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2M+C**NBA PLAYOFFS**

Cleveland 88, Boston 77

James wakes up as Celtics sleepwalk

The Celtics lose on the road again as Cleveland ties the series 2-2 behind LeBron James' late surge

By TOM WITHERS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Back to even, and back to Boston — with authority.

LeBron James scored 21 points, jamming in a powerhouse dunk over a defenseless Kevin Garnett in the final two minutes, as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the homesick Celtics 88-77 in Game 4 on Monday night to tie the best-of-seven series at 2-2.

Still stuck in a shooting slump, James dominated down the stretch and finished with 13 assists — four in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers, whose defense has been overlooked, held the Celtics to 12 points in the final period.

"We took care of home court and turned it into a three-game series," James said.

Boston dropped to 0-5 on the road in the postseason, a stunning slip for a team that went 31-10 on the road during the regular season.

"It's hard to say. I have no answer for it," forward Ray Allen said.

During a short visit to Ohio, the Celtics lost their momentum in the series but will head home, where they went 35-6 before the playoffs started.

Game 5 is Wednesday, and Game 6 will be in Cleveland on Friday.

"We're disappointed right now," forward Paul Pierce said. "I had a lot of shots that I usually make, but I'm not going to really dwell on it."

James was 7 for 20 from the field, but he did everything else for the Cavaliers, who are attempting to

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Cycling

Leah Goldstein, refusing to let a serious accident keep her down, is seeking her fourth consecutive Mt. Hood Cycling Classic title



MARK VAN MANEN/VANCOUVER SUN/2005

Cyclist Leah Goldstein learned toughness as a former kickboxing champion and Israeli commando instructor.

Still passing after her crash course

By BOAZ HERZOG
THE OREGONIAN

Leah Goldstein's bicycle racing career appeared over nearly three years ago — to everyone but her. She was rocketing downhill at close to 45 mph during the first day of central Oregon's Cascade Classic stage race when a fellow rider leaned into her. Goldstein lost control.

"It was scary," said Lisa Hunt, a former competitor. "All of a sudden, her bike and her were in the air. Then I saw her lying on the ground and not moving."

Goldstein had slammed face-

first into the pavement. The damage: a broken pelvis, ankle and cheekbone, at least 10 broken teeth, a dislocated arm and shoulder, and clumps of skin ripped from her chest and legs.

Doctors told her to forget about racing again, she said. That was a mistake. A former world champion kickboxer and Israeli commando instructor, Goldstein's fortitude never wavered. Stuck in a hospital bed for two weeks, then a wheelchair for four months, she vowed to prove her naysayers wrong.

Less than a year later, she won the second of three consecutive Mt. Hood Cycling Classic titles. She goes for No. 4 starting today, when the six-stage race opens with a

prologue time trial along Tom McCall Waterfront Park at 3 p.m.

"I don't give up very easily," said Goldstein, 39. "When people say I can't, I don't like that."

Growing up in Vancouver, B.C., Goldstein said, she idolized martial arts legend Bruce Lee. So at age 7, she asked her mother for permission to take karate lessons.

Not now, no way, maybe when you're 10, Goldstein said her mother responded, hoping her daughter would forget or lose interest. She didn't.

When she turned 10, Goldstein asked again. Her mother relented, enrolling Goldstein in a tae kwon do class.

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Goldstein

Mt. Hood Cycling Classic

What: A six-day, six-stage bicycle race that covers 400 miles and 35,000 vertical feet

Field: About 500 cyclists, including 150 pro men and 90 pro women

At stake: \$55,000 and, for women, Olympic qualification points

Cycling: Goldstein takes it slow on her descents now

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During the next four years, Goldstein never lost a fight, becoming Canada's national junior champion. At 14, Goldstein said a kickboxing coach from China noticed her talent and said, "I can make you a world champion."

So Goldstein switched sports. The outcome remained the same. For the next four years, Goldstein, flexible and fast, never lost a bout in 40-plus amateur fights across North America. Her father, an amateur lightweight boxer in his youth, tried in vain many times to talk Goldstein out of the sport.

