Gorge Games return

■ The adventure-sports event is brought back to build on the state's environmental image and improve tourism

By William McCall The Associated Press

PORTLAND - Gov. John Kitzhaber added his support Wednesday to the return of the Gorge Games, an eight-day outdoor sports festival built around windsurfing competition on the Columbia River.

He predicted the event will bring an estimated \$70 million in tourist spending into Oregon over the next three years, while

It's my hope that people around the world ... learn more about Ore-

gon...

John Kitzhaber governor

boosting the state's environmentally conscious image.

"It's one of those opportunities where there is an intersection between people who want to preserve the spectacular scenery that surrounds Oregon, and an industry that depends on it," Kitzhaber said.

The games had foundered without a major sponsor last year, but now will be backed by Subaru of America, the U.S. subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries of Japan, manufacturer of a line of all-wheel-drive cars.

Peggy Lalor, Gorge Games director, said she expects the event to draw about 30,000 spectators and 2,000 amateur and professional athletes, including athletes headed for the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, in September.

Events will include mountain biking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kayaking, outrigger canoeing, climbing, trail running, a triathlon and 49er sailing class of high-speed racing skiffs.

The festival, which runs July 8-15 in Hood River, also features adventure-sports clinics for children and adults and a benefit concert for Leave No Trace, a nonprofit organization based in Colorado dedicated to building appreciation and respect for the outdoors.

NBC Sports plans to broadcast highlights in two one-hour shows Sept. 3 and 10.

Kitzhaber said the Gorge Games will help showcase the state and the Columbia River Gorge, and will keep building its \$5.5 billion tourist industry while promoting environmental awareness.

"It's my hope that people around the world not only learn more about Oregon, but also take away from this experience an appreciation of how ... vitally important it is to us to protect this natural scenery."

Raptors fall to Pacers, 77-73

By Hank Lowenkron The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Toronto faltered in the fourth quarter against the Indiana Pacers, and produced their lowest scoring output of the season. The Raptors can celebrate their first playoff berth anyway.

Jalen Rose had 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and Austin Croshere had five of his 15 in the period as the Pacers beat the Raptors 77-73 Wednesday night.

But Toronto, which joined the NBA five years ago, was assured of participating in the postseason for the first time because the Orlando Magic lost at Boston on Wednes-

Toronto (43-35) is sixth in the Eastern conference standings, four games ahead of eighth-place Orlando (39-39) and Milwaukee (39-39) with four games left for each

But because the Magic and Bucks play each other — Monday at Orlando - Toronto is assured of finishing no worse than eighth.

Toronto's 73 points were its lowest production this season and also represented the fewest against In-

The victory, combined with Miami's loss to Detroit, gave the Pacers a two-game advantage over the Heat in their battle for home-court advantage throughout the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Indiana plays at Miami on Fri-

Vince Carter had 28 points for Toronto, which led 67-61 with 7:21 to play. Tracy McGrady added 19 for the Raptors, who will clinch a spot in the playoffs with one victory or one Milwaukee or Orlando

"They made big shots at the end and we didn't. A couple of them we missed, and the rest is history," said Carter, who missed two shots in the final seconds. "We've got to go back to the drawing board and prepare for New York (Friday) and get the win we need."

Rose, whose streak of 43 consecutive games in double figures was snapped when he scored only nine in New York on Monday, ignited an 11-2 run with two consecutive baskets.

"I'm just trying to be aggressive and not tentative. ... The guys got me the ball in position to make plays," said Rose, who covered Carter most of the night. "Every time I play Vince Carter, I'm the underdog, so I have nothing to lose. When I play somebody like that I've got to bring my 'A' game."

Croshere's basket and a 3-pointer by Reggie Miller with 4:24 remaining put Indiana ahead to stay 70-69.

Two Rose free throws made it 72-69, and a dunk by Carter with 3:18 left made it 72-71. The Raptors, who never have won in nine visits to Indianapolis, then missed their final seven shots from the

Dale Davis, who contributed 12 points and 14 rebounds to the victory, threw in a short jumper as the 24-second clock was running down to make it 74-71 with 2:51 to

"I knew the shot clock was running down. I saw the opportunity to take it. I got a fake and spin and I got it to go down," said Davis, who was 6-of-8 from the field. "The main thing in this ball game was our aggressiveness and improvement in the second half. We did a better job of screening, blocking out and helping."

