

# SPORTS

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## ‘Heart Scare’ Ends NBA Career

Former Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge retires after diagnosis

Former Portland Trail Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge retired from the NBA last week after saying he experienced an irregular heartbeat during his final game with the Brooklyn Nets.

Aldridge, 35, posted a statement on social media saying the heart concerns he had during and after Brooklyn’s loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on April 11 was one of the “scariest things” he’s experienced.

Aldridge, who was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome — an abnormality that can cause a rapid heartbeat — as a rookie in 2007, said he feels better now after getting it checked out but decided to end his 15-year career.

“For 15 years I’ve put basketball first, and now, it is time to put my health and my family first,” Aldridge wrote.

The seven-time All-Star signed with the Nets on March 28 and he



Former Trail Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge, as a member of the Brooklyn Nets, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers center Andre Drummond during a game on April 11 in New York. (AP photo)

had become their starting center. He missed the last two games with what the team had called a non-COVID-19 illness.

The No. 2 pick in the 2006 draft was long one of the best at his position, averaging 19.4 points in a career that began with nine seasons in Portland.

He went on to play 5 1/2 with the San Antonio Spurs and was a five-time All-NBA selection.

Aldridge thanked all three organizations in his post, saying Portland gave him some “unforgettable years” after drafting a “skinny, Texas kid.”

He praised the Nets for allowing him to play his type of game, when so many NBA teams are looking more to the perimeter instead of the post now.

Trail Blazer executive Neil Olshey called Aldridge one of the best players in the history of the franchise.

“LaMarcus had a storied NBA career and his time as a Trail Blazer will always be remembered fondly. Any success we experienced during his tenure in Portland would not have been possible without his work ethic, dedication and talent, Olshey said. “He will always be a member of the Trail Blazer family and we wish him the best in all future endeavors.”

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Shaler Halimon

## Original Blazer Dies at 76

Shaler Halimon, an original member of the Portland Trail Blazers, who went on to call Oregon his home, has died at the age of 76.

The Trail Blazers organization announced Monday that it was mourning Holimon, an original member of Portland’s inaugural 1970-71 team.

While his time playing for the

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## Passion for Wine a Second Career

Carmelo Anthony featured in magazine

Did you know Portland Trail Blazer and 10-time NBA All-Star Carmelo Anthony has become the unofficial wine ambassador to the NBA.

Anthony is featured on the May cover of Wine Spectator Magazine where he gives a commentary on NBA COVID-19 protocols and provides details on his background as a wine aficionado, including the origins of his wine-themed YouTube Series, What’s In Your Glass? and how he brings his own wine on NBA road trips and more.

Fellow ‘Wine Players of the NBA’, T.J. McConnell, CJ McCollum and Doug McDermott are also featured.

In the article, Anthony talks candidly about his interests, championing diversity across industries:

The series “was supposed to be just about wine,” he said, “but so many other things were happening in our community and society and that led to, ‘OK, we’re talking about wine but we’re also going to address the issues happening in our community and our country... And what better way to discuss what’s happening in our world than over a glass of wine?’”



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As an outspoken activist against racial injustice and social inequality, he founded the

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