

= Portland Trail Blazers =

The Portland Trail Blazers , commonly known as the Blazers , are an American professional basketball team based in Portland , Oregon . The Trail Blazers compete in the National Basketball Association (NBA) as a member club of the league 's Western Conference Northwest Division . The team played its home games in the Memorial Coliseum before moving to Moda Center in 1995 (called the Rose Garden until 2013) . The franchise entered the league as an expansion team in 1970 , and has enjoyed a strong following : from 1977 through 1995 , the team sold out 814 consecutive home games , the longest such streak in American major professional sports at the time , and only since surpassed by the Boston Red Sox . The Trail Blazers have been the only NBA team based in the bi @-@ national Pacific Northwest , after the Vancouver Grizzlies relocated to Memphis and became the Memphis Grizzlies in 2001 , and the Seattle SuperSonics relocated to Oklahoma City and became the Oklahoma City Thunder in 2008 .

The team has advanced to the NBA Finals three times , winning the NBA championship once in 1977 . Their other NBA Finals appearances were in 1990 and 1992 . The team has qualified for the playoffs in 31 seasons of their 45 @-@ season existence , including a streak of 21 straight appearances from 1983 through 2003 , the second longest streak in NBA history . The Trail Blazers ' 31 playoff appearances rank third in the NBA only behind the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs since the team 's inception in 1970 . Six Hall of Fame players have played for the Trail Blazers (Lenny Wilkens , Bill Walton , Clyde Drexler , Dra?en Petrovi? , Arvydas Sabonis , and Scottie Pippen) . Bill Walton is the franchise 's most decorated player ; he was the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player in 1977 , and the regular season MVP the following year . Four Blazer rookies (Geoff Petrie , Sidney Wicks , Brandon Roy and Damian Lillard) have won the NBA Rookie of the Year award . Two Hall of Fame coaches , Lenny Wilkens and Jack Ramsay , have patrolled the sidelines for the Blazers , and two others , Mike Schuler and Mike Dunleavy , have won the NBA Coach of the Year award with the team .

= = History = =

= = = Franchise inception = = =

Sports promoter Harry Glickman sought a National Basketball Association (NBA) franchise for Portland as far back as 1955 when he proposed two new expansion teams , the other to be located in Los Angeles . When the Memorial Coliseum was opened in 1960 Glickman saw the potential it could serve as a professional basketball venue but it was not until February 6 , 1970 , that the NBA board of governors granted him the rights to a franchise in Portland . To raise the money for the \$ 3 @.@ 7 million admission tax , Glickman associated himself to real estate magnates Bob Schmertz of New Jersey , Larry Weinberg of Los Angeles and Herman Sarkowsky of Seattle . Two weeks later , on February 24 , team management held a contest to select the team 's name and received more than 10 @,@ 000 entries . The most popular choice was " Pioneers " , but that name was excluded from consideration as it was already used by sports teams at Portland 's Lewis and Clark College . The name " Trail Blazers " received 172 entries , and was ultimately selected by the judging panel , being revealed on March 13 in the halftime of a SuperSonics game at the Memorial Coliseum . Derived from the trail blazing activity by explorers making paths through forests , Glickman considered it a name that could " reflect both the ruggedness of the Pacific Northwest and the start of a major league era in our state . " Despite initial mixed response , the Trail Blazers name , often shortened to just " Blazers " , became popular in Oregon .

= = = 1970 ? 1974 = = =

Along with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Buffalo Braves (now Los Angeles Clippers) , the Trail Blazers entered the NBA in 1970 as an expansion team , under coach Rolland Todd . Geoff Petrie

and Sidney Wicks led the team in its early years , and the team failed to qualify for the playoffs in its first six seasons of existence . During that span , the team had three head coaches (including future hall of fame Lenny Wilkens) ; team executive Stu Inman also served as coach . The team won the first pick in the NBA draft twice during that span . In 1972 , the team drafted LaRue Martin with the number one pick , and in 1974 the team selected Bill Walton from UCLA .

== 1974 ? 1978 ==

In 1976 , the ABA ? NBA merger saw those two rival leagues join forces . Four ABA teams joined the NBA ; the remaining teams were dissolved and their players distributed among the remaining NBA squads in a dispersal draft . The Trail Blazers selected Maurice Lucas in the dispersal draft . That summer , they also hired Jack Ramsay as head coach .

The two moves , coupled with the team 's stellar play , led Portland to several firsts : winning record (49 ? 33) , playoff appearance , and NBA Championship in 1977 . Starting on April 5 of that year , the team began a sellout streak of 814 straight games ? the longest in American major professional sports history ? which did not end until 1995 , after the team moved into a larger facility .

The team started the 1977 ? 78 season with a 50 ? 10 mark , and some predicted a dynasty in Portland . However , Bill Walton suffered a foot injury that ended his season and would plague him over the remainder of his career , and the team struggled to an 8 ? 14 finish , going 58 ? 24 overall . In the playoffs , Portland lost to the Seattle SuperSonics in the 1978 conference semifinals . That summer , Walton demanded to be traded to a team of his choice (Clippers , Knicks , Warriors , or 76ers) because he was unhappy with his medical treatment in Portland . Walton was never traded , and he held out the entire 1978 ? 79 season and left the team as a free agent thereafter . The team was further dismantled as Lucas left in 1980 .

== 1980 ? 1983 ==

During the 1980s , the team was a consistent presence in the NBA post season , failing to qualify for the playoffs only in 1982 . However , they never advanced past the conference semifinals during the decade . The Pacific Division of the NBA was dominated by the Los Angeles Lakers throughout the decade , and only the Lakers and the Houston Rockets represented the Western Conference in the NBA Finals . Key players for the Blazers during the early 1980s included Mychal Thompson , Billy Ray Bates , Fat Lever , Darnell Valentine , Wayne Cooper , T. R. Dunn , Jim Paxson , and Calvin Natt .

