

Blazers defeat Nets in lackluster contest

The teams scored 55 points collectively in the first half, tying an NBA record-low for combined first-half points

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
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PORTLAND — History almost repeated itself until Derek Anderson turned it on for the Portland Trail Blazers.

After playing earlier this season in one of the lowest-scoring games in the modern NBA era, the Blazers and New Jersey Nets appeared headed in the same direction on Sunday. Then, Anderson scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half and the Blazers won 83-71, sending the Nets to their ninth-straight loss.

Zach Randolph had 23 points and 15 rebounds — his seventh double-double of the season — for the Blazers, who handed the 2-11 Nets their fifth-consecutive loss on the road.

Richard Jefferson had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Nets, whose last win came against Portland on Nov. 9. The losing streak is New Jersey's longest since the Nets lost nine in a row from Nov. 22-Dec. 6, 2000. New Jersey finished 26-56 that season.

New Jersey's 2-11 start is its worst since going 2-15 to start the 1999-2000 season.

"I don't look at this as a situation where we should panic, because we have 60-some games left," New Jersey center Alonzo Mourning said. "We have plenty of time to make some positive things happen. It's just a matter of tenaciously and collectively coming together."

The 64-60 final score in the

teams' last meeting was just five points off the record for combined scoring futility. Sunday's game appeared to be on the same track.

The Nets were ahead just 10-9 after the first quarter, but the Blazers took their biggest lead of the first when Damon Stoudamire's three-pointer made it 28-22.

Portland led 30-25 at the half, tying the record for the NBA's lowest combined first-half points total. The mark was set Dec. 11, 2003, when host San Antonio led Houston 30-25 at halftime.

"Well, it was a win," Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks said. "It started out looking like the game in Jersey. We couldn't score, but they couldn't score either. But in the second half, we got a couple of easy baskets that turned the game around."

Shareef Abdur-Rahim gave the Blazers a 46-32 lead with a 21-foot jumper in the third quarter and the Blazers led easily the rest of the way. Abdur-Rahim finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"We had to get a little more aggressive," Anderson said.

This season, the Nets are trying to cope with injuries to stars Jason Kidd and Ron Mercer. Kidd continues to rehab his surgically repaired left knee, while Mercer had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee on Nov. 15.

The game in Portland was the last of a four-game road trip for the Nets, who return to New Jersey to face Charlotte on Tuesday.

Women's: Late run lifts Ducks over Miami

Continued from page 7

Mizusawa was the other Duck to score in double figures against Long Island. Mizusawa chipped in 11 points and for the tournament and handed out 16 assists while committing only three turnovers.

"We know each other's games inside and out," Mizusawa said. "The post players know where we are every single time. That's the focus of our team, (Kraayeveld) and (Andrea Bills)."

Oregon survives multiple runs by Miami

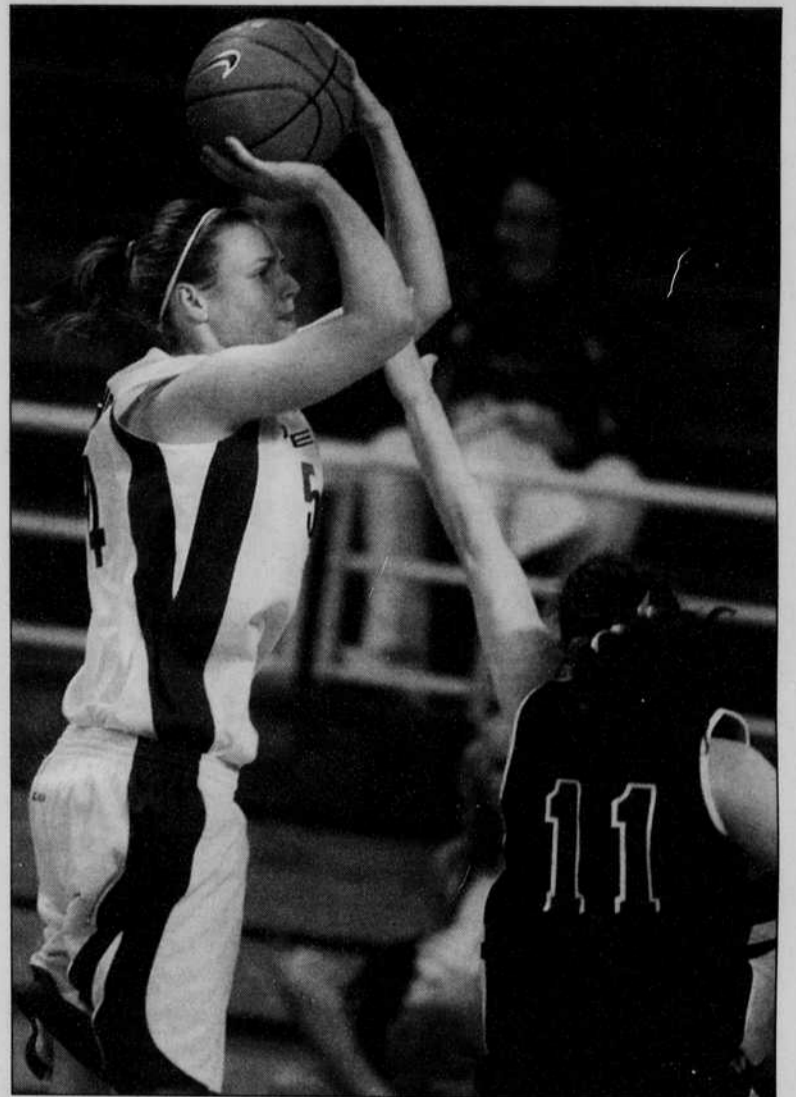
The Ducks used career nights from both Wagner and sophomore Eleanor Haring to hang on for their victory over Miami on Friday.

Oregon led 32-30 at halftime, behind Haring's 11 points on 5 of 5 shooting. The Ducks, on multiple occasions, pushed the lead to nine, while Miami — behind 22 points from Tamara James and a double-double from Yalonda McCormick — kept coming back to tie, but was never able to capture a lead.

The game remained tight until Oregon went on a 5-0 run with two minutes left in the game. Wagner sealed the victory with four free throws.

Wagner finished the game shooting 6 of 9 from the floor, while Haring finished with 10 of 11. Her .909 field-goal percentage is the 10th best ever in a single game for the Ducks.

"We came out pretty focused and ready to play," Wagner said. "Basketball is a game of runs and we made a few key ones tonight."



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Oregon sophomore Eleanor Haring, seen here earlier this season, went 10 of 11 (.909 percent) against Miami on Friday. Haring added four rebounds and an assist.

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