

SPORTS

Rosebowl Possible for Cougs

Ryan Leaf, mentioned often as a Heisman Trophy contender, played like one and then looked like one on Saturday.

Seconds after leading No. 14 Washington State to a 38-28 victory over Stanford, Leaf thrilled the record crowd by dropping into the pose of the familiar statue given to the best player in college football.

"It was instantaneous," Leaf said after the victory that kept the Cougars in contention for their first Rose Bowl since 1931.

Leaf was carried off the field by his teammates after throwing two touchdown passes and running for a TD as Washington State (9-1, 6-1) finished 6-0 at home for the first time in history. The Cougars are tied for the Pac-10 lead heading into the final game of the season at Washington.

Sabonis goes 10 for 10 in Blazers Rout

Arvydas Sabonis had a perfect 10-for-10 first half and scored 22 points as the Portland Trail Blazers routed the Dallas Mavericks 120-75 Monday.

Sabonis, who also grabbed nine rebounds in the first half, finished with 24 points and Isaiah Rider added 19 for Portland, which sprinted to a 28-10 lead after one quarter and extended it to 61-38 at halftime.

Brian Grant grabbed 11 of his 13 rebounds in the first quarter, helping the Blazers maul the Mavericks 59-30 on the boards. In the last three games, Portland has outrebounded opponents 187-118.

"Obviously it was a game we'd like to bottle," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "Two things stood out especially — our defense and our rebounding. We really got after them early."

Dennis Scott scored 12 points and Michael Finley 11 for the Mavericks, who have dropped six

straight games since a 3-0 start.

Portland needed just over half of the first quarter to break it open. The Blazers scored the final 17 points of the period over the final 6:38 to open a 28-10 lead.

The Blazers outrebounded the Mavericks, 23-7 in the quarter. Portland has grabbed at least 57 rebounds in each of the last three games and has outrebounded every opponent this season.

"We came out and were intimidated in the first quarter," Dallas coach Jim Cleamons said. "We had no enthusiasm. Portland got every rebound. We sat around watching the Blazers jumping all over the place. If we weren't embarrassed by this performance, we won't ever be embarrassed."

Portland continued to pour it on in the second quarter. Kelvin Cato opened the period with a dunk to give the Blazers a 20-point cushion. Sabonis took over later in the period, scoring the Blazer's final

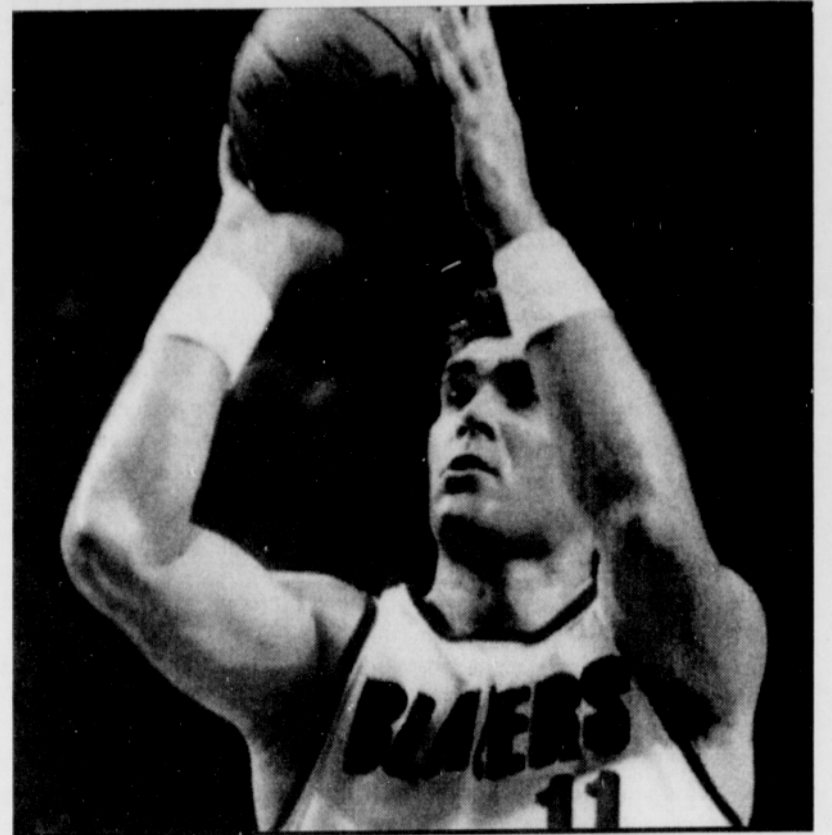
nine points.

