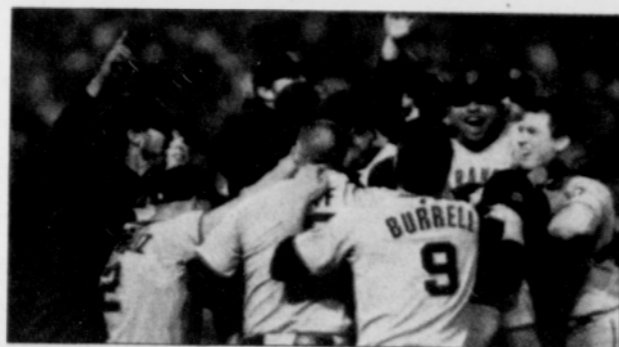




'City of  
Roses'



## World Series Victory



Title first  
for San  
Francisco  
See inside, page 8



Clocks  
Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time  
ends Sunday at 2 a.m.

41  
years of  
community service

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# Two Eras; Two Legends

## 'The Enforcer' Maurice Lucas remembered

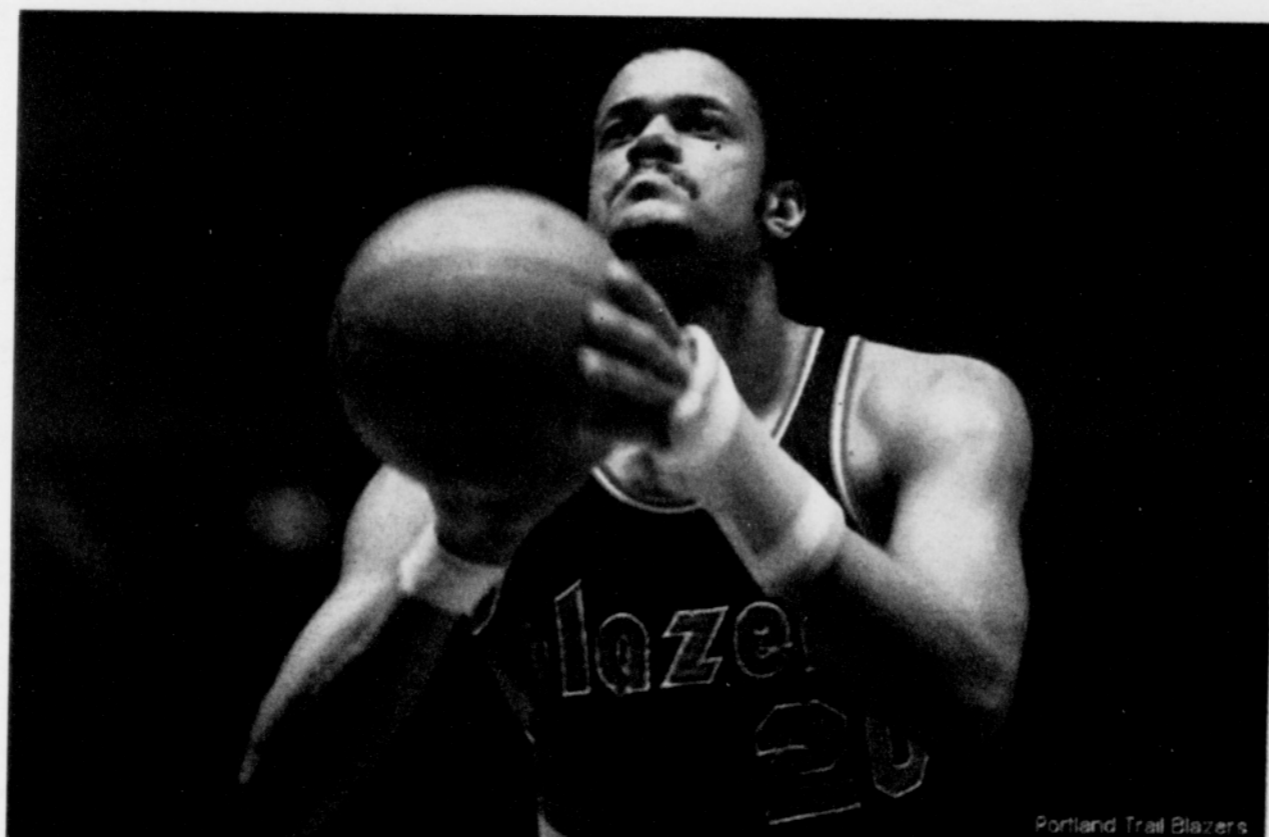
Maurice Lucas, the fierce power forward known as "The Enforcer" who helped lead the Portland Trail Blazers to the 1977 NBA title, is being remembered after his death Sunday from bladder cancer. He was 58.

