

SPORTS

Cleveland, San Antonio Face Off for Finals

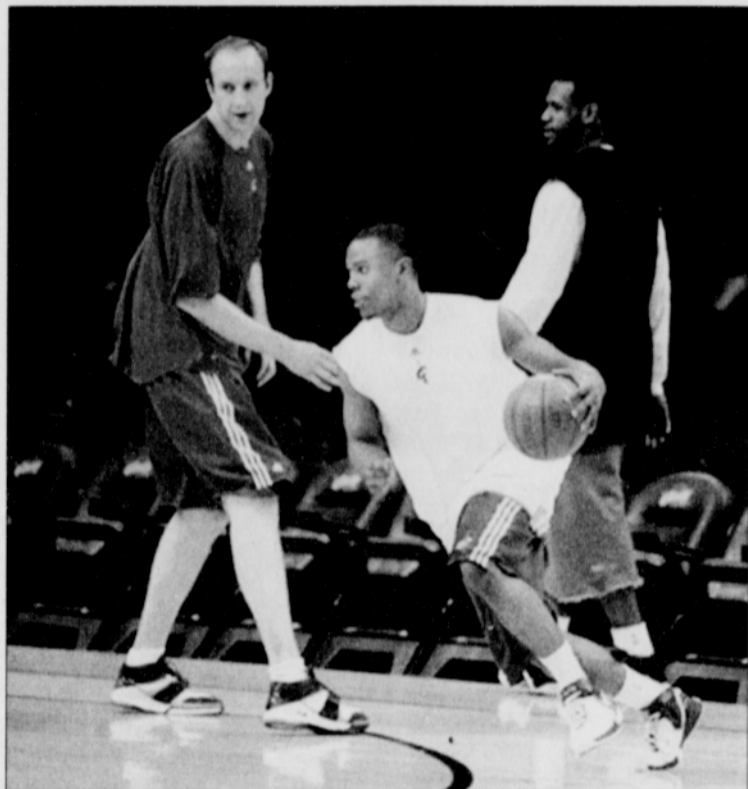
BY PATRICK GRUHLER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Cleveland Cavaliers will match up against the San Antonio Spurs for the NBA finals Thursday, June 8. With Cleveland playing their first ever NBA finals, the Spurs will go for their fourth title in nine seasons after beating the Utah Jazz in five games in the Western Conference finals. The Spurs finished that series off last Tuesday and will have an eight-day rest before the finals start.

The Cavaliers finished off the Detroit Pistons Saturday 98-82, winning the series 4-2. After getting down 2-0, losing those games in Detroit both by three points, Cleveland seemed to gain more confidence as each game went on before blowing out the Pistons in game six.

That series was the coming out party for James, who faced much scrutiny in the first two losses for the decisions he was making. In game one LeBron had only 10 points to go with 10 rebounds and nine assists, but took heat for passing the last shot of the game to Donyell Marshall who was open for the game winning shot. Marshall missed that shot.

In game two James listened to the critics and drove the lane for the last shot, although he missed when



Cleveland Cavaliers' Daniel Gibson drives around Zydrunas Ilgauskas, left, from Lithuania, and LeBron James, right, during practice earlier this week.

he felt there was contact.

The following trio of games was the LeBron James show. The Pistons tried to throw multiple double and triple teams at James but nothing worked. Games three and four in Cleveland were all James, as he scored 32 and 25 points respec-

tively.

But it was game five that took James into the pantheon of superstar players and superstar games. James scored 48 points, including 25 straight points and 29 and 30 points for Cleveland, as they won in double overtime in Detroit, seiz-

ing control of the series.

The Pistons tried to learn in game six, harassing James into finishing with 20 points on 3-11 shooting, but also had 8 assists and 14 rebounds. The Cavaliers took a one point lead into the fourth quarter, but James kept finding his open teammates, especially rookie Daniel Gibson. Gibson knocked down three straight threes to start the fourth quarter, taking all the air out of the Pistons, and finished with a career high 31 points.

The Spurs will be the next team to try to slow down James.

Cleveland won both games against the Spurs this year, but both games were before the all-star break, when the Spurs tightened up their play and really found their game.

The Spurs have been playing some of the best basketball in the NBA since the all star break and are the clear cut favorites to win their fourth championship.

Look for the Spurs to use their depth and to focus on their own superstar, Tim Duncan, to control the tempo of the game. The Cavaliers will have a very tough time defending Duncan, and if they can slow him down, the Spurs have several shooters on the perimeter to knock down jumpers and drive the lane for easy buckets.

Is Michael Jordan Better Than LeBron James?

BY PATRICK GRUHLER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After LeBron James put up 48 points on Thursday night against the Detroit Pistons, including 25 straight points and 29 of his teams last 30 points, he elevated himself into the topic of greatest player ever. We all know that with a bad finals performance that could quickly change, but for the time being, James is the guy.