== 1983 ? 1988 ==

In the 1983 draft , the team selected University of Houston guard ? forward Clyde Drexler with the 14th pick ; " Clyde the Glide " would become the face of the franchise for over a decade , and the team 's second most decorated player (after Walton) . In the next year 's draft , the Trail Blazers landed the No. 2 pick in the NBA draft . After the Houston Rockets selected Drexler 's college teammate Akeem Olajuwon at No. 1 , the Trail Blazers selected Kentucky center Sam Bowie . Drafting third , the Chicago Bulls selected Michael Jordan . The selection of the injury plagued Bowie over Jordan has been criticized as one of the worst draft picks in the history of American professional sports . That summer , the Blazers also made a controversial trade , sending Lever , Cooper , and Natt to the Denver Nuggets for high scoring forward Kiki Vandeweghe . In the 1985 draft , the Blazers selected point guard Terry Porter with the last pick of the first round . Porter would go on to become one of the top point guards in the league , and the Blazers ' all time leader in assists .

However , the Blazers continued to struggle in the post season , and in 1986 , Ramsay was fired and replaced with Mike Schuler . Despite this , they were the only team to beat the Boston Celtics on the road that season . That off season , the team drafted two players from behind the Iron Curtain , Arvydas Sabonis and Drazen Petrović , and sent Thompson to the San Antonio

Spurs for former Oregon State University star Steve Johnson . Johnson was a high @-@ scoring forward @-@ center who the team intended to pair with Bowie on the frontline . It was not to be , as Bowie broke his leg five games into the 1986 ? 87 season , missing the next two and a half seasons . During Schuler 's brief tenure , the Blazers failed to advance out of the first round of the NBA playoffs .

= = = = Paul Allen ownership = = = =

In 1988 , Paul Allen purchased the Blazers . His first season as owner was one marked by turmoil , as conflicts erupted over who should start at several positions . Both Vandeweghe and Johnson suffered injuries ; they were replaced in the starting lineup by Jerome Kersey and Kevin Duckworth . Several players , most notably Drexler , were accused of undermining Schuler . The team went 25 ? 22 to open the 1988 ? 89 season , and Schuler was fired . He was replaced on an interim basis with assistant coach Rick Adelman , and Vandeweghe was traded to the New York Knicks . Under Adelman , the team went 14 ? 21 to finish the season , and barely qualified for the playoffs . That off @-@ season , the team traded Sam Bowie (who had returned to the team to end the season) to the New Jersey Nets for forward Buck Williams , and Adelman was given the coaching job on a non @-@ interim basis .

= = = 1988 ? 1995 = = =

The addition of Williams , and the replacement of the defensively challenged Vandeweghe with the defensive @-@ minded Kersey , turned the team from a poor defensive squad into a good one . Led by Drexler , the team reached the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992 , losing to the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls , respectively . Possibly inspired by the 1985 Chicago Bears 's " Super Bowl Shuffle " , during the run @-@ up to their 1990 Finals appearance , the Blazers recorded two songs : " Bust a Bucket " and " Rip City Rhapsody " (with music played and recorded by Josh Mellicker , " Rip City " being a reference to the city 's nickname) . The year in between their two finals appearances , the team posted a league @-@ best 63 ? 19 record before losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference finals . However , the team failed to win an NBA title , and failed to advance past the first round in 1993 and 1994 . Adelman was fired after the 1994 season , and replaced with P. J. Carlesimo , which led to the resignation of executive vice @-@ president Geoff Petrie , a close friend of Adelman 's .

In July 1994 , the Trail Blazers announced the hiring of a new team president , former Seattle SuperSonics general manager Bob Whitsitt . Whitsitt , known as " Trader Bob " for his penchant for making trades , immediately set about revamping the Blazers roster ; this included dismantling the aging Drexler @-@ led team that had twice been to the finals . Drexler requested to be traded to a contender , and the Trail Blazers traded him to the Houston Rockets . In the fall of 1995 , the team left the Memorial Coliseum for a new home , the 20 @,@ 000 @-@ seat Rose Garden Arena . The sellout streak ended in the new building .

= = = 1995 ? 2003 = = =

= = = = 1995 ? 2000 = = = =

Several players left in free agency , including Terry Porter (1995) , Buck Williams (1996) , and Cliff Robinson (1997) , which left Jerome Kersey unprotected in the 1995 expansion draft .

In an effort to rebuild , the team acquired several players who were highly talented , but had reputations for off @-@ court troubles . Isaiah Rider , who was traded by the Minnesota Timberwolves for a draft pick and career backups due to his frequent arrests and lack of punctuality , was arrested for cannabis possession two days before his debut with the Blazers . Rasheed Wallace , who was acknowledged as a hot @-@ tempered player since college , was also acquired ,

in a trade with the Washington Bullets . Point guard Kenny Anderson was signed as a free agent , and subsequently traded to the Toronto Raptors for Damon Stoudamire in February 1998 (the Raptors traded Anderson to the Boston Celtics five days later , because he did not want to play in Canada) . Initially , this approach worked , as the team returned to the Western Conference finals in 1999 under head coach Mike Dunleavy . After being swept by the eventual champion San Antonio Spurs , Whitsitt sent Rider and guard Jim Jackson to the Atlanta Hawks for guard Steve Smith and acquired former All @-@ Star forward Scottie Pippen from the Houston Rockets . The team again advanced to the Western Conference Finals , where they faced a Los Angeles Lakers team led by Shaquille O 'Neal and Kobe Bryant . In that series , the Trail Blazers dropped three out of the first four games before winning the next two , forcing a pivotal Game 7 . The Blazers had a 15 @-@ point lead in the fourth quarter , but lost the game and the series to the Lakers , who went on to win the first of three consecutive titles .

= = = = 2000 ? 2003 = = = =

The Trail Blazers made a series of personnel moves in the 2000 and 2001 off @-@ seasons that failed to produce the desired results . Forward Jermaine O 'Neal was traded to the Indiana Pacers for Dale Davis . Brian Grant signed with the Miami Heat , and was replaced with ex @-@ Seattle forward Shawn Kemp . The team started off well , posting the Western Conference 's best record through March 2001 , and then signed guard Rod Strickland to augment their point guard corps . The move backfired , and the team lost 17 of its remaining 25 games , and was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs (swept by the Los Angeles Lakers) . Some in the media began to criticize the team , and Whitsitt , previously proclaimed a genius for his work in both Seattle and Portland , was criticized . A particular criticism was that Whitsitt was attempting to win a title by assembling a roster of stars , without paying attention to team chemistry . Longtime NBA coach and analyst , Doug Collins , referred to Whitsitt as a " rotisserie @-@ league manager . " A fan was ejected from the Rose Garden for holding up a banner that said " Trade Whitsitt " , and many in the national media started referring to the team as the " Jail Blazers " because of many players ' off @-@ court problems .

