

SPORTS

SAINTS 3RD AGAIN, AT AAU NATIONALS

THEY BELIEVE IN MAGIC

BY ERIC NOON

The Los Angeles Lakers have back a new found confidence and enthusiasm that may put the "show" back in showtime again. With Earvin "Magic" Johnson back with the Lakers as their head coach the team seems to have a fire lit up under them.

With assistants like Michael Cooper and Larry Drew the old Laker pride may be back as soon as they walk onto the court each and every night.

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"We want to instill that pride and dignity," said Cooper of the coaching staffs immediate plans.

Although the Lakers dominated the first half against the Trailblazers Saturday night, they fell apart in the third quarter. Managing only 14 points in the pivotal quarter, to set a season low by a Blazer opponent for the year, the Blazers dwindled their 65-56 half-time lead in a hurry.

The Lakers didn't go on to lose 104-112 by lack of effort. They lost because the Blazers had the better team, talent wise, on the floor when the game was being decided.

For the first time in 17 years it looks like the Lakes won't make the playoffs, and will join the draft lottery in hopes of obtaining a single player that can put back the "show" in showtime.

Rod Strickland had his 29th double-double of the season Saturday, slicing up the Lakers with 17 points and 15 dishes against the backcourt of Nick Van Exel and Sedale Threatt.

"They played more confident," said Strickland on the Lakers effort. "There was more energy and enthusiasm."

Van Exel and Threatt are offensively minded guards who need to step up defensively to lift the Lakers game to another level. It might hard for Magic to sit back and wait for Van Exel to mature into a true playmaker by NBA standards.

As with any team in the rebuilding stage there are lot of unanswered questions about the future of the Lakers as a team. Some of the most intriguing questions start at the top. All the Lakers are saying on the recent coaching change is that we will evaluate the situation after the seasons over and make a decision then on the future of the coaching staff. Is 16 games enough time to give the Laker brass time to evaluate their abilities as

coaches?

"What I want to do and what they want to do are two different things," said assistant coach and former Laker Cooper on his future with the team. "So we won't talk about that till summer."

One player who genuinely seems excited by the recent coaching change is veteran Laker forward James Worthy. Worthy, one of three Lakers with Championship rings on the Laker bench, seems to be one of the leaders off and on the court believing the Lakers can get back in contention soon.

"With a full year under his belt, it will help," said Worthy on Magic being his coach next season. "I really feel good about the future of this team."

With some key ingredients, such as good young talent, like Van Exel and George Lynch and veteran guidance with Worthy, James Edwards and Kurt Rambis the Lakers with Magic at the helm could be a franchise player away from serious contention. Look for Laker management to make some player moves over the summer and possibly move up its lottery to get that one player that can lead the Lakers back to the playoffs. The one unknown is if Laker management themselves believe in Magic the coach, not the player.



The Portland Saints Women's AAU Basketball Team

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

The Portland Saints Women's AAU Basketball went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to win the National Women's AAU Basketball Championships. But for the second year in a row The Saints ended up third best.

The Michigan Free Agents won the national title beating The Armed Forces of the USA, 94-78 in the championship game Sunday.

The Tournament started on a down note for The Saints with an opening round lost to The Spuds of Minnesota 72-61. The loss put The Saints in the loser bracket as they started on their way back up the road to the championship game. First it was a 100-48 win over McPhail's Warriors from San Rafael, California at 10 A.M. on Friday. At 6 P.M. on Friday The Saints were back on the court again. This time against Miss Katie's

Diner, a local team from Milwaukee. The Saint got it's second win of the tournament with a 84-54 victory over Katie's.

That win set a date at noon on Saturday with 1992 National Champs, Ted's Elites, out of Washington D.E. playing their best game of the championships. The Saints came away with a 82-80 win, the hard way. The win over Ted's set up a rematch with the Spuds at 4 P.M., who lost to The Armed Forces 78-70 on Friday night. This time the game went The Saints way, and Portland came away with a 87-74 win over the team from Minnesota.

That put The Saints in the semi-finals with The Armed Forces. The game was close all the way with The U.S.A. taking a 36-30 half time lead before winning 76-68.

