



NBA Playoffs
San Antonio at Utah,
TNT (27) 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Sonics survive L.A. rally to win Game 1

Seattle held off a furious Lakers comeback in the third quarter to take a 1-0 lead in their Western Conference semi-final

By Jim Cour
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Gary Payton and the Seattle SuperSonics had something left for the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Sonics, after surviving the scare of their lives in the first round of the playoffs against Minnesota, won the opener of the Western Conference semifinals Monday night, a 106-92 victory over the Lakers.

Payton, who played all 48 minutes in Game 5 Saturday against the Timberwolves, had 25 points in 43 minutes. Hersey Hawkins added 20 and reserve forward

Jerome Kersey had 12 to lead Seattle to its fourth win in five games against the Lakers this season.



The Pacific Division champions, the No. 2 seed in the West behind Utah, can take a 2-0 lead over the Lakers on Wednesday night before the series moves to Los Angeles for Games 3 and 4.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers with 27 points, but was five for 12 from the free-throw line.

Los Angeles, which ended its four-game,

opening-round series against Portland on Thursday night, wilted in the final quarter, shooting five for 16 from the field as the Sonics outscored them 28-13.

The Lakers went ahead 82-80 on a dunk by Nick Van Exel and a free throw by Kobe Bryant in the first two minutes, 54 seconds of the fourth quarter.

The more experienced Sonics then went to work.

Payton scored a layup on a baseline drive, Vin Baker converted an offensive rebound and Kersey hit a wide open 15-footer.

Playoffs

■ **Monday:**
Seattle 106
L.A. Lakers 92

■ **Today:**
San Antonio at
Utah, 7:30 p.m.
New York at
Indiana, 5 p.m.

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Can't slow me down



Molly Luman gives Tish Henes a little resistance during practice at Hayward Field Monday evening. The Ducks will return to action when they travel to Seattle to compete against Washington on Saturday.

NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Central Oregon knocks Ducks out of playoffs

The Oregon Club Sports baseball team was unable to score until the top of the sixth

By Eric Collins, Jeanette N. Diaz and Mirjam Swanson
Freelance Sports Reporters

Central Oregon Community College got the last laugh against the Oregon Club Sports baseball team in a 3-2 Pacific Coast Conference playoff victory Saturday.

The loss, which abruptly ended the Ducks' season, came just a week after Oregon beat Central Oregon 12-7 to even the season series at two games a piece.

But confidence wasn't enough for the Ducks on Saturday.

Despite the effort of starting pitcher Simon Graham, who struck out four and kept Central Oregon scoreless through four innings, Central Oregon managed to pound seven hits that manufactured three runs.

The Ducks finally got on the scoreboard in the top of the sixth inning with back-to-back singles by catcher Ry McGuckin and second baseman Lee McGuckin that drove in two runs. However, with the go-ahead run on third base, the Ducks failed to capitalize.

And it cost them.

A home run in the bottom of the sixth put Central Oregon ahead for good.

"I [don't] think our players showed up to play," head coach Ryan von Klein said.

Men's water polo

Despite not winning the Northwest Tournament in Corvallis last weekend, the Oregon Club Sports men's water polo team is happy with its second-place finish behind No. 1 Oregon State.



In the first game, the Ducks came painfully close to beating Oregon State, losing 13-12.

"It was a heart-breaker," said team member Ben Gottlieb. "We came back from a really bad first half. We caught up and we were shutting them down in the fourth quarter, and we could have won it in overtime. But they scored a fluke goal in the last 15 seconds to win."

The loss motivated the Ducks as they went on to crush No. 2 Washington 14-2 in their next game.

"We were really pumped up," Gottlieb said. "We killed them."

Right after the rout of Washington, the Ducks took on Linfield and quickly put the Wildcats away. After the Ducks were up

13-2, no further score was kept.

The Duck's Tod Spieker led the tournament in goals scored, and Gottlieb had a hat trick in each of the three games.

"Sean Amberg was outstanding in [goal]," Gottlieb added.

In what was a well-rounded effort for the Ducks, Gottlieb credited newcomer Sam Sears for getting the team going.

"Sam rolled his ankle the day before," Gottlieb said. "He's one of the few [players] who never played water polo before and he's the only guy from Oregon on the team. He showed up Saturday in a support boot, but he played seven quarters anyway and scored some goals."

"We were inspired by his dedication."

Women's water polo

In what they hope becomes an important annual event, the Oregon Club Sports women's water polo team finished third out of six teams in the inaugural Northwest Women's Water Polo Tournament in Eugene over the weekend.

The Ducks beat Washington State 11-3 but were downed by an impressive Washington team, which went on to win the tournament, and by Simon Fraser.

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What a fine time to be a sports fan

This is perhaps the best time of the year to be a sports fan.

With the NBA and NHL Playoffs turning up the intensity, major league baseball in full swing, and the Kentucky Derby, the major league soccer season and all sorts of other sporty happenings filling stadiums and living rooms across the country, the diehard fan must think he has died and gone to heaven — or, more appropriately, Yankee Stadium.

Pride of the Yankees

Now that we're on the subject, how about those Yankees?

Despite the fact that its stadium was on the disabled list for a week in April, New York is off to its best start in 40 years at 20-6. After starting 1-4, the Yanks are 19-2 in their last 21 games.

The scary part for the rest of the MLB teams is that many of New York's top hitters have not even begun to hit their usual strides. Second baseman Chuck Knoblauch, who is the new catalyst from the leadoff spot, is batting a dismal .235; center fielder Bernie Williams has yet to hit a tater; and designated hitter Chili Davis is on the disabled list with just four at-bats this season.

Couple those stats with ace pitcher David Cone's 7.16 earned run average, and the Yanks' record seems all the more perplexing. How are they managing to rip up the American League?

For starters, Andy Pettitte is again proving himself to be one of baseball's top pitchers. After a rumored trade to Seattle (along with closer Mariano Rivera) for Randy Johnson fell through in the offseason, Pettitte is 5-2 with a 2.91 ERA compared to Johnson's 2-1 record and 6.41 ERA.

For endings, New York's bullpen is strong as always. In fact, the Yanks have not lost when they lead entering the sixth inning. Rivera, who was on the disabled list himself earlier this season, has some of the most dominating stuff in baseball.

Former cokehead Darryl Strawberry is again stirring New York a decade after he used to do the same across town for the Mets. Strawberry leads the team with seven bombs and has 18 runs batted in and a .333 batting average.

First baseman Tino Martinez is putting up Most Valuable Player-like numbers for the second straight season. Martinez has a .361 average, five homers and 33 RBIs.

The most unlikely statistic the Yankees have accumulated so far is their league-

OPINION



Tim
Pyle

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