



Metro/Sports

Black History Month

Portland over Boston 105-92

SPORTS TICKET

The most frightening aspect of the Portland Trail Blazers' potent attack might be their willingness to share.

Arvydas Sabonis led six players in double figures with 19 points as Portland used its overwhelming balance to cruise past the Boston Celtics, 105-92, improving their season-high win streak to nine games.

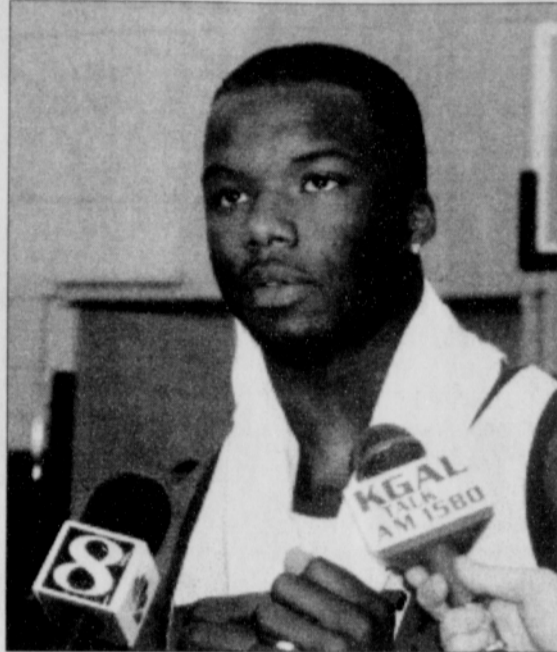
The Blazers, who posted their 15 straight triumph at the Rose Garden, boast five players who average double figures in scoring and eight who put up at least 6.8 per night.

"Portland's talent level is very, very deep," Boston coach Rick Pitino said.

Tonight, Rasheed Wallace scored 16 points, Steve Smith 15, Jermaine O'Neal 14, Scottie Pippen 12 and Damoun Stoudamire 10 as Portland beat Boston here for the seventh straight time.

"We got good performances from a lot of people," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "(Sabonis) gave us good minutes and he has been doing it lately. I thought Jermaine gave us a lot of good energy and good minutes. He was a presence inside."

"It's a great feeling to win nine in a row," Pippen added. "It's tough right now in this stage because it's tough to keep your momentum but we have to battle through right now, playing these below-.500 teams and try to continue to better ourselves."



Jermaine O'Neal answered questions two nights ago concerning his improved contribution to the Trail Blazers team victories.

Duke's Dunleavy out with mononucleosis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duke freshman guard Mike Dunleavy Jr. will be sidelined for an indefinite period because of mononucleosis. Dunleavy was averaging 9.5 points, 4.2 rebounds and 25.2 minutes a game.

"I feel badly for Mike," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "He was having a great year for us and has been an integral part of our team. We know he'll get better with proper treatment. We look forward to having him back before the end of our season."

Dunleavy, the son of Portland Trail Blazers coach Mike Dunleavy, has been the first player off the bench for No. 3 Duke this season. No other Blue Devil reserve had been averaging more than 10 minutes a game.

Larry Bird says he prefers Pacers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry Bird doesn't know what he'll be doing next year. He just knows it won't be with the Boston Celtics, the team he led to three NBA championships as a player. "I'll tell you again, I'm not going back there," Bird said Monday of Boston.

"As far as being here, I really don't know yet." Bird said if he did become an NBA owner, he'd prefer the Indiana Pacers over the Celtics.

"I'd rather buy this team, because of this place," he said in reference to the new Conseco Fieldhouse, which has had a capacity crowd for every game this season.

But the Indiana native, who returned home to coach the Pacers, doesn't believe he'll own either team.

"The Pacers are not for sale, the Celtics are not for sale. I know that, I knew that eight years ago that they weren't for sale," Bird said. "You can't buy something that's not for sale."

Black History Month

Head Coach of Basketball -

Consistently voted the most valuable player in NBA history, William Fenton Russell (born 1934) led his University of San Francisco basketball team to two NCAA titles, while suffering only one loss in his college career. He was chosen Most Outstanding Player of the 1955 NCAA Tournament and was a member of the 1956 United States Olympic basketball team. So dominant was Russell as a rebounder that the NCAA adopted what was known as the Russell Rule: at the end of 1955, the NCAA doubled the width of the field goal lane, from six to twelve feet. Still, Russell dominated NCAA rebounding. Bill Russell has more championship titles than any other American athlete in major sports. As a Celtic, Russell led the team to eleven NBA titles, beginning in 1957. Russell was named Most Valuable Player of the National Basketball Association in 1958, but was not named by sportswriters to the all-NBA team. He also won the MVP award in 1961, 1963, and 1965 and the NBA All-Star Game MVP award in 1963. For the 1966-67 season, Russell was named player-coach of the Celtics and later coached the Seattle Supersonics and the Sacramento Kings. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1974 and chosen to the NBA 25th Anniversary All-Time Team in 1970 and the 35th Anniversary Team in 1980.



Bill Russell succeeds Arnold "Red" Auerbach as coach of the Boston Celtics and becomes the first African American head coach of a major-league sport in the United States, 1966.



DAMON STOUDAMIRE

JACKIE ROBINSON

ROSA PARKS

HARRIET TUBMAN

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"I TAKE PRIDE IN HONORING MY ANCESTORS, MY HERITAGE, MY HEROES. IT IS THROUGH THEIR COURAGE AND SACRIFICE THAT I AM ABLE TO FULFILL MY DREAMS."

DAMON STOUDAMIRE

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS GUARD AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE



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