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Unhappy Strickland still a Blazer

■ **NBA:** The point guard bolts from practice after the team fails to trade him before the deadline

PORTLAND (AP) — At the end of a tumultuous, rumor-filled day in Portland, the Trail Blazers suspended Rod Strickland after failing to grant his wish to be traded by Thursday night's deadline.

The suspension, in effect for only Thursday night's game against Denver, came after Strickland stormed off the court during the shootaround earlier in the day and said he was finished as a Blazer, whether he was traded or not.

"I'm not going to be a part of this," Strickland said. "If I have to pack up and take a fine, I will. This is it for me."

Strickland's well-known dislike for coach P.J. Carlesimo finally erupted into a rift that Blazers forward Buck Williams said "is almost irreparable at this point."

"At some point someone is going to have to mediate in order to get this thing resolved and maybe reach some kind of understanding to get through the rest of the season," said Williams, president of the NBA Players Association. "This is a very difficult situation and I don't think one or two conversations is going to get it done."

Blazers president Bob Whitsitt said Strickland was suspended for "repeated violations of team rules." He said he expects Strickland to show for practice Saturday and play in Sunday's game against Detroit.

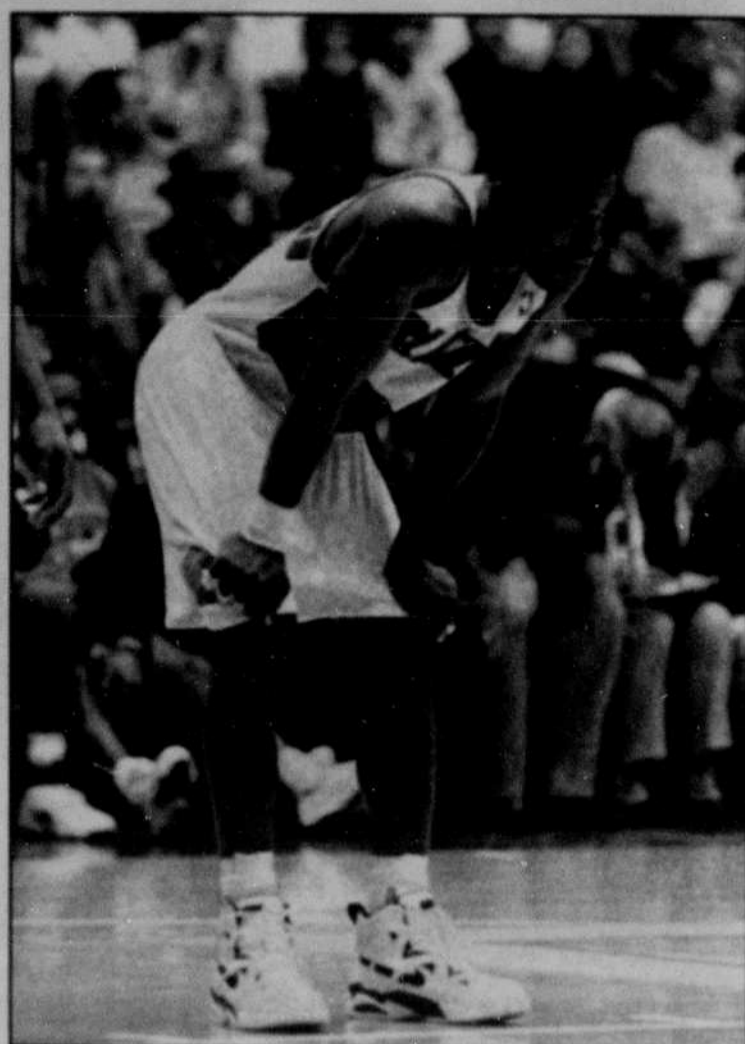
And if Strickland doesn't show?

"Talk to me Sunday," Whitsitt said.

Whitsitt said Strickland would be fined an undisclosed amount in addition to losing one game's worth of his \$2.3 million annual salary.

Whitsitt said he had talked with Strickland's agent, Mark Termini, after Thursday's shootaround and that Termini had suggested that Strickland not be contacted yet.

Termini called Wednesday, Whitsitt said, to say that Strick-



Disgruntled guard Rod Strickland was suspended for Portland's 107-78 victory over Denver Thursday night after storming out of practice.

land wanted to be traded by Thursday's deadline. Despite Strickland's long history of problems with Carlesimo, it was the first time such a request had been made, Whitsitt said.

"I said to him, 'Look, if there's something that's out there, we'll look at it, but there's not going to be anything out there in one day,'" Whitsitt said. "I said if somebody really wants to move on, you sit down, you talk about it, you play hard and you work together and see if you can accommodate him."

Strickland is averaging 19.3 points and 9.5 assists this season, but the team has had big trouble lately. Whitsitt said he believed the frustration of a five-game losing streak overall and a six-game

skid at home likely was behind the turmoil.

Rumors swirled all day that Strickland was about to be traded to Denver for Jalen Rose and Reggie Williams. Rose, in town with the Nuggets, said the phone in his hotel room kept ringing as news of the purported deal spread across the country.

"At least I got to talk to all of my family," Rose said with a smile in the visitors' locker room before Thursday night's game.

Carlesimo said he couldn't comment on the suspension until after Thursday night's game. Asked if the problem between him and Strickland had gotten to the point of no return, Carlesimo said, "No, I don't think so."

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Men's b-ball: Oregon looks for revenge at ASU

■ Continued from Page 11

off the bench to score a game-high 18 points, while Corey Williams had 17 and Michael Dickerson added 14.

Next up for the Ducks is Arizona State. The Sun Devils (10-12, 5-8) beat Oregon 74-73 at McArthur Court back in January in a last-second thriller. Arizona State beat Oregon

State 63-58 on Thursday night and are looking to salvage the season with a .500 record.

The Sun Devils have two strong players in the starting line-up. Forward Ron Riley is averaging 20 points per game and guard Jeremy Veal averages 19.3 points per game. Riley had 15 and Veal had 18 in the game against the Ducks earlier this season.

OREGON (63)	
Lawrence 4-15 6-6 14	Curry 5-16 1-2 12
Brown 4-16 0-0 11	Milling 4-6 0-0 8
Williams 2-10 2-3 8	Carson 2-3 0-0 5
Smith 1-3 1-2 3	Ramaker 1-7 0-2 2
Larry 0-1 2-2 2	TOTALS 23-79 13-19 63
ARIZONA (81)	
Terry 7-10 2-3 18	Williams 7-14 3-4 17
Davis 7-10 1-3 15	Dickerson 4-14 5-6 14
Simon 1-3 4-4 7	Geary 1-8 3-4 5
McLean 1-5 2-4 2	TOTALS 26-65 20-26 81
3-point goals: Oregon 4-24 (Brown 3-13, Curry 1-2), Arizona 5-17 (Terry 2-3, Simon 1-3, Dickerson 1-3, Geary 1-3).	
Rebounds: Oregon 48 (Ramaker 15, Curry 7, Milling 4, Lawrence 4), Arizona 49 (Davis 13, McLean 7, Williams 8, Dickerson 6).	

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