



Metro/Sports

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NBA's best record at stake last night

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Portland Trail Blazers and Los Angeles Lakers have been keeping track of each other's winning streaks. "It's fun when we win, and then the next thing you know, we come in the locker and look on TV and try to see what the Lakers are doing," Portland's Damon Stoudamire said. "I bet they're probably doing the same thing, to see if we get bumped off."

The rest of the country will be watching tonight when the two best teams in the NBA meet for the final time before the playoffs. Both teams are 45-11, and both have won 11 straight.

"It's just another game as far as wins and losses," the Lakers' Kobe Bryant said. "But emotionally, we would like to get a win on their home floor. We'll just go up there and do what we've been doing, let the chips fall where they may."

Portland has already won two of three against the Lakers this season, and clinching the season series would give the Blazers the tiebreaker should the teams finish the regular season with the same record.

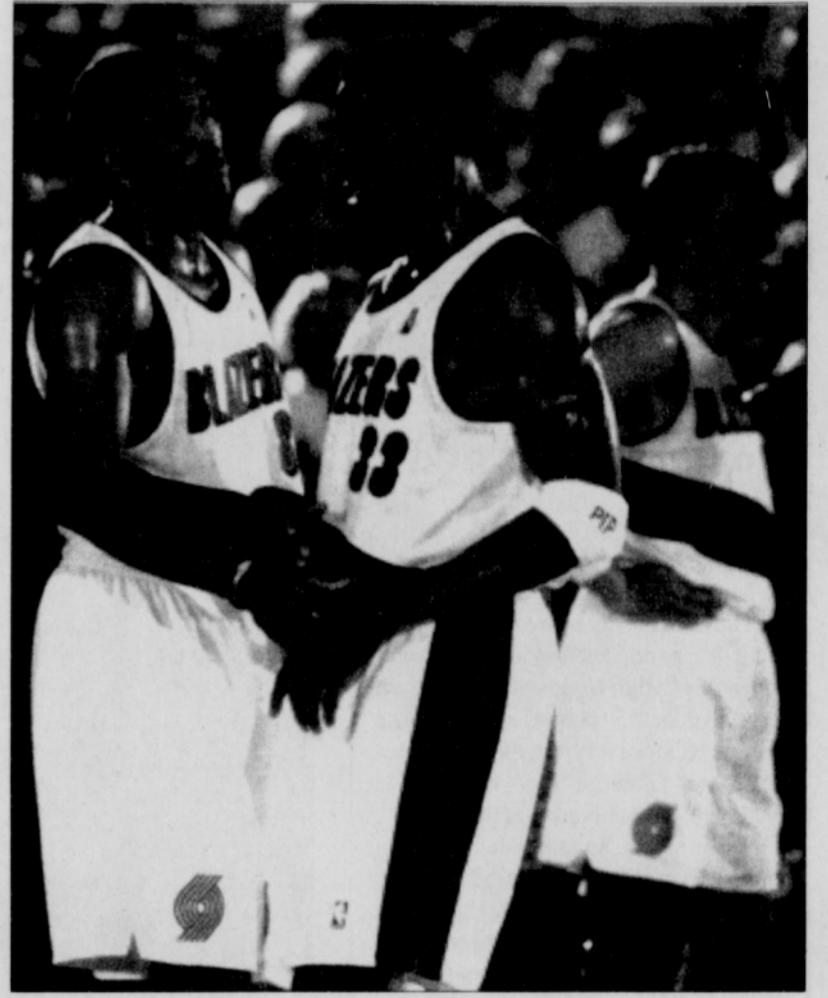
"That's what you work hard for," said Scottie Pippen, who's seeking his seventh NBA title and first without Michael Jordan. "We don't think it's a great advantage, but whatever advantage it is, we'd like to have it, so we'd better take care of our business." Pippen is averaging 12.7 points, by far his lowest scoring output since his rookie year with the Chicago Bulls in 1987-88. But he is the leader of this team, and his defense has helped the Blazers lead the league in fewest points allowed at 89.6 per game.

