

Phil, Kobe, and Lakers Win It All Again

By MATT SUGAM

With the NBA playoffs over and done with, the Los Angeles Lakers are world champions for the 15th time in franchise history. Head coach Phil Jackson captured his historic 10th title as a coach, and shooting guard Kobe Bryant won his fourth title.

The road to the championship was anything but easy.

After falling in the finals to the Celtics a season ago, the Lakers came back hungry to win the championship this year.

Following an opening series against the Utah Jazz, the Lakers fought through a tough seven game series against a tenacious Rockets team who weren't intimidated by the Western Conference favorites even after their superstar center Yao Ming went down.

Next, the Lakers beat the Denver Nuggets in six, and were right back to where they wanted to be, competing for a championship. But their work wasn't done yet.

Magical Run

Being over looked going into the playoffs, the Orlando Magic began their run to finals by beating the

Philadelphia 76ers in six games.

Next up for the Magic were the defending champion Boston Celtics. While the Celtics were without their defensive cornerstone and emotional leader, center Kevin Garnett, they took it to the Magic and went up 3-2 before Orlando reeled off two straight victories, including game seven in Boston.

Then came the Eastern Conference finals against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. While many had put the Cavs in the finals before the playoffs even began, they simply could not match up with the Magic and were defeated in five games.

The Finals

When it came to the championship, the Magic were facing a huge uphill battle.

Kobe Bryant was hungry for his fourth title, and the Lakers had the experience of making it to the finals a season earlier. They did not want to come up short again.

Orlando was blown out in Game 1 and in Game 5 en route to losing the series in five games, but they had their chances.

A Game 2 victory was a missed Courtney Lee lay-up away on a

beautifully drawn up inbounds play that would have stolen home court advantage from L.A.

Game 4 was in the Magic's hands until Dwight Howard missed two free throws. Derek Fischer followed up those misses with a three-pointer that Orlando point guard Jameer Nelson failed to defend properly.

That big three was the dagger in the Magic's heart.

The Zen Master and Kobe

Following a loss in the finals in the 2003-04 season, head coach Phil Jackson left the Lakers amid the turmoil between the best big-little duo the game has ever seen in Shaq and Kobe.

With Kobe the only one remaining in L.A. in the 2004-05 season, he and his team struggled going 34-48 and missing the playoffs.

Then Jackson returned to a more mature Bryant, who would continue to mature under the veteran head coach.

From the hiatus to a world championship, the Zen Master sees his pupil in a completely different light.

When he first left, Jackson had labeled Bryant as "selfish" and

"uncoachable."

Now following a world championship where Kobe carried the load and was the leader, Jackson has a different view of the Lakers' superstar.

"He's learned how to become a leader in a way in which people want to follow him.

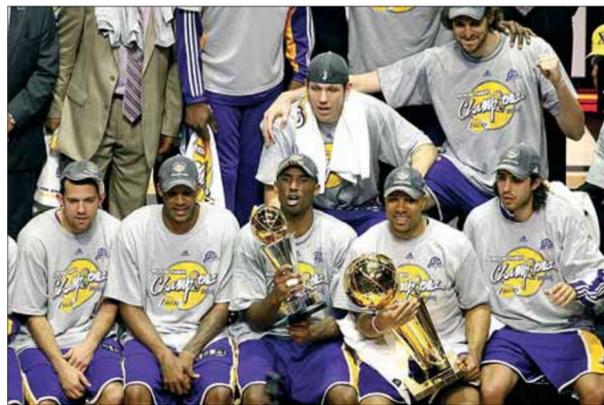
"That's really important for him to have learned that because he knew that he had to give to get back in return, and so he's become a giver rather than just a guy that's a demanding leader," Jackson said in a post-game interview. "That's been great for him and great to watch."

Bryant led his team throughout the playoffs with a scowl on his face and fire in his eyes. His intensity and will to win this championship were unmatched by anyone else in the playoffs.

With the mission accomplished, Bryant turned into all smiles in the waning seconds of the game and the post-game festivities.

"I was just completely locked in," said Bryant of his focus and intensity. "I was grumpy for a while and now I'm just ecstatic, like a kid in a candy store."

