

SPORTS

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Lakers beat the Heat for NBA championship

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The ultimate anguish. The ultimate joy.

This season, LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers had it all. And it ended in the only fashion that they deemed would be acceptable, with them back atop the basketball world.

For the first time since Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago, the Lakers are NBA champions. James had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 on Sunday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

"Our organization wants their respect. Laker Nation wants their respect," James said. "And I want my damn respect, too."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who dealt with the enormous anguish that followed the death of the iconic Bryant in January and all the challenges that came with leaving home for three months to play at Walt Disney World in a bubble designed to keep inhabitants safe from the coronavirus.

It would be, James predicted, the toughest title to ever win.

"We have a Ph.D. in adversity, I'll tell you that much," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've been

through a lot."

They made the clincher look easy. James won his fourth title, doing it with a third different franchise — and against the Heat franchise that showed him how to become a champion.

'OUR ORGANIZATION WANTS THEIR RESPECT. LAKER NATION WANTS THEIR RESPECT. AND I WANT MY DAMN RESPECT, TOO.'

LeBron James

Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which got 12 points from Jimmy Butler — the player who, in his first Heat season, got the team back to title contention. Rajon Rondo scored 19 points for the Lakers, who put together the elite talents of James and Davis with this moment in mind.

And Davis, as white and gold confetti coated the floor around him, spent his first moments as an NBA champion thinking of Bryant.

"All we wanted to do

was do it for him," Davis said. "And we didn't let him down. ... I know he's looking down on us, proud of us."

With that, the league's bubble chapter, put together after a 4 1/2-month suspension of play that started March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic and came with a promise that it would raise awareness to the problems of racial injustice and police brutality, is over. So, too, is a season that saw the league and China get into political sparring, the death on Jan. 1 of commissioner emeritus David Stern — the man who did so much to make the league what it is — and then the shock on Jan. 26 that came with the news that Bryant, his daughter, Gianna, and seven other died in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers said they were playing the rest of the season in his memory.

They delivered what Bryant did five times for L.A. — a ring, and the clincher was emphatic.

"You have written your own inspiring chapter in the great Laker history," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said. "And to Laker Nation, we have been through a heartbreaking tragedy with the loss of our beloved Kobe Bryant. Let this trophy serve as a reminder of when we come together, believe in each other, incredible things can happen."



Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, center, celebrates with his teammates after the Lakers defeated the Miami Heat 106-93 in Game 6 of the NBA Finals on Sunday.

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Astoria Golf hosts regional championship

The Astorian

The Astoria Golf & Country Club was the host course last week for the Pacific Northwest Pro-Amateur Championship, held Thursday and Friday.

Two days of golf featured two-man teams in a four-ball competition.

The winning team of Tyler Daniels and Brady Sharp, from Wine Valley Golf Club in Walla Walla, Washington, finished with a two-day total of 127.

Their 17-under par score was good enough to top three teams that finished in a three-way tie for second, which included the duo of Jeff Coston, of Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club, and Blake Kukula, from Surfside Golf Course in Ocean Park, Washington.

Sharp, a PGA profes-

sional, and Daniels teamed up to post a 65 in Thursday's first round, followed by a 62 Friday.

The team of Coston and Kukula had a 67 in the first round, followed by a 62 in the final round.

Other local competitors included Joe Schulte (Astoria Golf), and Branden Thompson, who teamed up for a 135 (tied for 19th); John Thorsnes (Astoria Golf), and David Berlant (Columbia Edgewater), who carded a 137 (tied for 31st); and Astoria Golf's John Kawasoe and Jay Ross shot a 139, tied for 33rd.

Kevin Hertig (Astoria Golf), and Louie Runge, of Seattle, teamed for a 150 (50th).

It was the third time Astoria Golf has hosted this event, with previous tournaments held at the course in 2016 and 2002.

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