

Blazers fall to K.C. Kings in 98-97 overtime game

PORTLAND (AP)—Backup center Joe Meriweather scored four points in overtime, including the winning basket with 57 seconds remaining, as the Kansas City Kings surprised the Portland Trail Blazers 98-97 in a National Basketball Association playoff game Wednesday night.

The victory gives the Kings a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three first-round mini-series. The Kings can clinch the series with a victory at Kansas City on Wednesday night.

Portland led 86-76 with six minutes left in the game, but Ernie Grunfeld brought the Kings back with 10 fourth-quarter points.

A driving layup by Otis Birdsong with one second left tied the score at 90 and forced the overtime. Birdsong led all scorers with 29 points.

Billy Ray Bates gave Portland a 97-96 lead with two free throws with 1:20 to go.

The patient Kings ran out all but one second on the 24-second shot clock before Meriweather broke free in the inside for the winning basket.

Mychal Thompson missed a 10-foot bank shot on Portland's next possession, but the Blazers got the ball back one more time with six seconds left.

Portland had a time-out remaining but didn't take it, and the clock expired as Kermit Washington threw up a 40-foot air ball at the buzzer.

Scott Wedman scored 25 points and Grunfeld added 16 for Kansas City.

Bates led Portland with 25, while Thompson add 18 and teammate Calvin Natt 14.

Flores remains in Super stupor

SEATTLE (AP) — The Oakland Raiders' Tom Flores spoke Wednesday like a man who still was under the influence of some Super Bowl postgame victory celebration champagne.

"This is something they can't ever take away from you — the experience of being number one," he said. "A championship season is just as exciting as hell."

Flores appeared absolutely

euphoric on the opening day of the two-day American Football Conference West Coaches media meeting.

Also here were Dan Reeves, brand new Denver Broncos' rookie head coach, along with Don Coryell of the San Diego Chargers, Marv Levy of the Kansas City Chiefs and Jack Patera of the Seattle Seahawks.

"The one game — the Super Bowl — is so big that it's just

awesome," he said with a smile. "That whole week in New Orleans was just an experience that you'll always treasure."

"It's an experience that you'd like to have every year if the emotional part of your body can handle it."

In only his second season as the Raiders' head coach, Flores directed the AFC West wild-card Raiders to a 27-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XV in the New Orleans Superdome Jan. 25.

Flores made it clear the Raiders hoped to field a better team in 1981. He pointed out Oakland has two first-round picks in the National Football League draft April 28.

At the other end of the spectrum was Patera, whose Seahawks finished 4-12 and in the cellar of the AFC West.

Nevertheless, the Seahawks added five years to Patera's contract, saying the club wanted "stability."

"I think we have a better football team than our record indicated," said Patera, the five-year franchise's only head coach.

Men netters blank PSU

Oregon's men tennis team blanked visiting Portland State University Wednesday 9-0, improving their season record to 6-1.

"Overall, we're much too strong for them," said Oregon coach Buzz Summers, "but our kids also played exceptionally well."

The Ducks, who won 18 straight sets against the Vikings, were led by senior Bill Whistler, who slammed Steve Martini, 6-1, 6-3, in the number-one singles match. The win raised his record to 4-3.

Oregon's Mark Evans and Stu

Bartlett then teamed up to defeat Martini and Eric Nelson, 6-3, 6-0, in the top doubles event.

The Ducks now host Southern Oregon College Friday at 2:30 p.m. and, according to Summers, revenge will be on Oregon's mind. Last season, SOC pinned a 6-3 upset defeat on the Ducks when Summers left the team's top three players in Eugene.

"We won't lose to them this year," says Summers, "the kids have said that, and were going to stick to it."

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