

SPORTS

BLAZERS COMPLAIN ABOUT OFFICIATING

By BOB BAUM

One loss from being swept from the playoffs by the Los Angeles Lakers, the Portland Trail Blazers are hoping the foul calls are a bit more balanced now that they're playing at home.

The Lakers shot 31 more free throws than the Blazers in Sunday's Game 2 at the Great Western Forum.

As the series shifts to Portland for Tuesday night's Game 3, coach Mike Dunleavy told the emotional Blazers they are reaping what they have sown through the season.

"What Mike told us is all the things we've done throughout the season in terms of negative publicity and yelling at referees is all coming back on us," Damon Stoudamire said. "But at the same time we've got to fight through it. We've got to focus in on the game and not on the referees."

The Lakers were 34-for-52 from the free throw line in their 108-99 victory over the Blazers Sunday. Portland was 17-for-21.

"Some of it was aggressiveness and some of it was ridiculous," Isaiah Rider said. "We have a play where Sabas (Arvydas Sabonis), myself and Rasheed (Wallace) get

slapped in the arm. Then we come down and slap them in the arm, they go to the line."

Dunleavy, who shared the lead with Utah's Jerry Sloan for most technicals in the regular season, used the word "amazing" to describe the free throw discrepancy. He said his belief that the Blazers were victims of bad calls were backed up by remarks he heard from commentators when he watched the videotape of NBC's telecast of the game.

"I come back and I watch the film and I see five or seven replays where I've got the guys on NBC saying 'Those aren't fouls.' 'That's not a foul.' 'I don't think that was a touch.' 'That's pretty cheap.' I don't have to say anything," Dunleavy said. "It's being said on national TV by people who are more objective than I certainly would be, so I hope it changes back."

Shaquille O'Neal sees the Blazers' frustration mounting.

"They don't think they're getting any calls," he said, "so they'll be extra pumped up. We'll just have to be ready for that."

Portland is equally frustrated trying to defend O'Neal. The Blazers have double- and triple-teamed the big center, only to have him toss it out to a teammate for an open jumper.

Eddie Jones, Kobe Bryant, Rick Fox, Robert Horry and Nick Van Exel have taken turns burning the Blazers.

"It's going to be me sometimes. It'll probably be Nick or Kobe in the next game," Fox said. "If we can keep them off-balance, we'll be better for it. It's a collective effort."

After scoring 30 in the series opener, O'Neal had 19 points Sunday, but his teammates picked up the slack. Fox had 24, Jones 21 and Horry 15.

"It's good for everybody," Harris said. "It's good for Shaq when he doesn't have to be the leading scorer every game."

Portland's Arvydas Sabonis has played just 24 and 14 minutes in the two games because of foul trouble. Even when he is in the game, Sabonis hasn't been able to deal with O'Neal's quickness and power.

"Shaq's unstoppable," Riders said. "If we didn't double-team Shaq, he would get 50 points against Sabonis. You double- and triple-team Shaq every time he touches the ball."

Having that kind of player in the middle is the kind of luxury other coaches envy.

"It's amazing what \$120 million can buy," Dunleavy said.

You Bet The Home Court Matters

By ROXY ROXBOROUGH AND DAVID SCOTT

Does the home court matter in the NBA? You bet. Not only are all eight opening-round playoff series changing venues this week, so are their odds. While bookmakers would just as soon keep things the way they are - more about that a little later - the change of zip codes has had a dramatic effect on Game 3 prices. Here are some examples:

* The Indiana Pacers, who were favored by 7 and 7 1/2 against the Cavaliers in Indiana, now are 3-point underdogs for Game 3 in Cleveland, Monday.

* The Suns, who were 3 1/2 and 4 1/2-point picks versus the Spurs in Phoenix, are 5 1/2-point dogs in San Antonio, Monday.

* While the Miami Heat was a 7 and a 6-point favorite against the New York Knicks in Miami, the game will be a pick when the teams renew their rivalry in New York, Tuesday.

* A 2-point dog and then a misguided 2 1/2-point favorite in Charlotte, the Hawks are 8 1/2-point favorites to beat the Hornets in Atlanta, Tuesday.

* Favored by 13 and 12 points in Salt Lake City, the Jazz are a

more modest 5-point choice against the Rockets in Houston, Wednesday.

Get the point(s)?

As for the betting, it took gamblers four days just to get their first significant victory. Of the games played between Thursday and Sunday that moved a point or more, bookmakers won six-of-eight. Particularly sweet for bet takers was Saturday's Charlotte-Atlanta game, where bettors laid the Hawks from 2-

point underdogs to 2 1/2-point favorites. The Hornets prevailed, 92-85. One of the victories for players was New York's outright beating of Miami as a 6-point underdog, Sunday. The Knicks had opened at +7 1/2 for the game. Gamblers also won Sunday's Minnesota-Seattle game.

Here are the results from the first long weekend of the NBA playoffs:

Favorites: 7-9 O'er:

8-8 Underdogs: 9-7 Under:

8-8

'There are still majors in me'

Why would a 43-year-old man who has won two British Opens, earned more money than anyone in the history of golf and owns several thriving businesses want to put in the grueling work to return to competition from surgery?

Why wouldn't someone who has experienced as much heartbreak as Greg Norman use a significant operation on his left shoulder as an excuse to quietly walk away from the game?

With Norman the answer is quite simple.

Pride. Few athletes are motivated as much by pride as Norman. It's why he's been able to bounce back so often.