That offseason the churning continued ; Dunleavy was fired , and replaced with Maurice Cheeks , a " players ' coach " who some thought would relate better to the players than Dunleavy did . Cheeks brought on Dan Panaggio as assistant coach after a failed courtship with Henry Bibby of Southern California . More transactions followed as the Blazers traded Steve Smith to the Spurs for Derek Anderson . In one of his most controversial moves to that time , Whitsitt signed free agent Ruben Patterson , who had previously pleaded no contest to a felony sexual assault charge and was required to register as a sex offender . Popular center , Arvydas Sabonis , who had a towel flung in his face by Rasheed Wallace during the playoffs , decided to leave the team .

The next two seasons were just as disastrous for the team 's reputation . Several players , including Wallace , Stoudamire , and Qyntel Woods , were cited for marijuana possession . Woods pleaded guilty to first @-@ degree animal abuse for staging dog fights in his house , some involving his pit bull named Hollywood . Hollywood and Woods ' other pit bull , Sugar , were confiscated , and Woods was given eighty hours of community service . He also agreed to donate \$ 10 @,@ 000 to the Oregon Humane Society . Wallace was suspended for seven games for threatening a referee . Zach Randolph and Patterson got in a fight during practice , with Randolph sucker punching his teammate in the eye , an injury which kept Patterson from making a meaningful contribution during the playoffs . When police came to Stoudamire 's house to respond to a burglar alarm , they noticed the smell of marijuana , searched the premises , and found a pound of cannabis located in a crawlspace ; the search was later declared illegal and charges in the matter were dropped . Guard Bonzi Wells famously told Sports Illustrated in a 2002 interview : " We ? re not really going to worry about what the hell (the fans) think about us . They really don ? t matter to us . They can boo us everyday , but they ? re still going to ask for our autographs if they see us on the street . That 's why they ? re fans , and we ? re NBA players . " Wells was fined \$ 50 @,@ 000 by the Blazers for the statement .

Fan discontent soared ; despite the team continuing to post a winning record , attendance at the Rose Garden started to decline . In the summer of 2003 , with attendance declining , the team going nowhere on the court , and an exorbitant payroll , Whitsitt announced that he would leave the team to focus on Paul Allen 's other franchise , the Seattle Seahawks .

== 2003 ? 2006 ==

To replace Whitsitt , the team hired two men at new positions . John Nash , a veteran NBA executive , was hired as general manager , and Steve Patterson as team president . The new management promised a focus on character while remaining playoff contenders ; the team soon published a " 25 @-@ Point Pledge " to fans . Troublesome players including Wells , Wallace , and Jeff McInnis were traded . However , the team failed to qualify for the 2004 NBA Playoffs , ending a streak of 21 straight appearances .

The following year was marked by more trouble as the team plummeted to a 27 ? 55 record . The bankruptcy of the Oregon Arena corporation , which resulted in the Rose Garden being owned by a consortium of investment firms , further alienated the fanbase , as did an incident in which forward Darius Miles (himself African @-@ American) called coach Maurice Cheeks a " nigger " , following it up with more racial invective when Cheeks sought out Nash , referring to Nash as Cheeks ' " daddy . " The latter incident was compounded by what many viewed as inadequate discipline for Miles , followed by a secret agreement between the team and Miles to refund the amount of his fine . Cheeks was fired that season and replaced on an interim basis by director of player @-@ personnel Kevin Pritchard . That summer the team hired Nate McMillan , who had coached the Sonics the prior season , and Pritchard returned to the front office .

The following 2005 ? 06 season was not better , as the Blazers posted a league @-@ worst 21 ? 61 record . Attendance was lower , and the year was not free of player incidents . Players such as Miles , Patterson , Randolph , and Sebastian Telfair were involved in either on @-@ court bickering or off @-@ court legal incidents . Nash was fired at the end of the season , with Steve Patterson assuming the general manager role in addition to his duties as president . In addition , the team had a poor relationship with the management of the Rose Garden , frequently complaining of a " broken economic model . " It was widely speculated by the end of the year that Paul Allen would sell the team , and the team was offered for sale that summer , with several groups expressing interest . However , Allen was willing to spend money and urged Pritchard to make draft @-@ day trades . He subsequently took the team off the market .

== 2006 ? 2011 ==

In the 2006 NBA draft the Blazers traded Viktor Khryapa and draft rights for Tyrus Thomas for draft rights to LaMarcus Aldridge . The Blazers also traded for the sixth pick , Brandon Roy . In the spring of 2007 , Steve Patterson resigned as team president , and Paul Allen entered into an agreement to re @-@ purchase the Rose Garden . On the court , the team finished with a 32 ? 50 record , an 11 @-@ game improvement , and rookie shooting guard Roy was named the 2006 ? 07 Rookie of the Year . That summer Pritchard was promoted to general manager , and former Nike Inc. executive Larry Miller was hired as team president . The Blazers won the 2007 NBA draft lottery and selected Ohio State center Greg Oden with the No. 1 pick in the draft . Some had speculated that they might choose Kevin Durant instead ; Durant was picked at No. 2 by regional rivals the Seattle SuperSonics . Oden suffered a pre @-@ season knee injury requiring microfracture surgery , and missed the entire 2007 ? 08 season . Oden 's constant battle with injuries and Durant 's success resulted in comparisons to the Blazers ' selection of Sam Bowie over Michael Jordan in 1984 .

Despite this , the Trail Blazers had a 13 @-@ game winning streak that began in early December , resulting in a 13 ? 2 record , an NBA best for the month of December . Nate McMillan won NBA Coach of the Month honors , and Roy garnered NBA Western Conference Player of the Week honors in back @-@ to @-@ back weeks (the first Trail Blazer to accomplish the feat since Clyde Drexler in the 1990 ? 91 season) . Western Conference head coaches selected Roy to the 2008

NBA All @-@ Star Game , the first All @-@ Star for the Blazers since Rasheed Wallace in 2001 . The Blazers finished the season 41 ? 41 , their best record since the 2003 ? 04 season . Following the season , the Blazers became the only NBA team for the Pacific Northwest , as the Seattle SuperSonics moved to Oklahoma City .