Jackson now stands alone as the



CHAMPIONS AGAIN: Led by Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers stand atop the NBA. CHRIS GRAY/HENGETTY IMAGES

winningest coach in NBA history with 10 titles, passing Celtic legend Red Auerbach.

Jackson said he would celebrate the occasion as only Red would.

"I'll smoke the cigar in honor of Red tonight."

Bryant also knows how special this championship was to his coach.

"He took his glasses off, threw his head back and soaked it all in because this is a special time," Bryant said. "For us to be the team that got him that historic 10th championship is special for us."

Matt Sugam also writes for The Daily Targum at Rutgers University.

Rossi Fires Italy to Victory Over U.S.

PRETORIA (Reuters)—Giuseppe Rossi set aside the mixed emotions of playing against the country of his birth to inspire Italy to a 3-1 win over the U.S. in Confederations Cup Group B on Monday.

The American-born striker fired home a stunning long-range equalizer just 60 seconds after coming on as a 57th-minute substitute and confirmed Italy's triumph with another goal in extra time.

Midfielder Daniele de Rossi banished bitter memories of his last encounter against the Americans with a spectacular shot in the 72nd minute as the Italians swamped their 10-man opponents in the second half.

The U.S. had taken the lead just before half time through a Landon Donovan penalty but was reduced to 10 men after midfielder Ricardo Clark was sent off in the 33rd minute.

Rossi, who left New Jersey aged 13 to play for Parma, made an immediate impact when he won the ball in midfield before unleashing a swerving shot past Tim Howard.

De Rossi's shot 15 minutes later came from even further out and again gave Howard little chance.

He celebrated with an elaborate dive into his own dug-out, in stark contrast to the ugly scenes when he received a four-match ban at the



ITALIAN THRASHING: Giuseppe Rossi of Italy scores his second goal past Tim Howard. CHRISTOF KOEPEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

last World Cup in 2006 for elbowing Brian McBride.

"That was a pretty bad blow but this time was lot different," De Rossi told reporters.

Rossi struck again four minutes into stoppage time after Andrea Pirlo dragged the ball back into his path.

Bob Bradley was asked how he felt about conceding two goals to a player born in the U.S.

"I have known him since he was 10 years old," he said. "We had hoped he would play for us. He is a very talented young player and today is a very exciting day for him and a very disappointing one for us."

Riding Roughshod

The Italians, wearing a replica of their 1934 World Cup-winning kit with sky blue tops and burgundy shorts and stockings, rode roughshod over their tiring opponents in

the second half.

Tall striker Vincenzo Iaquinta was guilty of several misses and substitute Luca Toni wasted a golden opportunity three minutes from time.

The U.S. scuffed two excellent first-half chances, both set up by the pace of Donovan. The first, Michael Bradley tamely hit at Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and the second was missed by Jozy Altidore.

Altidore did win a penalty in the 41st minute after being tugged to the ground by Giorgio Chiellini. Donovan sent Buffon the wrong way as the U.S. sought their first win over Italy in 10 attempts.

Clark's red card came after a lunging tackle on Gennaro Gattuso in the 33rd minute, although it seemed a harsh decision by Chilean referee Pablo Pozo.

Italy will next play Egypt, while the U.S. faces Brazil on Thursday.

Omaha Hosts College World Series

Seven millionth fan attends at Rosenblatt

By KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Epoch Times Staff

OMAHA, Neb.—Every year in the middle of June, thousands of college baseball fans flock to Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska to watch eight teams compete for the NCAA Men's College Baseball Championship.

This year's field will feature the University of Virginia and Southern Mississippi University, two teams who have never played at the College World Series (CWS).

The University of Texas will be making their 32nd appearance, the most among the eight teams participating.

Game 5 between Cal State Fullerton University and the University of Virginia at the 2009 College World Series was famous for a very special milestone—the 7 millionth fan to walk through the gates of Rosenblatt attended this game. The University of Virginia wound up winning their first CWS game in school history 7-5 and eliminated Cal State Fullerton.

