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## Blazers swept out of playoffs

By Landon Hall  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — After dispatching Portland in three easy games, Shaquille O'Neal says the selfish, bickering Los Angeles Lakers of a month ago are long gone.

And the happy bunch that replaced them is primed to continue its march toward a second straight NBA title.

"Everyone is on the same page now. We have a mission," O'Neal said after the Lakers beat the Trail Blazers 99-86 Sunday to sweep their first-round series.

"If we keep playing like this, it's going to be very hard to beat us," said O'Neal, who led the Lakers with 25 points and 15 rebounds. "We know what it takes to win a championship because of the phenomenal season we had last year."

Los Angeles will play the Sacramento-Phoenix winner in the second round.

Kobe Bryant had 22 points and a playoff career-high nine assists, and Derek Fisher added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers, who began their surge by winning the last eight games of the regular season.

Portland, meanwhile, lost for the sixth straight time and 17th time in 25 games. The team with the highest payroll in NBA history — \$89.7 million — faces an offseason of uncertainty. Coach Mike Dunleavy could be fired, some players could be traded, and even general manager Bob Whitsitt's job isn't safe.

"I felt like we had too many challenges, too many obstacles to overcome," Scottie Pippen said. "This is the worst — the worst thing I have ever had to deal with throughout my career. It just wasn't a fun season for us."

## Women's track

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1,500, qualified herself in the 800-meters with a fourth-place finish in a season-best time of two minutes, nine seconds.

The younger Ducks on the team showed their talents with some impressive performances. Freshman Ann Sullivan earned herself a Pac-10 qualifying mark in the 400 hurdles with a fourth-place (1:02.03). Before that mark, Sullivan won the 100-meter hurdle finals in a time of 14.00, which is one hundredth of a second off her personal best of 13.99.

"I felt really good," Sullivan said. "I think we are doing awesome, and we are just progressively getting stronger."

The Oregon throwing team proved themselves to be a vital part of the scoring for the Ducks. Oregon's throwers are currently ranked third in the Pac-10 behind Southern California and UCLA.

Sophomore All-American Mary Etter, who is already qualified for the NCAAs, won the discus in a throw of 163 feet, seven inches, and is ranked fifth nationally in that event. Etter also placed third in the shot put with a throw of 46-06.75. Senior Maureen Morrison took second behind Etter in the discus with a toss of 147-07, and also took fifth in the hammer throw. Morrison has thrown a seasonal best of 182-8 in the hammer and needs to throw 183-6 to qualify for nationals.

"We have a real strong mixture and have been scoring

a significant number of the points this year," Oregon's throwing coach Sally Harmon said. "We have some big hearts and if they can just dig in a little deeper I think it is going to happen, but time will tell."

Another strong performance in the throws came from sophomore Jordan McDaniels, who placed fourth in the discus with a mark of 144-03, and took 10th overall in the hammer.

The women's jumping events also proved to be solid for the Ducks with freshman Kirsten Riley and redshirt sophomore Georgette Moyle both finishing tied-for-sixth overall in the pole vault with personal bests of 12-1 1/2. Those marks just equal the Pac-10 qualifying mark. Junior Niki Reed vaulted an NCAA provisional mark of 12-9 1/2.

In the high jump, sophomore Jenny Brogdon and freshman Rachael Kriz earned third and fourth, respectively, with a height of 5-6. In the long jump, sophomore Amanda Brown earned third-place with a jump of 18-10. Other Duck performances came from sophomore Janette Davis (400, fourth, 55.81), senior Hanna Smedstad (1,500, ninth, 4:26.79) and sophomore Heather Murtaugh (100, third, 12.40 w:-0.9).

Now, the women will close this chapter of the season and look to separate Invitationals in Texas and Irvine, Calif., next weekend with some of the distance women competing in the Stanford Invitational Friday.

"We want to just keep getting better," Heinonen said. "We have got a long ways to go but we have come a long way from last year."

## Men's track

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going."

Just missing an NCAA provisional mark was fellow distance runner Simon Kimata. The Nyeri, Kenya, native continued his rehabilitation from a stress fracture with another seasonal best in the 800-meters. Kimata won the half-mile race in a time of 1:49.03, just three-hundredths of a second off the NCAA mark.

"My goal was to break 1:51 and I did it," Kimata said. "Last race, the goal was to break 1:55, and before that two minutes. The next time it will be to break 1:48."

Kimata stayed with the leaders for 550 meters, then surged to a comfortable 25-meter lead and held on for the win.

"It was so windy on the last stretch," Kimata said. "I knew I had to kick then or I would die."

The biggest surprise of the day came from junior Tim Overfield, who nearly earned an NCAA provisional mark in the 400-hurdles. The

Silverton native placed second in a time of 51.74 seconds, only 0.54 seconds off the provisional mark. His time is an improvement of two seconds from Oregon's first meet and last season's personal best.

Improving his stock in the decathlon was junior Santiago Lorenzo. The NCAA automatic qualifier earned three seasonal bests in his last competition before the Pac-10 multi-event championships in three weeks.

Lorenzo won the "B" section of the pole vault with a leap of 16 feet and 3/4 inches and the 110-hurdles in 14.89 seconds. Later in the evening, the Buenos Aires native placed sixth in the 400-meters in 48.8 seconds.

Inside the oval, Oregon throwers continued their success, although the weather had an effect on the marks.

Sophomore John Stiegeler lost to a collegian for the first time this season after dueling with Eastern Washington's Ryan Cole in the javelin. Stiegeler, still the nation's top javelin thrower, fell four feet

short of his personal best, throwing 241-11 for second place. Cole won the event with a toss of 244-7 for the nation's second-best mark.

Junior Rian Ingram and sophomore James March both earned personal bests in the shot put, tossing 56-7 and 54-10, respectively. Ingram qualified for the Pac-10 Championships with his throw.

In other events, juniors Micah Harris and Terry Ellis unexpectedly tied for first in the 110-hurdles, which was contested on the east straightway due to a 0.2 mps headwind. Ellis and Harris both ran times of 14.14, just ahead of teammate Jake Garlick (3rd-14.58). After a meeting by timers and judges, a tie was awarded.

"That hasn't happened to me much before," Harris said. "I didn't get out of the blocks as quick as I wanted. I'll definitely do better at Texas next week."

The Ducks will split up next weekend for meets in Texas and Stanford, Calif., before returning to home action May 12.

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