

MINI SPORTS

By Everett Jackson

Roberto Duran, still making excuses for his inexcusable fight with Sugar Ray Leonard, in which he surrendered himself and the welterweight title, is trying to promote "World War III." The fierce Panamanian is seeking to negotiate a third meeting between himself and Leonard. The odds of this fight ever occurring are slim-to-none, and states Leonard, "Duran is living a dream. He's through...he's washed up."

"Batter up." Yes, it's that time again. Teams from the American and National Leagues are conditioning themselves for the premier of baseball '81. The New York "Millionaires" (Yankee's) are the pre-season favorites to dethrone the world champion Philadelphia Phillies. "Mr. October," Reggie Jackson, will have to share the spotlight with newcomer Dave Richfield (excuse me, that's Winfield), if the Yankee's are to capture the World Series. The official season is weeks away, but the intensity of baseball fever has arrived.

Vince McPearson, a 17-year-old senior from Blue Springs, Colorado (population 879 and growing) recently set a local "Hot Shot" record for hitting free throws consecutively. The talented player from Blue Springs Sr. High School hit 40 free throws in a row. Maybe that record doesn't seem like much...but blindfolded...try it.

Three fourths of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season has been completed with 23 teams entering the "home stretch." Among these teams, 12 will qualify for the playoffs. Will the Los Angeles Lakers maintain their title (only the Boston Celtics in 1967-68 recaptured the NBA title back-to-back)? During the premier of the NBA season, the Lakers were chosen to accomplish such a rare feat. However, due to a knee injury sustained by the Lakers' Ervin Johnson, various sportswriters insist it will take magic for the Lakers to repeat. (Fortunately, the Lakers have "MAGIC").

There was recently a sports contest held in *The Los Angeles Daily Times*. This contest stated for persons to name the NBA player with the most nicknames. The winner...Darryl Dawkins, alias Human Earthquake, Sir Slam, Double D. The Master of Disaster, Dunkula, Cool Breeze, Funk Surgeon, The Man from Lovetron, Dunkzilla, Dr. Jam, Chocolate Thunder and Squakin' Dawkins. Ironically, another Darrell (Griffith), finished second.

The Ramettes, under the second year direction of Cleo Wallace, were eliminated 70 to 61 in the opening round of NAIA playoffs. The Ramettes concluded the season with a dismal 9-16 record. The lack of height plagued the Ramettes season. This problem is the main concern of the coaches, as they begin their recruiting campaign in search of a dominant player.

Men's Basketball

Rams Denied Post-Season Play

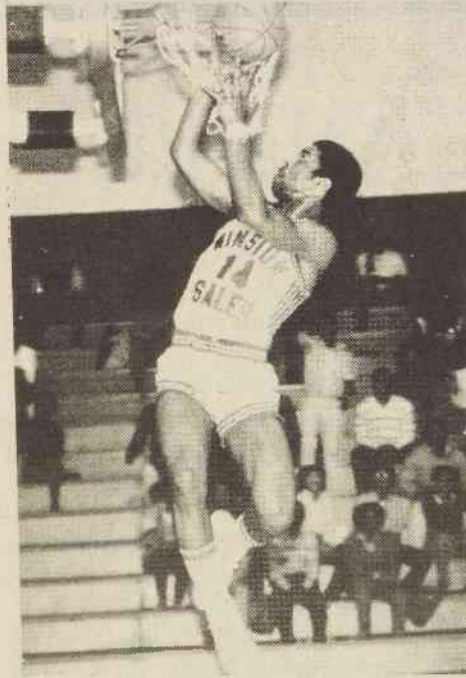
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It was one of those down-to-the-wire situations. The Rams, coming off a crucial loss to Hampton, had to defeat the awesome Panthers of Virginia Union in hopes of obtaining post-season play. The pressure was on and the intensity was at its peak. The Rams were playing in the C.E. Gaines Center, where they were previously unbeaten. Opposite the Triad city, the Broncos of Fayetteville State were hosting the Bears of Shaw University in another do-or-die situation. The Rams needed a win, combined with a Bronco loss, in order to compete in the prestigious CIAA Tournament. Shaw was the team that recently snapped a 40 game losing streak when they played the Rams.

Although the Rams had just upset the Panthers, half the job was fulfilled. However, as expected, Fayetteville was victorious. The result: Fayetteville in, Winston-Salem out.

The season is now over for the Rams, and for some players it was their last hurrah. Senior Mark Clark, the team's leader, demonstrated his gifted ability to perform with accuracy and poise. Clark, having concluded his eligibility as a Ram basketball player, will long be remembered for his versatility on and off the court. "Mark's incredible," expresses Coach "Bighouse" Gaines, "he gives you a hundred and one percent each game. He's the ideal player of a coach."

Hilton Graham, Joe Brawner and Alfred Cook are the remaining seniors on the squad. Their influence was essential in guiding the younger and



Going Up



Coming Down

Photos By Roland Watts

Junior Thurman Green (left) and freshman Roger Mason (right) display their bold talent during a recent Ram basketball game. Both Green and Mason sparked the Rams and will be among next year's returning key players.

less experienced Ram players, who will inherit their leadership.

The Rams can look forward to next season with promising aspects. Among those returning will be Thurman "Burning" Green, Kevin "Rock" McCray and Roger "Magnificent" Mason. This multi-explosive trio continuously sparked the Rams with a spectacular, creative and consistent scoring attack.

The Rams concluded the season with a 10-15 record. A record that cannot reveal the true determination and the

"never say quit" philosophy the team displayed. The cheerleaders, fans...and oh, yes...the jammin' pep band, were highly supportive throughout the season. As one devoted fan headed towards the exit in the Gaines Center, following the Rams victory over Virginia Union, he proudly clinched his fist and revealed a number one gesture. Someone should tell him the Rams finished fifth in the conference...however, on the other hand...why ruin thoughts.

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