The milestone was celebrated during the evening game in which LSU beat Arkansas 9-1. The first

3,500 fans received a baseball-stitched keychain with the NCAA CWS logo. Also seven fans were selected at random to watch the game from a private skybox.

While it took 26 years to reach the 1 million-fan mark, it has only taken three years to get from six million to seven million.

"For a city with a population of only a little over a half a million, it is amazing to see that seven million people have enjoyed the College World Series and got to experience the great city of Omaha," said Betty Camenzind, a longtime Omaha resident.

"It is really cool to hit a milestone like that, especially before they move to the new stadium," said Blake Lager, a 13-year CWS attendee.

Next year will mark the last year that the College World Series will be played in Rosenblatt Stadium. The new stadium is currently under construction and is scheduled to host the 2011 Men's College World Series.

The \$128 million stadium will have 24,000 seats, 26 luxury boxes, and 1,000 club seats. TD Ameritrade recently purchased the rights to name the stadium at a cost of \$20

million.

"TD Ameritrade was founded in Omaha more than 34 years ago," said Fred Tomczyk, president and chief executive officer at TD Ameritrade at a recent press conference.

"More of our associates live and work in this city than in any other location in the country. We understand what this new stadium means to the city, and we want help make it a reality."

While the city seems to be split on the building of a new stadium, everyone agrees that keeping the College World Series in Omaha is the right move.

"Our family has had season tickets to the CWS for over 10 years. It has been a highlight for the city of Omaha and for our family," said Omaha native Lindsay Hollingsworth.

"CWS brings fans from all over the country and that is great for our city—not to mention the fans that get to see what a great city Omaha is! Omaha residents are just as excited for the CWS as the teams who participate."

The CWS will crown its champion on June 23 unless a tiebreaker game is needed. The tiebreaker would be played on June 24. All games can be seen on ESPN or ESPN2.

Learn to Play Water Polo this Summer!
or join a swim team!

Great exercise!
Great Teamwork skills!
Great Fun!

Ages 8-18
Play competitively or just for fun!
All practices are at the Flushing Pool

Call 646.526.0667 or visit
www.knightwaterpolo.com for more information

Motivation for Change!

Overcome your fears and alleviate stress for well being!
We use hypnosis to help you to achieve your goals; everything from organization & procrastination to smoking, losing weight, and other types of "habit control."

