

Pro basketball player traded to L.A. Lakers

By Bob Baum
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX – Steve Nash wanted to go to the Los Angeles Lakers. He just needed an assist.

The Phoenix Suns would have to reach a sign-and-trade deal to facilitate the move and, according to Nash, they were reluctant.

Eventually, they relented and the two-time MVP point guard is going to the Pacific Division rival he tried so hard to beat, with little success, in his eight seasons with the Suns.

In one of those odd NBA twists, the Lakers' trade of Lamar Odom to Dallas before last season paved the way for Nash's arrival. Los Angeles used the trade exception it got in the Odom deal to make the Nash move work.

The 38-year-old Nash was a free agent, but a sign-and-trade

agreement was necessary for the Lakers to afford him. He agreed to a three-year, \$27 million contract. In return, the Suns get four draft picks – first-rounders in 2013 and 2015 and second-rounders in 2013 and 2014.

Nash's agent, Bill Duffy, said the deal was completed Wednesday about 9 p.m., Eastern Time.

In a statement released by Duffy, Nash said that after he and the Suns agreed to part ways, he went back to the team and asked it to pursue a sign-and-trade deal with Los Angeles "because it is very important to me to stay near my children and family," who live in Phoenix.

There had been sign-and-trade talks with New York and a lucrative free agent offer from Toronto.

The deal will put Nash on the

floor with the team he tried to unseat as a Western Conference power, teaming him with Kobe Bryant, Andrew Bynum and Pau Gasol. That could be enough to lift the Lakers back into title contention.

The Suns at least get something for the loss of their longtime leader and one of the city's most popular athletes, although no one to help immediately, unless some or all of the picks are used in future trades.

Nash has never made it to the NBA Finals. He was last in the Western Conference finals against the Lakers in 2010, when the Suns lost in six games and Los Angeles went on to win the NBA title.

Nash's deal was part of a busy 24 hours for the Suns, who are looking to get younger and more athletic.



SEAN SPANGLER

James Ortiz ran in the 400-meter dash at the University of Central Oklahoma Endeavor Games in Edmond, Okla., June 7 to 10. His latest race was in the finals of the 400-meter dash Sunday for the U.S. Paralympic Trials in Indianapolis.

Track coach takes fifth in Paralympic Trials

Colby Community College men's track coach James Ortiz took fifth Sunday in the finals of the 400-meter dash in the U.S. Paralympic Trials in Indianapolis, with a time of 56.18 seconds.

"I beat the London 'A' standard on Sunday, which is 58.00 seconds," Ortiz said, "but I finished fifth in the finals. By running faster than the standard, that means I'm eligible to run in London if selected by my country."

However, Ortiz said the U.S. had four other great runners ahead of him and he wasn't selected for the Paralympic Games.

"Since I finished fifth, I was not selected," he

said. "We are the only country right now to have five individuals run under the 'A' standard in the 400 meters. Pretty much, if I ran for any other country in the world, I'd be going to London, but I'm American and I run for the best country in the world."

Ortiz ran in the 400 meters for men ages 43-45. Blake Leeper finished first with 50.68 seconds, an American record. David Prince was second with 53.49, Rob Brown third with 53.77, Jarryd Wallace fourth with 55.38, Ortiz fifth with 56.18, Austin Digby sixth with 59.84, Peter Tainer seventh at 1:00.25 and Jim Bob Bizzell did not score.

Motorcycle racing



KEN KERR/Kerr Graphics

Motorcycle racers rounded the corner of a track at the Stockton flat track races last year. An article ran in the *Colby Free Press* on Monday giving the details of the motorcycle races coming to Kansas next month, but due to a transcribing error, some of the dates listed were wrong. The first race will be in Norton on Friday, Aug. 10, followed by the Colby races on Saturday, Aug. 11. The series will finish in Stockton on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 13 and 14.

Meadow Lake holds golf nights

For ladies' night at Meadow Lake Golf Course on June 26, the women played low net golf. Winners were Audrey Hines, first; Susan Wark, second; Pam Augustine, third; and Dana Bolyard, fourth.

The next ladies' night was to be Tuesday with two-lady scramble. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost was \$2 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

On June 27, 38 men attended men's night and played a three-man scramble backwards on the course. The results: for the first

flight, Kevin, Tanner and Konnor Kriss, first, and Daniel Blake, Alex Rosales and Drew White, second. For the second flight, Scott and Rod Williams and Charles Schwanke, first, and Tom Barlow and Don Lode (third person not named), second.

There was no men's night Wednesday due to the holiday, and the next men's night will be Wednesday, July 11. Tee off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

On Friday, 12 couples played a

two-couple scramble. The results: John and Mert Strecker and Randy and Mary Lou Jones, first, and Dave and Miranda Kern and Doug and Wanda Brown, second.

The next couple's night is Friday and the game is one-couple scramble. Tee off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

If you are interested in playing, call Meadow Lake at 460-6443 to register.

Recreation deadlines coming up soon

Friday is the last day to preregister for the Colby Recreation Department's Iron Athlete Triathlon.

This race comprises a 400-meter swim, 12-mile bike leg and 3.1-mile run. Cost is \$20 per participant or \$60 per three-person team.

It's not too late to sign up for the department's Dance Camp set for Monday to Wednesday, July 23 to 25.

Call the department at 460-4440 to register.

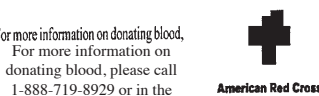


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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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Wild West Festival
July 4-7, Hays
Start 4th of July with a bang at the FREE Fireworks Spectacular & weekend of concerts. Hairball, Diamond Rio, Easter Corbin & Glen Templeton. All for a \$12 events ticket. wildwestfestival.com

Downs Annual Celebration
July 5-7, Downs
Area's largest carnival, reunion, beer garden. Fun for the whole family! Parade & live bands. Thur: Kill Creek Rising, Fr: Jimmy Dee & Fab. Sat: Pete Gile FREE! DownsChamber.com

Cowhand's & Corriente's Championship Ranch Rodeo
September 1-2, Dodge City
The best of championship ranch rodeo! Real cowboys show off their skills. Family-friendly event. Live music by Hometown Tuff. cvhorses.com

3i SHOW
July 12-14, Dodge City
Western State Bank Expo Center
Th. & Fr. 8AM - 5PM; Sa. 8AM - 4PM
Over 500 indoor and outdoor agribusiness exhibits, consumer programs, health screens and vintage tractors. (877) 405-2883, 3ishow.com

Ladies Night Out
July 13, Council Grove
Food, fun, shopping and prizes in Historic Downtown Council Grove. Discounts & specials just for the ladies: 5PM-9PM (620) 767-5413, councilgrove.com

Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival
July 27-28, Milford Lake State Park
Bluegrass music furnished at beautiful Milford Lake. Camping available. Family style festival. Featuring bands from KS & MO. milfordlakebluegrassfestival.com

National Baseball Congress World Series
July 28-August 11, Wichita
78th Annual. The nation's top amateur baseball teams compete in a 2-week tournament with Baseball 'Round the Clock, Aug. 4-5. (316) 264-6837, nbcbaseball.com

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