



Metro/Sports



Have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day

Trailblazers versus the Sacramento Kings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Sacramento Kings cap a brutal four-game stretch as they go for a rare win at the Rose Garden against the Portland Trail Blazers.

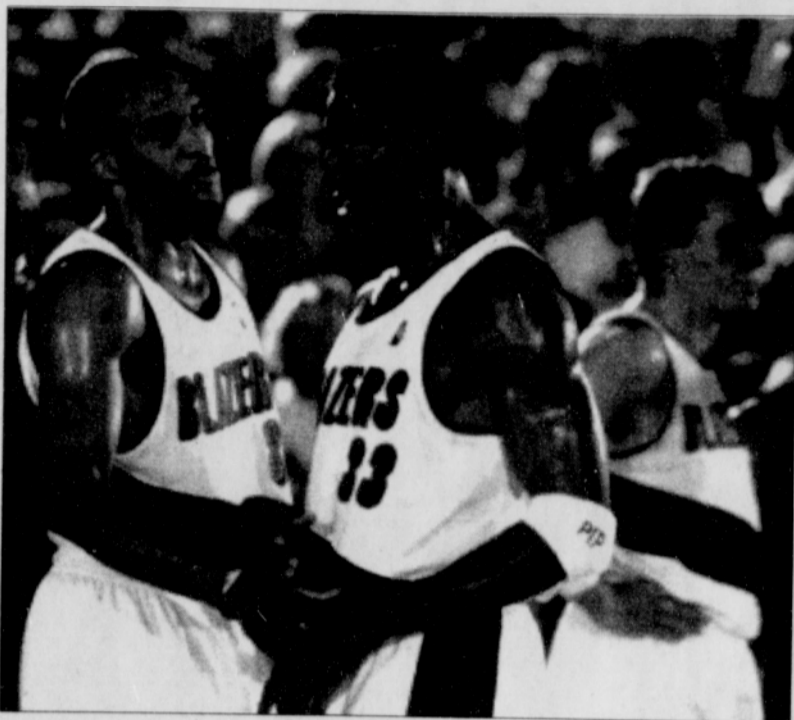
The game comes two days after Sacramento was the victim in the Los Angeles Lakers' 18th straight win, dropping a 109-106 decision to the league's top team.

Before that setback, the Kings had posted four straight wins, the last two coming against Eastern Conference playoff hopefuls Charlotte and Toronto.

Sacramento gets a major break following this stretch, playing a home-and-home series with the league-worst Los Angeles Clippers before hosting the lowly Washington Wizards.

The Kings look to win in Portland for the first time since Nov. 16, 1995 after having dropped their last seven games there. The Kings have lost nine in a row to the Blazers overall and have won only once in their last 31 road in the series.

Portland owns the league's second-best record but now hopes to knock off a team with a winning record for



the first time since a 101-92 victory over Utah on Feb. 27.

With the Lakers failing to falter, the Blazers have dropped four games back of first place in the Pacific Division.

Portland had lost a season-high three in a row before recording road wins over the weekend at Detroit and

Washington.

"I think our focus is just handling our business," said Damon Stoudamire, who scored 16 points in Sunday's 102-86 win over the Wizards. "During the losing streak, we were concentrating on the other teams too much instead of worrying about what we need to do."

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIV. W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	DIV	STREAK	
MIAMI	39	.23	.629	23-6	16-17	14-4	WON 2	
NEW YORK	38	24	.613	1	26-7	12-17	11-8	WON 2
PHILADELPHIA	34	27	.557	4 1/2	21-11	13-16	8-9	LOST 2
ORLANDO	30	33	.476	9 1/2	17-13	13-20	6-9	LOST 1
BOSTON	27	36	.429	12 1/2	21-11	6-25	9-8	LOST 1
NEW JERSEY	27	36	.429	12 1/2	19-12	8-24	9-11	WON 3
WASHINGTON	20	44	.313	20	13-20	7-24	5-13	LOST 2

CENTRAL DIV. W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	DIV	STREAK	
INDIANA	43	20	.683	28-3	15-17	13-6	LOST 1	
TORONTO	36	26	.581	6 1/2	20-11	16-15	11-7	WON 1
CHARLOTTE	34	28	.548	8 1/2	23-8	11-20	10-6	WON 1
DETROIT	31	31	.500	11 1/2	23-10	8-21	13-9	WON 1
MILWAUKEE	30	33	.476	13	17-16	13-17	13-10	WON 1
CLEVELAND	25	37	.403	17 1/2	18-12	7-25	6-13	LOST 3
ATLANTA	24	37	.393	18	17-13	7-24	10-12	WON 1
CHICAGO	13	49	.210	29 1/2	9-22	4-27	3-16	LOST 3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIV. W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	DIV	STREAK	
UTAH	42	20	.677	25-8	17-12	12-5	WON 8	
SAN ANTONIO	40	23	.635	2 1/2	23-7	17-16	12-6	LOST 1
MINNESOTA	37	25	.597	5	20-12	17-13	16-5	WON 2
DENVER	26	37	.413	16 1/2	20-13	6-24	8-10	LOST 6
DALLAS	25	37	.403	17	14-16	11-21	5-11	WON 1
HOUSTON	24	38	.387	18	16-17	8-21	5-13	LOST 3
VANCOUVER	18	46	.281	25	9-21	9-25	4-12	LOST 9

PACIFIC DIV. W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	DIV	STREAK	
X-LALAKERS	53	11	.828	29-4	24-7	13-4	WON 19	
X-PORTLAND	48	15	.762	4 1/2	24-5	24-10	15-3	WON 2
PHOENIX	39	23	.629	13	26-6	13-17	8-7	LOST 2
SEATTLE	39	26	.600	14 1/2	20-10	19-16	10-8	WON 1
SACRAMENTO	36	26	.581	16	24-6	12-20	6-7	LOST 1
GOLDEN STATE	16	46	.258	36	10-22	6-24	2-15	LOST 6
LACLIPPERS	13	50	.206	39 1/2	9-21	4-29	4-14	WON 1

X—CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH

Dan Marino retires from football

ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more than an hour, Dan Marino answered questions about his retirement, his career and his future. Then he stepped off a stage at the front of the room and out of the spotlight.

