

# Zach Randolph signs extended Blazers' contract

Twenty-three-year-old forward to receive a six-year, \$84-million contract extension with Portland

BY ANNE M. PETERSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — Forward Zach Randolph, named the NBA's most improved player last season, has agreed to a six-year, \$84-million contract extension with the Trail Blazers. Randolph will make an additional

\$2 million for each year he is named to the All-Star team during the contract, putting him at \$86 million, according to agent Raymond Brothers. "I feel like I'm one of the best players in my class, and I feel like I deserved it," Randolph said Monday. Randolph, 23, averaged 20.1

points and 10.5 rebounds last season and was one of just five players in the league to average more than 20 points and 10 rebounds a game.

The 6-foot-9 forward tallied 43 double-doubles, tying him for fifth in the league. He had 20 or more points in 42 games, and 30 or more points in three games.

But despite his efforts, Portland finished 10th in the Western Conference, two spots out of the playoffs.

"We know him well as a player, we know him as a person," general manager John Nash said in announcing Randolph's extension.

"We're committed to him, and he's committed to us in terms of being a leader, as well as a very, very productive player."

Nash said getting the deal done gives the Blazers a front line that is "intact for the immediate future."

The Blazers open their season Wednesday night at Golden State. The home opener is Friday against Los Angeles Clippers.

Randolph, the 19th overall pick in the 2001 draft out of Michigan State, first emerged two seasons ago when Rasheed Wallace was serving a seven-game suspension for threatening an official on the loading dock at the Rose

Garden after a game. Randolph started, and the Blazers went 5-2.

Then in the Blazers' first-round playoff series that season against the Dallas Mavericks, Randolph averaged 13.9 points and 8.7 rebounds.

He finished the season with an average of 8.4 points, 4.5 rebounds and 0.5 assists.

"I've seen his growth, I've seen the maturity that he's achieved so far, and I'm excited for him," Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks said.

Randolph has one year left on his current contract. The extension will make him a Trail Blazer through the 2010-2011 season.

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## Men's golf

# Revamped Ducks hope new look scores in final challenge

After a poor showing last week, the men's golf team adjusts its line-up for the Prestige tournament

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS  
FREELANCE SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's golf team will wrap up its fall season at The Prestige at PGA West in La Quinta, Calif. Since the close of the Big Ten/Pac-10 Challenge last week, the Ducks have given their starting rotation a make over and will be sending only two players who competed in the tournament to the par-72, 7,158 yard course at La Quinta.

Junior Kyle Johnson and sophomore Matt Ma are making their 2004 season debuts in the varsity five this week and are joined by Anaheim, Calif., native Matt Amen. This is Amen's first start since the season opener in September at the Northwest Collegiate Classic. Junior Chris

Dukeminier is also playing in the tournament, which marks his second straight start. Freshman Joey Benedetti, who led the Ducks at the Big Ten/Pac-10 Challenge, is playing as well, making him the only Oregon golfer to appear in every tournament this season.

Men's head coach Steve Nosler explained the changes late last week.

"We aren't getting the consistent performances we need out of guys who have been our better players in the past," Nosler said.

Oregon finished a disappointing 12th out of 14 teams at the Big Ten/Pac-10 Challenge. Nosler feels that The Prestige is a prime opportunity for his younger players to get playing time and perhaps improve the team.

"This week we're going to give some other guys a chance to play and show what they can do," Nosler said.

The Prestige has not been a friendly course for the Ducks in the past, who finished a humbling 14th last season at La Quinta. To make matters worse, the tournament features a daunting field headed by No. 7 Texas Christian, defending 2003 champion at The Prestige. The remaining teams include No. 11 UCLA, No. 13 Brigham Young, No. 24 Texas Tech, UC Davis, UC Irvine, Colorado, Kansas, Northern Colorado, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Pacific, Pepperdine, Stanford and Yale.

Ma should have a decent couple of outings at the tournament, considering that he has played the PGA West course before — the only Duck to have done so. Last season, Ma tied for 57th at 14-over 230.

Scott J. Adams is a freelance sports reporter for the Daily Emerald

# Smith: Superstitions can't decide election

Continued from page 9

Yankees, is that it?

Would there be any need for goatcurse.com?

Come on, Cub fans.

The billy goat and last year's Steve Bartman, Game 6 conspiracy theories are poor excuses for the fact that the Cubs flat out choked. Forget the scapegoat (figurative) goat (literal) and realize that the entire team suffered from defensive fundamentals amnesia.

Maybe we could call it the Tom Emanski curse.

But instead, Cub fans need something to hold on to.

I think plans are underway to exhume William "Billy Goat" Sianis' body and burn it at 1060 W Addison St.

All right, maybe not.

It might have already happened for all I know.

However, in the President's defense, and to give hope to Cubs fans, one of the world's most famous "curses" was broken earlier this year when the Red

Sox, who fell victim to the famous Curse of the Bambino for almost 90 years, finally won the World Series.

So, 86 years of Red Sox futility and 15 presidential elections have one vital thing in common: Streaks were made to be broken.

Sorry nation's populous, there is no connection between a football team and a presidential election.

Nothing has been decided yet.

It's just a happy coincidence.

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