

## GOLF

KAPALUA, Hawaii

## Source: ABC not part of new PGA television deal

ABC Sports is no longer taking part in the negotiations for the PGA Tour's next television contract, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Tuesday, leaving only two networks to broadcast the majority of events.

The tour's contract expires after this year, and PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem has been negotiating a new TV contract since the week before Thanksgiving, with a deal expected to be announced within the next two weeks.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity because the tour's contract has not been finalized, said ABC left the table about a week ago.

"It's a done deal. ABC is out," the source said. "It all comes down to dollars."

ABC spokesman Mark Mandel declined comment because of ongoing negotiations. When asked if ABC was still part of the negotiations, he said, "That is our official response."

## FOOTBALL



AP PHOTO

Former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett, center, is led into court by Franklin County sheriff's deputies to be arraigned for armed robbery in Franklin County Municipal Court in Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday.

COLUMBUS, Ohio

## Clarett posts bond on two robbery charges

While some of Maurice Clarett's ex-teammates slept off the celebration of their latest Fiesta Bowl victory, the former Ohio State running back shuffled into a courtroom Tuesday in handcuffs and jail-issued clothing to face robbery charges.

He posted bond and was released later in the day.

Clarett, who led the Buckeyes to the national championship in the same stadium almost exactly three years earlier, faced a judge for the first time since he was accused of robbing two people with a gun in an alley behind a downtown bar early Sunday.

Wearing a loose-fitting tan shirt, dark pants and sandals, Clarett did not speak and was not asked to make a plea. The 22-year-old Clarett was released from Franklin County jail early Tuesday afternoon after posting \$50,000 bond, a sheriff's deputy said.

Each of the two charges of aggravated robbery carries a possible sentence of three to 10 years, with another one to three years added to each because a gun was used.

RICHMOND, Va.

## Virginia Tech official upset with Vick's actions

Virginia Tech athletic director Jim Weaver said Tuesday that his administration was embarrassed by Marcus Vick's unsportsmanlike conduct in the Gator Bowl on Monday and that the incident will be reviewed and dealt with.

Vick, the Hokies junior quarterback, stomped on the left calf of NCAA sacks leader Elvis Dumervil of Louisville when Dumervil lay prone on the ground after tackling Vick in the second quarter of the game in Jacksonville, Fla.

Vick said later it was "an accidental play, and football is football." He also said he had apologized to Dumervil, a likely high NFL draft choice, but Dumervil said no apology had been offered. "A no-character individual," Dumervil told reporters leaving the stadium.

## TENNIS

DOHA, Qatar

## Federer off to fast start with win in Qatar Open

Top-ranked Roger Federer breezed through his first match of the year Tuesday, showing no ill-effects from a sprained ankle that troubled him at the end of 2005.

The Swiss player, who won tournaments his first time out three of the last four years, beat qualifier Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-3 in the first round of the Qatar Open.

"It's great to find some momentum early in the season," said Federer, the tournament's defending champion.

## Ready, willing and able

## Pacers' Harrison takes advantage of rare opportunities

By RICK MORWICK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR  
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

David Harrison never knows when, or if, he's going to play.

Take Monday night, for example. With Jermaine O'Neal sitting out due to illness, the chances of the second-year Indiana Pacers center getting a few minutes off the bench seemed likely.

But less than an hour before tipoff, Harrison found out he was starting.

"I was out there warming up, and they told me," said Harrison, who wasn't even sure he would play, let alone play a major role. "It was like, 'Wow,' from the bench to the starting lineup in the NBA."

Fortunately for the 16-12 Pacers, Harrison was ready.

In his first start of the season, he responded with a season-high 11 points during Indiana's 115-96 win against the visiting Seattle SuperSonics.

The victory halted a four-game losing streak and gave the reeling Pacers a lift as they start a four-game Western Conference trip tonight in Denver.

Again, Harrison doesn't know what his role will be. But the odds of getting another opportunity seem likely with O'Neal expected to sit out again.