During the 2008 ? 09 season , after much waiting , Greg Oden debuted with the Blazers , playing in 61 games . Portland also added some international flavor to the team with the arrival of Spanish swingman Rudy Fernández , a member of the Spanish national basketball team . French @-@ native Nicolas Batum emerged as a skilled defensive forward who was inserted into the starting lineup as a rookie . Roy appeared in his second @-@ straight All @-@ Star Game , and Fernández competed in the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest during NBA All @-@ Star Weekend . Roy had a career @-@ high 52 points against the Phoenix Suns and game @-@ winning shots against the Houston Rockets and New York Knicks . The Blazers clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2003 and achieved a 54 ? 28 record , their first winning record since the 2002 ? 03 season . As the fourth seed and holding home court advantage , the Trail Blazers played the fifth @-@ seeded Houston Rockets in the 2009 Playoffs , losing the playoff series 4 games to 2 .

In the 2009 off @-@ season , the Trail Blazers traded the No. 24 pick to Dallas for the No. 22 pick and selected Víctor Claver . They also selected Villanova forward Dante Cunningham with the No. 33 pick , Jon Brockman and guard Patrick Mills . Brockman was traded to the Kings in exchange for No. 31 pick Jeff Pendergraph . Free agent Channing Frye signed with the Phoenix Suns and Sergio Rodríguez was traded to the Kings . The Blazers attempted to sign free agent small forward Hedo Türko?lu , who led the Orlando Magic to the 2009 NBA Finals , but after a verbal agreement he decided to sign with the Toronto Raptors . The Blazers then attempted to sign restricted free agent Paul Millsap ; however , their offer was matched by the Utah Jazz . On July 24 , 2009 , the Trail Blazers signed point guard Andre Miller .

Despite a winning record , injuries hobbled the team for the 2009 ? 2010 season . Reserves Batum and Fernández started the season on the inactive list and forward Travis Outlaw soon followed after a serious foot injury early in the season . Most notably , centers Oden and Joel Przybilla suffered season @-@ ending knee injuries , while Roy and Aldridge played through shoulder , hamstring , ankle and knee injuries . Head Coach Nate McMillan was likewise not spared , suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon during practice and was in a walking boot . Because of the void at the center position , Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard worked out a deal to acquire Marcus Camby from the Los Angeles Clippers in exchange for Steve Blake and Outlaw . Although wins did not come as easily as the season before , the Blazers rallied to finish at 50 ? 32 , and finished 6th in the West . Roy underwent surgery after suffering a torn meniscus in his right knee , but returned for Game 4 of the first round series against the Phoenix Suns . However , the accumulation of injuries was too much to bear , and the short @-@ handed Trail Blazers lost the series 4 ? 2 to the Suns .

== == 2010 ? 2011 == ==

During the 2010 off @-@ season , the Blazers ' front office experienced significant personnel changes beginning in July with the announcement of new general manager Rich Cho , succeeding former general manager Kevin Pritchard , who was relieved of his duties after the 2010 NBA draft . Cho became the first general manager of Asian descent in NBA history . On August 12 , the Trail Blazers signed two new assistant general managers , Bill Branch and Steve Rosenberry . Branch and Rosenberry replaced former assistant general manager Tom Penn , who was released by Portland in March . The organization also made changes to Nate McMillan 's coaching staff by hiring Bernie Bickerstaff , Bob Ociepka and Buck Williams , with Bickerstaff assuming the lead assistant coach position due to the departure of Monty Williams . The Blazers acquired rookies Armon Johnson , Luke Babbitt , and Elliot Williams from the 2010 NBA draft and off @-@ season trades . On July 21 , Wesley Matthews signed a five @-@ year deal with the Blazers after his former team , the Utah Jazz , declined to match Portland 's offer .

Similar to the previous season , Portland was overcome with injuries from the start of the 2010 ? 11 season . Jeff Pendergraph and rookie guard Elliot Williams both suffered knee injuries that sidelined

them for the season ; Portland later waived Pendergraph . In November , they announced that Oden would have microfracture surgery on his left knee , ending his 2010 ? 2011 season . This injury marked Oden 's third NBA season cut short due to a knee injury . Three @-@ time All @-@ Star Brandon Roy underwent double @-@ arthroscopic surgery on January 17 , 2011 , to repair both knees after dealing with constant struggles , leaving his future up in the air . Just days after , Marcus Camby also underwent arthroscopic knee surgery to repair his left knee .

Despite struggles with injury , Portland performed at a playoff level throughout the season . LaMarcus Aldridge emerged as the focal point of the team and posted career @-@ high numbers , as well as Western Conference Player of the Week and Month honors . Wesley Matthews also emerged in the absence of Brandon Roy , proving his worth as the Blazers ' key off @-@ season addition . Believing the team could make a significant run in the playoffs , Cho executed his first major trade on February 24 , 2011 , just seven minutes before the deadline . The Trail Blazers sent forward Dante Cunningham , center Joel Przybilla and center Sean Marks to the Charlotte Bobcats in return for former All @-@ Star and All @-@ Defensive forward Gerald Wallace . The emergence of Aldridge and the play of Matthews kept the Blazers competitive , sealing another playoff berth by winning 48 games . However , like in their last two postseasons , the Blazers were eliminated in six games of the first round , this time against the eventual champions , the Dallas Mavericks .

During the 2011 off @-@ season , the Blazers released Cho , reportedly due to communication and " chemistry issues " with owner Paul Allen . Director of Scouting Chad Buchanan took over as acting interim General Manager . The dismissal of Cho was criticized by Sports Illustrated as " illogical " , although they noted that Allen had done a lot of questionable moves during his tenure as team owner .

On June 23 , 2011 , in the NBA draft , the Trail Blazers drafted guards Nolan Smith from Duke University with the 21st selection and Jon Diebler from Ohio State University with the 51st selection . On the same day , the Blazers front office had made a three @-@ team trade with the Denver Nuggets and Dallas Mavericks . The trade sent Blazers guards Andre Miller to Denver and Rudy Fernández to Dallas along with international player Petteri Koponen , who had yet to make an appearance for Portland ; Denver then sent guard Raymond Felton to Portland and Denver also received rookie forward Jordan Hamilton from Dallas as well as a future second @-@ round pick from Portland .

