

# SPORTS

## WOODS IS PGA MONEY WINNER

Tiger Woods held onto the PGA Tour money title Sunday only because Davis Love III made two bogeys on the back nine at the Tour Championship, but Woods finished second in stroke average behind Nick Price.

Woods finished 12th in the season-ending event and ended the year with a record \$2,066,833.

Love, who finished two-strokes behind winner David Duval after a bogey on the final hole, would have passed Woods on the money list if he had won the tournament.

Love's failure to win at the Champions Golf Club also meant that Woods will likely be voted player of the year when PGA Tour members cast their ballots later this month.

The results of that voting will be announced at the season-opening Mercedes Championships in January.

Woods has already won the PGA of America's player of the year, which is based on a points system.



**Blazer executives make right calls at bingo**

Portland Trail Blazer General Manager Bob Whitsitt (left) and Vice President Berlyn Hodges call out the bingo numbers during a visit to the North/Northeast Multicultural Senior Center as part of 'Team Up' day, a Blazers and NBA initiative encouraging young people to volunteer to improve their communities.

(Photo by M. Washington)

## Whitsitt completes new look Blazers

The Portland Trail Blazers are totally Bob Whitsitt's team now.

He hired the coach. He signed every player on the roster. Not one remnant is left from the days before multi-billionaire Paul Allen hired Whitsitt to reshape the Blazers into a championship contender again.

The team he has created, still a work in progress, is a bit like the one he put together in Seattle - big, talented, athletic and oh so young.

Their talent often has been overshadowed by their "Jail Blazers" reputation as troublemakers. But the perception within the organization and around the NBA is of a fast team on the rise - probably not a contender this year, but a strong candidate to become a serious one not too far down the road.

"The way that management presented it to me when I came in was that they wanted a longer-term picture," coach Mike Dunleavy said, "a two- to three-year window and basically to say, 'Hey, let's gear these guys up to where, within that time frame, we can compete for a championship.'

"It comes down to taking the time now and teaching the young players and working with them and giving them some playing time. I agree with that. I feel good about that."

Arvydas Sabonis (32) and Vincent Askew (31) are the only players over 30. Rasheed Wallace, who signed a six-year, \$80 million contract extension in the offseason, is just 23. Kenny Anderson is 27. Brian Grant, signed as a free agent, is 25. Gary Trent is

22. Isaiah Rider 26. And, of course, there's "The Kid," Jermaine O'Neal, who just turned 19.

"It's exciting," said John Crotty, signed by Whitsitt to be a backup to Anderson at point guard and a steady influence on the bench. "It's a fun team to play with because you throw the ball up near the rims and guys go up and get it. People cover for you defensively, so you can gamble a little bit. It's fun."

Whitsitt fired coach P.J. Carlesimo after last season largely because he was fed up with Carlesimo's slow-down style.

Enter Dunleavy, whose teams in Milwaukee weren't exactly speedy but whose Los Angeles Lakers NBA Finals squad was pure showtime.

"Last year, I thought P.J. did a pretty good job, but I think if you get along a little bit better with your players, they respond a little bit better for you," Rider said. "It was no individual thing. There were several people who just didn't know how to talk to him."

No one seems happier with Dunleavy than Rider.

"I love playing for him," Rider said. "He wants you to work hard and he wants you to be yourself and he wants you to do what's asked. He's my type of coach."

Rider is one of two Portland players who had the best preseasons. The other is Stacey Augmon.

Lost in Carlesimo's system last year, Augmon has emerged as a key performer when Dunleavy wants to rev up the offense.

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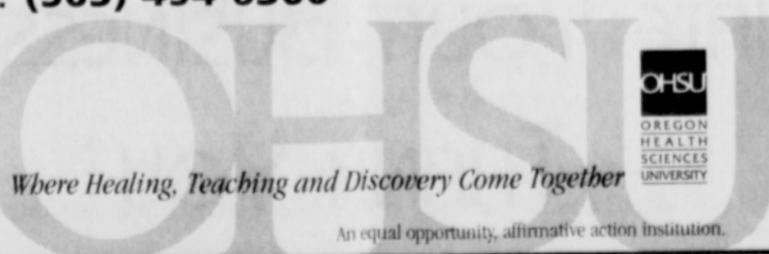
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## Power beats Seattle to improve record

Natalie Williams scored 20 points as the Portland Power routed the Seattle Reign 94-67 on Saturday to improve their ABL-best record to 7-1.

Elaine Powell, Katy Steding and Lisa Harrison added 12 points each for the Power. Val Whiting led the

Reign (2-7) with 11 points, and Kate Starbird and Joy Holmes added nine each.

"We played very aggressively, but we still have too many turnovers, too many breakdowns on defense and too many fouls," Power coach Lin Dunn said.

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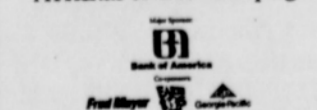
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