

# Portland 'clips' L.A. for 11th-straight win at home

PORTLAND, Ore. — The All-Star break might be just what the Portland Trail Blazers need.

Arvydas Sabonis scored 23 points as Portland held on to the NBA's best record by beating the Los Angeles Clippers 107-100 on Wednesday night.

"It took being down 18 for us to get in the game," Damon Stoudamire said of the Blazers' sluggish start, which came after Portland returned from a four-game, five-night East Coast road trip. "The All-Star break is coming at the best possible time."

Steve Smith added 17 points for the Blazers, who won their 11th straight home game and improved to 38-11 overall. The Los Angeles Lakers stayed a half-game behind the Blazers after beating the Min-

nesota Timberwolves.

"Taking people too lightly is a big problem, and tonight we really put ourselves at risk," said Blazers coach Mike Dunleavy, whose players didn't want any part of his scolding after the game.

"When I came in the locker room they were all in the shower and they hollered back, 'We're on our break,'" Dunleavy said. "I told them, 'We started our break at 7 p.m.'"

Maurice Taylor led the Clippers with 23 points and Troy Hudson added 22.

Hudson scored 16 on 4-of-5 3-point shooting in the first quarter as the Clippers took a 38-20 lead. The Blazers trailed by as many as 18 in the second quarter and 10 at halftime before starting the third

quarter with a 16-2 run.

A reverse layup by Brian Skinner pulled the Clippers within 93-92 with 3:26 to go. A 22-foot jumper by Taylor pulled the Clippers within 99-96, and a dunk by Taylor cut it to 101-98 with 44 seconds left, but they couldn't get any closer.

"A win is a win," guard Greg Anthony said.

Rasheed Wallace had 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Blazers, and Detlef Schrempf added 15 points.

The Clippers have lost five in a row and 15 of 16. They fell to 0-3 under interim coach Jim Todd, who stepped in when Chris Ford was fired last Thursday.

"The mission tonight was to come in and steal a win, and I thought we were going to do it," said Lamar Odom, who had 16

points. "But they are a veteran team, and as soon as you let them breathe, they bite you."

The Blazers turned it around in the third after trailing 55-45 at halftime.

Sabonis had 15 points in the quarter, and his dunk tied it at 57. Wallace gave the Blazers their first lead at 59-57 with a turnaround jumper with 7:03 left in the third. Los Angeles didn't quit, and a 3-pointer by Hudson at the buzzer put the Clippers up 79-77.

The Blazers didn't have any turnovers in the third quarter after committing nine in the first half.

The Clippers ran out to a quick lead, capitalizing on seven Blazers turnovers in the first quarter. Hudson's third 3-pointer put Los Angeles up 29-16.

The Blazers came back in the second quarter. Damon Stoudamire, who sat at the end of the Blazers' bench sulking with his jersey off after Dunleavy put Anthony in to guard Hudson, hit a deep jumper, and Schrempf sank two free throws to cut it to a 10-point deficit.

"The Clippers were great early," Stoudamire said. "They hit just about every shot, but we were able to get back in the game."

Wallace hit a bank shot with just under a minute left to cut the lead to 50-45, but the Clippers pushed the lead back to 10 points as Lamar Odom hit a wide-open 3-pointer and Eric Piatkowski hit a fast-break layup.

—The Associated Press

## Basketball

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1985 when former Oregon great Terrell Brandon was beginning his prep career with Grant High School.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said that this year the Ducks matchup with Stanford is better than any time during his three-year tenure.

"We don't need to play a perfect game," Kent said. "In the past, I felt like we had to do that to beat them, and we still would lose by 20."

There is a reason that the No. 2 Cardinal is regarded as one of the nations' best. Its inside presence is strong, and sharpshooters

David Moseley and Sam Jacobson have repeatedly burned teams from the perimeter.

"You're obviously not going to shut Stanford down all over the place, but we can certainly do some things to limit their threes and playing production," Kent said. "We need to play a smart, solid game."

Oregon forward A.D. Smith was quick to point out that the Cardinal doesn't allow its opponents a large margin of error.

"They're a tough team, and if you don't shoot the ball well, you're going to have a tough time beating them," said Smith, whose 20-point, 13-rebound performance against Arizona State last weekend was one of his best all-

around performances of the season.

