

SPORTS



Kevin Garnett, whose career is in its last gasps, ponders reality after LaMarcus Aldridge drilled back-to-back 20-footers in his face the Celtics' loss to the Trail Blazers.

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"Our players are waiting for an opportunity to show the world what they're capable of," said DeYoung. "They could take to the field now. Some of them already think of it as their new home."

Team alliances already are forming on the streets, with the Old Town community fielding the strongest bench, and a rivalry already is heating up between camps on the east and west banks of the Willamette River. Some questions have arisen about whether people who have received park exclusions will be allowed into the new PGE Park as players. Exclusions prohibit people from entering parks for 30 to 120 days or more, which could interrupt the season in preparation for the Homeless World Cup.

Randy Tent, a homeless soccer follower, said that regardless of the logistics, bringing a homeless soccer team to Portland just made good sense.

"Soccer is a worldwide phenomenon, reaching fever-pitch support everywhere except the United States," Tent said. "The U.S., on the other hand, has one of the world's highest rates of homelessness unheard of in some soccer-loving countries. Coincidence?"



PHOTO BY GLENN BAILEY / PHOTOWORK

A spectacular diving save by the Hong Kong goalie was not enough to stop them from being defeated by Ireland 8 to 2 on Day 2 of the 2008 Homeless World Cup in Melbourne Australia, Dec. 2, 2008.

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