== = 2011 ? 2013 == =

A lockout put transactions on hold until early December , and the Blazers were hit with three downfalls once the date came : Brandon Roy announced his retirement due to chronic knee problems , Greg Oden was diagnosed with yet another setback involving his ongoing knee issues , and LaMarcus Aldridge underwent heart surgery . Interim GM Chad Buchanan signed three free agents in the week before Portland 's first exhibition game : Kurt Thomas , Jamal Crawford and Craig Smith .

In the shortened 2011 ? 12 NBA season , the Blazers got off to a 7 ? 2 start . But the team quickly began to collapse , as starting point guard Raymond Felton , among others , struggled with McMillan 's new approach to a running @-@ style offense . The team gained some notability as Aldridge was named to his first All @-@ Star Game . Despite Aldridge 's performance , the rest of the team became more inconsistent .

On March 15 , 2012 , the Trail Blazers made several moves , including two trades before the 3 pm EST deadline . Center Marcus Camby was sent to the Houston Rockets in exchange for center Hasheem Thabeet and point guard Jonny Flynn . Portland also received Houston 's second @-@ round draft pick in the 2012 NBA draft . Portland then traded forward Gerald Wallace to the New Jersey Nets for center Mehmet Okur , forward Shawne Williams , and New Jersey 's first @-@ round , top @-@ 3 @-@ protected pick in the 2012 NBA draft . All four players acquired in the trades held expiring contracts , meaning they would be free agents at the end of the season . Oden was released from the roster after playing a total of 82 games in five NBA seasons , being cut along with Chris Johnson in order to make room for the incoming traded players . Finally , head coach

Nate McMillan was also fired , leaving the franchise with the third @-@ most coaching wins , behind Jack Ramsay and Rick Adelman . Portland named Kaleb Canales as the interim head coach for the rest of the 2011 ? 2012 NBA season . A few days later , Portland claimed forward J. J. Hickson off waivers from the Sacramento Kings . After shaking up the roster and limping to the end of the regular season with a 28 ? 38 record and finishing out of playoff contention for the first time in three years , the team entered the offseason on the search for a general manager and new head coach .

At the 2012 NBA draft lottery on May 30 , the Blazers secured the number 6 pick of the draft via the Brooklyn Nets from the Gerald Wallace trade , and also ended up with the number 11 pick due to their own record . Neil Olshey became the new GM in June , making it just over a year since the Blazers had had a non @-@ interim general manager .

On June 28 , 2012 , the Blazers selected Weber State guard Damian Lillard and University of Illinois center Meyers Leonard with the 6th and 11th picks overall , respectively . They also selected University of Memphis guard Will Barton with the 40th pick overall , and traded the rights of the 41st overall pick , University of Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor , to the Brooklyn Nets for cash considerations .

Headed by their new general manager Olshey , the Trail Blazers front office further made a few changes during July 2012 . The Blazers signed their 30th pick from the 2006 draft , Joel Freeland , and their 22nd pick from the 2009 draft , Víctor Claver , as well as re @-@ signing Hickson and Nicolas Batum . They also signed veteran point guard Ronnie Price to back up Lillard , who was selected as co @-@ MVP of the 2012 Las Vegas Summer League . Dallas Mavericks assistant coach Terry Stotts was hired as head coach on August 7 , 2012 .

Under the reins of Lillard , the Blazers played well into January 2013 , posting a 20 ? 15 record . On January 11 , 2013 , at home against the Miami Heat , Wesley Matthews made two consecutive three @-@ pointers late in the fourth quarter to help the Blazers secure a 92 ? 90 victory . However , despite the Blazers remaining among the playoff contenders for most of the season , injuries to starters Batum , LaMarcus Aldridge , and Matthews , as well as a losing streak of 13 games ? the longest in the franchise 's history ? led to the 11th position in the West , with a 33 ? 49 record . Averaging 19 @.@ 0 points , 6 @.@ 5 assists , and 3 @.@ 1 rebounds , Lillard was unanimously named Rookie of the Year , joining Ralph Sampson , David Robinson , and Blake Griffin as the only unanimous selections in NBA history .

== = 2013 ? 2015 = = =

Going into the 2013 NBA draft , the Trail Blazers held four picks : the 10th pick in the first round and three second @-@ round picks . The Blazers selected guard C. J. McCollum out of Lehigh University with their 10th pick , and also selected center Jeff Withey from Kansas , power forward Grant Jerrett from Arizona , and Montenegrin big man Marko Todorović . In addition , Cal guard Allen Crabbe was acquired from the Cleveland Cavaliers in exchange for two second @-@ round picks , in the 2015 and 2016 drafts .

The Blazers finished the 2014 season with 21 more wins than the previous season , which amounted for the largest single @-@ season improvement in franchise history . This included a period in November when they won 11 straight games , and 13 ? 2 in the month overall , for which coach Terry Stotts took home Coach of the Month honors . On December 12 , 2013 , Aldridge scored 31 points and pulled down 25 rebounds in a home game against the Rockets , the first time a Trail Blazer recorded a 30 @-@ point , 25 @-@ rebound game . On December 14 , 2013 , the Blazers made a franchise @-@ record 21 three @-@ pointers against the Philadelphia 76ers . They tied the new record 19 days later against the Charlotte Bobcats , becoming the first NBA team to make 20 or more three @-@ pointers in a game more than once in a season . Lillard was voted in as a reserve to his first All @-@ Star game , joining Aldridge to represent Portland at the game . Portland finished 54 ? 28 , securing the fifth seed in the playoffs against the Rockets . The team also shot 81 @.@ 5 % at the free throw line , made 770 three pointers , and started four players for all 82 regular @-@ season games , all franchise records .

The first @-@ round series against the Rockets was a tight one , with three of the six games going

to overtime . The Blazers fared well in the first two games despite not having home @-@ court advantage , beating Houston 122 @-@ 120 and 112 @-@ 105 in Games 1 and 2 respectively , fueled by Aldridge 's 46 points and 18 rebounds in Game 1 , and 43 points and 3 blocks in Game 2 . The biggest headline came in the sixth game of the series with the Rockets threatening to force a Game 7 back at Houston . Down two points with 0 @. @ 9 seconds left in the game , Damian Lillard hit a buzzer @-@ beating three @-@ pointer to close out the series , and the Blazers advanced to the semifinals for the first time since 2000 , where they lost to the eventual champion San Antonio Spurs in 5 games .

