

# Blazers: Portland fans look back in time with author Kerry Eggers

Continued from Page B1

is a very balanced look at a very interesting time. They were nationally known. They had success and controversy. I reached out to every significant person in that era. I did not get to talk to some players. Some did not want to talk, and some could not be reached.”

Included in that group were former Portland general manager Bob Whitsitt, and players J.R. Rider and Rasheed Wallace.

The book, which came out Nov. 27, 2018, is more than 500 pages. With Chapter 8 being Armageddon, Almost Every Week, it makes you want to skip a page or two.

Reviews from fellow authors have been more than positive.

“One of the great cult teams in NBA history deserves its own book (and, for that matter, movie). Eggers is the perfect chronicler and he delivers with (pardon the pun) this blunt retelling,” writes Jon Wertheim, executive editor of Sports Illustrated.

“It’s nice that I have gotten endorsements from other great writers,” Eggers said. “I appreciate that.”

## An inside look

Beat writers for teams get a unique perspective into the lives of players and inner workings of the team, whether it be high school, college or pro. When it comes to exposing the dark side of a team, Eggers said it really isn’t that hard.

“I have been covering them for 30 years,” he said. “You have to play it down the middle and be impartial. It’s a job. You have

to maintain a professional distance. But that doesn’t mean you don’t make relationships. It was a story that needed to be told.”

During the height of the Jail Blazer era, the team’s attendance went from a once proud 14,000 down to 8,000.

Issues with players like Rod Strickland, Donto-nio Wingfield, Jermaine O’Neal, Gary Trent, Rider, Wallace and Cliff Robinson, among others, drove fans away.

“The Blazers lost a lot of respect, and it showed at the box office,” Eggers said. “That’s when (owner) Paul Allen went in a different direction and fired Bob Whitsitt. Paul lived with it for so long because they won games. He allowed that. Bob spent Paul’s money and never got to the NBA Finals, and put up with the other stuff. It was a change for the better.”

While doing research for the book, former Blazer Steve Kerr (2001-02), now head coach of Golden State, said the team did not like the term Jail Blazers.

“Kerr said it was exaggerated,” Eggers said.

## Coming home

Eggers still has family and friends in Pendleton, making next week’s visit appropriate.

His father, John Eggers, was an all-state basketball player at Pendleton High School. His cousin Tim Hawkins lives locally, and longtime local sports enthusiast Dean Fouquette is a close friend.

“I get back occasionally,” Eggers said. “I talked to Dean about this, and he has been arranging everything. We’ll talk about the book and this year’s team. It should be a fun night.”

# Durant out for Game 2 of NBA Finals; Iguodala has MRI on leg

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

TORONTO — Golden State star Kevin Durant is going to miss Game 2 of the NBA Finals, and Andre Iguodala’s health is of at least mild concern to the two-time defending champion Warriors as well.

Iguodala, the 2015 NBA Finals MVP, had an MRI on Friday on his left leg after he was hurt late in Game 1 of the title-series opener against the Toronto Raptors. Durant, the finals MVP in 2017 and 2018 who has been dealing with a strained calf, was ruled out by Warriors coach Steve Kerr in an expected move.

“Kevin’s not going to play Sunday,” Kerr said. “I guess we’ve been holding out hope, but might as well say it now. ... It’s near-impossible for him to play on Sunday.”

Toronto took Game 1 and will host Game 2 on Sunday night. Iguodala expects to play, and the Warriors said his MRI came back clean.

“He seems to be doing well. ... I talked to him and he said he felt pretty good,” Kerr said.

Iguodala scored with just under two minutes left in Game 1, his left leg flaring out a bit as he leaped to take that shot from the middle of the lane. He immediately grabbed the back of the leg in the hamstring area after landing, clapped his hands while grimacing and hobbled down to the other end.

The Warriors subbed him out not long afterward, and he didn’t return.



AP Photo/Frank Gunn

**Golden State Warriors guard Andre Iguodala (9) goes up for a dunk as Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, left, and forward Pascal Siakam (43) watch during the first half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals on Thursday in Toronto.**

Iguodala started and played 29 minutes in Game 1, finishing with six points, six rebounds and seven assists. He was slowed in the Western Conference finals by a problem with his left calf, and he missed the clinching Game 4 of that series.

Kerr said the team isn’t going to rush Durant’s return. The fear is that if he comes back before the calf is sound even the slightest tweak would mean his season is over.

Durant hasn’t played since he was hurt in Game 5 of the West semifinals against Houston.

“The thinking is when he’s ready to play, he’ll play,” Kerr said.

Durant traveled with the team to Toronto, wanting to be with his teammates for the start of the finals and needing to work with the Warriors’ medical staff.

“He’s still progressing,” Kerr said.

# Finals: Warriors enter new territory: 1-0 deficit

Continued from Page B1

it’s more about how you felt, what was your mindset then. But it’s impossible to be the same because it’s completely different teams. And although some of us may have that experience, others on our team have not had that experience.”

