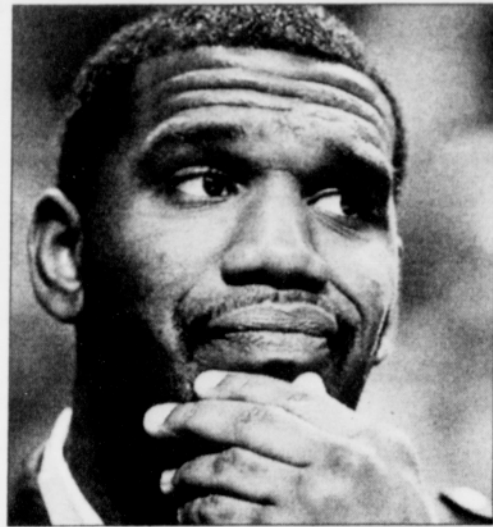


Another Setback for Oden

Often-injured center out for the season

(AP)—Greg Oden has suffered yet another setback with his troublesome knees.

The often-injured 7-foot center was undergoing a minor procedure Monday to clear out debris in his left knee in Vail, Colo., when the surgeon determined there was additional dam-



Greg Oden

age and performed microfracture surgery, the Portland Trail Blazers said.

The former No. 1 pick in the 2007 NBA draft has now had two microfracture surgeries on his left knee, and one on his right. He has also undergone surgery for a fractured left kneecap.

The Blazers say Oden will not play this season.

"It's hard to put into words the heartbreak for everyone involved, but especially for Greg. He's a young man who has experienced a great

number of physical challenges in his playing career and today is yet another significant setback for him," Trail Blazers President Larry Miller said in a prepared statement. "We have a lot of empathy for Greg and his family during this difficult time."

Oden, who has not played in an NBA game since Dec. 5, 2009, has appeared in 82 career games for the Blazers, averaging 9.4 points and 7.3 rebounds.

It was expected that he might be able to play this season, but a checkup before the start of training camp in December reportedly revealed concerns about a non-weight-bearing

ligament in the left knee, further setting back his rehabilitation.

Oden was a restricted free agent heading into this season. The Blazers and Oden initially agreed to an \$8.9 million qualifying offer for this year, but when the setback was announced the two sides restructured the deal, which was dropped to \$1.5 million. He will become an unrestricted free agent following this season.

Oden has turned down several interview requests this season.

Shortly after the news about the latest surgery broke, Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge posted on Twitter: "Praying for my bro G.O. get better!"

Portland's acting general manager Chad Buchanan told reporters that the team knew there was the possibility of an additional microfracture surgery when he went in for the procedure. The doctor found two defects, he said.

Buchanan was asked whether the latest surgery might mean the end of Oden's career.

"Greg's still very young, in relative terms, for a professional basketball player. He's recovered from a couple of these before—his last two microfracture lesions have healed fine," Buchanan said.

Police Use of Force Review Investigators want to hear from the public

The Justice Department will host a meeting to get community input concerning the investigation of use of force policies and practices in the Portland Police Bureau.

The U. S. Attorney's Office for Oregon, in conjunction with the Civil Rights Division, will conduct a town hall meeting with members of the public on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central St.

The Justice Department opened a civil investigation last June in order to determine whether the Police Bureau has engaged in a pattern or practice of use of force which amounts to a violation of civil rights.

Last August, the federal investigators conducted individual interviews with members of the public. Now any individuals who have specific and recent information they would like to share about their personal interaction with PPB officers are invited to participate in this town hall meeting.

If you are unable to attend the town hall meeting, you can also contact federal investigators by email at community.portland@usdoj.gov or call 1-877-218-5228.

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