Harrison certainly didn't hurt his chances with Monday's performance, which marked only his 19th appearance of the season.

"I was able to show them that I could play," said Harrison, who made 5 of 7 shots in reaching double figures for the first time this season. "It felt good to kind of get rewarded for hard work, and hopefully this is going to catapult me into playing a bigger role on the team."

So far, Harrison's role has been extremely limited.

After starting 14 times his rookie year, he has appeared in only 19 of 28 games this season. Before Monday, he hadn't played more than 15 minutes in a game this season and didn't make it off the bench in the previous two.

But the inactivity wasn't obvious against Seattle, when Harrison provided a solid inside defensive presence and was active offensively. He had four rebounds, two assists, two steals and a blocked shot and committed only one turnover in 23 minutes.

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle applauded not only the production but the fact Harrison was ready to produce when opportunity knocked.



The Pacers' David Harrison, right, is guarded by the Houston Rockets' Yao Ming during a recent game at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Harrison has played sparingly this season and is averaging 3.1 points a game.

"David Harrison hasn't played a lot in games recently, but he continues to keep himself ready," Carlisle said. "His professionalism has been really at a high level, so there really was no hesitation to give him a chance to start."

"He's worked really hard this year and approached his job in a very serious way."

Carlisle's praise is especially high for a player whose work ethic was often questioned at Colorado, where he played three seasons before becoming Indiana's first-round draft choice.

Indiana selected the 7-foot, 280-pound player with the 29th overall pick. He was then pressed into action in mid-November 2004, after the brawl in Detroit and a rash of injuries grossly depleted the roster.

But with suspensions no longer an issue and his production typically spotty, Harrison's minutes have plummeted this season. Before Monday, he'd averaged 9.1 minutes in his 18 appearances.

Harrison, who habitually gets in early foul trouble, is the first to admit that his contributions are a mixed bag when he plays. Even he doesn't know what

## THE HARRISON FILE

**Name:** David Harrison  
**Position:** Center  
**Size:** 7 foot, 280 pounds  
**Number:** 13  
**Experience:** Second year

**Acquired:** Selected by the Pacers in the first round (29th pick) of the 2004 NBA Draft  
**College:** Colorado  
**Born:** Aug. 15, 1982

| Career stats |           |           |             |             |             |            |            |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Year         | G         | GS        | MPG         | FG          | FT          | RPG        | PPG        |
| 2004-05      | 43        | 14        | 17.7        | .576        | .571        | 3.1        | 6.1        |
| 2005-06      | 19        | 1         | 9.8         | .490        | .556        | 2.5        | 3.1        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>15.3</b> | <b>.558</b> | <b>.569</b> | <b>2.9</b> | <b>2.9</b> |

he'll do when he takes the floor.

"Sometimes, I don't. I can honestly tell you that," Harrison said. "But I just go back to what they're teaching me, and everything's just working out. Me and (assistant coaches) Kevin O'Neill and Chuck Person are doing a lot of work."

"And when I don't know what to do, I just revert back to that stuff."

Harrison expects to revert to his former role when O'Neal returns. Monday's extended action didn't necessarily raise Harrison's confidence, but it did give the Pacers a glimpse of what he can do when given a chance.

Harrison doesn't know how many more he'll get, but he

plans to continue making the most of them when they arrive.

And he certainly wouldn't mind another one tonight, when the Pacers play in his college state.

"I'm definitely ready for the trip, going back to Denver and playing in front of some fans, hopefully," Harrison said.

"Jermaine's still on our team. I know when he's back, my minutes are going to go back down. I just want to be able to go out there and help our team win every night."

"I don't care if it's 20 minutes a game. I don't care if it's five minutes a game. I just want to play on the floor and help our team win."

## Heat give new meaning to term 'well-traveled'

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MIAMI

Even when packing for a two-week road swing, Shaquille O'Neal tries to travel lightly.

