



Rosie Williams (36) shook off an early-season hamstring injury to post a 200-meter time of 23.60 and qualify for the NCAA meet.

QUALIFIERS

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second-fastest ever behind only her school record of 23.39 last year and easily broke the provisional time of 23.84.

The biggest surprise of the season would have to be the improvement of Smith in the discus.

Smith had only a best of 155-1 before this season but improved to 161-3 in a dual meet against California and then to 163-4 at the Oregon Invitational before throwing 171-9 at the Long Beach Twilight Invitational last Thursday. That throw is also the sixth-best in the NCAA this year.

With their 14 qualifiers, the men will be well represented at the NCAA meet and are looking to improve on last year's fourth place finish.

Also competing in the meet

for the Oregon men will be Pedro daSilva in the decathlon, Scott McGee in the hammer, Art Skipper in the javelin, long jumper Latin Berry, triple jumper Spencer Williams, Eric Peterson in the 1,500 meters and Brian Wright in the 400 hurdles.

Although the women have only six qualifiers as opposed to nine last year, the Ducks should improve on last year's team performance which tied them for 42nd overall.

Joining Williams and Smith in the NCAA meet will be Liz Wilson in the 5,000 meters, Stephanie Wessell in the 10,000 and javelin throwers Paula Berry and Kim Hyatt.

Wessell was only a provisional qualifier in the 10,000, but coach Tom Heinonen has opted to have her run the 10,000 instead of the 5,000 which she automatically qualified for.

Blazers hope home court advantage continues

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Portland Trail Blazers are within two games of the NBA finals for just one reason: Home Sweet Home.

The Trail Blazers, who beat San Antonio in a series in which the home team won every game, hope that holds true in their Western Conference final against Phoenix. It resumes Tuesday night in Portland after a disastrous turn for the Blazers in the land of the Suns.

In fact, Portland has taken the home court advantage to an extreme, going 8-0 in the playoffs at home, just 1-5 on the road. Phoenix, on the other hand has won four playoff road games, although the Suns have lost 19 straight games in Portland dating back to the 1984 playoffs.

The Blazers' perfect home mark has kept their best-of-7 Western Conference final series tied 2-2 after the Suns' two one-sided victories in Phoenix that makes Phoenix players optimistic about Game 5 in Portland.

"We played well enough to win the first two games up there," Dan Majerle said, "then we had lapses and didn't execute at the end."

The Blazers were in the same situation against San

Antonio. Portland won the first two games of that series, was beaten soundly the next two, but won Game 5 at home and eventually won in seven games.

"It's a three-game series with two of them at our place," said Portland point guard Terry Porter. "If we take care of business at home, we're OK. As long as we continue to win at home, we won't have a problem. We can lose Game 6 as long as we win 5 and 7 at home."

The Blazers have been winning at home, but just barely.

The last two victories over San Antonio were in double-overtime and overtime. Portland won the series opener against the Suns 100-98 on a late basket by Kevin Duckworth, then overcame a 22-point deficit in Game 2 to win 108-107 on Porter's 13-footer in the final seconds.

The collapse obviously had no long-term effect on the Suns. When the series shifted to Phoenix, the Suns won Game 3 in one of the most one-sided contests in NBA playoff history, 123-89.

Portland fared better in Game 4, but couldn't match the offense generated by Kevin Johnson and Tom Chambers, and the Suns pulled away in the second half. Portland missed five straight free throws in the third quarter and the Suns won the rebounding battle

48-36 against a Blazer team that led the league in that department.

Phoenix hasn't had the home court advantage in any series in the 1990 playoffs, but won twice each on the road against the Utah Jazz and Los Angeles Lakers.

"We're not the Globetrotters yet, but if we're going to win everything, we have to win one on the road," Phoenix coach Cotton Fitzsimmons said.

"We understand that. We're the first team to win 54 games and not get the home court advantage in any series. But winning two in Utah and two in Los Angeles makes us a tougher, better team."

While the Suns' offense was in high gear at home, the Blazers have survived despite a lack of scoring punch.

Clyde Drexler, whose cold shooting has compounded Portland's problems, said the team hasn't recovered from the loss of Duckworth and backup center Wayne Cooper to injuries in the opening round. Both have returned to the lineup, but the team has yet to regain the level of play that helped it win 59 games in the regular season.

Reserve guard Drazen Petrovic, whose offense is sorely needed, is bothered by a right wrist sprained in Sunday's game, but is expected to play Tuesday.



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