Of \$30.00 or More
Good On In Coming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
Dry Cleaning or Laundered Pants
Mens or Womens
\$3.25
Good On In Coming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96

KILLINGSWORTH
N
NE 42ND AVE.
Jeanie's Cleaners
5403 NE 42nd Ave.

COUPON
Inflation Buster Dry Cleaning Special
Sleeping Bag Cleaning
Special **\$5.99**
Good On In Coming Dry Cleaning Orders Only
Not Valid With Any Other Special Prices or Coupons
JEANIE'S CLEANERS
Expires 5-31-96