

SPORTS BRIEFS

SPORTS

Trail Blazers 110, Suns 99

Ken Griffey, Jr. GAME: Seattle Mariners (14-16) at New York Yankees (19-10). TIME: Sunday, 1:35 p.m. EDT.

Ken Griffey Jr. couldn't have picked a more appropriate stage for the latest milestone of his career, as the young slugger hit his 361st home run at Yankee Stadium Saturday.

The homer, Griffey's 11th of the year, tied Yankee legend Joe DiMaggio for 45th place on the career list.

DiMaggio, who died in March, played 13 seasons from 1936-51, missing three years because of World War II, while Griffey is in just his 11th season.

"I don't worry about that stuff," Griffey said. "I just play baseball and hope something happens."

Venus Williams Beats Pierce in Second Final in Seven Days

Mary Pierce has quickly grown tired of seeing Venus Williams on the other end of the court.

For the second straight week, Pierce reached the final of a tournament, only to see Williams beat her for the title. It happened today when Williams, the third-seeded American, posted a 6-4, 6-2 victory over the ailing and fourth-seeded Frenchwoman to capture the \$1.05 million Italian Open.

Bothered by a tender left thigh that was wrapped heavily, Pierce could not contend with Williams, who has won eight straight matches on red clay. One of those victories came a week ago against Pierce in the final at Hamburg, Germany, and before that win had never won an event on clay.

Johnson Sprints to Victory

Olympic champion Michael Johnson electrified Fort-de-France stadium Saturday afternoon by winning the men's 200-meter dash during an IAAF meet on this French Caribbean island.

Johnson majestically won the race in 20.07 seconds and was feted with a standing ovation from the thousands in the grandstands.

Lindford Christie, the Olympic 100-meter champion in 1992, was injured and couldn't compete but received an ovation when he walked onto the track to greet the crowd.

Americans dominated the 100-meter dash as well, with Milton Mallard winning in 10.33.

Morales to Go Home for Next Title Defense

Erik Morales wants to look spectacular every time he steps into the ring. He didn't against Juan Carlos Ramirez, and that could mean trouble to the next fighter who tries to take his WBC super bantamweight title.

Ramirez proved to be a most capable substitute opponent for Morales, going nine rounds with the 122-pound champion Saturday night and still having enough energy to argue strenuously when the referee stopped the fight before the bell sounded to begin the 10th round.

What looked like another short fight for Morales when he knocked Ramirez down three times in the first three rounds turned into his longest fight since winning the title.

"In my next fight, I hope you will see a knockout," Morales said.

Hornets Owner Starts Over

George Shinn has started over in a search for a partner to share ownership of the NBA Charlotte Hornets.

Michael Jordan said Saturday he broke off negotiations with Shinn because of a disagreement over how much control over basketball operations the former Chicago Bulls star would have. After the announcement Shinn said other interested people have approached him.

"Since the discussions between Michael and I were announced, I have received numerous inquiries from others who are interested in the possibility of a partnership in the Hornets," Shinn said in a statement released Saturday night. "Out of respect for Michael and the discussions that we were conducting, I did not follow up on any of those inquiries."

"At this point I plan to review those opportunities and proceed accordingly."

Carlos Franco Gets #1 in Compaq Classic

NEW ORLEANS (Reuters) - Paraguayan Carlos Franco fired a 6-under-par 66 Sunday to record a two-shot victory over Harrison Frasar and third-round leader Steve Flesch at the \$2.6 million Compaq Classic.

The 33-year-old Franco, who has five victories on the Japanese Tour, started the day two shots behind Flesch but finished at 19-under 269, setting a 72-hole course record at the English Turn Golf and Country Club.

Franco, who joined Roberto de Vicenzo as the only South Americans to capture a PGA Tour event, earned \$468,000.

"This was the biggest week of my life," said Franco. "I'm very proud of what I did, I'm very proud for my country. It's very important that Paraguay is known for golf. Playing in America is a lifelong dream."

Franco received a parade in his native Asuncion after finishing sixth in the Masters and expects another hero's welcome when he returns home following next week's Byron Nelson Classic.

He has been bothered by tendinitis in his wrist and arms and almost withdrew from the tournament before it began.

"I think I made the right decision," said Franco. "This week was my week. I'm hitting everything great, driving great, great irons, putting great."

In addition to his success on the Japanese Tour, Franco has won in the Philippines, Singapore and every country in South America except Bolivia, which does not have a tournament.

Franco got to 19-under by sinking an eight-foot birdie on the 15th hole and held on by paring the final three holes. He had seven birdies and recorded his only bogey on the par-5 sixth hole, where he hit his approach shot into the water.

