

Blazers slide past Hornets

By Landon Hall
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Detlef Schrempf scored 18 points and Greg Anthony hit two big shots late in the game to help the Portland Trail Blazers defeat the Charlotte Hornets 94-90 Wednesday night.

Portland, coming off its first home loss of the season Monday to Indiana, blew a 12-point lead to start the third quarter and didn't cement the win until the final minutes.

An 18-foot jumper by Derrick Coleman pulled Charlotte within 85-84 with 3:35 to play, but Anthony drove for a layup to make it 87-84. After a free throw by Eddie Jones, Anthony spotted up for a 3-pointer that put the Blazers up 90-85 with 2:49 left.

Charlotte couldn't get closer than two, and Schrempf's layup just before the horn was the final margin.

Elden Campbell had 19 points and 11 rebounds and Coleman had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Charlotte, which fell to 1-6 on the road. Jones had 15 points on 5-of-14 shooting before foul-

ing out with 2:04 left.

Arvydas Sabonis had 16 points on 7-of-10 shooting for Portland.

It took the Blazers only a few minutes in the third quarter to throw away a 58-46 halftime lead.

Jones capped a 12-2 run with an alley-oop dunk from David Wesley to give Charlotte a 66-65 lead with 4:56 left in the period. Coleman stroked a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer to tie it at 74-all entering the fourth.

Portland used two runs in the first half to take the lead. Charlotte led 16-13 when the Blazers ran off nine straight points. A jump hook by Anthony Mason pulled the Hornets within 31-24 in the second quarter, but Portland went on a 13-2 run, keyed by Rasheed Wallace's acrobatic one-handed slam on a pass from Greg Anthony, for a 44-26 lead.

Portland coach Mike Dunleavy had criticized his team's lack of hustle and rebounding after the loss to the Pacers, and the Blazers responded. Brian Grant and seldom-used Antonio Harvey went after loose balls, and the Blazers

outshot Charlotte 51 percent to 42 percent.

Mason, who after Saturday night's 106-89 loss at Cleveland said he was going to play like a "Tasmanian devil," had just six points and one rebound.

Schrempf had a season-high nine rebounds, and Steve Smith had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Wesley had 11 assists for the Hornets.

Bobby Phills, Charlotte's second-leading scorer at 15 points a game, did not dress with a strained left hamstring sustained in Saturday's loss. He hopes to be ready for Friday's game at Vancouver. Hornets backup center

Brad Miller punched a fire-extinguisher case near the visitors' locker room at halftime, cutting his left hand and requiring stitches. He returned late in the third quarter and finished with two points.

Charlotte forced 21 turnover the night, above its league-leading average of 19.6.

The Blazers improved to 6-1 at home and 14-3 overall.

Playoffs finally in sight for Seattle

By Jim Cour
The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Wonder of wonders, the Seattle Seahawks have a magic number.

The Seahawks could end the NFL's longest playoff drought if they get to 10 victories in the next two weeks.

"I think they're motivated to do well," coach Mike Holmgren said Wednesday.

If the Seahawks win in Oakland on Sunday and then beat Kansas City in the Kingdome the following week, they can wrap up the AFC West and get to the playoffs for the first time since 1988.

The Seahawks' five-game winning streak was ended by Tampa Bay in the Kingdome last week. But they expect to put that defeat behind them as they head on down the stretch.

"They know what they have a chance to do," Holmgren said. "They know what's at stake. Now, they have to funnel that motivation and energy into playing well."

Holmgren, architect of two Super Bowl teams in Green Bay, was hired in January to get the Seahawks to the playoffs. They now have a two-game lead in their division with five left to play.

At 8-3, the Seahawks are tied with Miami for the third-best record in the AFC behind Jacksonville (10-1), Tennessee (9-2) and Indianapolis (9-2).

Against Tampa Bay, the Seahawks had more turnovers than points, though. Jon Kitna threw five interceptions and lost a fumble in a 16-3 defeat.

"We took one on the chin Sunday and we deserved what we got," Holmgren said. "Let's see how they handle it. This is a new thing for them. We haven't taken one like that in a while."

In Green Bay at his first head-coaching job, Holmgren missed the playoffs in his first season there in 1992 but then took the Packers to the playoffs six times in a row.

In Seattle, he is on the verge of going to the playoffs seven years in a row. That would put him in some elite coaching company.

Tom Landry coached the Dallas Cowboys into the playoffs nine years in a row, starting in

1975, and Chuck Noll coached the Pittsburgh Steelers to the playoffs for eight consecutive years, beginning in 1972.

Holmgren doesn't think there's any dominant team in the NFL this season. There was last year, when Denver went 14-2 during the regular season and then ran the table in the playoffs, beating Atlanta in the Super Bowl.

"Very few people go wire to wire," Holmgren said.

He hopes to get more production out of star receiver Joey Galloway in Weeks 12-16. Galloway missed the first half of the season because of a 100-day contract holdout. He caught four passes in his first game against Denver three weeks ago, but has had only one catch in each of the last two games.

Holmgren noted Galloway was still getting into shape after missing training camp.

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Football

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And that's despite having only limited playing time for the latter part of the season.

In addition, Feeley goes down statistically as the fourth-most productive passer in the Pac-10. In 10 games, he averaged 194.6 yards of total offense per game.

His 27 completed passes in the opener at Michigan State was the most by a Pac-10 quarterback all season.

Another previously untested-prospect-turned-valuable-contributor: split end/kickoff returner Sonny Cook.

The junior is more proof positive that Oregon's special teams are, to use head coach Mike Belotti's description, special.

Cook's average kickoff return went for nearly 29 yards — fifth-best in the nation. Thanks to the efforts of Cook and of senior rover/returner Michael Fletcher — not to mention some consistently good blocking — the Ducks rank fifth in the nation in kickoff returns, averaging just shy of 25 yards per return.

Like the quarterbacks, punter Kurtis Doerr had huge shoes to fill replacing former star punter Josh Bidwell.

Like the quarterbacks, Doerr did just fine.

The Wisconsin native helped place Oregon second in the conference in punting by claiming the Pac-10's third-best punting averaging at almost 42 yards per punt.

Durable, indeed.

Would he be healthy? Could he get back to his previous form?



DROUGHNS

Everybody was desperate to know: What about Reuben? Well, Oregon's likable tailback overcame injuries from both the previous and present seasons to finish as one of five Pac-10 tailbacks to exceed the 1,000-yard rushing pinnacle. That's especially noteworthy because it's the first time in conference history that five players accomplished the feat in one season. In fact, only four times before had the Pac-10 had four 1,000-yard rushers.

In Droughns' abbreviated two-year Oregon career, the Ducks went 13-3 when he was in the lineup and 4-4 without him. When he's in there, Oregon racks up 192 rushing yards per game. When he's not, the Ducks' run for 95.8.

The man is valuable.

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