The Blazers' only real weakness has been rebounding. They often are beaten on the offensive glass, and the main reason is Brian Grant's health. He's been slow to recover from knee surgery last summer, and simply isn't the ferocious leaper he was last season. His availability for tonight's game is in doubt because of a sore right foot.

And although Arvydas Sabonis is having a great season, he usually has problems handling Shaquille O'Neal.

"If you're not able to neutralize Shaq in any way, then it's tough to stay in the game against them," Pippen said. Portland's edge is its depth. With Grant, Detlef Schrempf, Jermaine O'Neal, Greg Anthony and the rapidly improving Bonzi Wells, the reserves are capable of outscoring the starters. Bryant said the Lakers are playing better now than during their 16-game winning streak earlier this season.

"We have to come with a lot of intensity and be ready to play defense," O'Neal said. "If all three of us (himself, Bryant and Glen Rice) can do what we've been doing and have a couple key guys come off the bench, we'll be OK. It's going to be quite a tough game. We'll be ready."



Raptors' Carter named Player of the Week

REUTERS

One day after scoring an NBA season-high 51 points in his first national network television exposure, Toronto Raptors forward Vince Carter was named Player of the Week.

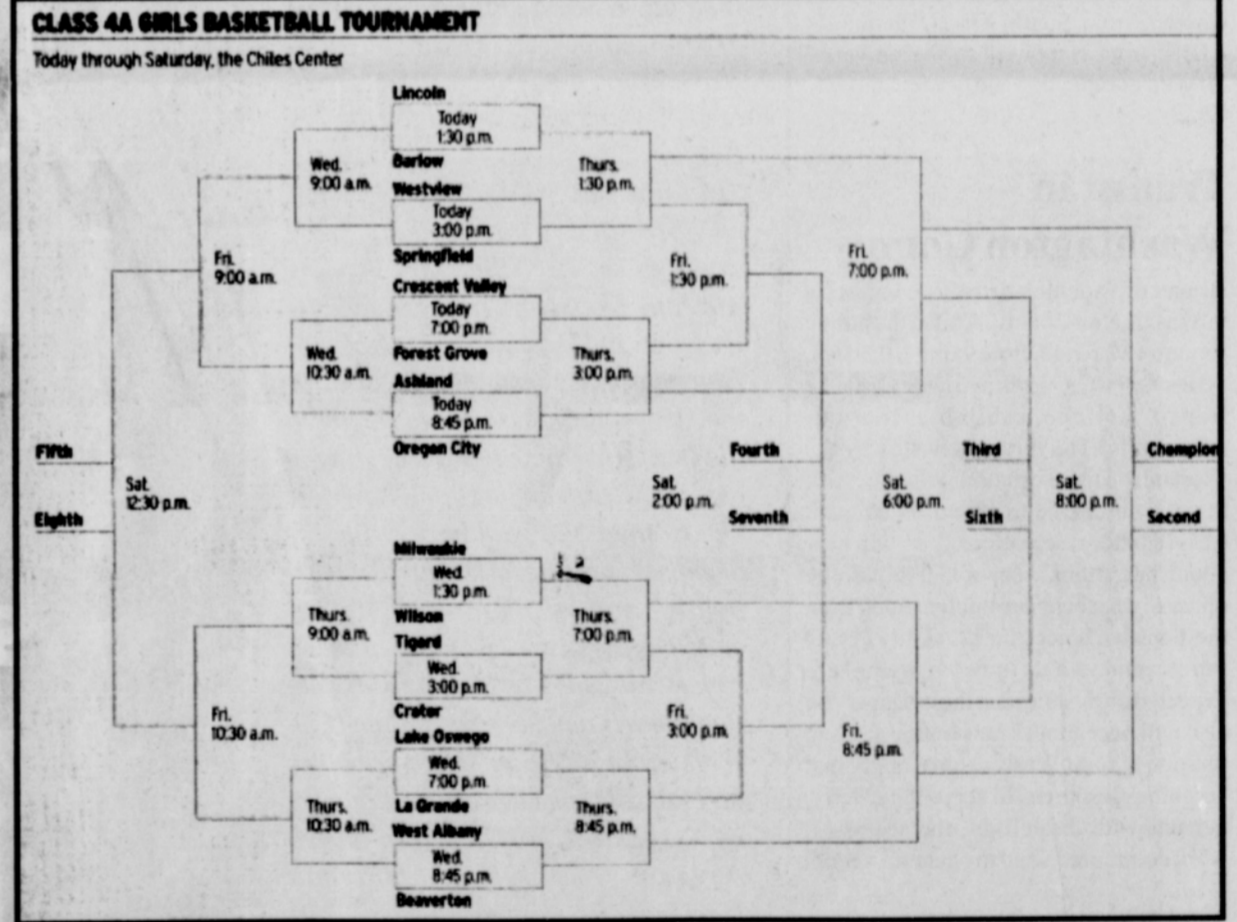
Carter's 51 points was a career high and a franchise record for the Raptors, who held on to edge the Phoenix Suns 103-102 on Sunday. The flashy second-year player out of North Carolina dazzled the crowd at Air Canada Centre and the national television audience by going 17-of-32 from the field, 4-of-8 from 3-point