"The last four or five holes, the holes got narrower, the greens were 50 percent smaller and the fairways longer," he said. "It was incredible."

A member of the 1992 World Cup team, Franco joined Glen Day as the second first-time winner on the PGA Tour this year and became the eighth foreign-born player to win in 1999. He also moved into the top 15 on the money list with \$814,520.

In addition, Franco became the first rookie to win on the Tour since Gabriel Hjertstedt captured the 1997 B.C. Open.

Flesch, who turns 32 later this month, fired a final-round 70 and posted his first top-10 finish of the year. He took home \$228,000, raising his season earnings to \$337,536 in 12 events.

Last year's PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, Flesch was denied his first Tour victory, finishing second in this event for the second straight year. But he was thrilled for Franco.

"We played a lot in Asia," Flesch said. "He's a hard guy not to like. I knew he was the guy to look out for."

Eric Booker, Dennis Paulson and Craig Barlow tied for fourth at 15-under 273, one shot better than Australian Craig Parry, Day and Hal Sutton.

The English Turn Golf and Country Club course is a par-72 layout that covers 7,116 yards.

By LONDON HALL © THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—You'd expect the Portland Trail Blazers to be showing some of their youthful cockiness with a 2-0 lead over Phoenix and a season-long dominance over the Suns.

It's a sign of maturity, then, that even playoff novices like the Blazers know that it will be a different series in Phoenix. And they can see themselves taking a tumble should they fail to keep the pressure on.

"We're as good as any team in the league, point-blank," Portland guard Greg Anthony said after the Blazers' 110-99 victory over Phoenix on Monday night. "But we still have periods, after we've played well, when we let up. We still don't have the killer instinct it takes to grab a team by the throat and end it."

After a scoring burst that began late in the third quarter, the Blazers were never really threatened by the Suns, who have lost all five games to Port-

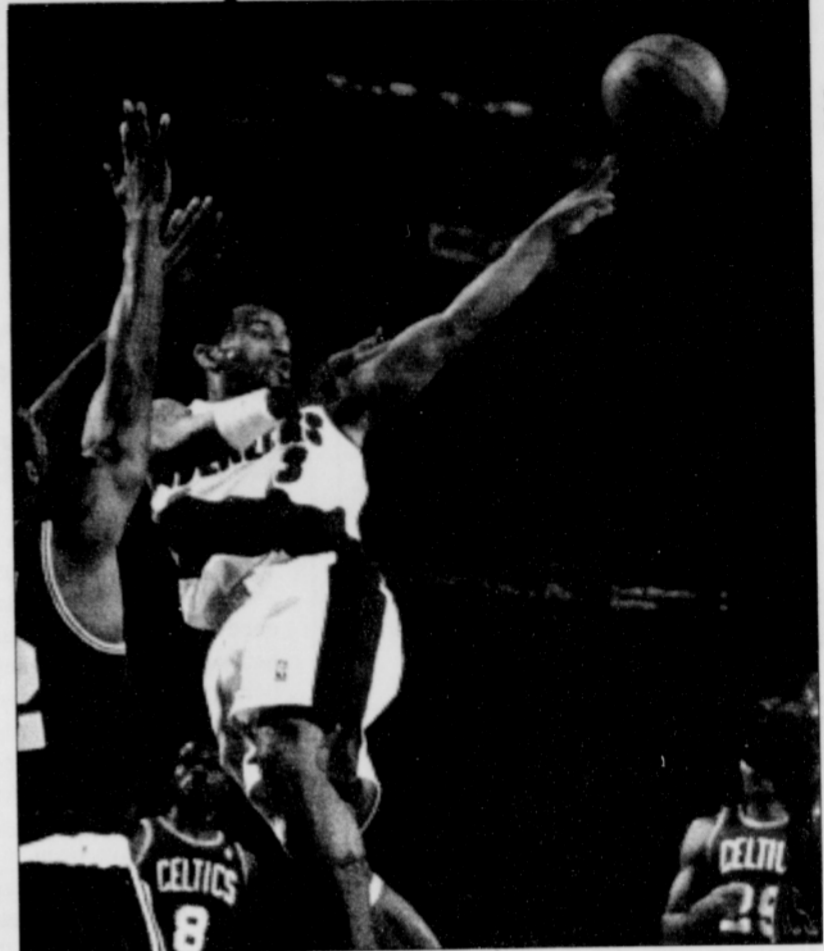
land this season. But after a first quarter in which the Blazers shot 71 percent and led by 16, the Suns outscored them 82-77 the rest of the way.

Phoenix ended the game with a flurry, scoring 25 points in the final six minutes, including four 3-pointers in a span of 2:07. The Blazers' slack defense infuriated coach Mike Dunleavy and showed what can happen when the Suns get on a shooting streak.

