



# Metro/Sports



## Trail Blazers 115, Bucks 111

ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Karl envies Mike Dunleavy's choices. So does every other coach in the NBA.

The Portland Trail Blazers' remarkable depth and seemingly boundless confidence carried them to a 115-111 victory over Milwaukee on Monday night.

The Blazers won for the ninth time in 10 outings and improved the league's best record to 37-11 by winning rather easily under arduous circumstances. Portland was playing its fourth road game in five nights, but Dunleavy dipped into his reserve strength to breeze past the inconsistent Bucks with 37 fourth-quarter points and a tenacious defensive stand.

"Our starters were tired. We started to play sluggish, and that's when they started making runs on us," Dunleavy said. "When we went to our bench, wearing them down was

the mindset, and we did that effectively."

Meanwhile, Karl had the same problem he has faced throughout his first 99 games as the coach of the Bucks. Unless the offense is working together, Milwaukee sputters to a halt - and usually loses.

"They play a great 48-minute game," Karl said of the Blazers. "They play more (quality) minutes in a game than any other team in the NBA. They have big guys, athletes and shooters, and Dunleavy can choose what he wants to put on the floor."

Steve Smith had 24 points and hit a key jumper with 34 seconds left for the Blazers, who made their decisive fourth-quarter run with five reserves playing most of the minutes.

"Their duties are evenly distributed amongst every player on the team," said Milwaukee's Ray Allen, who had 26 points. "That is a team. That's what you play for."

Portland improved its road record to 20-8 while playing just one night after a 100-94 victory in Boston. The Blazers handed Milwaukee its third loss in four games.

Portland trailed much of the game before storming back against the inconsistent Bucks, who shot 56 percent from the field, but couldn't execute in the fourth quarter. The Blazers hit 11 of 15 shots in the final period.

"It was a prime example of us not taking advantage of possessions," Allen said. "Portland did that. They went to the free-throw line or took advantage of every other possession. That's how they won the game."

After Glenn Robinson's jumper tied it at 97 with 5:21 to play, the Blazers made an 11-4 run keyed by big defensive plays from Smith, Greg Anthony. Milwaukee managed just two jumpers by Danny Manning in a 4-minute span.

## NBA

### Western Conference

PACIFIC DIVISION											MIDWEST DIVISION											
W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.			W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.			
Portland	37	11	.771	-	9-1	W-3	17-3	20-8	22-7		San Antonio	30	17	.638	-	6-4	L-1	19-4	11-13	18-11		
L.A. Lakers	36	11	.766	1/2	5-5	W-2	22-4	14-7	23-9		Utah	28	18	.609	1 1/2	4-6	W-1	19-7	11-11	19-12		
Seattle	30	19	.612	7 1/2	4-6	L-1	15-8	15-11	21-9		Minnesota	27	18	.600	2	8-2	W-2	15-8	12-10	19-12		
Sacramento	28	18	.609	8	5-5	L-1	17-3	11-14	16-8		Denver	21	25	.456	8 1/2	4-6	L-3	18-9	3-16	11-18		
Phoenix	27	19	.587	9	6-4	W-1	19-5	8-14	12-15		Dallas	20	27	.426	10	8-2	W-3	11-11	9-16	13-16		
Golden State	12	34	.261	24	6-4	L-2	7-17	5-17	7-21		Houston	19	29	.396	11 1/2	5-5	L-2	12-13	7-16	13-18		
L.A. Clippers	8	36	.234	25 1/2	1-9	L-4	8-15	3-21	5-25		Vancouver	13	33	.283	16 1/2	3-7	L-1	1-18	6-15	6-22		

