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**SPORTS**  
**Heimlich couldn't save Sunday's team chokes**

**FROM THE SIDELINES**  
 BY JAYSON JACOBY

I had been looking forward to last Sunday for a long time. Boy, was I in for a big disappointment.

I had my schedule all figured out. The Trail Blazers were taking on Chicago on NBC at 10 a.m., followed by UCLA-Duke at 1 p.m. on ABC. I even had the radio tuned in to the Ducks' game against Arizona State.

So there I sat 10 minutes before the Blazers-Bulls tip-off. I had my chips. And dip. As that annoying basketball analyst Dick Vitale says, I was "ready for prime time, baby!"

Portland started slow and fell behind early, but by the second quarter the game was developing into the back-and-forth, lead-changing, possible NBA championship matchup it was supposed to be. Everything was falling into place.

The NBC announcers hadn't mispronounced any of the Blazers' names yet. Heck, they were even trying to stay away from the "Michael vs. Clyde" kind of hype that dominated last year's "Magic vs. Michael" finals.

Drexler was gliding. Michael and Scottie were flying. It was a great start to what promised to be a great day of sports. That's

when it all fell apart.

I just stepped out of sight of the television for a minute, maybe two, to refill the chip bowl. When I poked my head back in it was halftime and the Blazers were down by 15. Wait just a minute. They were ahead by three when I left.

"What's going on?" I thought. Is this some kind of diabolical attempt by the NBA to make sure the team located in the largest metropolitan area with the largest television audience wins?

Well, I guess it wasn't. Unless they paid off the Blazers. The way Portland threw the ball around Sunday, the Timberwolves would have beaten them. Easy. Whatever the reasons, the first third of my day's viewing was over, and my team had lost 111-91. Not a good start, but things got worse.

My next hope was UCLA. Not my favorite team by a long shot, but I hold the Bruins in much higher esteem than I do the Blue Devils.

This game started out about like I expected. It was close and stayed that way even longer than the Blazers-Bulls contest did. Only this time I wasn't out of the room when the team I wanted to win choked. I had to watch the Blue Devils pull off a 16-4 run in the game's final

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