

# Blazers suspend Wallace for throwing towel

By Landon Hall  
The Associated Press

TUALATIN — The Trail Blazers suspended All-Star forward Rasheed Wallace on Monday for one game for throwing a towel into the face of teammate Arvydas Sabonis during an argument in a loss to the Lakers a day earlier.

Coach Mike Dunleavy said Wallace would be suspended for Tuesday's regular-season finale against San Antonio for "conduct detrimental to the success of the team."

It was the second time this season Dunleavy had suspended Wallace.

Wallace will rejoin the Blazers Wednesday as they prepare for their first-round playoff opponent, likely to be the Lakers. Asked whether Wallace can be a productive member of the team in

the playoffs, Dunleavy said, "The answer to that really depends on Rasheed."

"As far as all parties are concerned, hopefully we come to practice on Wednesday and you basically bury the hatchet," he added.

Wallace also was suspended two games by the NBA in early February for throwing a towel that grazed the cheek of referee Gary Benson, who had ejected him.

While Wallace's tantrums over officiating have become notorious, he never had publicly feuded with a teammate before Sunday.

During the third quarter of a 105-100 loss to the Lakers, Sabonis was shoved out of the way by Shaquille O'Neal, who was going for a rebound. Sabonis, trying to draw a foul, flailed his arms, and

his left hand smacked Wallace in the face.

Wallace, who had his left eye blackened by Sabonis' elbow during another inadvertent hit at Golden State on April 6, doubled over. He yelled at Sabonis as the teams went to their benches for a timeout. Still furious, Wallace threw a small, white towel into Sabonis' face, then walked away. The 7-foot-3 Lithuanian center sat red-faced, as teammates Will Perdue and Scottie Pippen stared after Wallace in disbelief.

Dunleavy said there was some miscommunication on the part of both players, but that it didn't excuse Wallace's action.

"The reaction wasn't, I don't think, fair, as far as being warranted. But there is another side to the story," Dunleavy said.

Asked what most disappointed

him about the incident, Dunleavy said: "Just the fact that it's two teammates getting into it, and you need to be more understanding of each other."

"Sure, it was heat of the moment, but it's something that has to be, I'm sure, worked out somewhat over time. But we'll get it behind us."

Neither Wallace nor Sabonis would comment following the game. The team said the players would not be made available for interviews Monday.

Wallace has been ejected seven times this season and has racked up 41 technical fouls, breaking the league record of 38 he set last season. But he seemed to calm down after getting thrown out of a home loss to Minnesota April 1.

Dunleavy, making good on a warning to Wallace the last time

he had been ejected, suspended Wallace for a game at Denver on April 3. He got just one technical foul in his next five games.

He scored 28 points Sunday and hit several big shots in the second half to keep the Blazers close. But the Lakers outscored them 6-0 in the final 1:59 to win.

The Blazers have lost 13 of 21 games, including five straight against playoff-bound teams from the Western Conference. A win by Phoenix on Monday night will make Portland the seventh-seeded team in the playoffs and pit the Blazers against the second-seeded Lakers.

"If you've got the strength and the character and the mindset that, 'Hey, the most important thing is to win and play as a group,' then we can get it done," Dunleavy said.

## Peter Hockaday's Weekly Sports Poll

It's time once again for your weekly dose of sports pollin'.

Last week we took you golfing, in honor of the Masters, and asked which golfer you thought was the greatest of all time. Possibly because he was fresh in your minds, or maybe because he was the first to ever win four straight majors, Tiger Woods won the poll with 47.9 percent of the vote. Jack "Golden Bear" Nicklaus finished second with 39.6 percent of the vote, while Arnold Palmer was third with 10.4 percent. Bobby Jones finished last with 2.1 percent of the vote.

This week, we take you on the rollercoaster ride that is professional women's football. The Women's American Football

League held tryouts at the Recreation Center this past weekend, and in honor of that event we ask you whether the new WAFL will fail or sail.

The state of Oregon received two teams in the new league: the Oregon Unforgiven based in Eugene and the Rose City Wildcats based in Portland. Will the teams be a success? Or will they go down just as quickly as the XFL appears to be doing?

You have the chance to make your opinion heard. Go online to newly remodeled [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com) and click on the sports link to cast your vote at Peter Hockaday's Weekly Sports Poll.

As always, happy voting!

## Action heats up in NHL playoffs

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Andy Delmore scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period as the Philadelphia Flyers earned a much-needed playoff victory, beating the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 Monday night.

The Flyers, who twice trailed by one goal, closed to 2-1 in the best-of-seven first-round series after dropping the first two games at home. All three games have been decided by one goal.

Kent Manderville and Simon Gagne also scored for the Flyers, and Roman Cechmanek stopped 26 shots to record his first playoff victory.

Chris Gratton and Steve Heinze scored for the Sabres, who committed two turnovers that led directly to goals — including Delmore's game-winner with 8:54 remaining.

Flyers center Keith Primeau saw his first playoff action after injuring his knee late in the regular season.

### Maple Leafs 3, Senators 2, OT

TORONTO — Cory Cross scored 2:16 into overtime as Toronto beat Ottawa to take a 3-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Toronto can eliminate Ottawa with a win at home Wednesday night.

Down 2-0 in the game, and without a goal in the series, the Senators scored twice in the final 3:09 to force overtime.

The Senators had not scored on Curtis Joseph in more than 223 minutes of playoff action, dating to last year's playoffs, when Marian Hossa spoiled Joseph's third straight shutout.

With Ottawa goalie Patrick Lalime on the bench, Daniel Alfredsson tied it with 35.6 seconds left in the third period.

### Penguins 3, Capitals 0

PITTSBURGH — Kevin Stevens scored his second key goal of a low-

scoring series as Pittsburgh beat Washington.

The Penguins have allowed only two goals in three games to lead the Eastern Conference series 2-1 going into Game 4 Wednesday night in Pittsburgh.

Alexei Kovalev and Jan Hrdina also scored in a 2:39 span of the third period, but it was two players rescued off hockey's scrap heap — Stevens and rookie goalie Johan Hedberg — who were the big stars on a team usually dominated by two of the game's big names, Mario Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr.

Hedberg, playing in only his 12th NHL game, turned aside a succession of good Capitals scoring chances while making 25 saves in the first two periods and 34 overall in his first career shutout.

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