

# SPORTS

## Kazaam! Shaq is a Laker

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Evans fails to qualify, Dream Team in action at Atlanta Games

The third day of the Atlanta Olympics got off to a stunning start this morning when four-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Janet Evans, one of the key figures in Friday's opening ceremonies, failed to qualify for the finals of the women's 400 meter freestyle. Today's competition will also include the United States' basketball Dream Team opposing Angola and the first medal in gymnastics.

#### NFL likely to rule on Cowboy WR Irvin this week

National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said it is a "virtual certainty" that a disciplinary ruling on Dallas Cowboys All-Pro receiver Michael Irvin will be announced early this week. Irvin, who was sentenced to four years probation and a \$10,000 fine at his drug possession trial in Dallas, is expected to receive a four-game suspension. Former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Bam Morris was suspended for four games by the NFL after he pleaded guilty to a felony marijuana possession charge last month. Irvin is not with the Cowboys at training camp in Austin, Texas, saying he needed to spend more time with his family. However, he did attend a Miami Dolphins scrimmage Sunday in Davie, Florida and was greeted by Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson, his former coach with the Cowboys and the University of Miami.

#### Strickland must report for physical today; trade in jeopardy

Point guard Rod Strickland must report for a physical examination with the Washington Bullets today or last Monday's four-player trade with the Portland Trail Blazers could be voided. The Bullets sent forward Rasheed Wallace and swingman Mitchell Butler to the Trail Blazers in exchange for Strickland and forward Harvey Grant. But the deal can be voided if Strickland refuses to take a physical within a week of the trade. Strickland averaged 18.8 points and 9.4 assists last season playing for Portland despite having major personality conflicts with coach P.J. Carlesimo. Portland will reportedly sign Kenny Anderson to a seven-year contract worth \$50 million if the four-player deal with Washington is not voided.

#### Murray back with Orioles; expected to DH tonight

Eddie Murray will likely be the starting designated hitter tonight against the Minnesota Twins, as he returns to the Baltimore Orioles lineup for the first time in eight years after being acquired from the Cleveland Indians on Sunday. The Indians traded Murray to the Orioles for pitcher Kent Mercker in a deal that sends the 40-year-old first baseman/designated hitter back to where he started from 1977-88. He will be used primarily as the full-time designated hitter with the Orioles. Murray joined the Indians as a free agent before the 1993 campaign and helped the team to its first post-season appearance in 41 years last season. The eight-time All-Star leads all active players in hits (3,159), home runs (491) and RBI (1,865). He is 11th all-time in hits, 16th in homers, eighth in RBI and ninth in games played, including first among all first basemen.

The Los Angeles Lakers, signed All-Star free agent center Shaquille O'Neal to a seven-year contract. Terms were not disclosed, but O'Neal reportedly received \$120 million, the richest total package in sports history.

"I can't tell you how excited Southern California is today. The response of bringing Shaq to the Lakers is one that is unprecedented in our history," said Lakers President Jerry West at a news conference today in Atlanta, where O'Neal is participating for Dream Team III in the Olympic Games. "I think in today's sports world there are players that are stars and one word that is used very loosely is superstar. The Lakers today have signed a 24-year-old superstar."

It was believed the only team that could lure O'Neal away from the Orlando Magic was the Lakers because of his secondary careers as a rap singer and movie star that could be enhanced by playing near Hollywood. O'Neal already has released two albums and had a role in the basketball movie "Blue Chips." He stars in "Kazaam," a film about a rapping genie released this week.

"Keep in mind the word change, for me change is good," said O'Neal.

"I made a lot of friends and played with a lot of great players in Orlando. I'd like to thank Penny Hardaway, Nick Anderson, Dennis Scott and I'd also like to set the record straight. There was no feud between me and Brian Hill (Orlando coach). I just think change is good."

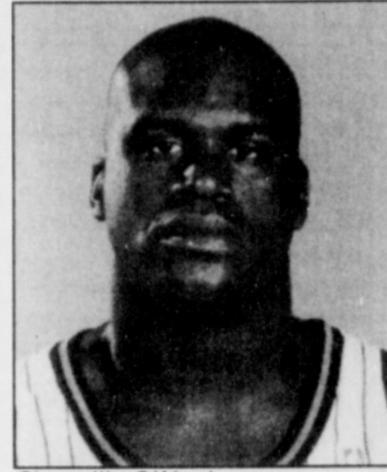
O'Neal met with Lakers President Jerry West Wednesday night in Atlanta and agreed to terms early this morning.

"When we agreed on the deal at 2:15 a.m., it was the most relieved I ever felt in my life," said West.

The Lakers presented O'Neal with a sizeable increase from their original seven-year, \$95.5 million offer after creating more room under the salary cap two days ago. The Lakers sent guard Anthony Peeler and forward George Lynch to Vancouver Tuesday for draft choices, enabling them to increase their offer to O'Neal.