"We've got seven games, so that's seven suits," he said. "We might have a couple days in between games, so I'll bring a couple jeans and then a sweat suit. Nine undershirts, nine pairs of underwear, deodorant, computer, iPod. That's it."

Well, not exactly. He's also bringing big expectations along on the Miami Heat's longest road trip of the season, a seven-game jaunt that begins in Oklahoma City tonight against the Hornets.

The Heat also visit Phoenix, Portland, Golden State, Seattle, Utah and the Los Angeles Lakers on the 7,965-mile round trip. They will be checked into hotel rooms on 14 straight nights and don't

play another home game until hosting San Antonio on Jan. 20.

"We've got seven games and hopefully we can come out 6-1; 7-0 would be better, but 6-1 would be pretty good for us," O'Neal said. "We've got to go out and do it. I think we can do it. It's up to us."

While O'Neal says he doesn't want to overpack, the team does bring plenty of extras along for such a journey.

Normally, the Heat pack two pairs of shoes, two sets of practice gear and knee pads for each player when traveling, plus protective body-padding gear, two 25-inch televisions and equipment to edit game tapes.

For this trip, along with all the usual travel gear, the Heat are bringing two other sets of road uniforms, both in red and black; 28 more pairs of shoes; 70 additional bottles of Gatorade; plus extra socks, wristbands and athletic tape. Some players, such as rookie

Wayne Simien, plan to bring too many clothes, if anything.

"The last road trip, I was washing a pair of drawers in the hotel sink because I didn't pack enough and didn't want to pay the dry cleaning bill for one article of clothing," Simien said. "I'll overpack this time."

"The vets, they like to take my dress socks and leave me with only one to walk out of the arena with. So I'll take more of those as well."

But to third-year forward Udonis Haslem, overpacking is a rookie mistake.

Haslem says his plan is to bring coordinating clothes, such as a couple of shirts that match one pair of pants, and keep rotating pieces to create different looks in each city.

"I'm definitely not packing seven suits," Haslem said. "We obviously have a job to do. There's not too many jobs where people can play and make the money we make."

"You just focus on getting your rest, bundle up for different climates, eat right and deal with all the different time zones and everything else."

Miami has only two days off between games once on the trip. It plays in Portland on Sunday, then visits Golden State until Jan. 11.

Each of the stops on the trip are at least 542 miles apart. The Heat only play on consecutive days once on the swing. Miami is at Seattle on Jan. 13, then at Utah the next night after flying 726 miles and getting into Salt Lake City around the same time that they'd be having breakfast on the East Coast.

The constant shuffling between cities takes a bit of a physical toll on players, but they say the mental grind can be even more taxing.

Simien even confesses that he has taken his hotel key and continually slipped it into various doors on his floor until finding the lock that opens.



AP PHOTO

Seattle SuperSonics coach Bob Weiss, shown during a Nov. 18 game against the Chicago Bulls in Seattle, was fired Tuesday and replaced by Bob Hill, a former Pacers coach.

## Inconsistent play leads to dismissal of Sonics coach

By TIM BOOTH

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SEATTLE

Bob Weiss' laid-back attitude made him a favorite of players. It just didn't translate to enough victories.

Weiss was fired as coach of the Seattle SuperSonics on Tuesday with Seattle struggling at 13-17 and having lost five of its past seven.

The Sonics are the second NBA team to change coaches this season, following Stan Van Gundy's resignation at Miami last month.

Assistant Bob Hill will take over, and his first game will be tonight against Chicago. Seattle opened a five-game road trip with a 115-96 loss to Indiana on Monday.

"We've epitomized the word 'inconsistent' for professional basketball," general manager Rick Sund said after the team practiced at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago on Tuesday. "We talked a lot in the last two weeks trying to (figure out) 'How can we get more consistent?' ... We talked, and we both kind of felt that a change might be in the best interest of the club."

Weiss was promoted from assistant to head coach on July 18 after Nate McMillan left for Portland.

