

SPORTS

Trail Blazers 113, Lakers 86

By Landon Hall

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) -- The Portland Trail Blazers did more than just beat the Los Angeles Lakers. They humbled them.

Portland built an early lead and didn't look back Tuesday night, handing the Lakers their worst loss of the season in the long-awaited first meeting between the top teams on the West Coast.

"No doubt, they are better right now," said Los Angeles coach Kurt Rambis, who watched his team show all the bad traits -- lack of hustle, discipline and heart -- that has made the Lakers so hard to figure out.

"Their big guys weren't running the floor, and we took advantage of that," said Portland's Rasheed Wallace. "Our shots were falling from all over. We were running the floor, getting dunks and hitting the 3s."

Damon Stoudamire and Isaiah Rider led seven players in double figures with 16 points each for the Blazers, who played the Lakers for the first time since being eliminated by them in the first round of the playoffs last April.

Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who dropped 5 1/2 games behind Portland in the Pacific Division. Kobe Bryant had 20 points and seven re-

bounds, and Rick Fox had 17 points.

The Lakers clearly could have used Glen Rice, who missed his second straight game with flulike symptoms. He didn't make the trip to Portland.

"They didn't have their best shooter, so we can't overestimate this game," Blazers guard Jim Jackson said. "But it's still a big-time win for us."

Dennis Rodman sat out the second half with a sore left elbow and had just four rebounds and no points. He told trainers he had tendinitis in the elbow and couldn't play.

"It takes a man to go out and say he doesn't have it," Rodman told TNT after the game, adding that he had lost five pounds the last few days with the flu. "I play through the pain, but I just didn't have it today."

The Lakers, who have lost 10 of their last 12 in Portland, fell to fifth in the Western Conference, a half-game behind the Houston Rockets.

Portland, coming off a surprising home loss to the Los Angeles Clippers, continued its bid to become the first team in NBA history to go a season without losing two in a row.

Brian Grant had 13 points and eight rebounds, Jackson and Wallace had 12 points, Walt Williams added 11 and Kelvin Cato had 10 for the Blazers.

"Portland just plays well and hard, and everybody comes to play," O'Neal said. "They don't do anything special. They just never give up."

The teams face each other three more times.

"We need to play hard and quit talking about playing hard," O'Neal added. "If we play together, I still think we can beat this team."

Portland put the game away in the second quarter, outscoring the Lakers 27-15 to take a 58-37 halftime lead. The Lakers shot just 20 percent in the quarter, and seemed to stand around much of the time

while Portland put on an impressive display of dunks and layups.

A driving layup by Stoudamire that included a 360-degree spin around Derek Fisher made it 50-32, and Stoudamire's running shot at the buzzer provided a 21-point lead.

The Blazers endured a dry spell during the third quarter in which they went 5 1/2 minutes without a field goal. But the Lakers put together only a modest 9-3 run during the stretch, and a baseline jumper by Jackson made it 65-46 with 5:43 left in the period.

A 3-pointer by Williams with 29.7 seconds left in the quarter gave the Blazers a 25-point lead. They led by as many as 28.

The Blazers shot 56 percent, the Lakers just 39 percent.

Two teams hadn't played since



April 30, 1998, when the Lakers eliminated the Blazers with a 110-99 win at Rose Garden. It was the second straight year Los Angeles bounced the Blazers 3-1 in the first round, and Portland's sixth straight first-round loss.

Two Names Led the Field; Olazabal and Titleist Win the Masters

FAIRHAVEN, MA--Olazabal and Love Finish 1-2 Trusting the Titleist Professional Golf Ball. 15th Straight Win for Titleist on 1999 PGA Tour.

Winning the Masters is every player's dream. Winning a second green jacket, after the uncertainty of ever being able to play competitive golf again, displays tremendous talent, perseverance and courage. Demonstrating the qualities that make him a champion, Jose Maria Olazabal earned his second Masters title, once

again relying on the superior performance and consistency of Titleist's advanced liquid-filled center wound ball technology. In fact, on a course that demands distance, control and consistency, Olazabal and Davis Love III each relied upon the longer distance and penetrating ball flight of the Titleist Professional golf ball to record another 1-2 finish for Titleist.

Olazabal's victory also extends Titleist's unprecedented golf ball winning streak on the 1999 PGA Tour to

15. All other competitors, 0.

Forced to stop playing competitive golf for nearly 18 months in 1995 and 1996 because of a foot and back injury that threatened his ability to walk, Olazabal's long road to a second Masters victory returns him once again to the Top 20 in the World Rankings. Advancing to No. 19 in the rankings following Sunday's victory, Olazabal adds to the list of world-class players who have reached the 1999 PGA Tour.

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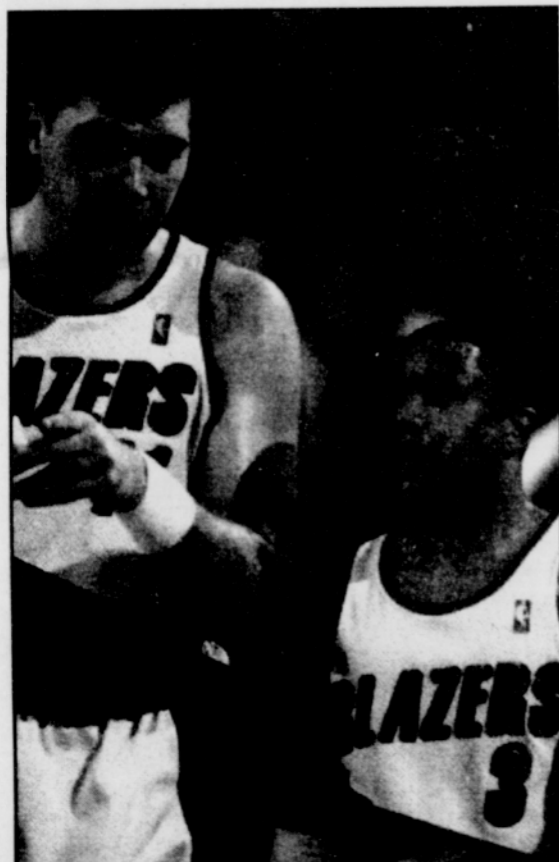
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Portland Trailblazers floor leaders put the Lakers to sleep.

P I L

SPORTS STANDINGS 1999 SPRING STANDINGS

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

SOFTBALL	W	L
Marshall	2	1
Wilson	3	0
Grant	3	1
Lincoln	3	1
Madison	2	2
Cleveland	1	2
Franklin	1	3
Roosevelt	0	3
Benson	1	3
Jefferson	No team	

MENS TENNIS	W	L	To
Grant	3	0	
Lincoln	3	0	
Benson	3	1	
Wilson	3	1	
Cleveland	2	1	
Franklin	1	3	
Roosevelt	1	3	
Marshall	0	3	
Madison	0	4	
Jefferson	No team		

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

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

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

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

GIRLS GOLF	W	L
Lincoln	3	0
Cleveland	1	1
Grant	1	0
Wilson	1	1
Roosevelt	0	0
Benson	0	1
Franklin	0	1
Madison	0	1
Marshall	0	1
Jefferson	No team	

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