

## Russell named new coach of Sacramento

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Bill Russell, five times the NBA's most valuable player and a player-coach of the world champion Boston Celtics during the 1960s, was named head coach Monday of the Sacramento Kings.

Kings managing general partner Gregg Lukenbill and president Joe Axelson said Russell signed a seven-year contract to serve as head coach for an unspecified number of years and eventually succeed Axelson as general manager and president.

They said Jerry Reynolds, who succeeded Phil Johnson as interim head coach after Johnson was fired during the All-Star Game break, would return to his previous post as assistant coach next year under Russell.

Russell, 53, who in 1980 was selected as the greatest player in the history of the NBA by the Professional Basketball Writers' Association of America, has not coached since he left the Seattle SuperSonics in 1977.

He said he was attracted to the post because the Kings offered a long-term contract which would give him the time needed to build a championship team, and because it was a West Coast team, just 90 miles from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he played high school and college ball, and where his father still lives.

"I've been offered some jobs before, but they were always on the East Coast. I'd never live on the East Coast," said Russell, whose current home is Seattle.

Russell, who has been a television commentator for the past decade, said he decided about two years ago that he wanted to return to coaching, but only under the right circumstances.

He and Lukenbill said his Kings contract includes not only the promise of moving up to club president eventually, but also includes an option to become a part

owner. The Kings did not disclose terms except it would be at "a predetermined price" when the Sacramento club eventually makes a public offer of its

Kings, 29-53 this past season, into champions, he predicted that "without too much of a change, we ought to be able to get close to .500."



**MEETS THE PRESS** — Hall of Famer Bill Russell jokes with the media in Sacramento Monday after being named coach of the Sacramento Kings. Russell received a seven-year contract.

stock.

"I wanted a long-term contract because I know what it takes to build a solid franchise," Russell said. "I told Gregg (Lukenbill) if you wanted a team to make the playoffs, I'm not your guy, but if you want an NBA championship, I'm your guy."

Axelson said Russell's seven-year contract would start June 1. He did not disclose the financial arrangement, but did in general spell out the terms to succeed him.

"In two, three or four years, to be dictated by the progress of the team, he will stop coaching and become general manager. Later, following my retirement, he will become president," the 59-year-old Axelson said.

Russell said although he hasn't coached in 10 years, "I haven't been away from the game. I've been to almost as many games (as television commentator) as if I'd been coaching."

Although Russell said he expected it would take several years to build the

He said he thought the Kings have five players "that are really good" on their roster, but that their greatest weakness was defense.

Russell said in addition to keeping Reynolds as an assistant, he would name another assistant coach soon.

Reynolds, whose total NBA experience prior to his stint as interim coach was 1½ years as Johnson's assistant, won an enthusiastic following among Sacramento fans as he compiled a 15-21 record, compared to Johnson's 14-32 record in the first half of the season.

Reynolds said he was pleased that Russell was named head coach and that "it's a tremendous opportunity for me" to be his assistant.

"I really didn't want this job. I'm certainly not ready to be a winning coach in the NBA," Reynolds said.

Russell, an Olympic gold

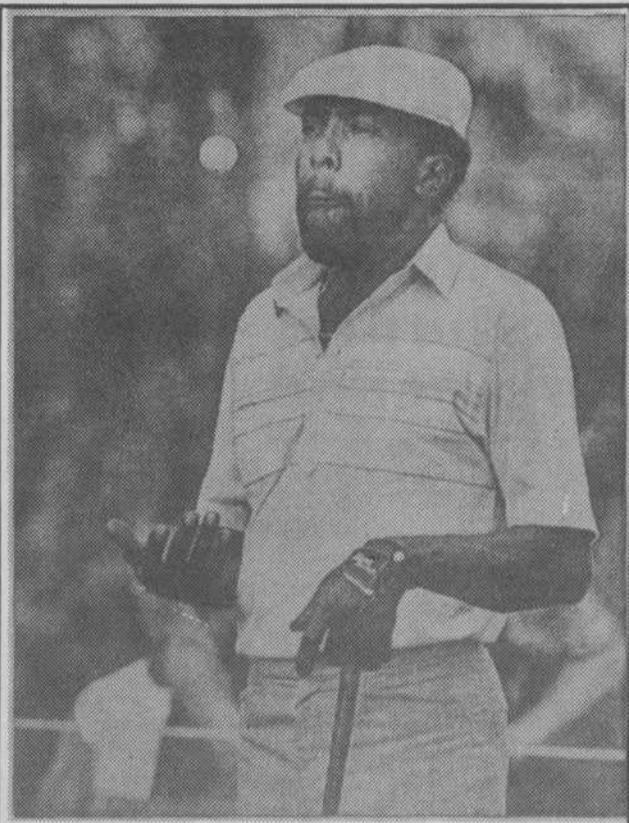
## 'We Can' To Sponsor Family Fun Fair

As a follow-up to National Child Abuse Prevention Month, WE CAN (Working to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect) will sponsor a "Keep Cool with Your Kids Family Fun Fair" to promote positive interaction between parents and children.

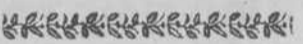
The fair will be held at Sunset Park on Sunday, May 17 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. and will feature magicians, clowns, fingerpainting, non-competitive games and activities for children of all ages.

In addition, TCBY—The Country's Best Yogurt will donate frozen yogurt and the Clark High School Jazz Band along with the "Las Vegas Lites Dance and Drill Team and their Little Blinkers" will perform.

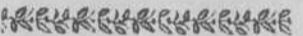
Donations are \$1.00. For further information, call WE CAN at 384-0713.



**LET IT POUR, LET IT POUR** — Professional golfer Calvin Peete casually tosses a golf ball into the air Wednesday afternoon while waiting to see what the weather would do.



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medal winner, a member of the All-American team at the University of San Francisco and a legendary center, played for the Celtics from 1956-65, then served as player-coach from 1966 to 1969. He played on 11 world championship Celtic teams, including two as player-coach.

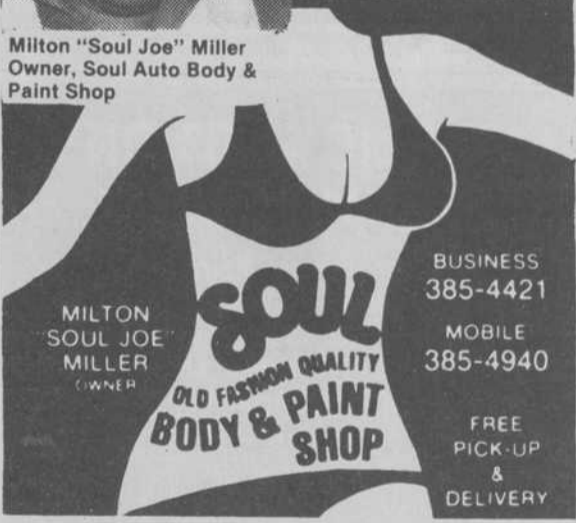
Russell was head coach of the Seattle SuperSonics from 1973-77, when he won 168 games and lost 175, and he twice led Seattle to the playoffs, in 1974-75 and 1975-76. His overall coaching record is 324-249.

Russell was named most valuable NBA player in 1958, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1965, and he was elected to the NBA Hall of Fame in 1974.

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3. Off-color language is embarrassing.
4. Perfection is often just an accident.
5. Most people would consider me unsophisticated.
6. I dislike having to get dressed up to go out.
7. Early hotel check-out times are annoying.
8. People place too much emphasis on sex these days.
9. Moral values are lower now than ever before.
10. Love and commitment should precede sex.