Huskies all alone in first place

Thomas gets 22 points, 10 assists, six rebounds in win

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press reporter

SEATTLE — Isaiah Thomas did everything a big-time player does. He scored 22 points, handed out 10 assists and grabbed six rebounds, and No. 20 Washington took sole possession of first place in the Pac-10 with a 95-88 win over Arizona on Thursday night.

Coming off perhaps the best game of his career at California where Thomas scored 27 points and had 13 assists, he didn’t have that kind of performance at Arizona. Instead, he used seven of 12 shots and points to lead the Huskies to their fifth win in the last six games.

Once again, Blazers' resilience shows

Aldridge leads Portland to victory over Clippers

By MATT CALKINS
Columbia staff writer

PORTLAND — "Once again," said Matt Chandler, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player, "our team never quit."

The Tim Duncan Award winner led the Portland Trail Blazers to a 104-96 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night at the Rose Garden.

The game was close throughout, with Portland leading by as many as 15 points in the third quarter. But the Blazers held off the Clippers’ comeback bid and improved their record to 5-1 at home.

Once again, Portland (34-20) responded to heartbreaking losses with a victory, the second in a row for the Blazers.

Once again, the Blazers beat the Los Angeles Clippers, this time by a score of 104-96, making it a three-game sweep for the team.

"It was a great win for us," said head coach Terry Stotts. "We came out and played hard from the beginning and didn’t let up until the final buzzer."
Clark:

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O’Connell’s office and asked for a tryout. He earned a starting forward spot. Johnson and Larry Smedley were the two players on both of the 1955 and 1956 champions.

“It was team basketball. No one player tried to dominate,” Johnson said, explaining the formula for success on those teams. “And we played very, very good defense.”

The 1947 team defeated Everett to win the first basketball championship of the Washington State Junior College Athletic Conference, which formed in 1946. The nine charter members were Centralia, Clark, Everett, Grays Harbor, Lower Columbia, Olympic, Skagit Valley, Wenatchee Valley and Yakima Valley.

Wenatchee Valley and Yakima Valley.

In 1953, Clark beat Yakima Columbia for the title. In both 1955 and 1956, Grays Harbor was the runner-up.

“I think we enjoyed good chemistry, particularly on the ‘54-55 team,” said Ken Boydstun, who played point guard on the 1953-54 and 1954-55 teams. “A lot of us were locals who knew each other. We just got along.”

Boydstun said he and center Fletcher Frazier worked well together, making the 1955 team difficult to defend.

His favorite memory? “Winning games. It was a well-conceived strategy.”

It took 39 years for Clark to win another men’s basketball title. The 1995 team coached by Dave Walden won the Northwest Athletic Conference of Community Colleges title, beating Everett.

The NWAACC, which officially combined the Oregon and Washington junior colleges for men’s sports in 1980, crowned a women’s basketball champion for the first time in 1979. The Clark women were champions in 1989 and 1993, and were runners-up in the three seasons between those titles under coach Ken Trapp.

The 1989 team had several players from the Prairie High school that finished 251 in 1988, losing only in the first game of the state tournament by a single point. That made winning the NWAACC title extra sweet, according to Julie (Cotton) Renk.

“For us it was pretty big,” said Renk, now an assistant coach for Prairie girls basketball. “It was not a national title or anything, but it was as far as we could go, which was nice.”