"We were a little too comfortable at the end. We hit a lull," Dunleavy said. "I can tell you this: You can't fall asleep at the wheel against this team."

Brian Grant scored 22 points, Rasheed Wallace had 21 and Damon Stoudamire had 22 points and 13 assists for the Blazers, who shot a season-high 57 percent. Isaiah Rider, who scored 25 points in Saturday's 95-85 Game 1 victory, added 17.

It was the Suns' goal to take away Rider's easy looks at the basket by double-teaming them, but that strategy quickly fell apart Monday night. Rider had three assists in the opening



Damon Stoudamire

PIL Standings

SPORTS STANDINGS 1999 SPRING STANDINGS

BASEBALL

Table with columns W, L, To for Baseball teams: Madison, Lincoln, Wilson, Cleveland, Franklin, Marshall, Roosevelt, Grant, Jefferson.

SOFTBALL

Table with columns W, L for Softball teams: Wilson, Madison, Marshall, Franklin, Benson, Grant, Lincoln, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Jefferson.

MENS TENNIS

Table with columns W, L, To for Men's Tennis teams: Lincoln, Grant, Wilson, Franklin, Benson, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Madison, Marshall, Jefferson.

GIRLS TENNIS

Table with columns W, L for Girls Tennis teams: Cleveland, Lincoln, Wilson, Grant, Franklin, Benson, Jefferson, Marshall, Roosevelt, Madison.

MENS TRACK

Table with columns W, L, I for Men's Track teams: Madison, Benson, Franklin, Grant, Wilson, Lincoln, Cleveland, Marshall, Roosevelt, Jefferson.

GIRLS TRACK

Table with columns W, L for Girls Track teams: Benson, Grant, Lincoln, Madison, Wilson, Cleveland, Franklin, Jefferson, Marshall, Roosevelt.

MENS GOLF

Table with columns W, L, I for Men's Golf teams: Wilson, Lincoln, Franklin, Grant, Cleveland, Benson, Madison, Roosevelt, Marshall, Jefferson.

GIRLS GOLF

Table with columns W, L for Girls Golf teams: Lincoln, Wilson, Franklin, Grant, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Madison, Marshall, Benson, Jefferson.

What a Game!

Six homers, 16 RBIs

By BART JANSEN © THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pick a slugger—Mark McGwire, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth.

None of them ever put on the kind of power show Marshall McDougall did on Sunday.

The Florida State second baseman hit six consecutive homers and drove in 16 runs—both NCAA records—in a 26-2 rout of Maryland in College Park, Md.

His astounding 7-for-7 performance set school and Atlantic Coast Conference records.

By late in the game, McDougall's teammates and the 247 fans in the stands at Shipley Field were cheering for him to hit another one out. And another.

"It was a great feeling because everyone was rooting for me," McDougall said. "Seeing my teammates react and the fans react, it was great."

"They were laughing and jumping around. They couldn't believe it."

McDougall broke the NCAA

single-game home run mark set by Henry Rochelle of Campbell, who hit five against Radford in 1985. Rochelle went 8-for-8 in a 38-0 win, driving in 10 runs and scoring eight.

The RBIs record was 14 by Louisville's Jim LaFountain against Western Kentucky in 1976.

No major league player has ever hit more than four homers in a game, not even in extra innings. Nine major leaguers have hit four homers in a nine-inning game, the last being Mark Whiten of St. Louis against Cincinnati in 1993. Whiten drove in 12 runs in that game, tying the record set by Jim Bottomley, who did it for St. Louis in 1924.

McDougall began his assault quietly with an RBI single in the first inning. Then he had a solo homer in the second, a three-run shot in the fourth, a solo homer to left in the sixth, a three-run shot in the seventh, a grand slam in the eighth and a three-run shot in the ninth.

All of the homers went to left or

center in a field where the fences measure 320 feet down the left field line and 355 to center.

"Luckyly, we had people on base, so they couldn't walk me," he said. "My teammates came through for me."

McDougall is in his first year at Florida State, after playing two seasons at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla. He hit three homers as a freshman and nine as a sophomore.

He now has 23 homers this season, tops in the ACC. He had two earlier multiple-homer games, hitting two against North Carolina-Asheville and three against Miami.

"I just go up there and try to make good contact," McDougall said. "It's already passed my goal for the year. I'm having fun."

Three other Seminoles—Kevin Cash, Ryan Barthemely and Sam Scott—also homered Sunday. Nick Stocks (9-1) earned the win, allowing two runs on four hits. Maryland's Jamie Hammond (4-3) gave up 10 runs and 13 hits in 5 1-3 innings.

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