Call George DeCarlo,
Hypnoconsultant at 908.342.1275

TENNIS RANKINGS				MEN'S GOLF RANKINGS			
Women		Men		Men		Men	
Name	Points	Name	Points	Name	Avg. Points	Name	Avg. Points
1. (1) Dina Safina (Russia)	9,801	1. (1) Rafael Nadal (Spain)	12,735	1. (1) Tiger Woods (U.S.)	10.28	2. (2) Phil Mickelson (U.S.)	7.99
2. (2) Serena Williams (U.S.)	8,158	2. (2) Roger Federer (Switzerland)	10,620	3. (3) Phil Mickelson (U.S.)	7.99	3. (3) Paul Casey (Britain)	7.02
3. (3) Venus Williams (U.S.)	7,217	3. (3) Andy Murray (Britain)	9,230	4. (4) Sergio Garcia (Spain)	6.42	4. (4) Geoff Ogilvy (Australia)	6.20
4. (4) Elena Dementieva (Russia)	6,591	4. (4) Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	7,860	5. (5) Henrik Stenson (Sweden)	5.91	5. (5) Steve Stricker (U.S.)	5.53
5. (5) Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)	6,191	5. (5) Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)	5,730	6. (6) Kenny Perry (U.S.)	5.55	6. (6) Jim Furyk (U.S.)	5.12
6. (6) Jelena Jankovic (Serbia)	6,100	6. (6) Andy Roddick (U.S.)	4,310	7. (7) Ernie Els (South Africa)	3.74	7. (7) Rory Mclroy (Britain)	3.71
7. (7) Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	5,360	7. (7) Gilles Simon (France)	3,970	8. (8) Ian Poulter (Britain)	3.71	8. (8) Lee Westwood (Britain)	3.67
8. (8) Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)	4,746	8. (8) Fernando Verdasco (Spain)	3,710	9. (9) Zach Johnson (U.S.)	3.64	9. (9) Zach Johnson (U.S.)	3.64
9. (9) Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)	4,350	9. (9) Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France)	3,510	10. (10) Jim Furyk (U.S.)	5.04	10. (10) Jim Furyk (U.S.)	5.04
10. (10) Nadia Petrova (Russia)	3,760	10. (10) Fernando Gonzalez (Chile)	3,165	11. (11) Padraig Harrington (Ireland)	4.86	11. (11) Padraig Harrington (Ireland)	4.86
11. (11) Agnieszka Radwanska (Poland)	3,411	11. (11) Nikolay Davydenko (Russia)	2,855	12. (12) Camilo Villegas (Colombia)	4.76	12. (12) Camilo Villegas (Colombia)	4.76
12. (12) Marion Bartoli (France)	3,285	12. (12) Robin Soderling (Sweden)	2,825	13. (13) Sean O'Hair (U.S.)	4.43	13. (13) Sean O'Hair (U.S.)	4.43
13. (13) Ana Ivanovic (Serbia)	3,172	13. (13) Marin Cilic (Croatia)	2,780	14. (14) Robert Karlsson (Sweden)	4.43	14. (14) Robert Karlsson (Sweden)	4.43
14. (14) Dominika Cibulkova (Slovakia)	3,065	14. (14) Gael Monfils (France)	2,610	15. (15) Anthony Kim (U.S.)	3.93	15. (15) Anthony Kim (U.S.)	3.93
15. (15) Flavia Pennetta (Italy)	2,860	15. (15) Tommy Robredo (Spain)	2,580	16. (16) Ernie Els (South Africa)	3.74	16. (16) Ernie Els (South Africa)	3.74
16. (16) Zheng Jie (China)	2,631	16. (16) David Nalbandian (Argentina)	2,385	17. (17) Ian Poulter (Britain)	3.71	17. (17) Ian Poulter (Britain)	3.71
17. (17) Amelie Mauresmo (France)	2,549	17. (17) James Blake (U.S.)	2,340	18. (18) Rory Mclroy (Britain)	3.71	18. (18) Rory Mclroy (Britain)	3.71
18. (18) Samantha Stosur (Australia)	2,402	18. (18) Stanislas Wawrinka (Switzerland)	2,195	19. (19) Lee Westwood (Britain)	3.67	19. (19) Lee Westwood (Britain)	3.67
19. (19) Li Na (China)	2,312	19. (19) David Ferrer (Spain)	2,130	20. (20) Zach Johnson (U.S.)	3.64	20. (20) Zach Johnson (U.S.)	3.64
20. (20) Anabel Medina Garrigues (Spain)	2,140	20. (20) Richard Gasquet (France)	1,925				

Rankings as of June 15, previous rankings in parentheses

KATAGIRI
片桐 JAPANESE SUPERMARKET & GIFT SHOP

Food • Grocery • Fresh Fish / Meat / Vegetable • Spices

Gifts • Cosmetics • Kitchen-ware • Clothing • Deco

224 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212-755-3566 Fax: 212-752-4197
Email: info@katagiri.com Web: www.katagiri.com

Open 7 Days
Supermarket: 10am ~ 8pm
Gift Shop: 10am ~ 7pm
You Order, We Deliver!
Manhattan Queens Brooklyn

Our new sweet debut from Japan is Free 2 TASTE!

Falun Dafa

Free meditation & qigong instruction

Midtown
When: Saturdays & Sundays 9:45am-12:00pm
Where: Madison Square Park (23rd & Broadway)

Chinatown
When: Sundays 9:45am-12:00pm
Where: Roosevelt Park (Hester St & Forsyth St)

For information call 914-874-3669 or 646-369-4969, or visit:
www.FalunDafa.org

are you
Sick and Tired
of being
Sick and Tired?

Hyssop Oil cleanses the blood of impurities, helps to lower blood pressure and strengthens the immune system.

Nature's Wealth
HYSSOP OIL

Call MA Andy at
910.483.5070 After 6pm 910.423.1009