

SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL-Saints sign Heisman winner Williams

The New Orleans Saints officially announced on Friday the signing of Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams to a seven-year contract with a club option for an eighth season.

Though financial terms of the deal with the celebrated running back were not disclosed, Williams's representative Leland Hardy called it "the largest rookie contract in history."

Williams revealed that he received a signing bonus of \$8.8 million.

"I'm excited that this is all taken care of," Williams said. "It's a great contract and he (Hardy) got it done extremely quick and nobody expected that."

"I'm getting a nice bonus up front and the rest of it I have to work for, which is the way it should be. That \$8.8 million I could put in the bank and get it working for me immediately."

Williams was the fifth overall pick in the 1999 draft, which New Orleans acquired by trading all of its picks in the 1999 draft along with first- and third-round selections in 2000 to Washington.

Williams is Division I-A's all-time leading rusher with 6,279 yards in four years at Texas, breaking the old mark held by Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett.

"We traded our entire draft for him so everybody knows what we think of him," said Saints general manager Bill Kuharich.

"In researching Ricky Williams and his college career, it was clear to me he is a special individual and a special player. Trading an entire draft is not the norm of the NFL, but he respects what we did to acquire him."

Williams rushed for 2,124 yards and 27 touchdowns as a senior.

Mia Hamm Ties Soccer Scoring Record

Mia Hamm tied the international scoring record Sunday, getting her 107th goal in the U.S. women's game against the Netherlands.

Hamm, playing in her 171st game with the national team, scored in the 53rd minute of this exhibition leading to next month's Women's World Cup.

The goal ties Hamm with Italy's Elisabetta Vignotto, who is retired. It was Hamm's third career goal against the Netherlands.

She took a cross from Cindy Parlow and dribbled between two defenders before scoring with her left foot. The shot hit the crossbar and dropped in, giving the United States a 2-0 lead.

Hamm raised her right arm as the crowd roared, and then jumped and pumped her right fist. The ball was retrieved, marked with 107 and saved for Hamm.

SPORTS

Jazz Hope Their Experience Trumps Portland's Prowess

By GREG BEACHAM
© THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — About 14 hours after their remarkable escape from playoff elimination, the Utah Jazz went back to work, trying to figure out how to pull the same trick twice.

Utah faces Portland in the Western Conference semifinals, with the first game set for Tuesday night at the Delta Center. The Blazers are talented, rested, confident and in top form after sweeping Phoenix in the first round.

The Jazz? They somehow just keep winning.

"This team's been through a lot together," Karl Malone said. "If you look at the statistics, Portland is going to be a tough matchup for us, maybe too tough. But you can't ever count us out, and if you do, you'll be sorry."

The Blazers have perhaps the

league's deepest lineup, with an enviable collection of role players who quickly jelled into a formidable team during the shortened season. After practice Monday, Portland was mindful of Utah's uncanny ability to snatch wins from unsuspecting opponents.

"They have got that ability to dig down, and they know they can come up with a way," Portland coach Mike

