



**BLAZER BOOSTER CLUB NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2021**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR BLAZER BOOSTER CLUB FAMILY

UPCOMING DATES:

Before Jan 31st, let Sharon know your predictions.

Before Feb 10th RSVP to Sharon for zoom happy hour.

ITEMS IN THE NEWSLETTER:

BLAZER BIRTHDAYS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GAME OF "PREDICT THE WINS "

"ZOOM SOCIAL"

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM GARRETT THORNTON

SCHEDULE

HOW TO REACH OFFICERS

BLAZER BIRTHDAYS:

FEB 11 NASSIR LITTLE

FEB 15 DERRICK JONES JR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Should I stop drinking Portland water? Is there something in that water that is accelerating all these Blazer injuries? It's not fluoride (which voters rejected in 2013), so what could it be? Of course, I'm joking but for 2 years in a row we've lost 3 starters due to major injuries: Nurkic and Collins both years, Hood last season, and CJ this season. It is very disappointing, but hopefully the remaining crew will keep our team in a decent position with the hope for getting our players back for a successful playoff run. We'll also see how the young players perform, hopefully well!

Some important NBA dates:

- Feb. 6: Most free agents signed to same or different teams last off-season now eligible to be traded
- Feb. 23: 10-Day contracts may now be signed
- Feb. 27: Standard NBA contracts guaranteed for season
- Mar. 5-10: NBA All-Star break (NO actual game or activities)
- Mar. 25: NBA Trade Deadline
- May 18-21: Play-In Tournament
- May 22-July 22: 2021 NBA Playoffs

Blazer Trivia (answers at end of newsletter)

1. What season was the Blazers initial one?
 2. What season was the Blazer Dancers initial one?
 3. What season was the Blaze, The Mascot's initial one?
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A GAME TO KEEP US CONNECTED AND AMUSED

1. Predict the Blazers W-L record for February. There are 14 games. You must email me (sbranning@comcast.net) or call me (360-260-9951) **before January 31st** to get your prediction counted. Hmm... there could be a prize for the winner. A tiebreaker would be the closest to the combined score of the Blazer-Laker game on Friday, February 26th. Those people who participate will get an email or a mailing as to everyone's predictions. ** In case of games being rescheduled or cancelled, I will calculate the percentage according to games played. So, get your predictions and the tie breaker score to me!

NOW TO REALLY CONNECT US

Hey Boosters----Let's Get Together for a Blazer Booster "Happy Hour" via ZOOM on Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021 at 4pm. Marja Yingling will be hosting this event on ZOOM and will send out a ZOOM invitation link for those that RSVP to Sharon Branning by Wednesday, Feb. 10. Here's what you need to do:

1. RSVP to Sharon Branning (sbranning@comcast.net or 360-260-9951) by **Wed., Feb. 10.**
2. Download the "FREE" ZOOM program by googling, "zoom.us" on your computer or mobile phone. Click on "Sign up, it's free" and follow the steps. Then you are all set. If you don't have a computer, you can join the

“Happy Hour” over the phone, by dialing a specific phone number with the invitation link.

3. You will receive a ZOOM invitation link for the Booster “Happy Hour” a week before Feb.21 via email from Marja Yingling.
4. If you are not familiar with ZOOM and how it works, email Marja at marja.yingling68@gmail.com or call 503-659-1663 and she could set up a practice session a couple of days before the “Happy Hour” date to get familiar with ZOOM before we meet for “Happy Hour”.

This is a wonderful way to see everyone, reconnect with other Blazer Boosters from our club, and a way to have fun!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM GARRETT

It was March 25th, 2019 and the Brooklyn Nets were in Portland. The game went to double overtime and the Blazers won a thriller 148-144. But this was not a win to celebrate. With a little over two minutes left in the 2nd overtime, Jusuf Nurkic went up for a rebound and came down awkwardly. This led to a compound fracture of his tibia and fibula in his left leg.

With this injury a lot of people thought that the season was over. The Blazers lost their starting center for the rest of the season.