In the remaining time, Charles Oakley missed a jumper, Dee Brown missed a 3-point attempt, Carter missed two shots and Oaklev missed a 3-point try. Antonio Davis, who had 11 points and 13 rebounds, scored the Raptors' only points in the final minutes when he made two free throws with 21.8

Croshere hit two free throws with 17.5 left and then made one of two attempts to close the scor-

The game had nine lead changes and nine ties. Indiana's biggest edge was eight points in the first half; Toronto's biggest was seven

There were four lead changes and eight ties in the first half, which ended with the Raptors leading 43-40 after Carter scored their final nine points in the half.

The Raptors trailed 19-16 after one quarter when they shot 26 percent from the field (6-of-23). Indiana shot 50 percent in the period (8-of-16) with Rik Smits and Rose each scoring six points.

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HOROSCOPE by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 13). Handle your relationship issues this year so you can get on with making your fortune. Love clouds your thinking, in a nice way, in April. Try not to get too distracted in May, or the money could slip through your fingers. Home is where your heart is in July, but travel with children would be nice in August. An old friend brings a new sur-prise around December. Technical breakdowns are expensive in the spring.

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 a 9
— You'd like to buy new toys, but you can't quite afford them. Not a problem. Instead of worrying, look around for ways to increase your income. You should be a wealthy person. It would look so good on you!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 4
— There's a lot of activity; that's for sure. People may drop by at terribly inconvenient times.
This could be kids, by the way. You're trying to be a good sport, but don't let them push you around. If you want peace and quiet, kick them all out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 — You're going to be in a talkative, playful mood. You're teaching others, and they're teaching you. You may have to learn about more rules and regulations, however. No problem, right? Make them into a game, and they might almost be fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 — Waiting until this evening to ask for the money might be a good idea. Timing is a delicate science. You need to use your intelligence, of course. Your intuition might be even more useful, however. If in doubt, wait.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 10 How about a romantic excursion this evening? Most of the hassles should be out of the way early, leaving plenty of fun and games. Being a weeknight could complicate matters, but on the other hand, why not? Take your good times when you can get them, right?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — Travel will be much easier later in the week,

maybe as soon as tomorrow. Before you go, take care of something that's been bothering you closer to home. You may not want to talk much about it yet, but if you can get it tidled up, you'll feel much better.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 9 — This could be a playful day for you. Get together with a favorite partner and good friends. Don't spend too much; that won't be necessary. Your companionship is extremely valuable. Savor that and take care not to overdraw an account.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5
— A bonus you'd counted on may not come
yet. Don't spend the money until you're sure the
check has cleared your bank. Your luck gets Stick with a familiar

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 10 — You have a winning hand! You might do well in love this evening. Your work could get in the way of romance and travel this morning, but don't despair. You're more than rewarded for your patience later on. Be in the right place, with the right person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 — Changes are still going on at your place. Something you try may not go as planned, but don't despair. Just keep putting in the correc-tions and trying again. That's your secret for-mula for success, anyway. You just never give

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — You know somebody who A — You know somebody who sees things quite differently than you do. This is good, actually. Today this opposite could get you going. He or she won't agree with you but stimulates you to take creative action. Don't worry; the overall outcome's good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 — You're creative and powerful now. You're probably getting to where you're making a pretty good income, too. Today's not quite easy, but don't let that slow you down. Your hard work could bring in even more money, and that's just as it should be.

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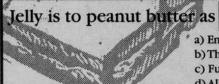
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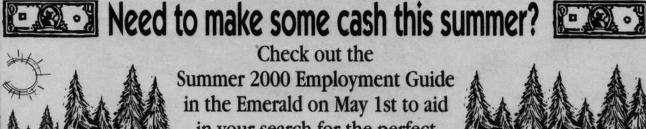
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