It bears noting that the Raptors know a 1-0 series lead doesn’t mean much.

Orlando had one of those against Toronto in the first round, and lost in five games.

Milwaukee had one of those against Toronto in the Eastern Conference finals — 2-0, actually — and lost in six games.

“We’ve tried to (have) a conscious thought process of not really caring what the score of the series is,” Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. “I think we know that the games are really hard. We know that after a win, the team that gets beat gets really determined. They try



AP Photo/Frank Gunn

**Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts during the second half of Game 1 of the team's basketball's NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors on Thursday in Toronto.**

to fix things. They mostly play a lot harder and more physical and all those kind of things.”

The challenge for his

team is to do the same. That process started with a long film session Friday, and there was much to clean up.

“There was plenty on there that we need to do better if we want to win another game in this series,” Nurse said.

# Indy 500 champ aims to stay on top in Detroit

By LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

DETROIT — Simon Pagnaud saw the wreath he won less than a week ago at the Indianapolis 500 and lamented how the leaves and orchids were wilting.

During the double-header weekend in Detroit, the IndyCar points leader is looking for a way to preserve his coveted prize — perhaps with a spray — and to stay atop the series.

Pagnaud was in a much different position a month ago, with questions swirling about whether he was racing for his job with Team Penske.

“It’s probably true,” he acknowledged Friday.

After a breathtaking win at Indy, Pagnaud earned a public assurance from Roger Penske that he “absolutely,” would be driving for him next year.

Pagnaud, though, will be behind the wheel of his Chevrolet at the Detroit Grand Prix races on Saturday and Sunday thinking as if his job is still on the line.

“If I do a good job, then I’m back,” he said. “If I don’t do a good job, then we need to talk.”

“That’s it. It’s normal. It’s the same for every athlete in the world.”

And like athletes in all sports at every level, the 35-year-old Pagnaud has had slumps. He didn’t win any of his 17 IndyCar races in 2018 after winning seven races the previous two years and becoming the series champion in 2016.

Pagnaud believed, not long ago, he would eventually be replaced by Alexan-



AP Photo/Larry Lage

**Indianapolis 500 champion Simon Pagnaud looks at the wreath he won less than a week ago and lamented seeing the leaves and orchids wilting on Friday in Detroit.**

der Rossi.

“That was scuttlebutt,” Penske insisted.

Pagnaud has competed for Team Penske since 2015 and said he is not interested in driving for anyone else.

“I want to be back,” he said. “There’s no other team that I would want to be with. It’s the best team in this business. If you look at the stats, it’s also the most successful team in the world. I want to win Indy 500 another time. I want to win another championship.”

Pagnaud, perhaps fueled to secure his job, responded to the scrutiny by being the first driver to earn multiple victories this season, finishing first on the road course at Indianapolis and becoming the first Frenchman to win the Indy 500 since 1914.

“The most memorable moment will always be

the milk on my face and talking to President Trump, no matter what your political views might be or anyone’s views might be,” Pagnaud said. “It’s just really awesome to talk to the president of the biggest country in the world. That was very special.”

And now, he has a chance to keep rolling at an event Penske promotes in his beloved Motor City. The 35-year-old Pagnaud likes his chances because, so far, the life-changing effect from winning Indy has been a boost of energy.

“I feel like I’m actually younger than I was before and it’s exciting,” he said. “I’ve got a whole championship ahead of me, too. The funny thing is when you set goals and when you climb a mountain like this, you get to the top and you see other mountains you want to climb. I assume that’s

what happens to the people when they climb Mount Everest. They want to climb the other ones. I feel the exact same way at the moment.”Racing in Detroit might bring Pagnaud back down to Earth.

The 2.35-mile road course with 14 turns on Belle Isle is nothing like the smooth and wide surface he just competed on, trading the lead with Rossi five times over a frantic final 13 laps.“It is vastly different,” Pagnaud said. “The spectrum is pretty much opposite. We just drove on a speedway 230 mph. Now, we’re going to go on a bumpy track, breaking hard, turning left and right, wrestling the car around.”

“It’s going to be quite a physical challenge. I’m up for it. It’s definitely going to be tough to do back-to-back races for sure.”