During the 2014 offseason , Olshey signed center Chris Kaman and two @-@ time former Blazer guard Steve Blake to bolster the bench . Expectations by sportswriters and analysts were high for the Trail Blazers going into the 2015 NBA season given their surprise success in 2013 ? 14 . The Blazers beat the reigning Northwest Division Champion Oklahoma City Thunder 106 @-@ 89 in their season opener at home on October 29 , 2014 . Like the season before , the Trail Blazers dominated the month of November , at one point winning nine straight games from November 9 to November 26 before being defeated by the Memphis Grizzlies . Injuries , which had not amounted to significance the previous season , started to inflict themselves on various players . Starting center Lopez fractured his right hand in a game against the Spurs on December 15 , 2014 , and would miss the next 23 games . Initially , the Blazers were much unfazed , winning 129 ? 119 in triple overtime against the Spurs on December 19 , a game that saw Lillard and Aldridge combine for 75 points on 29 field goals ; Lillard netted a career @-@ high 43 points . Four days later , Lillard hit a three @-@ pointer to tie the game and force overtime against the Thunder en route to 40 points and a 115 ? 111 victory . Three Blazers went to New Orleans for the All Star Weekend : Matthews for the Foot Locker Three @-@ Point Contest , Lillard as a reserve to the All @-@ Star Game , and Aldridge as a starter to the All @-@ Star game .

More injuries appeared around the start of the new year , which forced Aldridge , Batum , and Joel Freeland to miss various amounts of time , but none greater than Wesley Matthews ' Achilles tendon tear on March 5 , 2015 . Called " the heart and soul " of the team by Aldridge , Matthews was in the midst of a career year when the freak injury occurred in a game against the Mavericks . The loss of his defense , three @-@ point shooting and hustle was part of the reason why the Blazers stumbled in the latter half of the season . In the first half of the season , the Blazers had a record of 30 ? 11 , allowed opponents to score an average of 97 @. @ 0 points , and forced them to shoot 29 @. @ 7 % on three @-@ pointers ; in the second half the Blazers regressed to a 21 ? 20 record , allowed 100 @. @ 2 points , and let opponents shoot 37 @. @ 9 % from three . The Blazers clinched a return trip to the playoffs on March 30 , 2015 , defeating the Phoenix Suns , 109 ? 86 . Finishing the season 51 ? 31 , they clinched their first Northwest Division title since 1999 , but fell to the Grizzlies in five games in the first round of the playoffs .

= = = 2015 ? present = = =

In the 2015 NBA draft , the Blazers selected Arizona forward Rondae Hollis @-@ Jefferson and subsequently traded him to the Brooklyn Nets along with Steve Blake for center Mason Plumlee and the 42nd pick , Pat Connaughton .

After losing four of their five starters at the end of the 2014 ? 15 season , the Blazers won 44 games , were the 5th seed in the Western Conference , and beat the Clippers in six games in the first round but were eliminated by the Golden state Warriors in five games in the conference semifinals .

= = Season @-@ by @-@ season results = =

In the Blazers ' 46 years of existence (through 2016) , they have qualified for the NBA playoffs 32 times , including a streak of 21 straight playoff appearances from 1983 through 2003 . The team has one NBA title , in 1977 , and appeared in the NBA Finals two other times , in 1990 and 1992 . The best record posted by the team was 63 ? 19 , in 1991 ; the worst record was 18 ? 64 , in the team 's

second season .

= = Players = =

= = = Current roster = = =

= = = Retained draft rights = = =

The Trail Blazers hold the draft rights to the following unsigned draft picks who have been playing outside the NBA . A drafted player , either an international draftee or a college draftee who isn 't signed by the team that drafted him , is allowed to sign with any non @-@ NBA teams . In this case , the team retains the player 's draft rights in the NBA until one year after the player 's contract with the non @-@ NBA team ends . This list includes draft rights that were acquired from trades with other teams .

= = = Retired numbers = = =

1 As team owner and founder , number is still available to players .

2 Ramsay did not play for the team ; the number represents the 1977 NBA Championship he won while coaching the Blazers .

3 Number retired twice in 2008

= = = Basketball Hall of Famers = = =

= = = = Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame = = = =

Notes :

1 In total , Wilkens was inducted into the Hall of Fame three times : as player , as coach and as a member of the 1992 Olympic team .

2 Inducted posthumously .

3 In total , Drexler was inducted into the Hall of Fame twice : as player and as a member of the 1992 Olympic team .

4 In total , Pippen was inducted into the Hall of Fame twice : as player and as a member of the 1992 Olympic team .

= = = = FIBA Hall of Fame = = = =

Notes :

1 Inducted posthumously .

= = = = Oregon Sports Hall of Fame = = = =

The Oregon Sports Hall of Fame honors Oregon athletes , teams , coaches , and others who have made a significant contribution to sports in Oregon . Also inducted into the Hall are the 1976 ? 77 team , and the following Trail Blazers ' players :

= = = Franchise leaders = = =

Bold denotes still active with team .

Italic denotes still active but not with team .

Points scored (regular season) (as of the end of the 2015 ? 16 season)
Other statistics (regular season) (as of April 14 , 2016)

= = = Individual awards = = =

= = = NBA draft = = =

The Trail Blazers have had the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft four times in their history ; each time selecting a center . In 1972 the choice was LaRue Martin , Bill Walton was picked in 1974 , Mychal Thompson in 1978 , and Greg Oden was taken in 2007 . Several Blazer picks have been criticized by NBA commentators as particularly unwise :

The selection of Martin over Bob McAdoo .

The selection of Thompson over Larry Bird (drafted No. 6 by the Boston Celtics) in 1978 .

The selection of center Sam Bowie with the No. 2 pick in the 1984 NBA draft over Michael Jordan (who was then drafted by the Chicago Bulls) ; other notable players taken later in that draft include future Hall @-@ of @-@ Famers Charles Barkley and John Stockton .

The selection of Greg Oden over Kevin Durant in the 2007 NBA draft

Other notable draft picks include player @-@ coach Geoff Petrie , Sidney Wicks , Larry Steele , Lionel Hollins and Jim Paxson in the 1970s and Clyde Drexler , Jerome Kersey , Terry Porter and Arvydas Sabonis in the 1980s .

