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# SPORTS

## LeBron Sets NBA Record Youngest to score more than 50

The best performance of LeBron James' already remarkable career left the youngest man to score 50 points in an NBA game feeling unsatisfied.

James scored a Cleveland franchise-record 56 points, but the Cavaliers came up short and lost 105-98 to the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

"I don't care about individual stats, especially when you lose. I was disappointed to have as good a game as I had and still come out with a loss," James said.

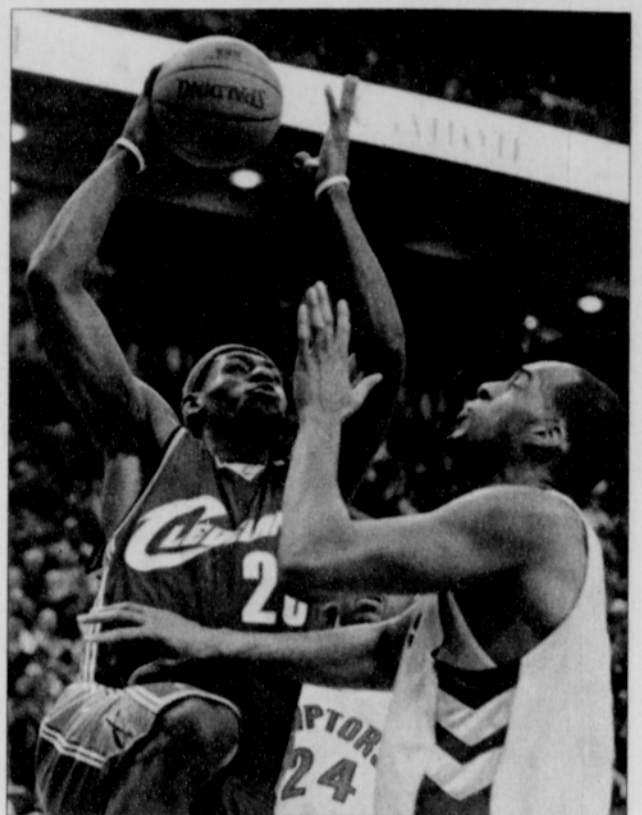
At 20 years, James eclipsed Rick Barry as the youngest player to score 50 points. Barry was 21 years when he scored 57 for San Francisco against the New York Knicks.

James easily surpassed his previous career best of 43 points, set Nov. 24 against

Detroit. However, he committed a key turnover with 16 seconds left and missed a pair of 3-point attempts in the final 14 seconds.

James finished 18-for-36 from the field and 14-for-15 from the line. He also had six 3s, 10 rebounds and five assists. But Toronto's bench did in the Cavaliers, outscoring Cleveland's reserves 34-1.

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James drives to the hoop over Toronto Raptors center Loren Woods Sunday on his way to scoring 56 points, the youngest man to score 50 points in an NBA game. (AP photo)



## Cavaliers Fire Silas As Coach

New owner calls for change

(AP) — NBA great Paul Silas was hired to mentor the NBA's next superstar. While he succeeded with LeBron James, his failure with the rest of the team cost him his job.

Silas was fired as coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday, his team fighting for a playoff spot after leading its division earlier this year. Longtime NBA assistant Brendan Malone was appointed interim coach.

The dismissal came with 18 games left and the team clinging to the fifth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. James seems to have been the only player who saw the move coming.

"You could kind of tell the way the air was, how things were going around here, there was

going to have to be a change," said James, who scored a franchise-record 56 points Sunday. "I didn't know it was going to be this soon."

Silas told The Associated Press he was informed at a morning meeting with general manager Jim Paxson and new owner Dan Gilbert. Silas' son, assistant Stephen Silas, also was fired.

"They didn't think the team was performing as well as it should be and they wanted to make a change," Paul Silas said.

Paxson criticized Silas' ability as a coach and motivator.

"We're 64 games into the season and we still don't have a consistent rotation, substitution pattern, those type of things," Paxson said. "We didn't see that changing."

Gilbert took over the team just three weeks ago and said the organization would be evaluated from top to bottom.



Cleveland Cavaliers coach Paul Silas was fired after his team dropped from first place to fighting for a playoff spot. (AP photo)

## Cover is Dream Come True



Shaquille O'Neal kisses the top of his head on a Wheaties cereal box to the delight of the Miami Heat's junior cheering squad. (AP photo)

(AP) — Shaquille O'Neal's taste in breakfast cereals might be changing.

