

SPORTS

Aldridge Makes NBA All-Star Team

Blazer enters game fifth in league scoring

Portland Trail Blazers forward/center LaMarcus Aldridge was named a 2012 NBA All-Star reserve by a vote of Western Conference head coaches; it was announced Thursday by the league.

It is Aldridge's first trip to the NBA All-Star Game in six seasons with the Trail Blazers. He is the 15th player in franchise history to be selected an All-Star.

"LaMarcus has distinguished himself as one of the top players in the NBA, and this is an honor well-deserved," said Trail Blazers President Larry Miller. "I'll speak for the organization and our fans to say we are thrilled to have LaMarcus represent Portland at All-Star Weekend



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge has earned his first NBA All-Star selection and will represent Portland in the NBA All-Star game on Sunday, Feb. 26 in Orlando, Fla.

in Orlando and couldn't be prouder of what he's done for the team." Aldridge, 26, ranks fifth in the NBA in scoring, with a career-best 23.3 points to go with 8.5 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.12 steals in 26 games

(all starts) with the Trail Blazers this season. At 50.9 percent (245-for-481), he is one of three players in the league with his scoring average or better shooting at least 50 percent from the floor.

"LaMarcus is a premier player in this league, and I'm very happy to see him be recognized for his efforts as a player and a leader," said Trail Blazers Head Coach Nate McMillan. "He improves every season and this is validation for all the hard work he's put in to become an All-Star."

Aldridge leads the team with six double-doubles and became the first player in franchise history to notch 33 points and 23 rebounds in a game when he did so Jan. 20 at Toronto. The Texas product and Dallas native has scored double figures in all 26 games, including 19 games of 20-plus points and three games with 30-plus.

Last month, Aldridge was named

a finalist for USA Basketball's Olympic team roster that will compete this summer in London.

The starting five in the Western Conference, decided by fan balloting, consists of Blake Griffin (L.A. Clippers), Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City), Andrew Bynum (L.A. Lakers), Kobe Bryant (L.A. Lakers) and Chris Paul (L.A. Clippers). Rounding out the West reserves from the coaches' vote are Kevin Love (Minnesota), Dirk Nowitzki (Dallas), Marc Gasol (Memphis), Steve Nash (Phoenix), Tony Parker (San Antonio) and Russell Westbrook (Oklahoma City).

The 2012 NBA All-Star Game will tip-off at 5 p.m. (Pacific) on Sunday, Feb. 26, from Amway Center in Orlando, Fla. The game will air live on TNT and ESPN Radio in the U.S., and reach fans in more than 200 countries and territories in more than 40 languages.

Woods Struggles in Final Round

Tiger Woods' long and winding journey back to the game's pinnacle suffered another setback on Sunday when he battled his way to a final round 75 at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Seeming well placed for a last-day after shooting a six-birdie 67 in the third round, the former world number one struggled on the greens

World number 18 Woods, who has not won a full-field event since the 2009 Australian Masters, recorded three consecutive bogeys from the seventh and failed to gain any momentum after the turn.



Tiger Woods

as his playing partner Phil Mickelson beat him by 11 shots.

While fellow American Mickelson signed off with a flawless 64 to seal a two-shot victory, Woods totalled 31 putts to post his worst score of the week by seven strokes.

"What's frustrating is I had a chance (to win)," a subdued Woods told reporters after failing in his bid to end a PGA Tour victory drought of more than two years. "All I had to do was get off to a good solid start today, and I didn't do that."

"I thought I could get it going in the middle part of the round but instead I went the other way."

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