

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL

Jordan named to All-Defensive team

Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls is just the second player in NBA history to be named to the league's All-Defensive Team for an eighth time. The league announced its All-Defensive First and Second Teams Tuesday as Jordan tied Bobby Jones of Denver and Philadelphia for the all-time record for most selections. Jordan was joined on the First Team by guard Gary Payton of Seattle, forwards Scottie Pippen of the Bulls and Karl Malone of Utah and center Dikembe Mutombo of Atlanta, who last week was named the NBA Defensive Player of the Year.

Providence G Shammgod enters NBA Draft

Providence point guard God Shammgod, one of the keys to the Friars' run to the Southeast Region finals in the NCAA Tournament, has made himself eligible for the NBA Draft. A Providence official said that the school has received notification from the NBA that Shammgod has applied for the draft and that Shammgod would inform the coaches of his decision Tuesday. It is believed that Shammgod has not signed with an agent, which leaves open the possibility of him returning to college. He can still withdraw from the draft up to one week before the event.

New York Liberty name Nancy Darsch head coach

The New York Liberty of the Women's National Basketball Association named Nancy Darsch head coach Tuesday. Terms were not disclosed. Darsch heads to the new league after posting a 234-125 record in 12 seasons at the helm of the Ohio State women's basketball program. She led the Buckeyes to four Big Ten Conference championships, and seven NCAA Tournament appearances—including a loss in the final game in 1993. Since then, the Lady Buckeyes were 64-66 with a 25-41 conference mark and Darsch was fired on March 10th, the same day that Ohio State men's basketball coach Randy Ayers was dismissed.

Mark Karcher commits to Temple

Mark Karcher, a 1997 McDonald's All-America and All-USA Today First Team member, Tuesday announced he will attend Temple University. Karcher, the last McDonald's All-America to commit, made the announcement at his high school, St. Frances Academy in Baltimore. Karcher, a Proposition 48 candidate who is academically ineligible to play as a freshman, chose Temple over two Big East schools, Seton Hall and Miami (Fla.).

TENNIS

Coetzer breezes, Van Roost ousted

Top seed Amanda Coetzer, who became the first-ever South African to crack the Top 10 on the WTA Tour this week, crushed Austria's Melanie Schnell, 6-1, 6-2 Tuesday in first-round action at the \$107,500 Croatian Bol Ladies Open in Bol, Croatia. However, second seed Dominique Van Roost of Belgium was upended by Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

SPORTS

Blazers Home Looking For Win

Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points Sunday as the hot-shooting Los Angeles Lakers raced to a 107-93 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers and a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference first-round series. O'Neal, who scored 46 points in Game 1, was slowed down a bit, but not

much. He shot 11 for 21 from the field and got some help from his teammates this time.

The Lakers shot a stellar 58 percent from the field, led by a 61-percent showing from the starters. Hardly Blazing: Portland made only four of 18 from 3-

point range. "We knew that Game 2 was going to be double critical for us," O'Neal said. "We let the lead slip away, but we fought back."

"We went to what we do well — hammer the ball into the big fella and let him do his thing," Lakers forward Elden

Campbell said of O'Neal. "If they're going to continue to play him one-on-one, we'll continue to go to him." Eddie Jones made all seven of his shots and scored 19 points for the Lakers, who were 58 percent from the field. Los Angeles can sweep the best-of-five series with a win

in Game 3 at Portland on Wednesday. Rasheed Wallace scored 20 points — two in the second half — and Isaiah Rider and Kenny Anderson added 18 each for Portland. "They're a little frustrated," Lakers guard Nick Van Exel said of the Blazers.

Calls Go To The Shaq

Shaquille O'Neal has bullied and bullied his way over, around and through the Portland Trail Blazers to bring the Los Angeles Lakers on the brink of a first-round playoff sweep.

And Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo wonders how the 7-foot-1, 300-pound center has managed to score 76 points in 73 minutes while being called for a total of five fouls.

Arvydas Sabonis and Chris Dudley, meanwhile, have been called for 18 fouls trying to corral the raging Lakers' big man as Los Angeles built a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

"I'm not saying we're not fouling, but the disparity concerns me," Carlesimo said Monday. "When you have the best combination of size, strength and quickness in the league playing more aggressively than I've ever seen him play and he's not getting fouls, that's a problem."

"That's really a problem for our guys to deal with."

O'Neal bristles at suggestions that he's getting away with charging fouls in his power moves to the basket.

"I don't know what game they're watching," he said. "I don't have to charge. I've got skill. I've got footwork. I can dribble. I've got a lot of skill."

Carlesimo is hoping O'Neal will be watched a little more closely when the series shifts to Portland's Rose Garden for Game 3 Wednesday night.

If not, it's on to the Western Conference semifinals for the Lakers.

"The people here know that we've hardly said a word about officials for three years," Carlesimo said. "But it's hard to play him the way the games are being officiated, there's no question about that."

Fouls aside, Carlesimo says O'Neal never has been better.

"His decision making, the way he's finishing, the way he's shooting free throws, the quickness and force with which he is making his moves, the consistency with which he's running the floor," Carlesimo said. "He's just playing very, very consistently at this magnificent level."

While Carlesimo gave his battered Blazers the day off Monday, the Lakers worked out at the Forum and will work out there again Tuesday before coming to Portland late Tuesday afternoon.

O'Neal will be returning to the same arena where his two missed free throws with 1.2 seconds left in the regular-season finale April 20 ended the Lakers' hopes for a Pacific Division title. In hindsight, those misses might have been the best thing that could have happened for the Lakers.

"It just woke me up," O'Neal said. "That's all it did."

The Blazers want to double-team O'Neal more, but not until he moves toward the basket. If they wait too

long to help, as they've done often, it's a slam dunk. If they come too quickly, O'Neal has been able to find teammates open for jumpers or on cuts to the basket. He had five assists to go with his 30 points in Sunday's 107-93 victory.

Slowing Shaq is just one of Carlesimo's concerns. He also has to rev up the Blazers' offense, which fell apart in the second half of both games at the Forum.

The Lakers' defense, and Portland's inability to deal with it, has been especially frustrating for Isaiah Rider, who has been double-teamed every time he touches the ball.


"They can't look to me to score when the Lakers keep running players at me," Rider said. "We've got to find the open man, then step up and make the shots. We are not matching their intensity. It seems like they want it more than we do."

Rider is 3-for-6 from 3-point range. The rest of the Blazers are 4-for-30. Kenny Anderson is 2-for-12, Clifford Robinson 1-for-9 and Sabonis 1-for-5.

But Carlesimo remembers a year ago, when the Blazers lost the first two in the first round at Utah, then beat the Jazz twice in the Rose Garden.

"The series can change dramatically in one game," he said. "We're coming home."

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Jazz, Knicks Win Series

The Utah Jazz and the New York Knicks became the first two teams to advance to the conference semifinals by completing three-game sweeps on Monday night. Utah, rolled past the Los Angeles Clippers, 104-92, to advance to the second round. In Charlotte, the Knicks used a balanced attack to oust the Hornets in three games, capped by a 104-95 victory.

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