

# Blazers beat Kings for 11th time in a row

By Landon Hall  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Rasheed Wallace showed his good, bad and ugly sides Sunday, and he was still able to smile at the end of the Blazers 11th straight victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Wallace picked up another technical foul before teaming with Bonzi Wells to power a dominant fourth-quarter run as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Kings, 102-95 Sunday.

"Rasheed Wallace is a big-time player," said Wells, who had 13 points. "When he establishes himself, nobody can stop him. We just have to do our part and play alongside him."

Wallace scored 18 points and Scottie Pippen added 15 points

and nine assists for the Blazers, who held the Kings to two field goals — a dunk by Scot Pollard and a 20-foot jumper by Jason Williams — in the first 10:39 of the fourth.

The Kings' lead over Seattle for the No. 7 playoff spot in the West slipped to just a half-game. The SuperSonics played at Houston later Sunday.

"If we beat the Sonics (Tuesday), we're the seventh seed," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "They have the same schedule as we have, and it's going to be nice to go against them as if it were a playoff game."

The teams entered the fourth quarter tied at 77, and the Blazers took the lead for good on a fast-break layup by Wells with 10:56

left. Williams' long jumper brought the Kings within two, 83-81, but Wells made a free throw, had another transition layup and blew by Predrag Stojakovic on the baseline to spark a 7-0 burst that made it 88-81 with 7:29 left.

Wallace then took over, hitting a 21-foot jumper, a difficult reverse layup and a 23-footer to stretch the lead to 94-84 with 4:12 to go.

Wallace was animated throughout the game, even by his standards, complaining about contact from Chris Webber and Vlade Divac and yapping at the officials. Wallace picked up his 38th technical foul of the season, extending his NBA record, when he hollered at referee Michael

Smith after fouling Webber with 2:43 left in the second quarter.

"They are winning; who cares about a tech?" Webber said. "That's the reason that you've got Rasheed. You draft him from college because he is high-energy, because he's passionate, because he'll cry if you lose. That's a real player."

Blazers coach Mike Dunleavy was assessed a technical in the third for screaming at Smith for not calling a foul on Divac for bumping Wallace.

"Sheed was doing a good job of working and wasn't getting any calls. He sort of felt like he was being picked on," Pippen said. "So I'm glad Mike sort of took it out of his hands instead of letting 'Sheed get all rattled

about it."

After making a short 8-foot jumper with under a minute left and the win secure, Wallace glared at referee Ron Garretson. But Wallace grinned wide in celebrating the victory with his teammates.

Webber led the Kings with 21 points and eight assists, Stojakovic had 18 points, and Divac had 14 rebounds to go with 11 points.

Sacramento had just eight turnovers — one off its season low — but committed three in the first minute of the fourth as Portland pulled ahead.

The Kings, swept by the Blazers for the second straight season, haven't beaten Portland since Dec. 16, 1997.

## Softball

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runs came across on an RBI single by Sarah Beeson and a sacrifice fly from the bat of Kellie Wignton.

Vidlund pitched 6 2/3 strong innings to push her record to 14-4 before giving way to Connie McMurren for the save.

"We're extremely happy with [Vidlund's] performance," Gamez said. "It's extremely good for her confidence."

On Saturday the Ducks also picked up the first contest of the

two-day series with a 3-1 win. They got started early in the game, scoring all three of their runs in the top of the second.

Junior Triawn Custer opened the inning with a walk, and Lindsey Welch reached on an error. Jill Robinson drove in Custer with her sixth double of the season. Vidlund knocked in Welch with base hit and Hutchinson reached on another error to score Robinson for the final run of the inning.

Vidlund got the start for the Ducks, but was unable to get out of the third when she loaded the bases with one out. McMurren

(12-12) came in and quieted the Cardinal rally with a strikeout and a ground ball to end the inning.

