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Blazers: Suns trying to make room under salary cap

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son said. Disorderly conduct is a fairly common charge in South Carolina, with fines running between \$200 and \$300. The magistrate also could impose a 30-day jail sentence, prosecutor Leah Moody said.

O'Neal and a friend, Thomas Simmons Jr., spent a night in jail June 14 for allegedly cursing at officers after they were asked to leave a shopping mall. Someone in the group they were with was handing out fliers, a violation of mall policy.

O'Neal starred at Columbia's Eau Claire High School before skipping college to go directly into the NBA draft. He was Portland's first-round pick last year, averaging 4.1 points and 2.8 rebounds in 45 games as a rookie.

He will play for the Trail Blazers later this month in a summer league for rookies, young players and free agents in Long Beach, Calif., and Salt Lake City.

O'Neal said he expects to be back in Columbia on Aug. 4.

■ **Blazers going after free agent John Williams, newspaper says**

The Portland Trail Blazers reportedly are going after free-agent center John "Hot Rod" Williams, according to *The Oregonian*.

Williams' agent, Mark Bartlestein, said Williams is mulling substantive multi-year offers from three teams, which he would not name. Two of the teams are believed to be Portland and Vancouver, the newspaper reported.

The Blazers can free up more than \$4 million if they renounce Chris Dudley, who appears to be leaning toward the Pistons. Dudley opted out of a \$13 million contract and is shopping his services to several teams.

Blazers President Bob Whitsitt would not comment, and spokesman John Christensen all but dismissed that report Monday.

"Summertime is rife with rumors about roster transactions," Christensen said. "If and when we make any changes to our roster, we

will be happy to announce it. I do know Bob is pursuing all avenues to improve our roster."

Williams' team, the Phoenix Suns, is trying to clear cap room for next summer and will offer Williams only a one-year deal.

"I've stopped asking for more than one year," Bartlestein said.

Williams' pay counted \$4.15 million against the salary cap last season, but his actual take-home was less.

His two years with the Suns have been marked by injuries, but when he was healthy, the agile, defensive-minded center was a big plus for the team.

Phoenix was 40-28 with Williams in the lineup, and 0-14 in games he didn't play. During the Suns' late-season, 11-game winning streak, Williams averaged 12.1 points, 11.3 rebounds and 2.2 blocked shots. In 68 regular season games, Williams averaged 8.0 points and 8.3 rebounds.

MLB: National League on three-game winning streak

■ Continued from Page 5

Mark McGwire is now at 31, Griffey is at 30.

"The only time you guys should bring it up is if you're at 50 home runs in September, the first of September," McGwire said after batting practice. "Then a guy has a pretty good chance of doing it."

Williams batted .406 in 1941, the last player with an average so high. That season, he was at .405 at the break.

Larry Walker is at .398, Tony Gwynn is at .394.

"I think everybody thinks it will be done, but we're finding out that it's not that easy," Gwynn said. "You have to get two hits every day, every game. And if you don't, you better sneak a walk in there."

DiMaggio hit in 56 straight games in 1941. He happened to be at 48 at the break.

Sandy Alomar is at 30 and counting.

"I think it's actually helped me concentrate on every at-bat lately," he said. "Hopefully, going for the streak doesn't hurt the team."

For at least a day or two, Alomar doesn't need to worry. The Cleveland catcher can focus on having fun, calling pitches for AL starter Randy Johnson and hitting against NL starter Greg Maddux.

The NL has won three straight, and leads the series 40-26-1.

Thanks to interleague play, Maddux has already pitched this season to five players in the AL starting lineup — Cal Ripken, Roberto Alomar and Brady Anderson of Baltimore and Tino Martinez and Paul O'Neill of the New York Yankees.

"I don't think that takes away from anything," the Atlanta ace said.

Johnson, on the other hand, may finally get to face Walker. The Colorado slugger sat out when the Rockies recently played Johnson and the Seattle Mariners.

Johnson provided an All-Star highlight in 1993 when he threw a fastball way over the head of John Kruk, prompting the Philadelphia hitter to pat his heart.

Walker and Johnson were once teammates in Montreal's minor league system. That friendship, though, may not spare Walker, whose 479-foot shot was the longest in Monday's home run derby.

"I don't remember receiving a Christmas card from him," Johnson said.

Roger Clemens and Pedro Martinez also are likely to pitch early in the game. When Albert Belle will bat, however, remains to be seen.

Belle is back at Jacobs Field for the first time since June, when Indians fans booed him non-stop. Belle responded with an obscene gesture, and there's no telling how he'll treat the crowd Tuesday night — he showed up late in the AL clubhouse and did not take part in workouts.

In between swings, Griffey and Gwynn were besieged with questions about baseball's biggest batting marks.

"Yes, I think 56 straight games is doable. So are the 60 homers and .400," Gwynn said.

"Of the three of them, I would say 56 is the most difficult," said San Diego's seven-time NL bat-

ALL-STAR GAME RESULTS

1933 — American, 4-2
1934 — American, 9-7
1935 — American, 4-1
1936 — National, 4-3
1937 — American, 8-3
1938 — National, 4-1
1939 — American, 3-1
1940 — National, 4-0
1941 — American, 7-5
1942 — American, 3-1
1943 — American, 5-3
1944 — National, 7-1
1945 — No Game
1946 — American, 12-0
1947 — American, 2-1
1948 — American, 5-2
1949 — American, 11-7
1950 — National, 4-3
1951 — National, 8-3
1952 — National, 3-2, 5 innings, rain
1953 — National, 5-1
1954 — American, 11-9
1955 — National, 6-5, 12 innings
1956 — National, 7-3
1957 — American, 6-5
1958 — American, 4-3
1959 — American, 5-3
1959 — National, 5-4
1960 — National, 6-0
1960 — National, 5-3
1961 — National, 5-4
1961 — Tied 1-1, 9 innings, rain
1962 — American, 9-4
1962 — National, 3-1

1963 — National, 5-3
1964 — National, 7-4
1965 — National, 6-5
1966 — National, 2-1, 10 innings
1967 — National, 2-1, 15 innings
1968 — National, 1-0
1969 — National, 9-3
1970 — National, 5-4, 12 innings
1971 — American, 6-4
1972 — National, 4-3
1973 — National, 7-1
1974 — National, 7-2
1975 — National, 6-3
1976 — National, 7-1
1977 — National, 7-5
1978 — National, 7-3
1979 — National, 7-6
1980 — National, 4-2
1981 — National, 5-4
1982 — National, 4-1
1983 — American, 13-3
1984 — National, 3-1
1985 — National, 6-1
1986 — American, 3-2
1987 — National, 2-0, 13 innings
1988 — American, 2-1
1989 — American, 5-3
1990 — American, 2-0
1991 — American, 4-2
1992 — American, 13-6
1993 — American, 9-3
1994 — National, 8-7, 10 innings
1995 — National, 3-2
1996 — National, 6-0

ting champion, whose longest hitting streak is 25 games. "Every at-bat you don't get a hit, the pressure builds. Sandy can tell you all about how he's just going out and playing, but it's building."

Griffey saw it differently. "I will say the home runs," the Seattle star said. "If they don't pitch to you, you can't do it."

"Everything has to be perfect with the swing," he said. "It's not like a single, where you can bloop it in."

Walker, leading the NL with 25 homers and among the league leaders with 68 RBIs, took another tact.

"I'd probably say winning the triple crown is the hardest of all," he said.

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