In the 1990s , the Blazers selected Jermaine O 'Neal and in the modern millennium drafted Zach Randolph and , in 2006 , acquired Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge in a draft day that included six trades involving the Trail Blazers .

= = Team branding = =

The team 's colors are red , black , white , and silver , which was added in 2002 . The team 's " pinwheel " logo , originally designed by the cousin of Glickman , is a graphic interpretation of two five @-@ on @-@ five basketball teams lined up against each other . One side of the pinwheel is red ; the other side is silver (formerly black or white) . The logo has gone from a vertical alignment to a slanted one starting in the 1991 season , creating a straight edge along the top

Portland 's home uniforms are white in color , with red , black , and silver accents ; the primary road uniform is black , with red , white , and silver accents . The alternate road uniform is red with white , silver , and black accents . From 1970 to the 1977 ? 78 season , the team wore red road uniforms , switching to black in that year , with a switch from horizontal lettering with the tail added on the last letter to vertical lettering midway through its lifespan . The team again wore red from 1979 to 1985 , switching back to black road jerseys after that . In 2002 , the team reintroduced red jerseys . The team 's uniforms have remained nearly the same since the 1977 ? 78 season , featuring a " blaze " strip diagonal down the jersey and into the shorts . Notable alterations include the change from lowercase lettering to uppercase in 1991 ? 92 , tapered ends on the letters and silver trim in 2002 ? 03 , and the return of the city name to the black road jerseys in 2006 ? 07 . In the 2009 ? 10 NBA season they introduced a special jersey commemorating the Blazers ' " Rip City " nickname , borrowing elements from their old and current logos . For the 2012 ? 13 NBA season , the red jerseys were slightly altered , featuring a straightened " Portland " script and black lettering with silver trim , along with a modified " blaze " striping , " Rip City " shorts script and pinwheel logo in front of the uniform .

The team 's mascot is Blaze the Trail Cat , a two @-@ tone silver @-@ colored mountain lion , which has been the team 's official mascot since 2002 . Prior to Blaze 's debut , the Trail Blazers never had any official mascot . A popular unofficial mascot was the late Bill " The Beerman " Scott , a Seattle beer vendor / cheerleader who worked for numerous pro teams , including the Trail Blazers , the Seattle Seahawks , and the Seattle Mariners . Scott worked for the Trail Blazers from 1981 through 1985 .

= = Front office = =

The team is owned by Microsoft co @-@ founder Paul Allen ; ownership of the Trail Blazers is via a series of holding companies which Allen owns . Vulcan Inc. is a private corporation in which Allen is the chairman and sole shareholder . A subsidiary of Vulcan , Vulcan Sports and Entertainment (VSE) , manages Allen 's sports @-@ related properties , including the Trail Blazers , the Seattle Seahawks NFL team , the Seattle Sounders MLS team , and the Moda Center . In the fall of 2012 , Peter McLoughlin was named CEO of Vulcan Sports and Entertainment .

The Trail Blazers as a corporate entity are owned by VSE . Allen serves as the team 's chairman , and his longtime associate Bert Kolde is vice @-@ chairman . The position of president and chief executive officer is held by Chris McGowan , with Larry Miller having held the job until resigning in July 2012 . The post of chief operating officer is vacant ; the most recent COO of the team was Mike Golub , who resigned in July 2008 to take a more enhanced role with VSE . Kevin Pritchard served as general manager of the Trail Blazers until he was fired on June 24 , 2010 . The announcement was issued by the Blazers ' head office just an hour before the beginning of the 2010 NBA draft . A month later , the Blazers named Oklahoma City Thunder assistant general manager Rich Cho as their new general manager . Cho was fired less than a year later , and director of college scouting Chad Buchanan served as interim general manager for the entire 2011 ? 12 season . In June 2012 , the Trail Blazers hired Neil Olshey as general manager .

Before Allen purchased the team in 1988 , the Trail Blazers were owned by a group of investors headed by Larry Weinberg , who is chairman emeritus .

= = Venues = =

The Trail Blazers play their home games in the Moda Center , a multipurpose arena which is located in Portland 's Rose Quarter , northeast of downtown . The Moda Center , originally named the Rose Garden , opened in 1995 and can seat a total of 19 @, @ 980 spectators for basketball games ; capacity increases to 20 @, @ 580 with standing room . Like the Trail Blazers , the Moda Center is owned by Paul Allen through subsidiary Vulcan Sports and Entertainment , and the arena is managed by Global Spectrum . During a two @-@ year period between 2005 and 2007 , the arena was owned by a consortium of creditors who financed its construction after the Oregon Arena Corporation , a now @-@ defunct holding company owned by Allen , filed for bankruptcy in 2004 . In August 2013 , the arena 's name was changed from the Rose Garden to the Moda Center , after the Blazers ' front office officials reached a \$ 4 million agreement with Moda Health Corporation . The name change was met with considerable criticism from fans .

Prior to 1995 , the Trail Blazers home venue was the Memorial Coliseum , which today stands adjacent to the Moda Center . This facility , built in 1960 , can seat 12 @, @ 888 spectators for basketball . It was renamed the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in 2011 .

= = In @-@ game entertainment = = =

The team has a cheerleading @-@ dance squad known as the BlazerDancers . Consisting of 16 members , the all @-@ female BlazerDancers perform dance routines at home games , charity events , and promotional events . The 2008 ? 2009 team held auditions in late July 2008 . Seven new dancers , as well as nine returning dancers made up the new team . A junior dance team composed of 8- to 11 @-@ year @-@ old girls also performs at selected home games , as does a hip hop dance troupe . Other regular in @-@ game entertainment acts include a co @-@ educational acrobatic stunt team which performs technically difficult cheers , a break dancing squad known as the Portland TrailBreakers , and a pair of percussion acts .

= = Fan support and " Blazermania " = =

The relationship between the team and its fans , commonly known as " Blazermania " , has been well @-@ chronicled . The Trail Blazers have long been one of the NBA 's top draws , with the exception of two periods in the team 's history . The team drew poorly during its first four seasons of existence , failing to average more than 10 @,@ 000 spectators per game . Attendance increased in 1974 , when the team drafted Bill Walton .