Stanford's only run came in the fifth when McMurren got into a base-loaded situation with none out. She only allowed the one run when she issued a free pass to Maureen LeCocq before getting a double play and great throw from Welch to nail Beeson at home.

"The defense stepped up for us today and really helped Connie," Gamez said. "She's been throwing well and in the zone. We're pleased about where she is at this point in the season."

In the opening game of the trip, Oregon's bats showed some pop in a 3-2 win over Cal. Robinson and Welch both blasted home runs to lead the Ducks' charge. Robinson got the offense running in the top of the second when she blasted her 12th dinger of the year, giving the Ducks a 1-0 lead.

Oregon lit the scoreboard again in the third. Welch crushed a two-run later to push the score to 3-0. Cal would close the gap in the bottom of the fifth, cutting the lead to 3-2 on a single by Paulina Duenas.

"Jill and Lindsey did a good job

of getting us started," Gamez said. "They gave us the spark at the right time."

McMurren pitched a complete game to get her first of two wins on the weekend. She also recorded a save in 1/3 innings of relief for Vidlund on Sunday.

The wins improved the Ducks' conference record to 4-6 and pushed them into sole possession of fifth place heading into the second half of the season.

"We're in the middle of the hunt now," Gamez said. "We're right where we want to be."

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (April 17). A partner is handy to have, especially this year. Besides companionship, the two of you could strike it rich! In April, make contact with a foreign friend for a pleasant surprise. Money's headed your way in May; don't flash it around. Learn new skills as quickly as possible in June and make everybody's lives easier. Get rid of something at home that's uncomfortable in July and relax with your sweetheart in August. A partner and/or attorney brings in the bounty in October. Another windfall profit from afar could be yours in December. A friend can help you broker a good deal in February.

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 — This looks like an excellent day for you, financially. A partner could be one source of income. Somebody from far away could play a part, too. Don't share your winnings with a friend, however. You could blow it in less time than it took to make it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — You can make a positive impression on a lot of people. You're the star of the show, and no telling where that reputation might lead you. You generally like to keep a low profile, but your cover's slipped. Don't worry; you'll survive.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 9 — You're in a lucky phase with romance, games and children. You're also under a bit of pressure. Interestingly, the very thing you were afraid of doing could turn out to be easy. A person who's intimidated you could turn into a friend.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — You might be drawn to a beneficial group soon. This could be somebody you meet through work or by surfing the net. Either way, you'll be a good influence, and vice versa. Give people who are out to serve their own self-interests a lot of room.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — You're in the mood to catch up on your reading, most likely. You may not get to travel as a result, but don't despair. The extra time doing research could make the journey more enjoyable,

anyway, later.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — The work you're doing is bringing in plenty of money. If it's not, that's the first thing you ought to do. The right job is out there with your name on it. All you have to do is find it. Travel or an overseas business venture could work well, too, eventually.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is an 8 — You should think about investments and your future. You may have a tendency to rely on other people for what you need. Today, figure it out on your own. Don't force your partner to make all the decisions; make a few choices yourself. You can do it!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — You may be concerned about something at work. Are you too busy to see straight? Is a co-worker driving you crazy? This is a good day to talk things over and to reach a compromise. Do it even if it means letting go a little.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're always interested in your friends. You have a lot of them, too. You could possibly come up with a new business idea together. Write it down and start studying. It could work once you learn how to do it. That's the tricky part!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — You may have to juggle between your domestic and career demands. Your house may be full of little kids or other company, too. The evening's good for playing games, but don't bet more than you can afford to lose. The oldest member of the group's most likely to win.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — A friend may have something you can use. Let people know what you want and what you have in trade. Another person's trash could be your treasure, and vice versa. That's especially true, right now, regarding household items.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — If you've thought of going back to school, it's quite possible somebody else might fund it. Student loans are one way, but grants and scholarships are out there, too. Don't be shy; start asking around. You'll either get a 'yes' or a 'no,' that's all.

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