The Blazers then went on to win 7 out of the remaining 9 games in the regular season before heading to the playoffs as the number 3 seed in the Western Conference. For the first time in 19 years the Blazers found themselves in the Western Conference Finals.

All of this after a devastating injury.

The next year, the Blazers found themselves in a similar situation. Coming into the 2019-2020 season, the Blazers had high hopes, however they found themselves hamstrung by injuries once again. Nurkic played only 8 games, Zach Collins played only 11 games (shoulder injury), and Rodney Hood played only 22 games (torn Achilles).

Despite playing short-handed again, the Blazers stormed into “the bubble” in Orlando winning 6 out of 8 games followed by a play-in win against the Grizzlies to earn the #8 seed in the Western Conference Playoffs.

Déjà vu can be a terrible feeling and all Rip City residents feel as if we are living in a constant state of repeat.

Another season and more injuries are piling up. Collins has not played this season and is out indefinitely. Nurkic had successful surgery on a fracture in his wrist and will be re-evaluated in 6 weeks. CJ McCollum has a hairline fracture in his foot and will be re-evaluated in 4 weeks.

But, as in previous seasons, there is still hope. And that hope wears the letter O.

Damian Lillard has been the constant in all the ups and downs and will once again be called on to be one of the best leaders in the league.

Saturday when McCollum injured his foot, Lillard played 42 minutes, leading the Blazers to a win over the Atlanta Hawks. Lillard did everything, scoring 36 points to go along with 7 rebounds, 7 assists, 1 steal, and taking a game-winning charge.

Before the 2019 season there was a poll performed of NBA General Managers. They were asked who the best leader was in the entire league. Their answer.... Lillard. With 41% of the vote.

That leadership is going to be called on in a major way in the months to come. This team is short-handed, but will surely roll with the punches, and compete as they always do.

This year's team is still searching for an identity, especially with the changes in rotation caused by injuries. A few story lines to keep an eye on in the games to come.

- Hard-nosed perimeter defense from Derrick Jones Jr. and Robert Covington.
- Outside shooting of Gary Trent Jr. and Rodney Hood.
- Whether the Blazers make a move for another big man or backup point guard.
- Emergence of young guys; Harry Giles, Anfernee Simons, Nassir Little

Injuries are part of the game, but it feels as if the Blazers have had more than their fair share over the previous few seasons. With Lillard as the leader of this team, the Blazers will find a way to weather the storm and once again be a Western Conference Playoff team.

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

MONDAY	FEB 1	5:00	@MILWAUKEE BUCKS
THURSDAY	FEB 4	4:00	@PHILADELPHIA 76ERS
SATURDAY	FEB 6	10:00AM	@NEW YORK KNICKS
SUNDAY	FEB 7	10:00AM	@CHARLOTTE HORNETS
TUESDAY	FEB 9	7:00	ORLANDO MAGIC
THURSDAY	FEB 11	7:00	PHILADELPHIA 76ERS
FRIDAY	FEB 12	7:00	CLEVELAND CAVALIERS
SUNDAY	FEB 14	12:30 PM	@DALLAS MAVERICKS
TUESDAY	FEB 16	5:00	@OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER
WEDNESDAY	FEB 17	5:00	@NEW ORLEANS PELICANS
SATURDAY	FEB 20	7:00	WASHINGTON WIZARDS
MAONDAY	FEB 22	6:00	@PHOENIX SUNS
TUESDAY	FEB 23	7:00	@DENVER NUGGETS
FRIDAY	FEB 26	7:00	@LOS ANGELES LAKERS
MONDAY	MAR 1	7:30	CHARLOTTE HORNETS
WEDNESDAY	MAR 3	7:00	GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
THURSDAY	MAR 4	7:00	SACRAMENTO KINGS

Blazer Trivia Answers

1. 1970-71

2. 1988-89

3. 2002-03

INFORMATION ON THE BLAZER BOOSTER CLUB:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlazerBoosterClub>

Email questions or concerns blazerboosterclub@gmail.com