The were 4 and 2 in this years

tournament, and 8 and 4 in two years of National Championship Play.

The were led by Cass Bauer and Sarah Flock-Fowler both who played their college basketball at Montana State University, and who made this years All-American team.

Co-captains Diana DeYoung and Miriam Jenkins both had a fine tournament with great leadership for the young Portland Saints team.

Next April, The National Tournament will be Played right here in the Rose city at Portland State University Gym. Sixteen teams from Michigan to California, Washington, D.C., to Minnesota, Maryland to Oregon. The best of women's basketball in 1995 will be played in Portland Oregon for all of you to see. If you have never seen a women's AAU Basketball game, you are really missing the boat.

P.I.L. SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS BASEBALL - CLEVELAND AT BENSON

(GAMES START 4:15 P.M.):

(Wed. April 2) -

Marshall at Franklin

Grant at Lincoln

Jefferson at Madison

Wilson at Roosevelt

(Fri. April 22) -

Roosevelt at Benson

Cleveland at Franklin

Jefferson at Grant

Lincoln at Marshall

Madison at Wilson

(Tues. April 26) -

Benson at Franklin

Marshall at Jefferson

Lincoln at Cleveland

Roosevelt at Madison

Grant at Wilson

GIRLS SOFTBALL - BENSON AT CLEVELAND

(GAMES START 4 P.M.):

(Wed. April 20) -

Lincoln at Grant

Madison at Jefferson

Franklin at Marshall

Roosevelt at Wilson

(Fri. April 22) -

Cleveland at Franklin

Grant at Jefferson

Marshall at Lincoln

Wilson at Benson

(Tues. April 26) -

Franklin at Benson

Cleveland at Lincoln

Wilson at Grant

Jefferson at Marshall

Madison at Roosevelt

Boys & Girls Track -

(Wed. April 20) -

Benson at Grant

Marshall at Wilson

(Fri. April 22) -

Jefferson at Madison

Lincoln At Roosevelt

Lake Oswego Invitational at

2:30 P.M.

Benson, Franklin & Marshall

Aloha Invitational - Wilson

(Tues. April 26) -

Cleveland & Marshall at

Franklin

BOYS TENNIS:

(Tues. April 26) -

Benson at Grant

Lincoln at Cleveland

Roosevelt at Marshall

Wilson at Madison

Franklin at Jefferson

GIRLS TENNIS:

(Tues. April 26) -

Grant at Benson

Cleveland at Lincoln

Marshall at Roosevelt

Madison at Wilson

Jefferson at Franklin

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Ricky Bell

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What do you think of a Greenspaces bond measure?

Metro is considering a bond measure to purchase significant natural areas in the region. Come to a meeting in your area and tell us what you think. Information about the natural areas and trail corridors will be provided. Discussion will include suggested sites, timing and amount of a potential bond measure.

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20
Metro Regional Facilities Committee
Metro Regional Center, Portland, 600 NE Grand Avenue
Parking off Grand at Irving St.

7 - 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 25
Clackamas Community College
Gregory Forum Building
Room 108 B
19600 S Molalla, Oregon City
Free parking in student lot

7 - 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26
Washington County
Public Services Building Cafeteria
155 N. First Ave. in Hillsboro
Free parking in back of building

7 - 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27
Gresham City Hall
Council Chambers
1333 NW Eastman Parkway,
Free parking in front lot

If you can't attend a meeting, send letters to:

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Fax 797-1849

METRO REGIONAL
Parks and Greenspaces

IF YOU CAN

Run (or Walk)

to the nearest phone, you can register yourself (or your company, or your family, friends etc.) for the American Cancer Society's 1994 **Relay for Life**. Join or create a team of 8-12 people and prepare for a fight against cancer. For 24 hours on May 13 and 14, **Relay** teams send members running or walking around the Gresham High School track relay-style. *Meanwhile*, the rest of the team enjoys the food, entertainment and camaraderie of the **Relay for Life**. If you want to help fight cancer by **having fun** for 24 hours, or just volunteer or make a donation, start dialing the number for your American Cancer Society — **295-6422** or **1-800-ACS-2345**.

Say You Saw It In...
The Portland Observer

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