He was a popular choice of All-Stars Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis. Weiss also was a cheaper option, as Seattle passed on higher-priced candidates like Flip Saunders and Paul Silas.

But Weiss' smile was absent lately, replaced by visible signs of frustration. Seattle has not been above .500 this season after winning 52 games last season while capturing the Northwest Division. The Sonics are four games below .500 for the first time since finishing the 2004 season 37-45.

"There are a lot of things I could have done better to help this team," Allen said. "I take full responsibility. I feel I let Bob Weiss down as a coach."

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Miami Heat begin an unusually long road trip tonight in Oklahoma City. The Heat won't play at home again until Jan. 20, when they will host San Antonio. Here's a look at the road-trip schedule:

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Tonight</b> | New Orleans/Oklahoma City |
| <b>Friday</b>  | Phoenix                   |
| <b>Sunday</b>  | Portland                  |
| <b>Jan. 11</b> | Golden State              |
| <b>Jan. 13</b> | Seattle                   |
| <b>Jan. 14</b> | Utah                      |
| <b>Jan. 16</b> | Los Angeles Lakers        |



AP PHOTO

Orlando Magic guard DeShawn Stevenson, left, goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace during the first half of Tuesday's game in Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Associated Press

Pistons 108  
Magic 99

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Chauncey Billups scored a career-high 37 points, and Richard Hamilton added 25 as the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando Magic.

Detroit (25-4) overcame 22 points and 14 rebounds from Dwight Howard to win in its first game since having a nine-game winning streak snapped Saturday at Cleveland.

Billups was 9 of 15 from the floor and 15 of 17 from the line.

Tayshaun Prince added 12 points for the Pistons, and Ben Wallace had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Jameer Nelson scored 18 points for the Magic (12-16), and former Pistons star Grant Hill had 15, but Orlando had its three-game winning streak snapped.

The Pistons shot 57 percent in the first half and got 18 points from Billups but only led 57-55 because of a rare poor defensive performance. The Magic shot 59 percent, including an 11-of-17 (65 percent) performance in the second quarter.

Rockets 123  
Wizards 111

WASHINGTON — Tracy McGrady matched his season high with 38 points, and the Houston Rockets broke a five-game losing streak with a rare offensive outburst, routing the Washington Wizards.

The Rockets, averaging a league-low 87.6 points entering the game, set a season high for field-goal percentage (55.1) and became the second team in as many games to set a new season high in points against the slumping Wizards.

The Rockets hardly looked like the team that had lost by an average of 10 points during its five-game skid, all without injured center Yao Ming. They moved the ball well and shot even better, taking command from the opening minutes and building a second-quarter double-digit lead that wasn't threatened until a late Wizards rally.

McGrady made 11 of 24 field goals and 14 of 16 free throws. Juwan Howard added 24 points.

Raptors 108  
Hawks 97

ATLANTA — Mike James scored 28 points and sparked Toronto's fourth-quarter comeback in the Raptors' victory against Atlanta.

The win gave Toronto its first three-game winning streak of the season and five wins in its past seven games.

The Hawks led by 10 in the third quarter, but James scored the Raptors' first eight points of the final period, making two 3-pointers, to lead the comeback.

In the matchup of the NBA's two worst records, Toronto moved to 3-0 against Atlanta this season, and the Raptors have won the last five games against the Hawks.

Chris Bosh added 27 points for the Raptors, who made six of seven 3-pointers in the final quarter.

Grizzlies 104  
Warriors 94

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Grizzlies built a 62-42 halftime lead and held on in the second half to beat visiting Golden State.

The Grizzlies (20-10) enjoyed a 27-10 advantage at the foul line. Memphis hit 27 of 40 free throws (67.5 percent); the Warriors (17-15) were 10 of 12 (83.3 percent) from the foul line.

All five Memphis starters scored in double figures. Eddie Jones led the way with 23 points, while Pau Gasol added 21. Jason Richardson led Golden State with 20 points.