Friends and family were waiting, and

former teammate Mark Clayton greeted him with a hug.

"Welcome to retirement," Clayton said.

"It's not bad, is it?" asked Marino's wife, Claire.

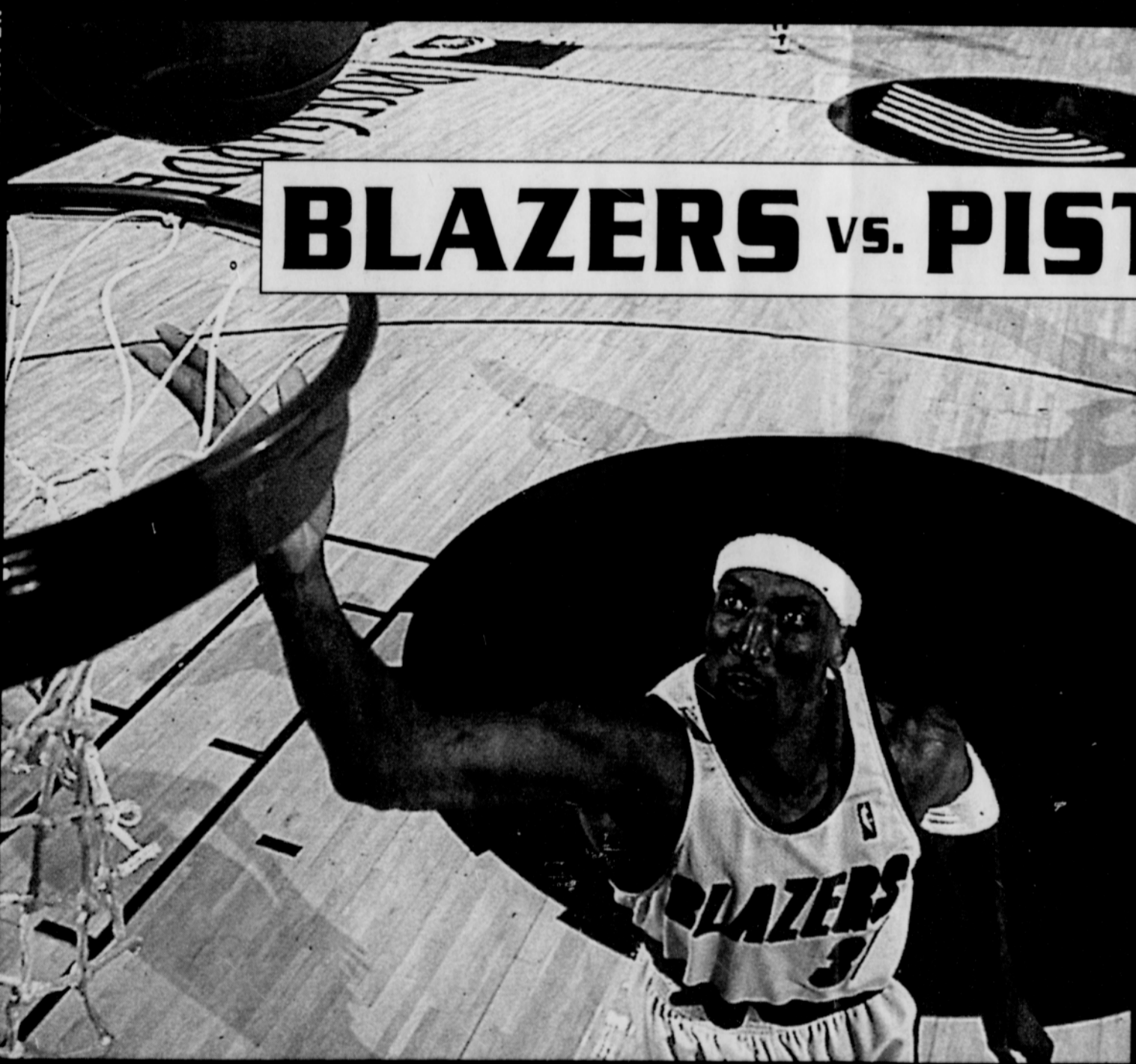
Marino didn't respond. He probably won't know the answer for a while.

With both relief and reluctance,

Marino announced his retirement Monday at age 38, confirming a decision he made last Thursday.

During an emotional news conference, Marino struggled successfully to keep his composure, but the perception that the Dolphins pushed Marino into retirement made the occasion awkward

SCOTTIE PIPPEN



BLAZERS vs. PISTONS

ROSE GARDEN
NEXT WEDS.
 MARCH 22 @ 7:00PM



RECEIVE A COUPON good for ONE FREE HOT DOG & ONE SODA with every ticket you purchase for next Wednesday's Blazers vs. Pistons game when you

BRING THIS AD to the Rose Quarter Ticket Office

No service charges. All tickets are in the upper bowl. Limit 4 tickets per person.



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