"With kickboxing, that just came natural, the skill and technique," she said. "It didn't matter how many bloody noses or black eyes I got, that sport was mine. I loved it and there was no reason for me to quit."

At 18, Goldstein earned a shot at a world kickboxing championship. She knocked out her bantamweight opponent in the third round. With nothing left to prove and "nowhere to go but down," Goldstein said, she called it quits.

She moved on to her next challenge: the Israeli military.

Despite her Canadian upbringing, Goldstein said she always felt strong ties to Israel, her parents' homeland. Her father, Simch, and mother, Ahoova, relocated to Canada shortly before her birth in 1969. But her extended family remained in Israel, where conscription is required of all men and women.

"It's very important to serve your country," Goldstein said. "And I thought it would really be exciting."

As an officer, Goldstein saw combat action during the first Gulf War, was promoted to sergeant and helped train commandos to combat terrorism. After four years in the military, she joined an Israeli police force.

She hesitated before describing the gruesome scenes she encountered along the way: soldiers with their limbs or heads blown off, a man murdered, shot 72 times in the head. The work wore her down.

"You fear for your life, you start to go a little crazy," she said. "It's a lot to see. If you can go through that, you can go through a bike race easy."

One of her commando trainees, a triathlete, had introduced Goldstein to cycling. It didn't come easy, she said, but she worked hard to improve. And by the time she returned to Vancouver in 1997, Goldstein had won several races. She soon won a spot on Canada's national development team and was competing in the women's version of the Tour de France three years into the sport.

Mt. Hood Cycling Classic stages

Today, Stage 1: A 1.7-mile out-and-back prologue along Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. Women start at 4 p.m., men at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Stage 2: A criterium on a 1.3-mile course at Mt. Tabor Park in Southeast Portland. Women race for 60 minutes starting at 3 p.m., men for 90 minutes at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Stage 3: A race on an 18.7-mile circuit through the upper Hood River valley, starting at Toll Bridge Park and ending at Cooper Spur Mountain Resort. Each circuit has 1,750 feet of elevation gain. Pro men (1 p.m. start) will complete 4½ circuits, pro women (1:05 p.m. start) 3½ circuits.

Friday, Stage 4: An 18.5-mile time trial covering 1,950 feet of elevation along the Columbia River Gorge, starting in The Dalles, descending through Mosier and ending at the west entrance to the Columbia River Highway State Park.

Saturday, Stage 5: The majority of this race rolls over forest service roads in the Mt. Hood National Forest, finishing at Mt. Hood Meadows. Pro men, who climb 11,000 feet during a 101-mile race, start near The Dalles. Pro women, who gain 8,000 feet over 75 miles, start in Dufur. Pro men and women start at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Stage 6: The finale is a criterium on a 1-kilometer course through downtown Hood River. Pro women go for 50 minutes starting at 2 p.m., pro men for 70 minutes starting at 3:30 p.m.

— Boaz Herzog

Her sights set on the 2004 Olympics, she broke her hand after crashing in a Pennsylvania race a month before the Athens Games. Then came the Cascade Classic crash the next summer.

The accident still scars her.

"Even the possibility of going down scares me to death," Goldstein said. "I'm much more cautious."

On descents, she said, she rides more slowly, staying away from packs. She makes up time climbing, her specialty.

Overall, she's stronger — physically and mentally — than ever before, said Hunt, who recruited Goldstein to join the ValueAct Capital team this year. Hunt is the team's director.

"She wants to win, and everything she does shows that," Medford native and teammate Martina Patella said — everything from preparing all her own meals to waking up an hour earlier than her teammates to train.

This year's Mt. Hood Classic, an Olympics qualifier for the first time, will be her toughest yet to defend, Goldstein said.

"I just have to have really good days, not one bad day," she said.

Goldstein added that she will be happy with a top-five finish. She expects to end her pro racing career in two years. By then, she said, she expects to have moved on to the next challenge: endurance racing.

"The Race Across America is exciting, 500-mile races, stuff like that," she said.

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