

Wallace helps, hurts Blazers in win against Suns

By Tara Burghart
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — The two sides of Rasheed Wallace were on display Thursday night.

The Portland Trail Blazers' All-Star forward scored 19 points despite a chest cold that sent him to the locker room for a few minutes in the first quarter with breathing problems. Then in the fourth quarter, he was ejected after receiving his league-leading 27th technical foul of the season — and threw a towel that hit official Gary Benson in the head as Wallace was being restrained by his coaches and team-

mates.

After Wallace left with 8:56 remaining, Steve Smith scored 15 of his 17 fourth-quarter points as the Blazers held on for a 100-92 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"To lose your best player is a hell of a spot to give another team," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "You always worry about being at risk for him getting thrown out of the game. There was a lot of time left."

Trailing 95-85 with two minutes remaining, the Suns scored seven straight to close within 95-92 on a Cliff Robinson 3-pointer with 48 seconds remaining.

After a free throw by Portland's Arvydas Sabonis made it 96-92, Jason Kidd missed a wide-open layup with 29 seconds left and the Blazers closed it out with four free throws by Smith.

Robinson scored a season-high 42 points but received little help from Kidd, who shot just 4-for-16 from the field and finished with 10 points.

Portland backup point guard Greg Anthony said Wallace's ejection wasn't a distraction for the team. It was the third time this season Wallace was ejected.

"It's not a distraction. It's not an issue. He's never cost us a game,"

Anthony said. "I much prefer him getting techs every now and then and bringing what he brings every night than for him to be a choir-boy."

Smith led the Blazers with 20 points. Damon Stoudamire added 17 points and 10 assists for Portland, and Arvydas Sabonis came off the bench to score 15 points.

"Smith really got it going in the fourth, and we couldn't stop him," Phoenix coach Scott Skiles said.

The Blazers had trailed most of the first half and were down 49-45 two minutes into the third quarter when Stoudamire ignited a 21-6 run with a three-pointer.

On the next play, Stoudamire fed Wallace on a dunk that gave the Blazers the lead for the first time since 32-31 midway through the second.

The run also included an alley-oop from Bonzi Wells to Dale Davis, a basket by Stoudamire, who rebounded his first two misses, and a layup by Wells, assisted by Stoudamire, to make it 66-55 with 3:55 left in the third quarter.

"The third quarter has been our downfall all year, as we keep giving up big leads," said Kidd. "We were right there, but I couldn't make anything happen."

Oregon continues home stand

■ The Oregon tennis teams are looking for big non-conference wins at home

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

From top-ranked Stanford to hapless North Carolina State, the Oregon men's tennis team has seen every level of competition in its first month of dual match play.

This weekend, the Ducks take on the middle portion of the college tennis spectrum. Middle-ranked teams Boise State and Northwestern visit

the Student Tennis Center for two non-conference matches. Boise State is ranked No. 43 while Northwestern is No. 41. The Oregon women are also in action this weekend against Portland on Saturday, looking for their third straight win after a 2-0 weekend against UC-Santa Barbara and Boise State.

"Boise State and Northwestern are two great opponents," men's

coach Chris Russell said. "They're two great opponents comparable to a team like California. They are the types of teams that we need to beat if we want to get into the NCAA tournament."

Boise State (2-1) is led by freshman Guillaume Bouvier and sophomore Marcus Bernston. Last season, the Broncos upended the Ducks 6-1 in Boise, Idaho. The Ducks and Boise State tangle today at 5 p.m.

Northwestern (2-0) is led by Eugene native Brad Erickson, who was ranked No. 13 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association last season. Joost Hol, who was 20-13 last season, provides a powerful 1-2 punch in singles.

The Wildcats play Oregon on Sunday at noon.

The Ducks (1-3) will be looking to snap a two-match losing streak.

"The young guys are the ones we need to make some big strides," Russell said. "They're at the level they need to be at; now it comes down to making the right decisions."

Sophomore Oded Teig leads the Ducks into action. The Holon, Israel, native is 11-5 on the season.



MENKE

Another sophomore who has stepped up play this season is Jason Menke. The Beaverton native picked up his first

win over a ranked opponent last weekend against Stanford's Scott Lipsky. Menke is 2-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The women's match against Portland will be a reunion between the Ducks and Amy Juppenlatz, who transferred from Oregon last season. The Pilots are led by Juppenlatz and seniors Yenny Njoo and twins Erin and Katy Smith.

Sophomore Monika Geiczys leads the Ducks into action with a 5-7 record.

Freshman Davina Mendiburu is looking for her fourth straight singles victory in her fifth match as a Duck.

The Ducks face Portland at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Oregon track teams to compete in Reno

■ The Duck men and women will travel in force to the Wolf Pack Invitational

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

As they get deeper into the season, the Oregon men's and women's track teams just keep expanding.



The Ducks will compete at the Wolf Pack Invitational in Reno, Nev., Saturday, and the women will bring a team larger than any that has competed so far this season.

A total of 26 Oregon athletes — 18 women and eight men — will compete at Nevada's meet. The meet will mark the first time this season both the men and women will compete together.

On the women's side, senior Holly Speight will try to repeat her performance from the Great Northwest Open last weekend, where she

scored a personal best and NCAA provisional mark 12-foot-6 in the pole vault.

Other notable women competing include Rachael Kriz and Jenny Brogdon in the high jump, Ann Sullivan in the long jump, Mary Etter in the shot put and weight throw, and Maureen Morrison in the weight throw. All of those Ducks have already qualified for the Mountain Pacific Championships.

On the men's side, eight athletes will compete in six different events.

Notable Duck competitors include Terry Ellis in the 55-meter hurdles, Cody Howell and Jason Slye in the pole vault, Foluso Akinradewo in the triple jump and Adam Kriz in the hammer throw. Those men are among the 13 Ducks who have qualified for the Mountain Pacific Championships.

Oregon will compete all day Saturday. The men will next travel to the Iowa State Classic Feb. 9-10, while the women will take part in the McDonald's Invitational those same days.



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NBA suspends Patterson for three games

NEW YORK — Seattle SuperSonics forward Ruben Patterson was suspended by the NBA for three games Wednesday because of his conviction on an assault charge for breaking a man's jaw.

On Monday in Cleveland, Patterson pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge and was placed on probation.

Patterson, who had been charged with felonious assault, was accused of hitting a man and breaking his jaw last summer. Patterson thought the man scratched his car outside a nightclub.

Patterson, 25, of Cleveland, was sentenced to six months in jail, but Judge David Matia suspended the term and placed him on probation for six months. Patterson also was fined \$1,000 and ordered to provide 80 hours of community service.

Kevin Lewis told police that Patterson was among a group of men who attacked him June 11. One of Patterson's companions also was charged with felonious assault.

Patterson, averaging 13.1 points in 48 games this season, began the suspension Wednesday night by sitting out the Sonics' home game against Chicago. He will not be paid during the suspension.

NBA players association spokesman Dan Wasserman said the players association hasn't spoken yet with Patterson, so it's not known whether there will be an appeal.