His performance against Pistons made it clear cut in my mind that James is the best.

So the real question is, is LeBron James better than Michael Jordan?

Well, let's examine their games real quick. They may both be perimeter players, but completely different types.

James is power. He can go right through contact over and over again, and it doesn't affect him.

Jordan was beauty. He made basketball seem like an art form.

Jordan could get past anybody on the court, even two or three times, and his game was different. It was beauty, it was graceful and most of all it was better than everyone else's.

Both men have put up ridiculous numbers in their first four seasons. Jordan averaged 37 points in his third season in the league. James averaged 31 in his third season.

But Jordan never got to the finals until his seventh season. It has taken LeBron four.

But James plays with Drew Gooden, Donyell Marshall, Daniel Gibson and Big Z. Jordan never made it to the finals until he had Scottie Pippen.

Jordan played in a time when one player didn't control a team's pay-

roll, and a team could have several superstars.

For my money I will still take Jordan.

The beauty at which Jordan played the game of basketball was unbelievable. LeBron may power past his opponents, Jordan is just better than them. All of them. At the same time.

Now I know you might be saying that in ten years James could average a triple double, win eight MVPs,

and have a handful of rings, I will still take Jordan.

In fact one friend told me, "Jordan is better now, but lets talk in eight years."

Maybe I can't get the image of him knocking down all those threes against the Blazers, looking at the sidelines, and shrugging his shoulders like he didn't know he had it in him.

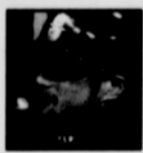
After that, no one ever questioned what Jordan had in him.

Sports Week in Review

BY PATRICK GRUHLER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mariners Baseball

After losing two straight games to the Angels, the Mariners beat the Texas Rangers three



of four before taking game one in a three game series against the Baltimore Orioles Monday night. Seattle continues the series Tuesday and Wednesday against Baltimore.

Prep Sports

North Medford won the 6A baseball championship, beating Westview 3-2 on Saturday. Forest Grove won the 6A Softball championship handily defeating Central Catholic 5-1.

NHL

The Anaheim Ducks took a 3-1 lead against Ottawa in the Stanley Cup Finals. Game 5 takes place Wednesday night in Anaheim as the Ducks look to win their first Stanley Cup trophy.

One Step Closer

The Oregon State Beavers got themselves into a hole in their repeat bid for a national baseball championship. After losing their first game against Virginia, the Beavers had to win three straight games to move on to the super regional. On Monday, the Beavers beat Rutgers 5-2, and then beat Virginia 5-3. On Tuesday the Beavers beat the odds as they beat Virginia 7-3 to win the regional bracket. They will play the University of Michigan in the best of three super regional, starting Friday.

Donovan Flip Flops

Billy Donovan, who coached the University of Florida Gators Men's basketball team to two consecutive NCAA titles, signed a contract with the Orlando Magic on Friday. On Monday Donovan realized his mistake and began talks to back out. The NBA will consider banning Donovan from coaching the league for at least five seasons.



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Pastor LeRoy Haynes Jr.

Theme

"Anointed And Sent For A Mission"

Luke 4:18-19

Speaker

Reverend Robert C. Jointer

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Allen Temple CME Church

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PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Architecture - Storefront Services
Flexible Service Contracts (As Needed Basis)

Responses due 3:00 PM June 26, 2007
Request for Qualifications #06-36

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) is requesting qualification proposals for Architecture -Storefront Services to be contracted on an as-needed basis. From this Request For Qualifications (RFQ) firms will be selected to receive a three-year contract.

The full Request for Qualifications may be downloaded from the internet at www.pdc.us, obtained by telephone or FAX request to:

Linda Pregent
Portland Development Commission
222 NW Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97209-3859
Phone 503.823.3363

Responses must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the above address no later than 3:00PM, Wednesday, June 26, 2007
Faxed copies will not be accepted

Contractors who are certified as Minority, Women or Emerging Small Business are strongly encouraged to apply. Contractors are also recommended to utilize Minority, Women, and Emerging Small Business Enterprises for their subcontracting needs. Portland Development Commission greatly values diversity in contracting and in the workforce and encourages contractors to do the same.

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Endangered Missing



DONNA GONZALEZ

Current Age: 16
Date Missing: March 31, 2007
Missing From: Buffalo, TX



BERNARDINO HERNANDEZ

Current Age: 21
Male Hispanic
Height: 5'4" Weight: 124 lbs.

A felony kidnapping warrant has been issued for Bernardino Hernandez, in the abduction of Donna Gonzalez. Suspect vehicle 1992 white Chevrolet Silverado (extended cab) pickup: Texas plates 80WJY4.

If you have any information please contact:
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.