Lakers coach Del Harris explained the power and pressure of coaching a player as good as O'Neal at a news conference at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood, California. Los Angeles won at least 50 games in each of the last two seasons and is adding one of the league's best centers to that team.

"As a coach, it puts more pressure



Shaquille O'Neal

on to win," Harris said. "It's always easier to coach the underdog team, always easier to bring teams along. ... But with this, we are taking the most solid part of that nucleus and working from that to continue the core that we've built."

The Magic made a strong pitch to retain O'Neal, an All-Star in each of his four years with the Magic, offering a seven-year contract worth \$115 million.

O'Neal will wear number 34 with the Lakers. He wore number 32 with the Magic, but 32 is Magic Johnson's retired number with the Lakers.

Perhaps the strongest hint that

O'Neal would leave the Magic came from Charles Barkley, his Dream Team III teammate, at an Olympic team practice Wednesday in Orlando.

When asked what he thought of an Orlando Sentinel poll in which fans voted by a whopping 91 percent against re-signing O'Neal to a seven-year, \$115 million contract, Barkley said the fans will regret losing O'Neal.

"They're going to be sorry this time tomorrow, because they're going to be idiots," said Barkley Wednesday. "They are going to miss him."

O'Neal said the poll had no bearing on his decision to leave Orlando.

"That really had no part in my decision," said O'Neal. "Orlando bashed me so much I stopped reading the papers in my second year," said O'Neal.

The Lakers traded center Vlade Divac to the Charlotte Hornets last week, gambling that they would be able to lure O'Neal away from Orlando. They also dealt guard Anthony Peeler and forward George Lynch to the Vancouver Grizzlies for draft picks to clear more salary cap room.

O'Neal exercised an option in his

current contract and was the most coveted free agent since Michael Jordan re-signed with the Chicago Bulls last week.

The 7-1, 300-pound O'Neal averaged 26.6 points, 11.0 rebounds and 2.2 blocks in 54 games last season, missing 28 games with a broken thumb and other ailments. He ranked third in the NBA in scoring, third in field goal percentage (.573) and ninth in blocked shots.

O'Neal was the first pick of the 1992 draft and was the 1993 NBA Rookie of the Year. He led the Magic to their first playoff berth in 1994 and won the scoring title in 1995 as Orlando reached the Finals, losing to the Houston Rockets.

O'Neal has career averages of 27.2 points, 12.5 rebounds and 2.79 blocked shots in 295 career games. Hardaway called the loss of O'Neal "devastating" to the Magic. Ironically, the Magic now become Hardaway's team on his 24th birthday.

With O'Neal's departure, Jon Koncak becomes the starting center for the Magic. Orlando re-signed power forward Horace Grant to a five-year, \$50 million contract Wednesday.

## VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE COMES TO SEASIDE

The Bud Light Pro Beach Volleyball League will make a tour stop in Seaside, Ore., Friday, Aug 9th through Sunday Aug. 11th. The Oregon tournament is the 10th stop of the 13-city tour featuring men's and women's professional beach volleyball players competing for \$820,800 in total league prize money. The event will be tied into the 60,000 person Seaside Bud Light amateur volleyball tournament at Seaside Beach.

The league which enters its sixth season of operation features the 4-0-

4 beach volleyball format. In what has become tradition for the Bud Light Pro Beach Volleyball League, players consist of former and future Olympians from both the indoor and beach disciplines. Competition will begin on Friday, Aug 9th at 10 a.m. and admission free to the public all weekend.

The league kicked off the 1996 season Memorial Day weekend in Clearwater, Fla., and will conclude Labor Day weekend in Santa Cruz, Calif., and will generate up to 34 hours of television programming via

ESPN, ESPN2 and CBS including four live shows on ESPN and one on CBS.

"We have some of the finest Olympic medalists in the volleyball world," said Craig Elledge President of CESports, the company that runs and operates the league. "It is evident that the beach volleyball and 4 person volleyball is only getting bigger, better and more popular by the amount of people playing, television interest and the explosion of competitions around the world. We certainly hope to follow the doubles game into the Olympics in 2000."

## A CASE OF MURPHY'S LAW

**BY DANNY BELL**  
Saturday the Riverside Little League All-Stars played the team from Rose City. It was a classic case of Murphy's Law after jumping out to commanding 8-0 lead in the third inning, things began to unravel for River Side in the fourth and fifth innings going on to lose 8-11.

Here's what happened. The district play-offs are now being held in advance to divisional play-offs and they go on regional play in San Bernardino California. The winner of the regional play advances to the little League World Series.

Saturday was the first round of play. This is the 50th year of World Series tournament play. After an uneventful first inning Riverside got things going by scoring the first run on a forced walk with bases loaded. The inning ended with bases loaded on one hit. In the bottom of the second inning, pitcher Durel Washington struck out three consecutive batters retiring the inning.

