



YEAR OF THE DUCK DANNY O'NEIL



EMERALD

He wasn't the biggest guy on the field, and he wasn't the most athletic. Despite these limitations, Danny O'Neil will forever be remembered as the field general of the most incredible return to glory for the Oregon football team and arguably one of the best quarterbacks in Oregon history.

After a slow start to the season (including a mysterious virus that saw the senior signal-caller miss two starts), O'Neil reeled off six straight wins after his return to the starting

lineup.

Named the co-MVP of the 1995 Rose Bowl, O'Neil claimed many records in his four-year stay at Oregon.

Among others, the California native can claim the Oregon record for most 300-yard passing games (9) and ranks second on the all-time Oregon passing list in terms of yards. He also holds the record for touchdown passes in a career. In short, O'Neil was a vital part of Oregon's truly incredible year.

Spurs look to avoid let down in title run

HOUSTON (AP) — A loss tonight, and the San Antonio Spurs' season goes from grand achievement to bitter disappointment.

After a 62-20 record, the best in the NBA, anything short of a championship will mean the season was a failure, Spurs coach Bob Hill said Wednesday.

"We've had a great year in San Antonio," he said. "We've given the organization structure, substance, discipline. We've laid terrific groundwork for the future. I think we've done a multitude of great things."

"But once we recognized how good we could be, we escalated our goals. Our goal now is to win a championship. Unless we win a championship, there's going to be a void until next year. There's no question about that."

The Spurs' season will end if they can't beat the Houston Rockets at the Summit in tonight's Game 6 of the Western Conference finals.

Recent history is on San Antonio's side. With Houston leading the best-of-7 series 3-2, no home team has won a game.

Houston is just 3-4 at home in the playoffs, and the Spurs have won four in a row on the road. So what appears in conventional thinking to be an advantage for Houston might be, in this upside-down series, just the opposite.

Hill tried to break the jinx in Game 5 by putting his team in a hotel the night before. Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich will try the raw fish approach.

"I'm not eating sushi," he said. "I did it twice and we lost."

Then there's the Dennis Rodman factor. The last time he played in Houston, he had 12 points and 19 rebounds, 12 on offense, as San Antonio won Game 4 103-81 to complete a Summit sweep.

The next day, Rodman showed up 35 minutes late for practice and was benched by Hill at the start of Game 6.

THURSDAY

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World of Outlaws

World of Outlaw driver standings through May 29, with driver name, number of victories in parentheses, and points.

1. Jac Haudenschild (3), 2,900
2. Mark Kinser (8), 2,871
3. Danny Lasoski (2), 2,858
4. Dave Blaney (1), 2,832
5. Stevie Smith (1), 2,748
6. Andy Hillenburg, 2,724
7. Jeff Swindell, 2,687
8. Greg Hodnett (1), 2,680
9. Joe Gaerte, 2,536
10. Aaron Berryhill, 2,495
11. Randy Hannagan, 2,304
12. Tim Engler, 1,274
13. Johnny Herrera, 1,206
14. Sammy Swindell, 1,095
15. Jeff Shepard, 1,075
16. Bobby Davis Jr., 1,024
17. Steve Kinser (2), 1,018
18. Gus Wasson, 830
19. Terry McCarl, 726
20. Tommie Estes Jr., 724

Former coach Moeller fined

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP) — Former Michigan football coach Gary Moeller today was ordered to pay \$409 in fines and fees on charges stemming from a drunken scene earlier this month in a restaurant.

Southfield District Judge Bryan Levy ordered no probation or other punishment for Moeller, saying what Moeller went through after his arrest has exceeded the crime: Moeller lost his job as Michigan football coach.

Moeller pleaded no contest earlier this month to misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and assault and battery.

He was accused of becoming drunk and abusive May 5 in a Southfield restaurant, harassing restaurant workers and other customers, then fighting with police who initially tried to send him home in a cab and then arrested him.

Knicks center gets the knife

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing had surgery Wednesday to remove torn cartilage from his right knee, and the New York Knicks center is expected to recover fully.

"We don't anticipate any delay on his starting the season on time," said Dr. Norman Scott, the team physician.

Ewing, who played through two rounds of the playoffs with pulled muscles in his leg, underwent arthroscopic surgery last July and was sub-par for the first month of the season.

Shaq's magic powers Orlando to 3-2 lead

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal not only stayed in the game, he dominated it.

O'Neal's 35 points and 13 rebounds powered Orlando within one victory of the NBA Finals as the Magic held off the Pacers 108-106 Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

After suffering through two foul-shortened games in Indianapolis, O'Neal took charge of this one, scoring 20 points in the first half and 13 in the third period.

"I just wanted to play aggressive, to play my game, take it strong to the basket," O'Neal said. "And I did that."

His big night was nearly ruined by a furious Indiana comeback from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit. After the Pacers pulled within three points with 16 seconds left, the Magic held on down the stretch despite hitting only 4-of-12 free throws in the last 3:44.

With Indiana down 106-103, Mark Jackson had a chance to tie it, but he missed a 3-pointer with about seven seconds left.

To close the series in six games, Orlando will have to win Friday night at Market Square Arena, a building in which it has lost eight straight. Game 7, if necessary, would be Sunday at Orlando.

"We just need to go there with the same intensity and the same composure and maybe we can get one," O'Neal said.

Nick Anderson added 19 points for the Magic and Brian Shaw came off the bench to score 15. Anfernee Hardaway also had 15.

Rik Smits, whose buzzer-beating basket made him the hero of Game 4, was the center in foul trouble this time. He fouled out with 3:44 remaining and scored 20 points. Reggie Miller led the Pacers with 21 points.

Indiana trailed by 14 with 4:21 left but scored 10 straight points, capped by Jackson's 3-pointer with 1:05 left. Anfernee Hardaway's free throw with 30.9 seconds to play made it 105-100, but as the Pacers have shown throughout the playoffs, they don't go down easy.

O'Neal, who had missed four free throws during Indiana's spurt, grabbed the rebound of Jackson's miss with 22.7 seconds left. After two timeouts, Hardaway went to the line but made only one, and Derrick McKey fired a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left to cut the lead to 106-103.

Shaw blew two free throws before Jackson, hesitating behind the arc and apparently looking for Miller, missed a 3-pointer. Hardaway got the rebound, then finally hit two free throws together. Miller sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer.