

# SPORTS BRIEFS

## Sabons scores 26

Arvydas Sabonis had 26 points and 13 rebounds in the Portland Trail Blazers' 91-87 exhibition victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

The 7-foot-3 Lithuanian played 28 minutes, most of them in the first and third quarters. He had 12 points and seven rebounds in the opening quarter and added 14 points and five rebounds in the third.

John Crotty added 13 points and five assists for the Blazers (2-0). Rodney Rogers led the Clippers (1-1) with 16 points, and 7-foot-3 rookie center Keith Cross added nine points, eight rebounds and five blocks.

## Stockton out 6-8 weeks after surgery

The Utah Jazz will be without All-Star point guard John Stockton for at least the first six to eight weeks of the regular season after he underwent successful orthoscopic surgery on his left knee Monday night.

Team orthopedic surgeon Dr. Lyle Mason, who terms the injury as significant, performed the one-hour surgery at Bountiful Utah's Lakeview Hospital. He removed a loose piece of cartilage in the joint and then performed a micro fracture technique to seal the defect.

The nine-time All-Star had been experiencing soreness in the knee since the opening of training camp on October 3rd. He recorded 14 points and eight assists in Utah's first preseason game on October 11th, but did not play in Sunday's contest.

## Baseball faces realignment

Major League Baseball faces yet another deadline for coming to an agreement on a realignment plan, and speculation now centers on just one or two teams switching leagues for the 1998 season. Baseball owners were unable to reach an agreement during meetings last month in Atlanta, and the date for reaching a resolution was pushed back until Wednesday.

The owners will likely meet by conference call on Wednesday when they could announce plans for one or two teams to switch leagues or decide to push back any decision until after the World Series. Various reports claim the Kansas City Royals could be moving to the National League, but the Milwaukee Brewers and the Minnesota Twins have also been mentioned as possibilities.

The move of any of those three AL Central teams to the National League would clear a space in the American League for the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays in either the East or Central Divisions. The Detroit Tigers could move to the AL Central if the Devil Rays are placed in the East.

## Possible World Series Game Seven could move Dolphins

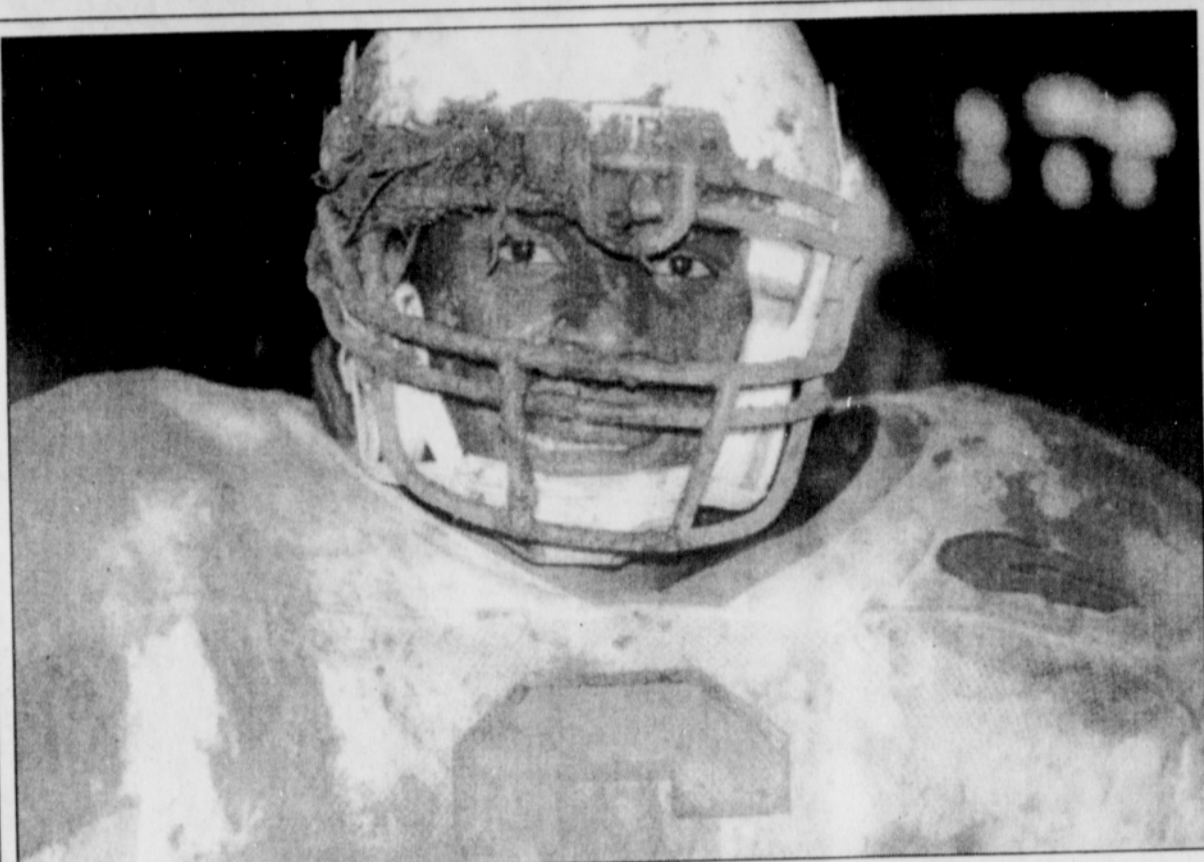
If the Florida Marlins reach the World Series, a possible Game Seven in Miami would conflict with the scheduled NFL game between the Dolphins and Chicago Bears at Pro Player Stadium on Sunday, October 26th.

Florida currently holds a 3-2 lead over the Atlanta Braves in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series, with Game Six to be played Tuesday.