### Eastern Conference

ATLANTIC DIVISION											CENTRAL DIVISION											
W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.			W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Stk.	Home	Away	Conf.			
Miami	29	17	.630	-	5-5	L-1	16-6	13-11	17-11		Indiana	31	16	.660	-	6-4	W-1	21-2	10-14	18-11		
New York	28	18	.609	1	6-4	L-1	18-5	10-13	19-12		Charlotte	26	20	.565	4 1/2	7-3	W-2	19-3	7-17	18-10		
Philadelphia	26	22	.542	4	4-6	L-1	16-8	10-14	18-11		Toronto	25	20	.556	5	6-4	W-1	15-8	10-12	16-13		
Orlando	23	26	.469	7 1/2	7-3	W-3	11-12	12-14	14-16		Milwaukee	26	23	.531	6	4-6	L-2	14-9	12-14	16-14		
Boston	21	26	.447	8 1/2	4-6	L-1	17-8	4-18	14-16		Detroit	24	23	.511	7	3-7	W-2	16-7	8-16	19-16		
New Jersey	18	29	.383	11 1/2	3-7	W-1	14-11	4-18	12-18		Cleveland	19	28	.404	12	3-7	L-2	15-9	4-19	14-19		
Washington	15	33	.313	15	3-7	L-2	10-14	5-19	10-24		Atlanta	18	27	.400	12	5-5	W-1	13-10	5-17	15-18		
											Chicago	10	35	.222	20	4-6	W-1	6-16	4-19	8-19		

## NFL star Derrick Thomas dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Derrick Thomas, one of the most feared defenders in the NFL and a nine-time Pro Bowl player, died Tuesday, less than a month after being paralyzed in a car crash on an icy road. He was 33.

Thomas was being transferred from his hospital bed to a wheelchair on his way to therapy when he uttered something to his mother and his eyes rolled back, said Dr. Frank Eismont, a neurosurgeon at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

"We were hoping that Derrick's story would have been a happier ending," he said. "This is very much

unexpected."

The Kansas City Chiefs linebacker, who held the NFL record of seven sacks in a game, went into cardio-respiratory arrest, he said.

Doctors have not determined an exact cause of death and might perform an autopsy. One of Thomas' doctors, Dr. Barth Green, said a massive blood clot probably killed Thomas.

"This is a total shock," Green said. "Derrick was an extraordinary person and was breaking all the records while he was here."

A shaken Chiefs coach Gunther Cunningham recalled telephoning Thomas at the Miami hospital from the Pro Bowl on Sunday in Hawaii,

after seeing players and fans honoring Thomas by wearing his number. Thomas had not been selected for this year's game.

"Derrick said, 'Coach, be strong. I never told me how strong I needed to be,'" Cunningham said.

After a game, Thomas would always walk across the field "with a smile on his face," the coach said. "Not because the Chiefs won, but because that's the way he was. And that's the way I'll always remember him."

Flags were lowered to half staff at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, and the Missouri Legislature paused for a moment of silence after Thomas' death was announced by state Sen. Bill Kenney, a former Chiefs quarterback.

"Derrick Thomas was a true hero," said Kenney, who urged lawmakers to support a bill for spinal cord research in Missouri.

Thomas was driving a car during a snowstorm on Jan. 23 as he and two friends headed to the Kansas City airport to fly to St. Louis for the NFC Championship game. He lost control of the car and it overturned at least three times, police said.

Police said Thomas was speeding and weaving in traffic, but prosecutor Don Norris said there wasn't enough evidence to file charges.



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## Tiger from page 1

"When you're coming down the stretch in a tournament and everything is on the line, you forget what you have done - how bad you have played or how good you have played," he said. "What really counts is the moment. It's right now. That's what you focus on."

The focus now shifts to another of the game's greats, Byron Nelson, and a record that some consider even more out of reach than Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak or the Los Angeles Lakers' 33-game winning streak.

Nelson won 11 straight tournaments in 1945, a time when the field was depleted because of World War II and when golf didn't have nearly the number of talented players it does now.

Hogan won six in a row in 1948, and five in a row in 1953, including the British Open.

Since then, no one has gone longer than three straight tournaments without getting beaten.

"It's going to take somebody to stuff it in his face a couple of times coming down the stretch to knock him off," Davis Love III said on the eve of Pebble Beach.

Good luck. The latest to try was Matt Gogel, a 28-year-old rookie who played the first 10 holes in 5-under to build a seven-shot lead.

Right about the time everyone was willing to give up on Woods, he rocked Pebble Beach as only he can. On the 15th hole, Woods hit a wedge from 97 yards away that landed four feet right of the flag and spun back into the hole for an eagle.