range and 13-of-13 from the line. In three games last week, Carter averaged 35.7 points, 7.7 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 2.3 steals. Carter is fifth in the NBA in the scoring this season, averaging 25.3 points per game.

Schucks

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joined the Schuck's establishment after leaving the military. He was transferred twice within upstate Washington, first starting with a branch in Tacoma and then opening the store in Camas. Sparks enjoys his being stationed in NE. Portland by saying, "I like the attitude of the people as a neighborhood. I feel more at home here."



Join Us

The Les Schwab Blazer Alumni Basketball Team

The Emmanuel Lions Basketball Team
(Presented by Emmanuel Community General Services, Inc.)

Saturday, March 25, 2000

7:00 p.m.

at the

Benson High School Gymnasium
546 NE 12th

Tickets: \$5.00 Adults
\$3.00 Under Age 13

For tickets and/or information, please call Emmanuel Community General Services Office at: (503) 281-0355

Peninsula Little League 2000

(Serving the Youth of Inner North and Northeast Portland)
Boys & Girls - 5 to 18 years of age

REGISTRATION

SIGN-UPS

Peninsula Park Community Center — (700 N Portland Blvd.)
Saturday - February 5, 2000 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday - February 12, 2000 10 am - 2 pm
(Late sign-ups)
Saturday - March 4, 2000 10 am - 2 pm

Self Enhancement Incorporated (SEI) — (3920 N Kerby St.)
Saturday - February 5, 2000 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday - February 12, 2000 10 am - 2 pm
(Late sign-ups)
Saturday - March 4, 2000 10 am - 2 pm

Programs

Tee-Ball (\$30)
5 & 6 years old

Challenger Program (\$30)
(All ages with special needs)

Softball Programs

Minor - ages 7 - 9 years old (\$30)
Major - ages 10 - 12 years old (\$40)
Senior - ages 13 - 18 years old (\$40)

Baseball Program

Farm - ages 7 & 8 years old (\$30)
Minor - ages 7 - 9 years old (\$30)
Major - ages 10 - 12 years old (\$40)
Jr / Sr / Big - ages 13 - 18 years old (\$40)

Things to bring when you sign-up

- ✓ Birth certificate
- ✓ Proof of address in Oregon Driver License (Unlaid Bill)
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- ✓ Name & Number of Insurance carrier

Family Rates

\$30 for 1 player \$40 for 1 player
\$50 for 2 players \$70 for 2 players
\$70 for 3 players \$90 for 3 players
Minor/Major Players — \$10 + \$15
Minor/Major/Major Players — \$10 + \$15
Minor/Major/Major Players — \$25 + \$10
\$25 for every player after 3 players
\$10 late fee for sign-ups after February 9th

