

# SPORTS

## Blazers Face Lakers in First Round Team makes playoffs for 7th straight year



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard brings the ball up the court in a game against the Golden State Warriors earlier this year. Lillard was the NBA league leader in scoring and three-pointers during the playoff seeding games. He and the Blazers now open a best of seven playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers in Orlando, Fla. (AP photo)

After defeating the Memphis Grizzlies Saturday in the last seeding round game, the Portland Trail Blazers will launch into the NBA Western Conference Playoffs this week for the seventh-straight season, starting a best of seven series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Seeded eighth, the Blazers will be the away team for Games 1 and 2 with the Lakers in Orlando, Fla., with the games played at the AdventHealth Arena without fans in the so-called "NBA bubble," to protect players during the coronavirus pandemic. Game 1 is on Tuesday, Aug. 18 and Game 2 is on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. PT. The series then shifts to the Trail Blazers as the home team at AdventHealth Arena, with game 3 on Saturday, Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m. PT and Game 4 on Monday, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. PT.

If necessary, Game 5 will be played on Wednesday, Aug. 26; Game 6 on Friday, Aug. 28 and a decisive Game 7 on Sunday, Aug. 30. The times and locations for Games 5, 6 and 7 are to

be determined.

The series opener will be televised on TNT, with Game 2 on ESPN, Game 3 on ABC and Game 4 again on TNT. All games in the first round, except game 3, against the Los Angeles Lakers will also be televised locally on NBC Sports NW, the official network of the Portland Trail Blazers and broadcasted on Rip City Radio 620.

"We are ecstatic to once again have the opportunity to play for another NBA Championship, especially during our special 50th Anniversary Season," says Trail Blazers and Rose Quarter President & CEO Chris McGowan. "Thank you to our fans for their tremendous, unwavering support during this season and the restart. I know Rip City will continue to be loud and proud for this team in their fight for the championship."

Los Angeles went 2-1 against Portland during the regular season. LeBron James is averaging 25.3 points and 7.8 rebounds for the Lakers. Damian Lillard is averaging 30 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers.

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