The Blazers kept pulling away in the third quarter. Rider fueled a 15-2 run with eight points and his fast-break layup gave Portland an 85-53 bulge with 1:27 to go in the period. Portland finished the game by scoring the final 12 points over a 2 1/2 minute span, with Cato's dunk with four seconds to play providing the biggest lead.

Gary Trent finished with 16 points and Cato and Jermaine O'Neal 11 each as Portland's bench totaled 55 points. Kenny Anderson and John Crotty chipped in 10 each as the Blazers shot 54 percent (50-of-92) from the field.

"That's what you want, everybody to play, everybody to have fun," Trent said. "There's a lot of guys on the bench who can play but the minutes just aren't there."

A.C. Green, who played in his 905th straight game, finished with 10 points for Dallas, which shot 37 percent (28-of-76).



Arvydas Sabonis' hot shooting helps lead Portland to victory.

NBA Fines Wallace, Cato For Baggy Shorts

The NBA fashion police were on patrol again Monday, trying to make sure shorts are short enough and knees are naked.

The latest to cross the fabric line were rookie center Kelvin Cato and forward Rasheed Wallace of the Portland Trail Blazers. They were fined \$2,500 apiece by the league and the team was fined \$25,000 because the players wore uniform shorts that hung below their knees.

It was the second such penalty in a week from the conservatively dressed folks at the league's Fifth Avenue office.

"It has gotten out of control," said

Rod Thorn, NBA vice president of operations. "This is a professional league and you should wear your uniform in a professional manner."

The length-of-shorts rule, which is new this season, states that shorts must be at least 1 inch above the top of the knee. Thorn acknowledged some flexibility in the rule, but anything below the midpoint of the kneecap is out of bounds.

"If you look at other leagues, they all have rules and regulations about how you have to wear your uniforms. We can't have players wearing shorts that hang down to the middle of their calf," Thorn said.

Wallace accused the league of aiming their rule at young players.

"I know they targeted a whole lot of young guys, so you know it's discrimination right there," he said after the Blazers beat Dallas 120-75 Monday night.

Although his shorts looked a little

shorter than usual, Wallace said they were the same ones he always wears. He said he likes to wear baggy clothes on and off the court, and it's because of comfort, not style. He also said he sees no negative image that the baggy clothes portray to youngsters.

"What is there negative to say?" he said. "It's just you've got some big shorts on - whoop-dee-doo."

More than 30 players have been warned to shorten their shorts, and the fashion police are watching.

Last Saturday night, a representative from the athletic apparel company Starter, which makes the Sacramento Kings' uniforms, and league official Christopher Arena were in the visiting locker room in New York, their eyes cast downward at knees.

The players union said a grievance would be filed over the fines to Cato and Wallace, just as one was filed last Friday when the league fined Chris Carr, Stephon Marbury,

Kevin Garnett, Clifford Rozier and Doug West of Minnesota \$2,500 apiece and the Timberwolves \$25,000.

"It seems like a waste of time," union director Billy Hunter said. "They should be more concerned with on-court conduct, trying to enhance the game so there are more points scored and seeing that the quality of the game is kept at a sufficient level."

At least two members of the Timberwolves, Stanley Roberts and Sam Mitchell, were among those who were warned and subsequently hiked their shorts high enough, Thorn said.

"I've moved mine up a little," said Kenny Anderson of the Trail Blazers.

Unlike the Timberwolves general manager Kevin McHale, who ridiculed the fine last week, Blazers' president Bob Whitsitt was careful in his reaction, at least publicly.

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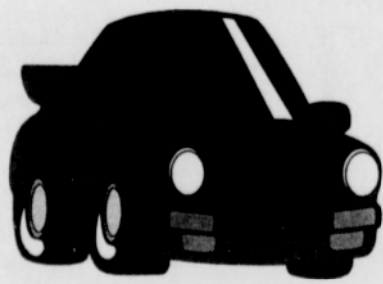
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Power Dominance Sinks Colorado

Elaine Powell sank a 12-foot, off-balance jumper with 5.1 seconds left to give the Portland Power a 72-70 victory over the Colorado Xplosion in an American Basketball League game Sunday night.

Powell finished with 16 points, including 10 in a crucial third-quarter rally as Portland (10-3) erased a 41-32 halftime deficit.

Crystal Robinson led Colorado (5-7) with 21 points, including 12 in the first half. It was her 3-pointer with 23.7 seconds remaining that tied the game 70-70.

She missed a 35-foot shot at the buzzer that would have won the game.

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