## SCOREBOARD

NBA AT A GLANCE				
All Times PDT				
FIRST ROUND				
FINALS				
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)				
Golden State vs. Toronto				
Thursday, May 30				
Toronto 118, Golden State 109, Toronto leads series 1-0				
Sunday, June 2				
Golden State at Toronto, 5 p.m.				
Wednesday, June 5				
Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
Friday, June 7				
Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
Monday, June 10				
x-Golden State at Toronto, 6 p.m.				
Thursday, June 13				
x-Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
Sunday, June 16				
x-Golden State at Toronto, 5 p.m.				
NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE				
All Times PDT				
STANLEY CUP FINALS				
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)				
Monday, May 27				
Boston 4, St. Louis 2				
Wednesday, May 29				
St. Louis 3, Boston 2, OT, series tied 1-1				
Saturday, June 1				
Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
Monday, June 3				
Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
Thursday, June 6				
St. Louis at Boston, 5 p.m.				
Sunday, June 9				
x-Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
Wednesday, June 12				
x-St. Louis at Boston, 5 p.m.				
MLB				
National League				
All Times PDT				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	33	23	.589	—

Atlanta	30	27	.526	3½
New York	27	29	.482	6
Washington	24	33	.421	9½
Miami	19	35	.352	13
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	31	23	.574	—
Milwaukee	32	26	.552	1
Pittsburgh	28	28	.500	4
St. Louis	27	28	.491	4½
Cincinnati	27	30	.474	5½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	38	19	.667	—
San Diego	29	27	.518	8½
Colorado	28	27	.509	9
Arizona	28	29	.491	10
San Francisco	22	34	.393	15½
Thursday's Games				
St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 3				
San Francisco 3, Miami 1				
Colorado 11, Arizona 10, 10 innings				
Milwaukee 11, Pittsburgh 5				
L.A. Dodgers 2, N.Y. Mets 0				
Friday's Games				
Pittsburgh 9, Milwaukee 4				
Cincinnati 9, Washington 3				
Detroit 8, Atlanta 2				
Baltimore 9, San Francisco 6				
St. Louis 2, Chicago Cubs 1				
Colorado 13, Toronto 6				
N.Y. Mets at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.				
Miami at San Diego, 7:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Milwaukee (Woodruff 7-1) at Pittsburgh (Kingham 1-1), 1:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Anderson 0-1) at Baltimore (Hess 1-6), 1:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Norris 2-3) at Atlanta (Soroka 5-1), 1:10 p.m.				
Washington (Fedde 1-0) at Cincinnati (Roark 4-3), 1:10 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 4-4) at St. Louis (Flaherty 4-3), 4:15 p.m.				
Toronto (Stroman 3-6) at Colorado (Gray				

4-4), 6:10 p.m.				
Miami (Urena 3-6) at San Diego (Mar-gevcvicius 2-5), 7:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 3-5) at Arizona (Greinke 6-2), 7:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Irvin 2-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 5-0), 7:10 p.m.				
Sunday's Games				
San Francisco at Baltimore, 10:05 a.m.				
Washington at Cincinnati, 10:10 a.m.				
Detroit at Atlanta, 10:20 a.m.				
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 10:35 a.m.				
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.				
Toronto at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets at Arizona, 1:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 1:10 p.m.				
Miami at San Diego, 3:10 p.m.				
MLB				
American League				
All Times PDT				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	37	19	.661	—
Tampa Bay	35	20	.636	1½
Boston	29	28	.509	8½
Toronto	21	35	.375	16
Baltimore	18	39	.316	19½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	38	18	.679	—
Cleveland	28	28	.500	10
Chicago	27	29	.482	11
Detroit	22	32	.407	15
Kansas City	19	37	.339	19
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	37	20	.649	—
Oakland	29	27	.518	7½
Texas	27	27	.500	8½
Los Angeles	27	29	.482	9½
Seattle	24	35	.407	14
Thursday's Games				
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.				
Tampa Bay 14, Minnesota 3				
Kansas City 4, Texas 2				
Chicago White Sox 10, Cleveland 4				
L.A. Angels 9, Seattle 3				

Friday's Games				
Baltimore 9, San Francisco 6				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 1				
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 3				
Detroit 8, Atlanta 2				
Texas 6, Kansas City 2				
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 1				
Colorado 13, Toronto 6				
Seattle 4, L.A. Angels 3				
Houston at Oakland, 7:07 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Minnesota (Gibson 5-2) at Tampa Bay (TBD), 10:10 a.m.				
Cleveland (Rodriguez 1-5) at Chicago White Sox (Nova 3-4), 11:10 a.m.				
Kansas City (Bailey 4-5) at Texas (Lynn 6-4), 1:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Anderson 0-1) at Baltimore (Hess 1-6), 1:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Norris 2-3) at Atlanta (Soroka 5-1), 1:10 p.m.				
Boston (Porcello 4-4) at N.Y. Yankees (German 9-1), 4:15 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Heaney 0-0) at Seattle (Milone 1-1), 4:15 p.m.				
Toronto (Stroman 3-6) at Colorado (Gray 4-4), 6:10 p.m.				
Houston (Verlander 8-2) at Oakland (Anderson 6-3), 7:07 p.m.				
Sunday's Games				
San Francisco at Baltimore, 10:05 a.m.				
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 10:10 a.m.				
Detroit at Atlanta, 10:20 a.m.				
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.				
Kansas City at Texas, 12:05 p.m.				
Toronto at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.				
Houston at Oakland, 1:07 p.m.				
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 1:10 p.m.				
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.				