

Seattle takes the Blazers' label

Stick to grunge music -For years as a Blazer fan, I've had to put up with the disappointments that went along with Portland at playoff time. Whether it was Jordan hitting back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back three-pointers and then running down the court shrugging his shoulders for the television cameras like he did the year the Bulls crushed the Blazers in the NBA Finals, or last season when Portland was supposed to give one last run for NBA title but fell in four games in the first round of the playoffs, it's been one disappointment after another.



DAVE CHARBONNEAU

more about the Blazers. After all, there's going to be talk all summer about what the future holds for Portland: A new coach? New management? Drexler finally getting rid of his contract with Avia?

All the while, there were a few friends of mine who were big Seattle fans and would constantly remind me that Portland was a team of chokers and that the Sonics would soon be the team to beat in the NBA.

Each year Portland would drop a place or two in the Western Conference playoff seedings, and Seattle would move up a place or two. Finally, the changing of the guard took place this season after the Sonics picked up Kendall Gill and Detlef Schrempf during the summer. The Blazers, on the other hand, were snatching up Chris Dudley and Harvey Grant. Blazer fans thought the acquisitions of the two would be what the team needed to finally put the team over the hump, the same way they thought Buck Williams, Danny Ainge and Rod Strickland would in previous years.

And now that the Sonics have failed miserably in their first year as the favorites to win the title, they will have to listen to the same things the Blazers have had to listen to.

The Sonics, however, are a different story. After finishing with the best record in the NBA and losing in the first round of the playoffs, the city of Seattle should start gearing up for the same crap the city of Portland has gone through for the past five years.

prime, the same things were being said about the Blazers that are now being said about the Sonics. They're young, athletic and are overflowing with talent that extends 10 players into their lineup.

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Chances are, the Sonics will be strong for at least the next two or three years, just like the Blazers were. But they will constantly be forced to listen to criticism about their lack of smarts, lack of a quality big man and lack of good coaching.

Like it or not, Seattle, you're now in the unenviable position of being the team from the Northwest that can't seem to get over the hump. Dick Enberg will still be able to show shots of the city before games and say "Welcome to majestic Seattle, Washington. Home of the team with the best record in the NBA," just like he used to open Blazer games.

Personally, I don't mind turning over the reins of being a fan of a bunch of underachievers. The stress and the throwing of beer bottles at the television is something I can do without.

One good thing for Seattle fans: Chris Dudley is a free agent and Rick Adelman should also be a free man soon.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

When Portland was in its

Nosler angered over team's snub

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

The season is over for all but one player on the Oregon men's golf team.

The Ducks were not one of the 12 teams chosen from their region to compete in next week's Western Regionals, but junior Ted Snavelly grabbed the one individual spot for a player whose team wasn't invited.

Snavelly will be the only player not with his team at the regional tournament May 19-21 on the Tucson National Golf Course in Tucson, Ariz. Snavelly must finish among the top five individuals at the tournament to advance to the NCAA Championships in June.

As for the rest of the Ducks, they lost out to San Francisco for the 12th and final slot in the West Region despite having defeating the Dons in three of the five tournaments they competed in together.

"I'm very upset with the manner in which teams were chosen," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "They told me the primary thing for selecting teams is head-to-head competition for the year. Eleven teams in the tournament had better head-to-head records against us, and I have no qualms with that."

"But for that 12th spot, we had a better head-on record than San Francisco. We were 3-2 head-on against them; we lost to them twice in the fall and then beat them the last three times we faced them.

If the primary basis is head-on records, we should have the 12th spot."

Nosler also pointed out that San Francisco made the tournament partially because of head-to-head advantages over Pacific and Oregon State, two other teams that were included among the field of 12. In that case, San Francisco's head-to-head record helped them, but Oregon didn't get the same benefit.

"You have to have apples with apples," Nosler said. "Do not let us have head-on records count and let them have it."

In addition to a head-to-head advantage, Nosler brought up a few other advantages he felt his team had over the Dons.

"In strength of schedule, we make (San Francisco) look like they played a junior college schedule," he said. "We had wins over Arizona, Arkansas, Pepperdine and we beat BYU once or twice. If you want to get to the nitty gritty, look at stroke difference between teams: We were 42 strokes ahead of them."

The second-year Oregon coach said he became angry when the selection committee told him they were helping both teams by giving San Francisco the team slot and Oregon the individual position.

"I told them, 'Don't think your going to appease me by giving me one player in the tournament.'"

Nosler said the committee told him he could

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