The longtime fan of Frosted Flakes, which he once called "the best cereal ever created," is the latest athlete to grace the cover of a Wheaties box.

The Shaq box, which features a picture of the 12-time NBA All-Star in a red Miami Heat uniform on the front and a smaller photo in his white home uniform on the back, began hitting supermarket shelves last week.

"Sexy man, sexy man," O'Neal said, after unveiling a 7-foot replica

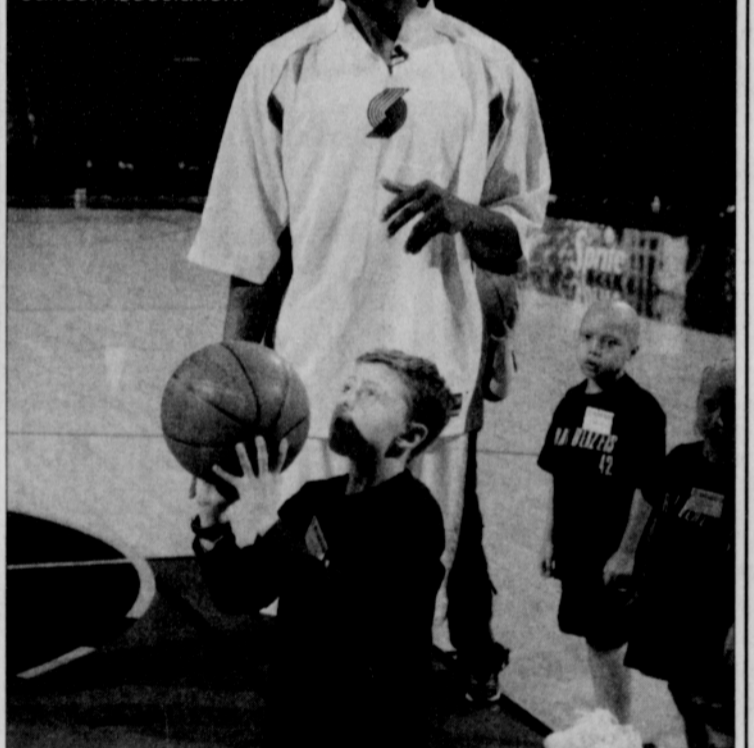
of the box.

"It's actually an honor," O'Neal said. "I remember as a youngster, going to the stores, seeing all those greats like Kareem and Magic on the box and then saying to my mother and father, 'I'm going to be on the cover of that one day.' And then they'd smack me and say, 'Shut up.'"

But he made it.

"It's a big day for myself and for my family," O'Neal said. "I think this'll be even bigger for my children. I'm going to go home and tell them, 'Look. Daddy's a superstar. I'm on the cover of cereal.'"

Portland Trail Blazer Theo Ratliff gives children pointers on the court as part of a clinic for the Children's Cancer Association.



## Helping Out With Cancer

Premier Auto Group and the Portland Trail Blazers have teamed up in defense of seriously ill children by supporting the Children's Cancer Association with donations and public service work.

Trail Blazer Theo Ratliff helped kick off the partnership at the

Rose Garden with a "Theo's On-court Clinic" for impacted youth and gave the kids a behind-the-scenes tour of the Trail Blazer locker room.

The Blazers and auto group also made a public service announcement for the association.

## Area Little League Teams Forming

Mary Dunn, president of the Peninsula Little League in north Portland, and Gordon Young, president of the Riverside Little League in northeast Portland, are encouraging players to get ready for the new spring season.

A March 12 sign-up deadline has already past and players are scrambling to get spots on a team. Practices were scheduled to begin in mid-March. At

this point, children are put on a waiting list for the Peninsula League but the Riverside League still has openings.

Young is especially encouraging female players to sign up. Opening game day for both programs is April 2.

For more information, call 503-988-0846 or visit [www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague](http://www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague). For the Riverside program, call 888-487-6086.

## Germany Honors Ali

(AP) — Muhammad Ali will receive a prestigious German honor in December in recognition of his commitment to the U.S. civil rights movement and his work as a United Nations peace ambassador.

The former heavyweight champion will receive the Otto Hahn freedom medal Dec. 17, the German Society for the United Nations said. He was cited for his "lifelong commitment to the American civil rights movement and the global cultural emancipation of black people, as well as his work as a U.N. peace ambassador," the organizers said.



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