



SPORTS/METRO

Jayhawks Outrun Ducks, Advance to Final 4

(AP) - Kansas met a team that wanted to run with it. The Jayhawks ran and jumped all over Oregon instead.

Drew Gooden and Nick Collison each had double-doubles by early in the second half Sunday and top-seeded Kansas never trailed in a 104-86 rout of the Ducks that put the Jayhawks in the Final Four.

Kansas controlled the fast, end-to-end action and dominated the boards, outrebounding second-seeded Oregon 63-34. The Jayhawks grabbed 26 of their rebounds on offense.

"We knew the way to beat them was to beat them on the boards and get extra shots," Gooden said. "I think it was contagious. We were relentless out there on the backboards."

Gooden had 18 points and 20 rebounds and Collison added 25 points and 15 rebounds, leading



Oregon's James Davis (left) and Luke Jackson watch the final minutes of the Ducks' loss. (AP Photo)

the Jayhawks to their first national semifinal since 1993 and third under coach Roy Williams.

"They crash the boards all the time, every single play," said

Frederick Jones, who led the Ducks with 32 points. "Their guards came in and got some, too. It was an all-around effort."

The Jayhawks, the nation's

highest-scoring team with a 91-point average, outmuscled and outthrustled the beefier Ducks on the glass, fueling their up-tempo game.

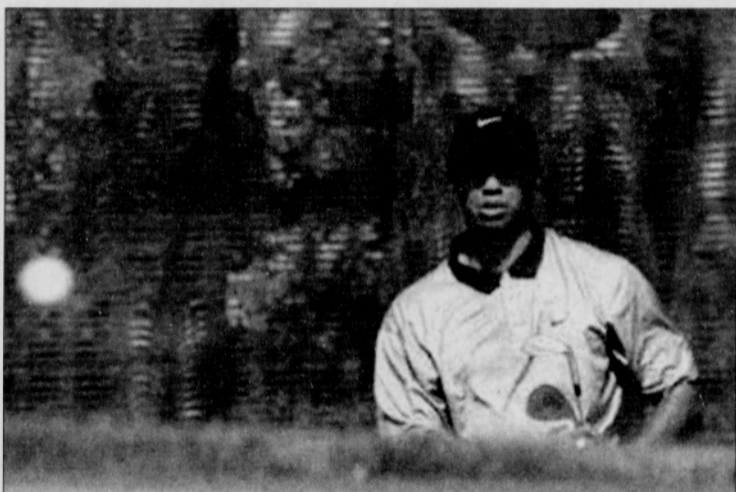
Kansas led 48-42 at halftime and stretched its lead to 73-59 on a runner by Hinrich with 9:50 left.

Anthony Lever hit back-to-back 3-pointers to spark a 10-2 Oregon run that made it 75-69 with 8:30 remaining. Lever's third 3-pointer made it 77-72 seconds later.

But Kansas scored the next 10 points, four by Collison, to end the Ducks' dreams of reaching the Final Four for the first time since they won the first NCAA championship in 1939.

"I told them that rebounding could win the game if they just stayed on the boards," Williams said. "The backboards really turned so much in our favor, it was huge for us."

Woods' March to the Masters Begins in Victory



Tiger Woods was flawless when the pressure was on at the Bay Hill Invitational. (AP Photo)

(AP) - Tiger Woods began his march to the Masters with his first victory of the year Sunday, a four-shot margin at the Bay Hill Invitational that was secured by Phil Mickelson's blunders on the closing holes.

Trailing Mickelson by one stroke at the turn, Woods played mistake-free when the pressure was at its peak and closed with a 3-under 69 to become the first player to win Arnold Palmer's tournament three years in a row.

Woods finished at 275 and won for the 30th time in his career. At age 26, he is the youngest player in PGA Tour history to reach that benchmark.

He also became the first player to make it three in a row at three PGA Tour events, having already completed the hat trick at Firestone and the Memorial Tournament.

A year ago, Woods ended talk about a slump by firing a 5-iron into 15 feet for birdie on the final hole to defeat Mickelson by one stroke at Bay Hill.

A year ago, Woods rode the momentum of his first victory into history - The Players Championship the following week, then his second victory in the Masters to become the first player to sweep the four professional majors.

Blazers Stunned by Grizzlies at Home

(AP) - The Portland Trail Blazers have taken pride in the way they've been able to come back following an ugly loss.

If they can somehow forget Monday night's debacle, the Blazers will be ready for the playoffs. If they can't, they might be destined to repeat last season's meltdown.

"We'll see," Portland's Derek Anderson said. "The saga continues. We will see."

Rodney Buford scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and rookie Will Solomon added 10 in the period as the Memphis Grizzlies rallied from a 19-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the Trail Blazers, 103-100.

Last year, the Blazers lost 17 of their last 25 games and were swept by the Lakers in the first round of the playoffs. This season, they stumbled to a 13-18 record, but rallied to win 30 of their next 38 games and move into the fifth playoff position in the Western Conference.

Portland hardly has time to mope; it begins an important four-day stretch against three playoff-bound teams on Wednesday, starting with San Antonio and continuing with the Lakers and Seattle.

"Tomorrow will be a new day," said Shawn Kemp, who started in place of the injured Rasheed Wallace. "We've got such a big week ahead coming up that we

Tyson-Lewis Fight

Ringside tickets may go as high as \$2,500

(AP) - Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson will meet June 8 in Memphis for the heavyweight championship, under a deal wrapped up Monday night after weeks of on-again off-again negotiations.

Tyson adviser Shelly Finkel confirmed that an agreement had been reached and that both fighters were signed and committed to the match. Showtime cable network spokeswoman Marina

Capurro also confirmed the fight was on.

The bout is expected to be held at the Pyramid arena, which will seat about 20,000. Ringside tickets will be priced as high as \$2,500.

The major stumbling block - a \$12.5 million site fee - reportedly had been resolved by giving local promoters in Memphis more time to get a letter of credit.

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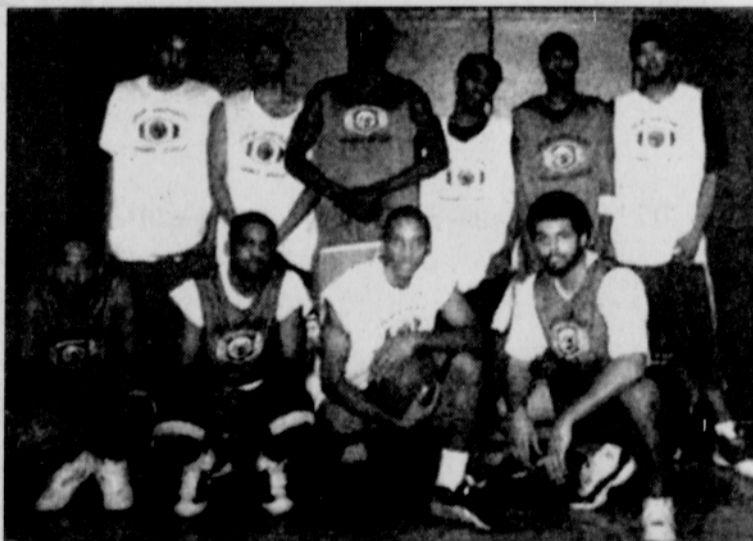
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