

TRAIL BLAZER ROOKIE CITED AFTER BRAWL - Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - April 30, 1990 - page A01
April 30, 1990 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) | JOHN SNELL - of the Oregonian Staff DWIGHT JAYNES of The Oregonian also contributed to this report from Dallas. | Local | Page A01

Summary: Police accuse Cliff Robinson of punching a policewoman and two other persons during a fight outside a bar in Northwest Portland

A Portland Trail Blazer rookie forward, Cliff Robinson, was arrested by Portland police early Sunday morning and accused of assaulting three people, including a Portland policewoman who was trying to break up a brawl outside a Northwest Portland nightspot.

Robinson, 23, a Lake Oswego resident, was accused of three counts of fourth-degree assault and one of disorderly conduct -- all misdemeanors -- and released after being cited at the Justice Center Jail.

He later denied having struck a policewoman and said he swung at the other people in self-defense.

Trail Blazer President Harry Land Sunday afternoon on a team plane to Dallas, where the Blazers are meeting the Mavericks Tuesday in the third game in the first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Glickman said he was unaware of the arrest until told about it by a newspaper reporter. Trail Blazer coach Rick Adelman said Robinson mentioned nothing about the incident during the flight to Dallas.

Adelman said after talking to Robinson and to Trail Blazer Vice President Bucky Buckwalter that no disciplinary action against Robinson was planned.

Robinson is not a starter for the team, but he is one of the first substitutes called in off the bench. The Blazers lead the best-of-five series against Dallas 2-0 and could advance to the playoffs' second round with a win Tuesday night.

The policewoman who was assaulted, Officer Elaine K. Slone, suffered a sharp blow to the side of her head. The blow knocked her to the street outside Goldie's Restaurant & Lounge, 1924 N.W. 24th Ave. She was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, where she was treated and later released. Her report said she suffered a ringing in her ear and a bruise to her kneecap that made it difficult to walk. Her doctor ordered that she stay off work for two days.

According to Slone's report on the incident, when she was writing the citations at the jail before Robinson's release, the 6-foot-10-inch, 225-pound forward said, "If I'd known you were giving me all these tickets, I would have made the hit worthwhile."

Slone's report also said that Robinson made several "ethnic comments" about the last name of her partner, Officer Susan Fachini, referring to her as "fettuccine," and mimicked Slone as he was read his rights.

The incident began when Slone was called to Goldie's at 3:23 a.m. to break up a fight outside the bar.

Her report said that five people were squared off in the street and that a large number of people were watching. Because she and her partner were heavily outnumbered and had the only patrol car on the scene, Slone used the bullhorn on her patrol car to order the crowd to disperse, rather than attempting mass arrests.

Most did disperse, she wrote, but two of the men kept fighting. Bouncers from the business came out and tried to break up the fight. At one point, one of the people in the crowd grabbed Slone's partner and pulled her to the ground. Slone ran to help pull the man off the other officer and saw Robinson out of the corner of her eye.

"I observed Robinson swinging his fists violently at several subjects who were gathered around me," she wrote. "At some point, I felt a violent blow to my right ear, which was delivered with such force that it knocked me to the ground."

Slone wrote that she didn't see Robinson deliver the punch, but witnesses pointed him out as having done it and he was taken into custody without resisting.

Two other people then approached Slone -- Randy Barfield, 24, and Carlos Barfield, 23, both of Portland -- and said they'd both been punched in the face by Robinson.

Slone's report said Randy Barfield had cuts under his left eye and Carlos Barfield had a broken front tooth. Randy Barfield was taken to Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, where he was treated and released.

A woman who answered the door at the Barfield home refused to comment Sunday evening.

In Dallas, Robinson said he was at Goldie's Saturday night and was drawn into the fight when someone began harassing his brother.

"I was in this place and some people were giving my brother a hard time," he said. "The next thing I knew someone swung at me. I swung back. I was the only one picked up."

"I didn't hit any cop," he said, adding that he had a couple of drinks but didn't consider himself drunk. "I wasn't out of my mind," he said.

Robinson was drafted by the Trail Blazers last year, after a college career at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where he was the fourth-highest scorer in school history.

He was invited by the National Basketball Association to attend the 1989 draft in New York -- an honor given only to certain first-round picks. But Robinson wasn't chosen until late in the second round, when the Blazers tapped him as the 36th player drafted overall.

He was said to have been drafted late because NBA scouts reported that he had a poor attitude,

didn't play hard and was sometimes lackadaisical in his concentration.

His reputation dated back, perhaps, to a college game in his freshman year against Central Connecticut State University when Robinson was benched for the final eight minutes of the game after nearly getting into a fight with a Central Connecticut player.

Robinson stood in front of his team's bench, made an obscene gesture at the home crowd and refused to apologize for it after the game.

He recalled the incident in a 1988 interview with the Hartford, Conn., *Courant*, when he said. "I was upset. (Today) I would still be upset but I would keep playing. . I always have."

There were no reports of incidents with the police in Connecticut, according to his former college coach, Jim Calhoun.

The Northwest Portland bar where the fight took place was ordered closed earlier this year by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which noted that it had a history of disturbances, unlawful activities and abuse.

The Portland Police Bureau reported 10 assaults and disorderly activities at the bar from Nov. 5, 1989, through Feb. 10, 1990. OLCC investigators said three of the reported incidents involved handguns, two involved broken drink glasses and one involved a knife.

Detective David W. Simpson, spokesman for the Portland Police Bureau, said Robinson was not booked into jail because the accusations against him are all misdemeanors in which only citations are given.

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

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