

Blazers stay inconsistent

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Sports Editor

The Portland Trail Blazers are almost impossible to figure out. After having trouble early on, they began to look as though they had gotten their act together and learned to play winning basketball.

On Friday, they took on the Milwaukee Bucks at the Rose Garden. The Bucks proved to be no match for the Blazers, who won 101-95. Dale Davis demonstrated his talents, ending up with a season high of 25 points. He also had 16 rebounds, 11 of which were offensive, which ties a franchise record. Rasheed Wallace finished with 24 points and 12 re-

bounds, while Damon Stoudamire scored 18 in his return to the starting lineup. Derek Anderson didn't play due to a sprained ankle. For the Bucks, Ray Allen had 25 points, and Sam Cassell and Glenn Robinson each had 23. This was the third straight loss for the struggling Bucks, who started the season with a red-hot 9-1 record.

After this victory, the Blazers were on a three-game winning streak, ready to hopefully play at the level that they are capable of. Their next opponent was the Phoenix Suns, whom they played on Saturday night. While Portland outscored Phoenix 31-17 in the first quarter, the Suns came back at the end to win, 97-83.

The Blazers let a 16-point lead slip away and only scored 30 points in the second half. They also committed 15 turnovers in that dismal half. Steve Kerr led the Blazers with 16 points, while Bonzi Wells, Ruben Patterson and Wallace all had 15. Davis also added 12 points and 11 rebounds to the total. Scottie Pippen came off of the injured list to play in 14 scoreless minutes, and Anderson missed his second game due to a sprained right ankle. Anfernee Hardaway was the leader for the Suns with 23 points, nine assists and four steals.

The Blazers are now 9-8 for the season. Their next battle is on Thursday Dec. 6 against Charlotte.



Where's the blue line?

By Nick Barron

Psst. Hey, Portland, you don't have to pay an average price of \$44.83 to witness a bunch of malcontents make a mockery of Dr. James Naismith's sport of basketball. Instead of contributing to the salary of a sex-offender, you can watch a group of 16 to 20-year-olds bash into each other, courtesy of the Portland Winterhawks.

A basic Winterhawks game features a group of guys sitting next to the glass, holding up an oversized vision chart for the referees to check their vision during timeouts. There are always the jabs at opposing players' sexual preferences, along with occasional references to their manhood.

Need I remind you that this is hockey, which means fighting, and plenty of it. If you sit through a Winterhawks game and do not watch a brawl on the ice, check your ticket stub to make sure you are not early. The hitting is real and so is the blood, so the weak of stomach should stay at home and view "The Bridges of Madison County" one more time.

If you are lucky, your seat might just be in Section 14, Row E, right behind Tim Howard. Mr. Howard is a Winterhawks season-ticket holder and a talking sports almanac. Tell him that you are going to kill his dog and he won't hear you, but mention that hockey should be kept in Canada, and you know you have spoken your last words. Within a five-minute span, Tim will let you know why unions aren't allowed in 3Com Park in San Francisco and how many Winterhawks have played in the NHL.

Don't know much about hockey? No problem. The Winterhawks provide their fans with a brochure titled "The Hockey Handbook," which tells you everything from what a spearing call is to where the blue line is on the ice. (Here is a hint: It's the blue line.) Granted, this piece of literature is probably taken as sacrilegious in Russia and Canada, but in the States, it is a necessity for those of us who have spent our lives paying too much for a sporting event.



Hometown Team. Hometown Pride.

After a game, the voice of the Winterhawks, Dean Vrooman, chats with one of the players for roughly ten minutes on the ice. All are invited to stay and listen to their conversation, then everyone is allowed to walk to the bottom level of the arena and have the player sign autographs. You don't have to worry about sneaking behind security to get a player's John Hancock, but you will have to wait in line with teenage girls.

The athletes who make up the Portland Winterhawks range in age from 16 to 20; that's age, not grams of crack smoked in a month. One of those players, Paul Gaustad, is from Portland and hopes to be a teacher or an optometrist after he is done with hockey. That's right, folks! Not a cocaine addict or walking billboard, but a teacher or an optometrist.

Anyway, as the Trail Blazers trudge through another disappointing season, I won't be watching. For the average price it costs one person to see a single Blazers game, I could be sitting next to the glass at two Winterhawks games. By the way, there have been 75 ex-Winterhawks in the NHL.

2001-2002

Trail Blazers Schedule

Blazers games for December:

12-6	Hornets		7:00 PM
12-8	Sonics	ASCN	7:00 PM
12-11	@Maverics	KGW	7:30 PM
12-14	@Jazz	KGW	6:00 PM
12-15	Magic	ASCN	7:00 PM
12-18	@Rockets	KGW	6:30 PM
12-19	@Spurs	KGW	6:30 PM
12-21	Pistons		7:00 PM
12-22	@Suns	ASCN	6:00 PM
12-26	@Kings	KGW	7:00 PM
12-27	Jazz	ASCN	6:00 PM
12-30	Timberwolves	ASCN	7:00 PM

www.nba.com/blazers



CCC Wrestling Schedule



- Thurs. December 6, 2001 @ P.L.U. Triangular 6 p.m.
- Sat. December 8, 2001 @ Dual w/ Simon Fraser University 3 p.m.
- Thurs. December 13, 2001 @ Dual w/ North Idaho College 7:30 p.m.
- Fri. December 14, 2001 @ Dual w/ Central Washington University 7p.m.
- Wed. December 19, 2001 Dual w/ Southwestern Oregon C.C. 7p.m.
- Thurs. December 20, 2001 @ Dual w/ Yakima Valley C.C. 7p.m.
- Fri. December 21, 2001 @ Highline C.C. Triangular 1p.m.
- Thurs. January 3, 2002 @ Dual w/ Menlo College 5p.m.
- Sat. January 5, 2002 @ Pacific Lutheran University Open All Day
- Sat. January 11, 2002 Yakima Valley Open All Day

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