

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE **JAIL BLAZERS**

Portland fans can take a walk back in time with author Kerry Eggers

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Portland Trail Blazers fans can get an inside look at the team on Wednesday night from a man who has witnessed the good, the bad and the ugly of the team for the better part of three decades.

Kerry Eggers, of the *Portland Tribune*, will have a meet and greet at Sundown Grill and Bar-B-Q in Pendleton, starting at 5:30 p.m.

A social hour will be followed by Eggers talking about his new book "Jail Blazers: How the Portland Trail Blazers Became the Bad Boys of Basketball" and a discussion about this year's team, which reached the Western Conference Finals for the first time since 2000.

Eggers' book takes readers into the world of the Blazers from 1995 to 2005, where drugs, infidelity, attitude and run-ins with the law were a regular part of the Portland sports scene.

Eggers said it took him nearly a year to write the book, which includes interviews with roughly 70 people — 25 players, all the head coaches during the time, referees, broadcasters and guys who worked the police beat.

"There were a wide variety of opinions during that time," Eggers said. "This

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Photo courtesy of Kerry Eggers

Author Kerry Eggers, right, presents former Portland Trail Blazer and now Golden State coach Steve Kerr, with a copy of "Jail Blazers: How the Portland Trail Blazers Became the Bad Boys of Basketball."

North of border, Warriors enter new territory: 1-0 deficit

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

TORONTO — Steve Kerr has seen a little of almost everything during his wildly successful five-year run as coach of the Golden State Warriors.

This, however, is something new. For the first time, Kerr and the Warriors are staring at a 1-0 deficit in the NBA Finals. They've trailed in series before, faced plenty of adverse moments along the way, but this is the newest challenge for a franchise trying to join the short list of clubs that have won three consecutive championships.

"The experience helps," Kerr said Friday, a day after the Toronto Raptors struck first. "Winning multiple championships helps because you have seen it all. There's also just the knowledge that you've been here before. You've been down. We have been up 3-1 and lost a series. We have been down 3-1 and won a series. Everything in between. So nothing is going to catch these guys off-guard."

That's his hope, anyway. There was a clear air of confidence from the Warriors even in the very first moments after the loss Thursday night. They knew they didn't play particularly well, and lost by only nine. They trailed most of the way, yet still were within striking distance plenty of times. They seemed far from rattled.

"No matter what, our sights were coming in that it's a long series," Warriors star Stephen Curry said. "And Game 2 is an opportunity for us to right the wrongs and get a big win and go back home."

No one needs to explain to the Warriors that a win on Sunday completely shifts the narrative.

And even though the axiom has always been that Game 1 winners usu-



AP Photo/Frank Gunn

Toronto Raptors guard Danny Green (14) reacts after making a 3-pointer against the Golden State Warriors during the first half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals on Thursday in Toronto.

ally go on to win the series — and that is still the case — it seems that a 1-0 deficit isn't as daunting to teams as it once might have been.

Since the league went to the 16-team format for the 1984 postseason, Game 1 winners have never been as vulnerable as they have seemed to be this year. In the 14 series this year that preceded the NBA Finals, six Game 1 winners wound up losing their series. That's never happened before in this format.

In the 2010s, Game 1 winners have gone on to lose a series 31% of the time. In the 2000s, it was 25%; in the 1990s, 15%.

"As soon as you lose a game, it will be on the crawl that now we only have a 19.7% chance of winning the series. Then if we win (Sunday) we'll have a 42.7% chance of not losing the series," said Kerr, tongue firmly planted in

cheek. "This stuff is what it is. You lose a game, you come back and you try to win."

Kerr's stance is clear: A simpler approach — study film, find ways to get better, apply them Sunday — is best.

On the other hand, Golden State hadn't lost a Game 1 this season. Or the season before that. Or the season before that.

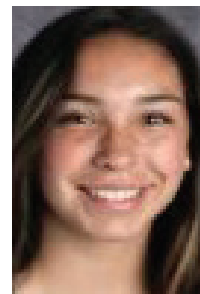
The last time the Warriors woke up and were down 1-0 in a series was the Western Conference finals in 2016 — against Kevin Durant and Oklahoma City. The Warriors responded with a blowout win in Game 2 and went on to prevail in seven games.

"You never lose that experience," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "You can always look back on it and

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Daltoso joins the Panthers

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian



Daltoso

Estrella Daltoso spent all four years of her high school career as a defender with the Riverside Pirates varsity soccer team.

This fall, she'll join an all-new program.

Last Wednesday, the Riverside senior signed a letter of intent to play soccer with the Portland Community College Panthers. A number of other schools were on her radar, but she

knew Portland was the school for her as soon as she set foot on campus.

"I was looking at Treasure Valley," said Daltoso, "but I immediately fell in love with the PCC campus, its coaches, and the team."

During her visit, Daltoso tried out for the Panthers soccer team, which gave her hands-on experience with the girls who would become her future teammates.

"My first impressions were that they were a very serious group of girls, but they also knew how to have fun," she said. "They welcomed me onto the field and treated me like I was on the team, even if they didn't know if I would make the cut at the time. They actually took the time to get to know me."

For her last year with the Pirates, Daltoso helped her team make a strong run at the 3A state title. They shut out five consecutive games before falling to St. Mary's 6-0 in the state quarterfinals. Their 5-0-1 record earned the team the No. 1 spot in the Eastern Oregon League standings.

"It was a really exciting year," Daltoso said. "We had worked so hard over the past four years to get to the second round of state, and we were finally able to accomplish that. It was such an amazing group of girls. I'm excited to see where they go next year."

During her time as a Panther, Daltoso plans to study elementary education, which she said has been a goal of hers for years. Her work as a summer camp counselor at the Treasure Valley YMCA in Cascade, Idaho, over the years inspired the decision.

"I love kids. They're amazing," she said. "I just want to be able to help the youth."

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