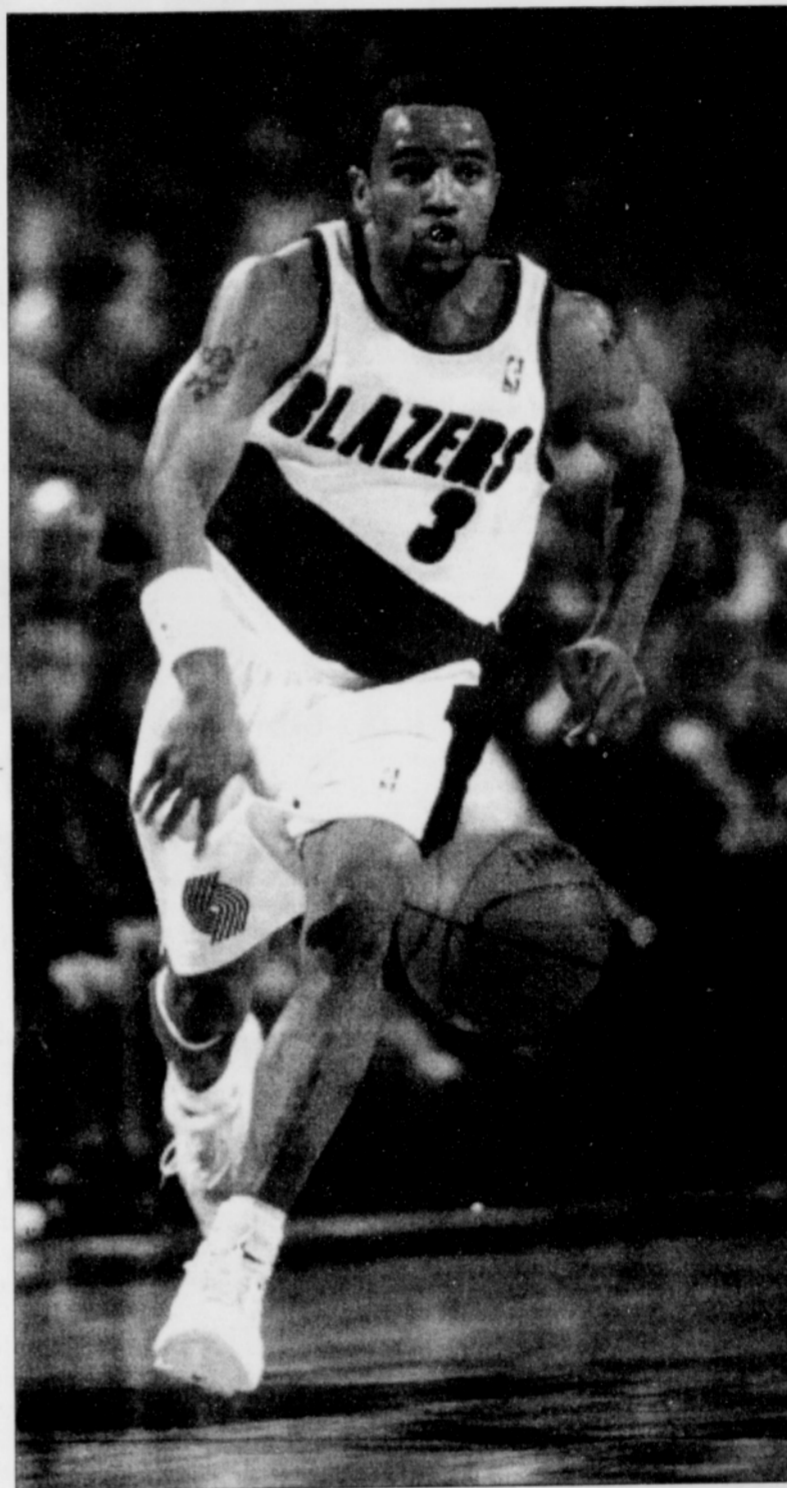
Dunleavy said. "When you play young teams, they're going to make the mental mistakes, they're going to give you that chance if you're ready to seize the opportunity."

Utah's 37-13 record was two games better than Portland's, but the Blazers had the second seed in the West because they won the Pacific Division.

"Regardless of whether they've had



Arvydas Sabonis



Damon Stoudamire



Kelvin Cato

one day or two days rest, they're a veteran club, and they're going to be ready for us," Portland guard Damon Stoudamire said. "We've got to fight through their crowd and fight through the runs that they'll make at us."

Though most of them wouldn't admit it, the Blazers must have been hoping the Kings would knock off Utah. Portland won all four games of its season series against Sacramento.

"I don't know about the guys, but I'm confident going in against Utah," Stoudamire said. "This is where my mind was from the jump, when the series first started, so nothing's changed in my mind. The worst-case scenario is here, so we've got to deal with it now."

The Jazz are most concerned about getting their big men — specifically center Greg Ostertag — out of the slump they endured against Sacramento. After a standout performance in Game 1, Ostertag disappeared for the rest of the series, culminating with a six-minute, four-turnover performance in Game 5.

"Things just didn't go right for me in the last four games," said Ostertag, who refused to discuss a reported rift between himself and Malone. "I thought I was ready to play, but I wasn't... I've got to step up, just like all our big guys do."

His poor play was the main reason Vlade Divac ran wild on the Jazz, and it doesn't get any easier for Ostertag on Tuesday. The Blazers are exceptionally deep in the frontcourt, with starting center Arvydas Sabonis giving way to Kelvin Cato, Rasheed Wallace and even Brian Grant in the pivot.

NBA Playoff Schedule

Game 1 PIL 20 26 20 24 90 • IND 19 31 24 20 94
Game 1 LAL 24 17 17 23 81 • SAS 20 27 20 20 87

Tue 5/18 Game 1 • New York @ Atlanta
8:00PM ET

Tue 5/18 Game 1 • Portland @ Utah
10:30PM ET

Wed 5/19 Game 2 • Philadelphia @ Indiana
7:00PM ET

Wed 5/19 Game 2 • L.A. Lakers @ San Antonio
9:30PM ET

Thu 5/20 Game 2 • New York @ Atlanta
8:00PM ET

Thu 5/20 Game 2 • Portland @ Utah
7:30PM ET

Fri 5/21 Game 3 • Indiana @ Philadelphia
8:00PM ET

Sat 5/22 Game 3 • Utah @ Portland
3:00PM ET

\$100,000 POWERBALL WINNERS!

Here are just a few of the 146 Oregon Powerball \$100,000 winners who know just how fun it is to win playing Oregon Lottery Powerball!

Play Oregon's Powerball because something good just might happen!



Dan Curtiss & John Jersin won!



Cindy & Hugh Gray won!

Jeff & Terry Snyder won!