"I think there are still majors in me," Norman said by telephone from his Hobe Sound, Fla., home. "There is still a lot on my plate I would like to achieve."

It would be a shame if Norman's career ended like this. And there is

a chance that the nearly experimental procedure involving heat and lasers to stabilize the ball in his left shoulder socket will not work.

If there is any one emotion that Norman's surgery tapped into it was a sense of loss. For two decades he has been a force in the major championships, and there was a sense that there must be at least one more Norman run at a major somewhere down the road.

There is also a nagging feeling that the thought of dominating the Senior Tour for a couple of years probably does not get Norman's competitive juices flowing.

It's more than likely he will be a Joe DiMaggio or Ted Williams, and when he can no longer play to his incredibly high standards he will leave the game to concentrate on his other businesses.

Much could be said about the fact that Norman finished second

eight times in major championships. And much could be said about the fact that he lost all four majors in a playoff.

But the one thing that has to be said is what a tremendous achievement it was to get close that often. Make no mistake about this: Norman brought complete intensity to just about every tournament he played.

In 255 PGA Tour events since 1979, Norman made the cut 230 times - 90 percent. He finished in the top three 58 times - 23 percent - with 18 victories. Actually, since the tour didn't recognize the British Open until 1995, he really has 20.

Norman won the British Open in 1986 and '93, and 16 other times he was in the top five in a major. His 18 top-five finishes in 69 majors is 26 percent.

And how about this: Since 1976, Norman has won at least one tournament somewhere in the world

every year except 1991.

"My passion for the game has always been extremely high irrespective of where I am," Norman said.

And that's the way he played the game. Hopefully, that passion will still be there when he tries to return in November.

"I won't know until September or October how I will feel about practicing, about hitting balls day after day," Norman said. "I assume I will be fired up and ready to go."

Unique Amateur Golf Competition Debuts in Portland in 1998

The popular Toyota Golf Skills Challenge National Tour announces its debut in the Portland area, July 24-26, when 750 amateurs are expected to go head to head in the highly competitive, one of a kind golf skills event.

Charbonneau Country Club, 32020 S.W. Charbonneau Drive in Wilsonville, will serve as local host site on the 25-city tour—which not only is recognized as the world's largest grassroots multi-skill golf competition, but is patterned after NBC Sports' celebrated EMC2 Gold Skills Challenge for PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour professionals.

"The Toyota Golf Skills Challenge lends the best opportunity for novice and advanced players alike to sharpen their overall games," said Brad Faxon, PGA Tour veteran and two-time EMC2 Golf Skills Challenge champion. "Regardless of handicap, all golfers must continually enhance their fundamentals. This competitions designed to let amateurs do just that, and the professional event provides us the same opportunity."

Event entry fee is \$20 per person, and a portion of the proceeds benefits area junior golf programs. Teetimes are available from 8 am to 4:30 pm, and reservations can be made by calling 800-932-8337. A limited number of wald up tee times are available each day. National Tour sponsors are Toyota, Dockers Golf, Taylor Made, MasterCard International, EMC2, Golf Magazine, Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, NBC Sports and J.C. Penney. Local sponsors are area Toyota dealers.

PIL STANDINGS

SPORTS STANDINGS
1998 SPRING STANDINGS

BASEBALL	W	L	To
Madison	10	0	
Roosevelt	8	2	M,B
Grant	7	3	M,R,F
Cleveland	6	4	M,R,W,G
Lincoln	6	4	G,C,M,R
Franklin	4	6	C,C,R,L,W,M
Wilson	4	6	G,L,M,M,J,M,R
Benson	3	7	
Marshall	2	8	
Jefferson	0	10	

MENS TENNIS	W	L	To
Lincoln	6	0	
Grant	7	1	L
Wilson	7	2	G,L
Benson	5	2	W,L,G
Roosevelt	5	3	W,L,G
Cleveland	3	5	R,G,W,B,L
Franklin	3	5	
Marshall	2	7	G,C,B,R,W
Madison	1	7	
Jefferson	0	7	

MENS TRACK	W	L	I
Benson	4	0	
Franklin	4	0	
Cleveland	3	1	
Grant	3	1	
Wilson	2	2	
Lincoln	1	3	
Madison	1	3	
Marshall	1	3	
Roosevelt	1	3	
Jefferson	0	4	

MENS GOLF	W	L	I
Franklin	7	0	
Cleveland	4	0	
Lincoln	4	1	
Wilson	4	1	
Grant	3	3	
Benson	3	4	
Madison	2	4	
Roosevelt	2	5	
Marshall	0	5	
Jefferson	0	6	

SOFTBALL	W	L
Franklin	10	1
Madison	8	3
Wilson	8	3
Cleveland	7	4
Benson	6	5
Marshall	6	5
Lincoln	5	6
Roosevelt	5	6
Grant	3	7
Jefferson	0	18

GIRLS TENNIS	W	L
Lincoln	8	0
Cleveland	6	2
Grant	6	2
Wilson	6	2
Marshall	5	3
Franklin	4	4
Benson	2	6
Madison	1	6
Roosevelt	1	7
Jefferson	0	7

GIRLS TRACK	W	L
Lincoln	4	0
Benson	3	1
Cleveland	3	1
Grant	3	1
Wilson	3	1
Franklin	2	2
Jefferson	2	2
Madison	0	4
Marshall	0	4
Roosevelt	0	4

GIRLS GOLF	W	L
Lincoln	4	0
Franklin	3	1
Wilson	3	1
Cleveland	2	1
Grant	0	3
Benson	2	4
Roosevelt	0	4

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