Lucas, who in later years was an assistant coach with the Blazers, died at his home in Portland with family members at his side, the team said.

Lucas joined Portland in the 1976 ABA dispersal draft and averaged a team-high 20.2 points and grabbed 11.2 rebounds per game in the 1976-77 championship season. His No. 20 was retired by the Blazers in 1988.

At public appearances, fans often greeted Lucas with cries of "Luuuuuuke!" His competitive demeanor on the court was in contrast to his gentle nature off it.

"We have lost a champion of a man," Trail Blazers coach Nate McMillan said in a state-



Maurice Lucas was a five-time NBA All-Star who helped lead the Blazers to the NBA Championship in 1977.

ment. "Maurice was a great man and a great friend. He battled his illness like the warrior he was on the basketball court."

Lucas served as an assistant coach with the Blazers for six seasons, but last year he

left the team to undergo surgery before suffering a setback last November. He did not return to coaching this season.

The former Marquette player averaged 14.4 points and 8.8 rebounds in 12 NBA

seasons with Portland, New Jersey, New York, Phoenix, the Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle. In two seasons in the ABA with St. Louis and Kentucky, he averaged 15.2 points and 10.8 rebounds.

He was a five-time All-Star.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen also praised Lucas in a statement released late Sunday night.

"Maurice Lucas was an amazing man and I count myself lucky to have known him. We all — players, coaches, the owner and the fans — were made better by having Maurice a part of our team, whether playing on the championship team or, most recently as an assistant coach.

"He was one of the greatest Blazers ever."

Prior to last season, an interview with Lucas was posted on the Trail Blazers' official website, covering topics including his health, his work with center Greg Oden and the team's 40th anniversary.

"The one thing that I'm finding is an issue for me is learning patience, being patient with myself. I'm trying to under-

*continued* ▼ on page 4

## Negro Leagues all-star made Portland home

BY BENJAMIN HILL

Artie Wilson, a legend of the Negro American and Pacific Coast Leagues, including the Portland Beavers, died Sunday in Portland where he was a longtime resident. Wilson was 90.

Wilson's long and winding professional baseball career spanned the better part of two decades and was peppered throughout with notable accomplishments. He is considered the last baseball player to hit .400 in a premier professional league, having accomplished the feat as a member of the 1948 Birmingham Black Barons. The fleet-footed Wilson hit .402 that season, reaching base at a prodigious clip while also serving as a mentor to 17-year-old Willie Mays

"He was one of the guys that made sure I



Artie Wilson was considered one of the greatest players in baseball history. He died Sunday at his Portland home at the age of 90.

didn't get in any trouble," Mays told The Oregonian. "I owe a lot of debt to him."

Wilson was a native of Birmingham, and 1948 was his fifth and final season as a member of the hometown Black Barons. The slap-hitting shortstop went to the Pacific Coast League's Oakland Oaks in 1949, in the

process becoming the club's first full-time black player. He led the PCL with a .349 average, teaming up with future Yankees legend Billy Martin to form one of the circuit's best double-play combinations. The two became fast friends, on and off the field.

"When I got [to Oakland], they said they

didn't have a room for me," Wilson told MiLB.com's Kevin Czerwinski in 2007. "But Billy Martin stepped up and said that he's got a roommate -- I'm his roommate. I got to know Billy quite well, and there were no problems anywhere after that."

Baseball's unspoken but rigidly enforced segregationist policies denied Wilson the opportunity to compete in the Majors for many years, but he finally got the chance in 1951 (at the age of 30). He opened the season with the New York Giants, but he accumulated just 22 at-bats before being demoted in May. Ironically, the player who took his place on the roster was none other than his former teammate Willie Mays.

Undaunted, Wilson returned to the PCL and continued to put up stellar numbers while suiting up for the Oaks, San Diego Padres, Seattle Rainiers and Portland Beavers. This was prior to MLB's westward expansion, when the PCL was often referred to as a "third Major League."

"[The PCL] was tough," recalled Wilson in 2007. "We had guys who couldn't hit .250

*continued* ▼ on page 4