Leading off the tip of third Mark Washington made a hit to the short stop who couldn't get it to first in time. The next batter Curtis Norris, who played third base hit a triple scoring a run. The next batter Durel Washington hit a home run, scoring two runs. The next batter was hit and took first base, Kevin Spencer Jr. following with a sacrifice line to first base and Riverside further capitalized with a run and a double steal.

Miles Quijmy scored later in the inning off a wild pitch. And the inning is retired with 5 runs on four hits and three men left on base. At the top the fourth inning Mark Washington hit a single then advanced to second base on an errant throw. Curtis Norris followed with first base. His second hit of the game on a double. Curtis Norris then scored on overthrows to third making the score 8 to 0. The following batters struck out.

The bottom of the fourth inning was a little more productive for Rose

City as Durel Washington begins to show signs of tiring. Two runs scored on an error. The top of fifth inning saw River City strike out, fly-out and strike out.

Rose City starts the bottom of fifth with a walk. Subsequently, two batters are hit in the inning another batter hits a single scoring a man, another batter hits a home run.

At 9 to 8 Rose City, Coach Chuck Washington changed pitchers going with Omar Washington. Omar al-

lowed three runs and closed out the inning. The fifth inning managed a run on three hits for Rose City.

That just about summarizes the game. These 11 and 12 year kids exhibited alot of mackey playing in extreme weather conditions. Both teams should be commended for tenaciousness and competitive spirit. But in the end you can have only one winner. That's too bad, because they both played great.

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Week 6 Results  
Saturday, July 20, 1996

<b>HAWKS 92</b> A. STEWARD 36 N. HARRISON 28	<b>ROCKETS 86</b> LAVON VANN 22 JESSIE SHEILS 22
<b>RAPTORS 96</b> DAMON STOUDEMIRE 35 C. ANDERSON 16	<b>SUNS 95</b> A. GEORGE 33 T. GREEN 24
<b>LAKERS 121</b> KWEMATTA KING 41 K. DUCKWORTH 18	<b>CAVS 111 (2 OT)</b> A. STOUDEMIRE 42 R. LUCAS 17
<b>SONICS 117</b> C. MCKINNEY 22 A. BELL 26	<b>HORNETS 77</b> K. STONEHOUSE 25 T. MANLOVE 20
Sunday, July 21, 1996	
<b>HAWKS 101</b> CLIFF ROBINSON 33 J. WESTBROOK 16	<b>SUNS 79</b> RON GRADY 21 A. GEORGE 18
<b>LAKERS 111</b> KWEMATTA KING 36 K. DUCKWORTH 15	<b>HORNETS 86</b> CANANAN CLATMAN 39 STONEHOUSE 22
<b>CAVS 120</b> TERRELL BRANDON 45 A. STOUDEMIRE 28	<b>ROCKETS 110</b> JOCK PAGE 29 LAVON VANN 22
<b>RAPTORS 113</b> DAMON STOUDEMIRE 40 D. JACSON 20	<b>SONICS 108</b> CHARLES MCKINNEY 30 AARON BELL 24

#### Standings

SONICS	10-2	LAKERS	5-7
RAPTORS	9-3	HORNETS	4-8
CAVS	7-5	ROCKETS	3-9
HAWKS	7-5	SUNS	3-9

#### Week 6 Big Guns

#1 TERRELL BRANDON **CAVS**  
All-Star BRANDON led the **CAVS** to a 120-110 victory Sunday against the **ROCKETS**. T.B. in mid-season form handed the **ROCKETS** a season-high 45 points!  
#20 DAMON STOUDEMIRE **RAPTORS**  
The NBA's 1996 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR led the **RAPTORS** to a big victory Sunday scoring 40 points while handing the first place **SONICS** only their second loss of the year.  
#32 CLIFF ROBINSON **HAWKS**  
Portland's veteran swing-man poured in a blazing 33 point effort, including 5 3-pointers!  
#55 KEVIN DUCKWORTH **LAKERS**  
Duck made his debut contributing 18 points Saturday and 15 Sunday both resulting in big wins for the **Lakers**.

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Honey Pot & Skins: 11:00 - 12:30
- Friday Evening  
Friday Fish Fry: 6:30 PM until...  
Peninsula Park at Portland Blvd. & Albina Ave.
- Saturday, August 3rd  
First Day of Tournament  
Colwood Golf Course at 7313 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Tee Time: 11:00 AM 1st and 10th Tees
- Saturday Evening  
Airport Travelodge at 9727 NE Sandy Blvd.  
Cocktail Hour: 6:30 PM  
Dinner & Dance: 7:30
- Sunday, August 4th  
Last Day of Tournament  
Broadmoor Golf Course  
Tee Time: 8:00 AM 1st and 10th Tees
- Sunday at 4:00  
Awards Ceremony  
Handicaps Not Necessary  
For more Information Please Call: Leon McKenzie, Sr. Tournament Chairman (503) 233-9588

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