

## Blazers to begin camp this week

### Team hopes to erase memories of playoff failure

PORTLAND (AP) — The standards for success are so high for the Portland Trail Blazers that anything short of an NBA title is a disappointment.

So the foul taste of last season's playoff pratfall against the Los Angeles Lakers lingers as the team opens training camp this week.

"The only thing I worry about is we'll have a tendency to dwell on last year rather than forget about it," Portland coach Rick Adelman said Wednesday. "You have to learn from it, but not dwell on it."

The Blazers had the league's best record in the 1990-91 regular season and, after a trip to the finals in 1990, were favored by many to win the '91 championship.

But the team struggled against the slowdown tactics of the Lakers in the Western Conference finals and lost in six games.

An older, wiser Portland team will gather Friday for the start of fall training camp at Lewis & Clark College.

"We've had such quick success that you have to go through it in order to learn how to deal with it," Adelman said.

Adelman isn't bothered by the criticism he's received from people who say he was out-coached by the Lakers' Mike Dunleavy in the playoffs.

"If we lose, I'm going to take the heat," he said. "If we win, I'm probably going to get more credit than I deserve. That's just the way it is."

He said Dunleavy is an excellent example.

"They talked about the great job he did in our series and they talked in the Chicago series about how he didn't make enough adjustments," Adelman said.

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The biggest lesson the Blazers must learn is how to be more patient on offense, the coach said.

"Our players are more used to playing with each other," he said. "We're going to know we've been here before and we have to have a little more patience and realize there are a lot of aspects to this game."

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— Rick Adelman,  
Coach, Portland Trail Blazers

Adelman said people forget that if Cliff Robinson hadn't dropped the ball on a fast break under the basket or Terry Porter hadn't missed an open jumper at the buzzer, the Blazers would have beaten the Lakers in Game 6.

"And I think we would have won Game 7 at home," he said. Danny Ainge has threatened

to stay away from camp in a contract dispute, but Adelman said he's confident the issue will be resolved soon.

"I'm not really concerned about it because no one else is in that situation and I think it's going to work out," he said. "Our organization has done a great job of taking care of those kinds of situations. It's not going to affect us. We have a month before our first regular-season game."

A main goal of the training camp will be to expand the offense.

"It's going to be a matter of looking at our various people and trying to have a little bit more of a balanced game with all of our players," he said.

He wants more involvement from Robinson, Ainge and Alaa Abdelnaby.

And he doesn't expect much change in the 12-man roster.

"It's going to take somebody playing awfully well in camp and in the exhibition season to beat anybody out," Adelman said.

Five or six teams have a chance to win it all this season, he said.

"I think we deserve to be one of those, and we're a logical choice if you have to pick one."

## Arena hearing generates input, support from public

PORTLAND (AP) — A proposed new arena for the Portland Trail Blazers attracted support and wide-ranging suggestions at a hearing.

The National Basketball Association team wants to build a 19,200-seat sports arena on city-owned property adjacent to Memorial Coliseum.

The team would operate the coliseum as a second arena for community events and large conventions.

An Arena Task Force including citizens and elected officials has been negotiating with the Blazers on design and funding of the \$178.8 million project, which would require a public investment of \$34.5 million.

The 15-member task force held Tuesday night's hearing.

There was virtually no testimony against the proposal. But most who spoke said they had specific interests they want addressed.

Morton Winkel of Portland said he wanted to ban advertising for alcoholic beverages inside the new facility. He said the ads were bad for children.

Frank Haslach of Lake Oswego wanted the city to convert the coliseum to hold an Olympic swimming pool. However, Robert Ridgley, task force chairman, said such a pool would eliminate hockey in the facility, forcing the Portland Winter Hawks, a Western Hockey League team, to move.

The public share of the investment would be paid through ticket taxes, parking charges and entertainment revenues.

The task force believes that the project would generate \$1.8 million annually in new property taxes and another \$3 million each year in user fees.

The task force will meet Friday to discuss whether to recommend the proposal to the city and the Metropolitan Service District.

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