

SPORTS

Blazers Hire General Manager

Executive leaves Clippers for Portland

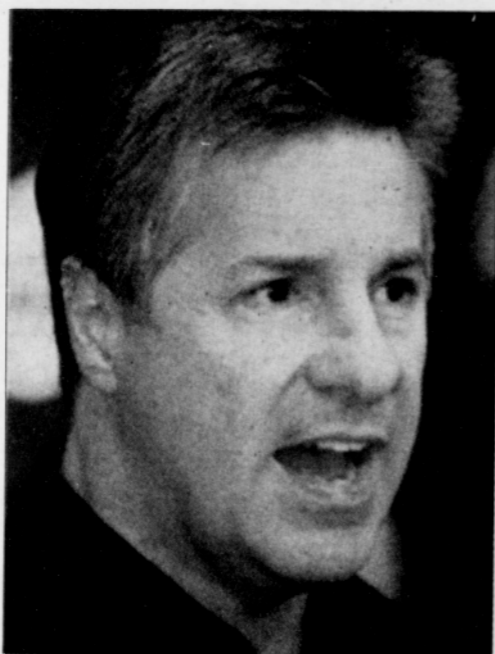
(AP) -- The Trail Blazers have hired former Los Angeles Clippers general manager Neil Olshey to serve in the same role with Portland.

The announcement by the Blazers on Monday came less than an hour after the Clippers revealed that they and Olshey had decided to part ways.

Last season, Olshey oversaw a major retooling of the Clippers that included signing All-Star point guard Chris Paul in December as part of the biggest trade in franchise history. In the same six-day span, Olshey signed All-Stars Caron Butler and Chauncey Billups, and re-signed DeAndre Jordan.

The Clippers finished 40-26 and reached the second round of the playoffs.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to become a part of this successful franchise," Olshey said in a statement released by the Blazers. "Portland is a great basketball city with a rich tradition, an incredible fan base and committed leadership. I'm joining an organization that has a strong foundation and a bright future."



Neil Olshey

The Blazers have been operating under interim GM Chad Buchanan for the past year. Buchanan, the team's director of college scouting, took over when the team fired Rich Cho after about 10 months on the job.

Olshey becomes the 10th general manager in Blazers history.

"Neil is someone we've had on our radar for quite a while. Over the past two seasons he has demonstrated success in constructing a roster, managing salary cap and evaluating playertalent," Blazers President Larry Miller said in a statement. "We feel very fortunate to have him in Portland and are thrilled about what this means for the future."



PHOTO BY DEBORAH PORTER

Major softball players from north and northeast Portland celebrate their first place finish Sunday in the Little League Urban Initiative Northwest Jamboree at Lents Park.

Jamboree Champions

Major softball players from a Portland Observer-sponsored team in the Peninsula Little League were crowned champions of the Little League Urban initiative Northwest Jamboree on

Sunday.

The girls' team won all five games they played in the tournament at Lents Field in southeast Portland, including the final contest by a score of 11-9.

Elite Players to Battle in Rose City Showcase

The 10th annual Rose City Showcase by NIKE, featuring some of the nation's top basketball players and future college and NBA stars, tips off Friday, June 8 at Lewis & Clark College in southwest Portland.

Before Dwight Howard became an NBA All-Star, before Josh Smith and Gerald Green won the NBA Slam Dunk Contest, before O.J. Mayo,

Michael Beasley, and Kevin Love became All-Americans, and before Brandon Rush and Mario Chalmers led Kansas to the 2008 NCAA Championship, they all had one thing in common -- they participated in the Rose City Showcase.

Presented by Courtside Entertainment, the tournament will kick off with four power-packed, super

17 match-ups, featuring many of the top players in the country from the classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The action continues through Sunday evening when a Rose City Showcase champion will be crowned at 6:30 p.m. at Lewis & Clark College.

For more information, visit RoseCityShowcase.com

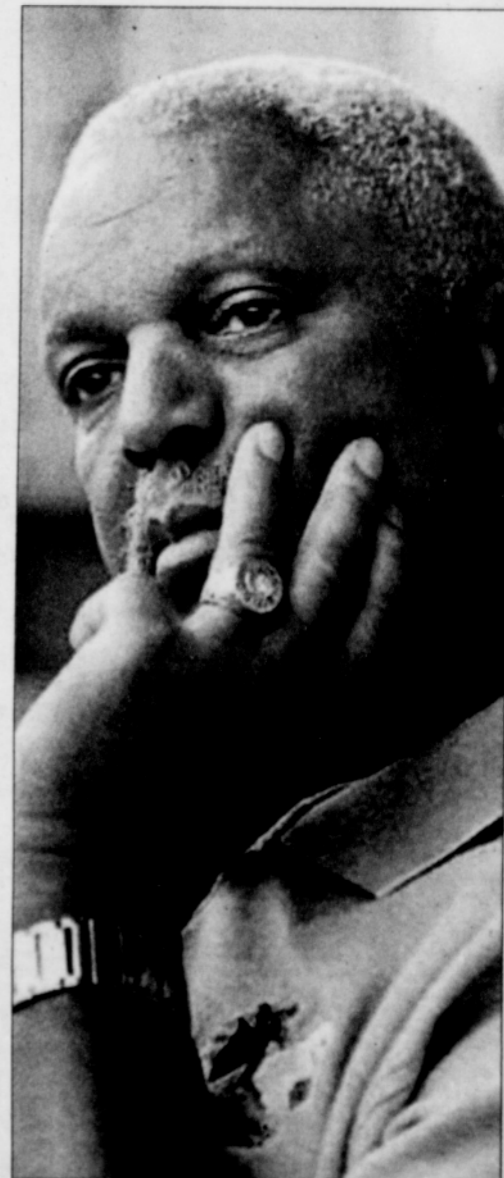
Original Trail Blazer Dead at 72

Former Portland Trail Blazers center/forward LeRoy Ellis passed away Saturday in Portland at the age of 72 after a long battle with cancer.

A member of Portland's inaugural basketball team, Ellis was selected by the Trail Blazers in the 1970 NBA Expansion Draft. Ellis led Portland with 12.3 rebounds per game and ranked third on the team with a 15.9 scoring average in 1970-71, his only season with the Trail Blazers.

Ellis appeared in 1,048 NBA games over 14 seasons with the L.A. Lakers, Baltimore, Portland and Philadelphia. He posted career averages of 9.7 points and 8.3 rebounds, and was a member of the 1972 NBA Champion L.A. Lakers.

A New York native, Ellis played his collegiate basketball at St. John's University. Ellis and his family settled in Portland during his NBA career and continued to live in the area after he retired from the NBA.



LeRoy Ellis

Honored for Courage and Leadership

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Roberts was the other honoree, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award "for her tireless and steadfast activism as an ally to Oregon's Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community."

Peter Cunningham, executive director of the Equity Foundation, said, "We are honoring both Governor

Roberts and Coach Murrell -- they epitomize the strength and perseverance needed to lead the charge for equality in Oregon, and everywhere."

"I am deeply honored to accept such an award from the equity foundation," said Murrell. "It was special to be alongside Governor Barbara Roberts, who is a true pioneer and role model for human rights."

During her career at Portland State,

Murrell has led the Vikings to unprecedented success at the Division I level, including a 98-60 record, 53-27 in the Big Sky Conference.

She led the Vikings to the 2010 NCAA Tournament, PSU's first-ever trip to the NCAAs as a Division I program. Murrell also guided the Vikings to the 2009 and 2011 WNIT tournaments and was the 2010-11 Big Sky Coach of the Year.