Since the NL has homefield advantage in the World Series, its representative would host Games One and Two, plus Six and Seven — if necessary — on October 25th and 26th, respectively.

The game would be played at 9 p.m. EDT and shown in the Miami and Chicago markets, with the rest of the country seeing the regularly scheduled contest between Green Bay and New England.

# SPORTS



## All for the sport of it

A muddy field at Jefferson High School is no problem for the leading rusher in the Portland Interscholastic League. Grant's Marty Williams also plays defense for the unbeaten Grant. The Generals stopped Jefferson in the wet Thursday game 38 to 28. (Photo by M. Washington)

## UCLA charges to Oregon win

A little headache wasn't going to stop Jim McElroy.

The big-play guy for 18th-ranked UCLA was sidelined with a slight concussion early in the first quarter against Oregon on Saturday and was pronounced out for the game.

But in the third quarter, he was back, racing down the middle of the field to catch a 40-yard pass from Cade McNown to put the Bruins in the lead for good en route to a 39-31 victory over the Ducks.

"I was kind of mad," McElroy said. "I wanted to get back in the first half after everything started clearing up, but they told me no. They said I had to wait until halftime and if I

passed a test I could come back." He passed the test, and so did the Bruins, who won their fourth in a row after an 0-2 start.

"If we lose this game, we're out of the race for the Rose Bowl for sure," McNown said. "Right now it's not exactly in our hands, but if some things happen, we still have a chance to go. We have to run the table for that to happen."

McNown, who rushed for two touchdowns, also connected with McElroy on a 30-yard pass play to set up a fourth-quarter score for the Bruins (4-2 overall, 2-1 Pac-10). UCLA's Chris Sailer kicked field goals of 32, 40, 35 and 56 yards.

Oregon (3-3, 1-3), which lost its third straight to a ranked Pac-10 opponent, took a 21-10 lead in the first nine minutes but was outscored 29-10 the rest of the way.

"I don't know about the state of the team," said a bitter Oregon coach Mike Bellotti. "I think they're upset. I think they're mad. I hope they are."

Bellotti blamed himself after watching his team fail to make the necessary plays in the late going, something that has happened in consecutive losses to Stanford, Washington State and UCLA.

"I haven't done a very good job of teaching this team how to take advantage of opportunities," Bellotti said.

## Arbitrator rules for Dudley trade

A three-man panel unanimously upheld an arbitrator's decision last week, validating the "sign-and-trade" agreement and making center Chris Dudley a member of the New York Knicks, who sent forward John Wallace to the Toronto Raptors. The panel ruled after hearing

hours of arguments from lawyers for the NBA, NBA Players Association, Knicks and Portland Trail Blazers, who receive Toronto's first-round pick in the unique three-way trade.

Claiming it violated salary cap rules, the NBA voided the deal that saw the

Trail Blazers sign Dudley to a one-year minimum contract of \$272,500 and trade him to the Knicks, who were over the salary cap and could not sign him. But on Sept. 17, arbitrator Kenneth Dam said the trade did not circumvent the salary cap.

## ABL BEGINS SECOND SEASON DETERMINED

Despite the clamor for a merger of the two women's professional basketball entities, the American Basketball League begins its second season more determined than ever to blaze its own trail.

The league, looking to upgrade its television package from last season, signed a deal with Fox Sports Net for 16 weekly games, at least seven playoff games, including the finals, and the All-Star Game in Orlando in January. The Black Entertainment Network returns for its second season of weekly Saturday night contests.

Expansion fever was also in the air as the Long Beach StingRays will begin play this season as the ninth ABL franchise.

The league had 59 players on a one-year contract and most of them were pursued by the WNBA. Only one player signed with the other

league, but it was a very high-profiled one as regular-season MVP Nikki McCray jumped ship.

CEO and co-founder Gary Cavali expressed optimism about the second year, noting the deal with Fox and the additions of new sponsors, including Nike, and the announcing of a revolutionary stock plan that will allow players to own shares of stock in the league.

"We're very excited about our second year," said Cavali during a teleconference. "Our season ticket sales are up over 50 percent and we've retained virtually all of our players despite a fairly aggressive assault from another league."

The Columbus Quest was the talk of the first season after winning its first 11 games and defeating the Richmond Rage in five games to capture the first championship.

## Happy Birthday



## Lorenzo "Bugsy" Poe Love Family & Friends

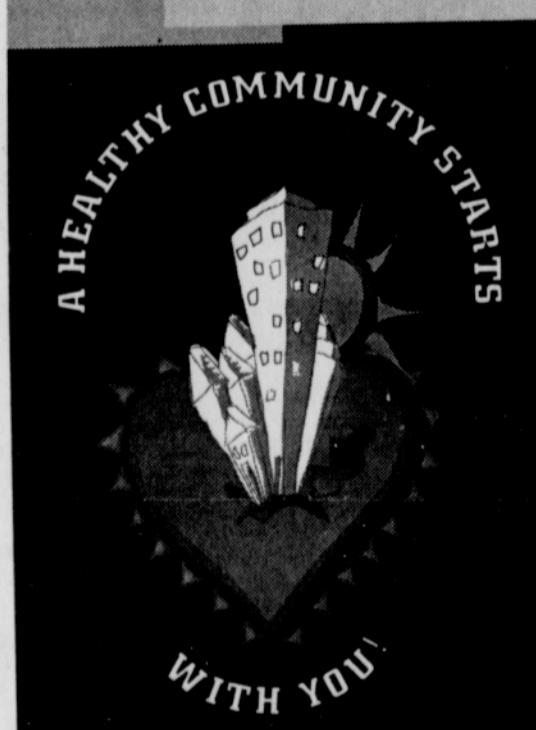
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