

# SPORTS

## Special Season Ends

A special season in which the Portland Trail Blazers defied expectations and advanced to the postseason with an exciting play-off run ended in Oakland, Calif.

The Golden State Warriors advanced to the Western Conference Finals May 11 after eliminating Portland with a 125-121 victory in Game 5.

For the third time in five games,

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, right, speaks with Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard at the end of Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, May 11, 2016, in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors won 125-121 and advanced to the conference finals. (AP photo)



the Warriors erased an early double-digit deficit to hand the Trail Blazers a frustrating loss. The only difference this time was that it ended Portland's season. Facing elimination, the young Trail Blazers opened the game with the kind of intensity and aggressiveness you'd expect from a squad playing for their playoff lives. But as the night wore on, the veteran Warriors slowly gained momentum, and turned the tables on the Trail Blazers in the final quarter to close out the series.

## Coaching Contract Extended

The Portland Trail Blazers and head coach Terry Stotts have agreed to a contract extension, president of basketball operations Neil Olshey announced Monday.

"Terry has been an outstanding partner and this extension represents our desire to build a model of stability and consistency," said Olshey.

Stotts completed his fourth season as Blazers head coach last week, going 44-38 to solidify his third consecutive winning season and third straight postseason berth, despite not returning four of five starters from 2014-15. Portland defeated the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the 2016 NBA Playoffs to advance to the Western Conference Semifinals for the second time in the past three seasons.



Terry Stotts

"As an organization, we have developed a culture and continuity that is exciting to be a part of, and I could not be more appreciative of the players and coaching staff," Stotts said.

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