

# Trail Blazers defeat Grizzlies, continuing winning streak

The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Damon Stoudamire wouldn't come out and say it, but his Portland Trail Blazers, in the midst of a three-games-in-three-nights stretch, got the break they needed against the lowly Vancouver Grizzlies.

"When you play teams like Vancouver, you always have it in the back of your mind that you can turn it on and turn it off when you want to," said Stoudamire. While admitting that that's not a good attitude to have, it is the reality in this condensed schedule.

Stoudamire turned it on in the third quarter, scoring all 10 of his points as the league-leading Trail Blazers improved to 14-3 and won their seventh straight with Monday night's 92-73 win over the Grizzlies. Vancouver lost its eighth straight and 11th in 12 outings.

"Even when they got close, you always felt, 'There's no need to worry.' There wasn't a sense of urgency, because we could put them any time we wanted to," Stoudamire added.

The Trail Blazers needed the gimme as they entered the night a little banged up. Both Stoudamire (bruised right heel) and center Arvydas Sabonis (slightly sprained right knee) suffered injuries in Sunday's 111-71 win over the Houston Rockets.

After blowing a 14-point first-half lead by allowing the Grizzlies within seven at the break, the Trail Blazers put the game away late in the third quarter and early into the fourth. After Vancouver's Shareef Abdur-Rahim hit two free throws to cut Portland's lead to 62-53 with 3:45 left in the third, the Blazers went on a 17-5 run to blow the game open. Greg Anthony capped the run, sinking a 3-

point basket with 8:05 left in the game.

The turning point came when Stoudamire, with Grizzlies rookie Mike Bibby in his face, hit a 3-pointer to put Portland up 70-56 with 1:16 left in the third. The bucket came on the Blazers' ensuing possession after Vancouver's Abdur-Rahim completed a three-point play at the other end.

The Grizzlies went 5:36, including the first 4:32 of the fourth quarter, without scoring a point until Bryant Reeves sank a 4-foot-

er. Blazers coach Mike Dunleavy, who got his starters out of the game early in the fourth quarter, wanted them out even earlier.

"It should've been double-digits in the first half. But the bottom line is we got a win and we played well enough," said Dunleavy.

Jimmy Jackson came off the bench to score a season-high 21

points, while Brian Grant finished with 14 points and nine rebounds. Grant hasn't missed a shot in two games. After going 4-for-4 from the field and hitting both free throws on Sunday, Grant finished 5-for-5 from the field and 4-for-4 from the foul line against Vancouver.

Abdur-Rahim scored 19 points and had six rebounds for the Grizzlies, who posted a season low for points.

As the losses pile up again, Abdur-Rahim continues to take them personally.

"I look at it as kind of like being in a street fight. Sometimes you're fighting a bigger guy and you have to fight and claw and scratch away, and I don't feel like we're always doing that," said Abdur-Rahim.

Grizzlies center Bryant Reeves, who finished with five points and five rebounds in 32 minutes, heard the loudest boos of his ca-

reer at GM Place when he took the court in the third quarter.

"You hear them and it's something you have to live with," said Reeves, who's been under the microscope after reporting to camp almost 40 pounds overweight. "Physically, I feel fine. ... I have to find my groove."

A sloppy first half in which the teams combined for 25 turnovers (Vancouver had 13) ended with Portland leading 44-37. The Grizzlies trailed by as many as 14 points before getting back into the game by outscoring the Blazers 12-6 over the final 2:42 of the half.

The Grizzlies are suddenly plagued by injury problems as guards Lee Mayberry (knee strain), Doug West (sprained foot) and center Tony Massenburg (sprained wrist) did not play. With West out, rookie Felipe Lopez got his first career start for Vancouver, and finished with 12 points and six rebounds.

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## Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Tuesday, March 9, 1999

### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

You might have outstripped the current competition so much that you almost feel sorry for them. It's time to move on to the bigger arenas where your skills will be better tested.

### Taurus

(April 20 to May 20)

Realize that placing your expectations too high could lead to disappointment. No one intends to fail you; it is simply too difficult for them to hit the mark.

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

You cannot absolve yourself of responsibility, no matter how much you might like to. Plunge into a messy situation with all the enthusiasm you can muster.

### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

You may be double-booking yourself just in case one of your plans falls through. Ask yourself if you really need to be so busy, or if you're trying to avoid spending time with your own thoughts.

### LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

You know how to get the maximum amount of enjoyment out of every moment. Sharing your tricks with another person will lead to greater fulfillment for each of you.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

You are burdened with more responsibilities than you can handle. If no one else is willing to share your burden, you must let a few things fall by the wayside.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

The best gifts are not always tangible. A few insightful words from a friend add more to your self-worth

than a flashy gem or designer garment ever could.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

A gorgeous sunset or private walk on the beach can make as many priceless memories as a night at the opera. With this in mind, forgo the expensive pastimes for a while.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Everything is available to you right now; claim your heart's desire as your just desserts. Don't slow your pursuit of happiness for any reason.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Work has not seemed quite as interesting since you noticed a special new face in the crowd. Allow yourself to be a dashing romantic character.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

A new approach to an old problem is highly successful and earns you new respect. Your self-confidence gets a boost, as does your initiative.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

Ignore your inner hedonist at this time. Self-indulgence is fun for a while, but you may become embarrassed when other people comment on your behavior.

**YOU BORN TODAY** Music and art strike a powerful chord within you. You have a great appreciation for beauty. More importantly, you love the specific pieces of art or music which expand universal consciousness. If you can learn how to channel your energy instead of letting it keep you in a dream state, you may be able to create more of these great works of art for others to enjoy.

Birthdate of: Bobby Fischer, chess player; Eric Flaim, speed skater; Kato Kaelin; Hollywood personality.

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