

# SPORTS

## Nets Make a Clean Sweep in Boston

(AP)—Jason Kidd swished a 3-pointer with a second left and the sweep assured—a little highlight for the Boston Celtics to remember what a great player he is.

As if they needed to be reminded. The shot finished off the New Jersey Nets' 110-101, double-overtime win as they eliminated the Celtics in four games in the Eastern Conference semifinal Monday night.

"To come and sweep the Boston Celtics is just history in itself," Kidd said. "They've had so many talented teams."

But they haven't won an NBA title since 1986, when they got their 16th, and they were knocked out one round earlier than last year, when they lost to the Nets in a six-game conference final.

Kidd finished with 29 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists and words of praise from the opposition.

"Jason Kidd is a great player,"

Boston coach Jim O'Brien said. "He's the best passer I've ever seen in my life."

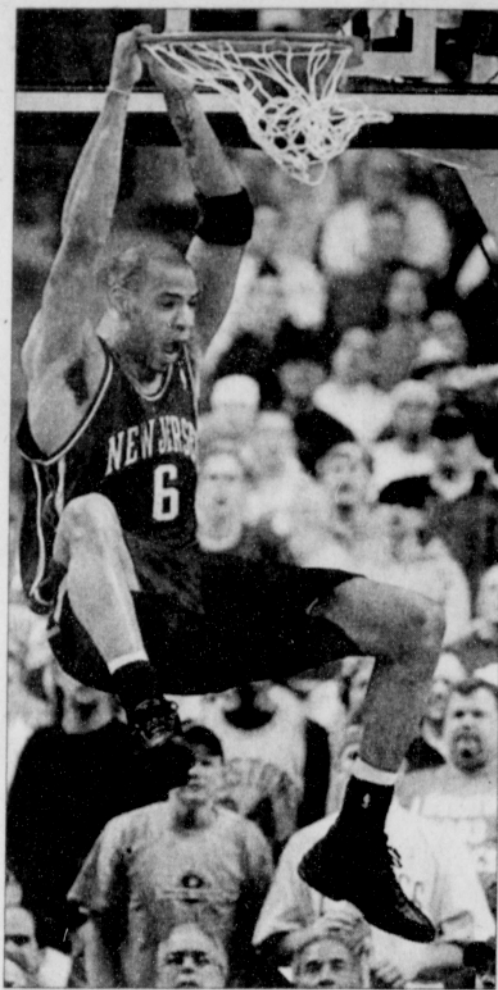
Added Eric Williams: "He's probably the best player going on right now. He takes all 12 of those guys and makes them like superstars."

Kidd was able to block out the taunts of fans who, for the second straight game, yelled "wife beater," just as they did during last year's playoff games in Boston.

That was a reference to charges he struck his wife in 2001; the charges were dropped when Kidd underwent anger counseling and paid a fine. Because of the atmosphere at the FleetCenter, Joumana Kidd and their 4-year-old son, T.J., have not attended the games in Boston.

"At the end of the night," Kidd said, "it's about basketball."

The Nets next play Detroit or Philadelphia; that series, tied 2-2, resumes Wednesday night.



New Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin hangs on the rim after slamming a dunk during the deciding game to sweep the Boston Celtics from the playoffs Monday. (AP photo)

## Blazer Great Considers GM Post

(AP)—Former Portland Trail Blazers great Clyde Drexler says he's interested in becoming president or general manager of the team.

Drexler, the most accomplished player in Blazers' history, joins other former and current Blazers who say they want the jobs vacated by Bob Whitsitt.

Dave Twardzik, whose Number 13 is retired and hanging in the Rose Garden rafters alongside Drexler's Number 22, is known to be interested in the general manager job.

And in a surprise declaration, current coach Maurice Cheeks says he would take the general manager duties if offered—as long as he could retain his coaching duties as well.

Those men—along with former Blazers Kiki Vandeweghe, Jim Paxson and Wayne Cooper—are thought to be the former Blazer players in the running for the general manager opening.

Milwaukee Buck's general manager Ernie Grunfeld and the Boston Celtics general manager Chris Wallace are also believed to be on a short list of candidates for the vacant job.



Clyde Drexler

## Oregon House Passes Baseball Bill

(AP)—The Oregon House passed a proposal to build a major league baseball stadium in Portland last week by a vote of 33 to 25. House Bill 3606 now goes to the Senate, where its future is far from clear.

Supporters of the plan say it could bring jobs and tourists to Oregon, possibly along with the Montreal Expos.

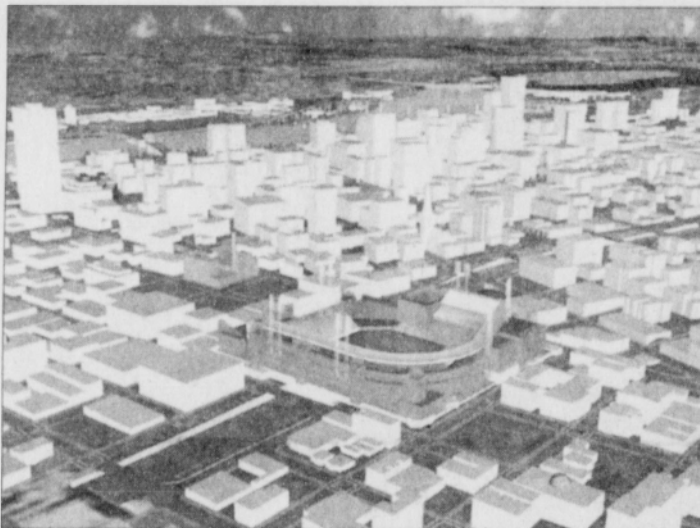
But opponents say the state needs to focus on schools, public safety and social services, not baseball.

Advocates of the baseball stadium say they're not looking to take any money from state services.

They say the proposed \$150 million dollar construction bond would be paid back exclusively with income taxes generated by baseball players and managers.

The bill also requires an outside authority to manage the financing of the stadium.

A private guarantor would back



An artist's sketch shows downtown Portland with a new stadium, one of a half dozen sites identified as a possible new home for a Major League Baseball franchise.

up the bonds. And the state would only earmark income taxes generated from baseball games.

If the stadium gets built, esti-

mates are that it will cost about \$350 million dollars to build and employ about 15-hundred construction workers.



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## State Tourney Moves to Eugene

The Oregon School Activities Associated has voted to bring the Class 4A Basketball Tournament to MacArthur Court in Eugene, ending Portland's decades-

long era as host of the championship.

Attendance to the tournament has dwindled in Portland and school officials were looking for a less-

pensive venue.

The OSAA board also agreed to play the Class 3A and 4A football championships at Autzen Stadium in Eugene.

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