The phenomenon known as Blazermania started during the 1976 ? 77 season , when the team posted its first winning record , made its first playoff appearance , and captured its only NBA title , defeating the heavily favored Philadelphia 76ers in the NBA Finals ; the team has been popular in Portland since that time . That season , the team started a sellout streak which continued until the team moved into the Rose Garden in 1995 . The team continued to average over 19 @,@ 000 spectators per game until the 2003 ? 04 season , when attendance declined after the team continued to suffer image problems due to the " Jail Blazer " reputation it had gained , and was no longer as competitive on the court . After drafting eventual Rookie of the Year and three @-@ time All Star Brandon Roy in 2006 , attendance climbed in the 2006 ? 07 season and continued to rebound in the 2007 ? 08 season . The final 27 home games of the 2007 ? 2008 season were consecutive sell @-@ outs , a streak which continued through the entire 2008 ? 2009 season and into the start of the 2011 ? 2012 season .

= = Media = =

= = = Television and radio broadcast = = =

Like all NBA franchises , games of the Trail Blazers are routinely broadcast via television and radio . The team was one of the first in the NBA to produce its own television broadcasts . The team 's television production facility is known as Post @-@ Up Productions . Television broadcasts of Blazer games , when not carried on a national network , are broadcast either on Comcast SportsNet Northwest or the Blazers Television Network , a network of five over @-@ the @-@ air television stations (four in Oregon ; one in Washington) . The flagship station of the Blazers Television Network is KGW in Portland .

For the 2007 ? 08 season , all but six regular @-@ season games were carried on one these networks ; the other six were broadcast nationally on TNT or ESPN . Thirty @-@ four games were produced and broadcast in high @-@ definition television . The Trail Blazers ' former television play @-@ by @-@ play team was Mike Barrett and Mike Rice , joined by sideline reporter Michael Holton , who succeeded Terry Porter (2010 ? 11) and Rebecca Haarlow (2009 ? 10) . The team was also known for its long association with Steve " Snapper " Jones , who played for the team prior to his career as a television analyst ; Jones departed the franchise in 2005 .

All Trail Blazer games are broadcast over the radio , with broadcasting carried on the Trail Blazers radio network , which consists of 25 stations located in the Pacific Northwest . The flagship station of the Blazers ' radio network is 620 KPOJ in Portland . The radio broadcasting team consists of play @-@ by @-@ play announcer Brian Wheeler and studio host Jay Allen . All games are preceded by a pre @-@ game analysis show , Blazers Courtside , and followed by a post @-@ game show known as The 5th Quarter . Bob Akamian served as studio host until halfway through the 2010 ? 2011 season , when the team hired away Adam Bjaranson from their over @-@ the @-@ air TV partner , KGW , and former Trail Blazers ' player Michael Holton is the studio analyst . The original radio announcer for the team was Bill Schonely , who served as the team 's radio play @-@ by @-@ play announcer from 1970 until his retirement in 1998 ? calling 2 @,@ 522 Blazers games ? and remains with the team as a community ambassador .

Trail Blazers broadcasts have been criticized on several fronts . The broadcast personalities , all of whom are Trail Blazers employees , have been criticized in the media for being " homers " ; further it has been alleged that the 2005 departure of Steve Jones was due in part to team displeasure with Jones ' sometimes frank analysis of the team 's on @-@ court performance and off @-@ court decisions . Furthermore , the team 's television contract with CSN Northwest has been criticized due

to the channel 's lack of carriage on satellite television providers such as DirecTV and Dish Network , both of which compete with Comcast 's cable television operations .

On June 16 , 2016 , The Oregonian reported that Barrett , Rice , and analyst Antonio Harvey had been released by the Trail Blazers . Wheeler will call games on radio alone , while new television commentators are to be determined . The three personalities will still receive pay for the final season of their contracts . The change comes as part of a plan by the team to overhaul its telecasts as it enters the final year of its current television deal with CSN Northwest .

On July 6 , 2016 , the team renewed its contract with CSN Northwest through the 2020 @-@ 2021 season . Under the new deal , CSN Northwest will have exclusive rights to all Trail Blazers games beginning in the 2017 @-@ 18 season . The team had originally considered an arrangement with KPTV , under which games would be broadcast over @-@ the @-@ air and simulcast via an internet service , but deals with potential streaming partners fell through . Root Sports Northwest made a higher @-@ value , long @-@ term offer . However , the offer was rejected for its potential impact on reach ; although DirecTV , which serves 33 % of the Portland market , carries the network by virtue of its co @-@ ownership by AT & T , Root Sports could not guarantee whether its carriage deal with Comcast Cable , which serves 55 % of the Portland market , would be renewed . Team president Chris McGowan also praised the recent leadership changes at the CSN networks , noting that their new president David Preschlack (formerly of ESPN) had a background in television distribution .

= = = Press relations = = =

Several local news outlets provide in @-@ depth coverage of the Trail Blazers . Chief among them is The Oregonian , the largest paper in the state of Oregon . Other newspapers providing detailed coverage of the team (including the assignment of beat writers to cover the team) include the Portland Tribune , a weekly Portland paper , and the Vancouver , Washington Columbian . Notable local journalists to cover the team include John Canzano of the Oregonian , Jason Quick of CSNNW , and Dwight Jaynes of the Portland Tribune . Online coverage of the Oregonian is provided through OregonLive.com , a website collaboration between the paper and Advance Internet . In addition to making Oregonian content available , oregonlive.com hosts several blogs covering the team written by Oregonian journalists , as well as an additional blog , " Blazers Blog " , written by Sean Meagher .

Relations between the team and The Oregonian have often been tense ; the paper is editorially independent of the team and is often critical . During the Steve Patterson era , relations between the two institutions became increasingly hostile ; several NBA executives told ESPN 's Chris Sheridan that the situation was the " most dysfunctional media @-@ team relationship " that they could recall . For instance during a portion of a pre @-@ 2006 NBA draft workout , which was closed to the media , an Oregonian reporter looked through a curtain separating the press from the workout and wrote about this on his blog . Outraged , the team closed subsequent practices to the press altogether , leading John Canzano of the paper to respond with outrage on his blog . In November 2006 , the Oregonian commissioned an outside editor to investigate the deteriorating relationship , a move the rival Willamette Week called " unusual " . In the report , both sides were criticized somewhat , but did not make any revelations which were unexpected .

Additional coverage is offered by various blogs , including Blazers Edge (part of SB Nation) and The Portland Roundball Society (part of ESPN 's TrueHoop Network) .