On the next hole, he came within an inch of another eagle from the fairway. On the 17th, he nearly chipped in from near the same spot where Tom Watson holed a chip to win the 1982 U.S. Open.

And Woods closed his final-round 64 with a birdie on the 18th. Gogel, meanwhile, made bogeys on the 11th and 12th holes, another one on No. 16 and couldn't muster a birdie on the 18th to force a playoff.

"I don't know about destiny," Gogel said. "He's just damned good." Woods punched the air with one of his famous uppercuts when he made

the eagle on the 15th, a signature shot in a vintage charge.

"It was one of those things where you're trying to get it close and leave yourself a putt at birdie," he said. "It just happened to go in."

It always seems to work out that way for him.

In a playoff against Tom Lehman in the 1997 Mercedes Championship, his 7-iron hit the cup on the first extra hole and left him a tap-in for victory. In the Memorial Tournament last year, Woods was in a fight with Vijay Singh in the final round and faced a certain bogey - or worse - until he holed a chip from thick rough.

And in his first appearance in the Phoenix Open three years ago, a tournament infamous for its football-like crowd around the par-3 16th, Woods gave them something to celebrate with a hole-in-one.

He didn't just become the youngest Masters champion in 1997 - he did it with a record score to win by the largest margin tournament history.

"His ability to make it happen when it has to happen is consistent," Nicklaus said recently. "That's what makes champions. I marvel watching him play."

Woods' sixth straight victory was even more exciting than No. 5. In that one, he finished eagle-birdie-birdie to beat two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els on the second playoff hole in Hawaii to win the Mercedes Championship.

"I think he's a legend in the making," Els said. "He's 24. He's probably going to be bigger than Elvis when he gets into his 40s."

Woods has tried to play down talk of the streak because it takes place over two years, and because he played a European tour event late last year and tied for sixth. But No. 6 got his attention.

"It's definitely more intriguing, no doubt about that," he said. The next stop in pursuit of Nelson comes Thursday in the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, Calif.

Woods is the defending champion in the Buick. A year ago, he had rounds of 62-65 on the weekend, and broke a tie on the last hole with an eagle. Sound familiar?

## PIL Standings

SPORTS STANDINGS  
WINTER 1999-2000

BOYS BASKETBALL				GIRLS BASKETBALL			
W	L	TO		W	L	TO	
Jefferson	12	0	J	Wilson	14	0	
Benson	11	1	B, J, W, B	Grant	11	3	
Cleveland	8	4	J, G, W, C, B	Jefferson	11	3	
Madison	7	5	M, J, C, B, M, J	Lincoln	11	3	
Lincoln	6	6		Benson	7	7	
Wilson	6	6		Franklin	6	8	
	C, B, F, L, J, B			Marshall	4	10	
Grant	5	7		Roosevelt	4	10	
Roosevelt	3	9		Madison	2	12	
Franklin	1	11		Cleveland	0	14	
Marshall	1	11					
BOYS SWIMMING				GIRLS SWIMMING			
W	L	TO		W	L	TO	
Lincoln	7	1	W	Grant	8	0	
Wilson	7	1	G	Lincoln	7	1	
Grant	7	1	L	Wilson	6	2	
Cleveland	5	3	W, L, G	Cleveland	5	3	
Madison	3	5	G, W, C, L, F	Franklin	3	5	
Benson	2	5			L, G, C, W, M		
	L, W, G, M, C			Madison	3	5	
Franklin	3	5	L, B, G, C, W	Benson	1	6	
Roosevelt	0	7		Roosevelt	1	6	
Jefferson	1	7		Jefferson	1	7	
WRESTLING							
W	L	TO		W	L	TO	
Madison	6	0					
Grant	6	1	M				
Cleveland	5	2	M, G				
Roosevelt	5	2	C, B				
Benson	5	3	C, G, M				
Lincoln	2	4	R, B, J, C				
Jefferson	3	5					
	B, W, G, C, R						
Wilson	2	5					
	M, L, R, G, B						
Franklin	1	6					
Marshall	0	7					

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