"If you allow them to shoot the ball well, you're going to have a tough time beating them. They're a tough team to recover from."

Stanford has had continuous success in the NCAA Tournament in recent years, and playing in big games in hostile environments has made the Cardinal a very mentally-sound team. According to Kent, that stability was a major factor in Stanford's win against the Ducks earlier in the season.

"Mentally, they were a lot more solid than we were for 40 minutes," Kent said. "When we did break down, they made us pay. They're a big, strong, powerful basketball team that will wear on

you both physically and mentally because it's not often that they're going to break down in a lot of different areas. They're not going to beat themselves."

The Cardinal is now the standard by which Pac-10 success is measured, a situation that would have seemed improbable a decade ago. Kent credits Stanford's success to the 16 years of coaching by the Cardinal's head coach Mike Montgomery.

"He's been there with continuity, their system is in tact and their recruiting is in tact," Kent said. "Them and Arizona have so much more continuity than anyone else in this conference, which is why they are always one and two in the conference and ranked

are nationally.

"That's where we're progressing to get to, and we're not their yet. They're one of the more dominant teams and programs in the country, and they're what the rest of us are trying to catch up to."

Although a win at Stanford would earn the Ducks unprecedented respect nationally, Kent wants his players to stay level-headed.

"This win would set us up to move higher in the rankings, but you still have eight games to go before you do any celebrating at all," Kent said. "Emotionally, we can't get devastated by one bad loss or bad weekend because there is still a lot of basketball to be played."

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### Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 10). You may know a lot, but you don't know it all until you can listen even better than you speak. By February, you should have your agenda worked out. Be quiet and move quickly in March. Show off what you're learning in April and ponder a new development in May. Your enemy is your best friend in August, and your plans come to fruition around December. Hide out and count your blessings in January.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — You should be in a good mood. With the moon and Jupiter in your sign, you feel like there's plenty of everything. A person you're attracted to might be a little standoffish, though. Go ahead and prove you're the best. You've got it, so flaunt it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — You may be off to a slow start this morning. You could have complications, some of which are due to causes beyond your control. Finish up as much old stuff as possible, but don't take on anything new yet. Tonight, catch up on your beauty sleep.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You're generally doing well, but you could encounter a snag. One older person in particular could take offense if you miss something he or she thinks is important. No need to start a fuss. Offer your apologies freely if the other person wants one.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — You and a partner are after the same objective. You have different ways of approaching the problem. This can be good, but not if you keep expecting the other person to do what you would have. Stay in communication and be flexible.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — You're forceful, dynamic, self-confident and enthusiastic. You might even be right. Others think you are, but don't believe them. You're the one who's more likely to know for sure. Once you've convinced yourself, they'll follow whatever you say.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 —

There may be a conflict between what you want to do and what others want you to do. If the other people are signing your paycheck, better do what they want. The people you love will understand. Tomorrow's much better for romance and family matters, anyway.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 5 — If you and another person are locking horns, get a friend to intervene. You're good at helping other people sort out their issues, so don't hesitate. You may not be able to mediate if you're personally involved, but who can? That's what friends are for.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Even though you're facing some big jobs, you've got a lot going for you. Tempers are short, but you don't have to get rattled. You're good at staying calm even under a great deal of pressure. That's good because others are betting you will.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — There's plenty of love in your life, and that makes up for whatever you lack. Keep your sense of humor, and even a whiney roommate won't mess up your good mood. Listen to the complaint, but don't feel like you have to fix it, especially if it's expensive.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Your focus is on home and family, buying and selling, wheeling and dealing. Money is coming in and going out. Pay attention so you end up with a profit. You should be able to make some good deals, especially if you put in the extra work.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — If you could study all day long, you'd be in heaven. The day would go by in about five minutes. That's what it would seem like, anyway. You could make several awesome discoveries, too. Cancel all your other appointments. You don't need the distraction!

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — You're not sure of the outcome, but you're creative. Don't leave it up to chance. Get yourself into the proper environment, and the proper attitude, to have a great idea. You can make it happen, and you should. Others are depending on you. Just do it.

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