

# SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

## 'Parker, you've got Barry'

**BILL DWYRE**

So, Parker McLachlin, former UCLA golf star, winner of last year's Reno-Tahoe Open, competitor in this week's Northern



Trust Open at Riviera, what did you do in the off-season? Oh, you went from your home in Scottsdale, Ariz., to visit your parents in Hawaii in December? That's nice. Always good to go back to the roots, be with family for the holidays.

Do anything interesting, or just kind of hang out? A lot of sports stuff? Of course. That would be expected, with a dad who was a high school volleyball and basketball coach off and on for 35 years and a mom who was the captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic volleyball team. Not to mention a brother who is 6 feet 7 and plays on Stanford's volleyball team.

Pretty intimidating group, even for a guy who made \$13 million on the PGA Tour last year.

Any highlights, other than great seafood and temperatures in the 80s every day on Oahu?

Ah, great home cooking, played some pickup basketball with a guy named Barry while a bunch of Secret Service guys watched closely, and then headed back to the beach for the day, and...

Wait a minute. A guy named Barry? Secret Service? "My dad was Barack Obama" [See Dwyre, Page D3]

### Northern Trust Open

Today-Sunday at Riviera Country Club  
TV: Today and Friday, the Golf Channel at noon. Saturday and Sunday, Ch. 2 at noon.

## Kings continue to show maturity

**KINGS 4, DUCKS 3**

**HELENE ELLIOTT**

The next Southern California hockey team that will make the NHL playoffs is the Kings.



Yes, the long-hapless and until recently hopeless Kings.

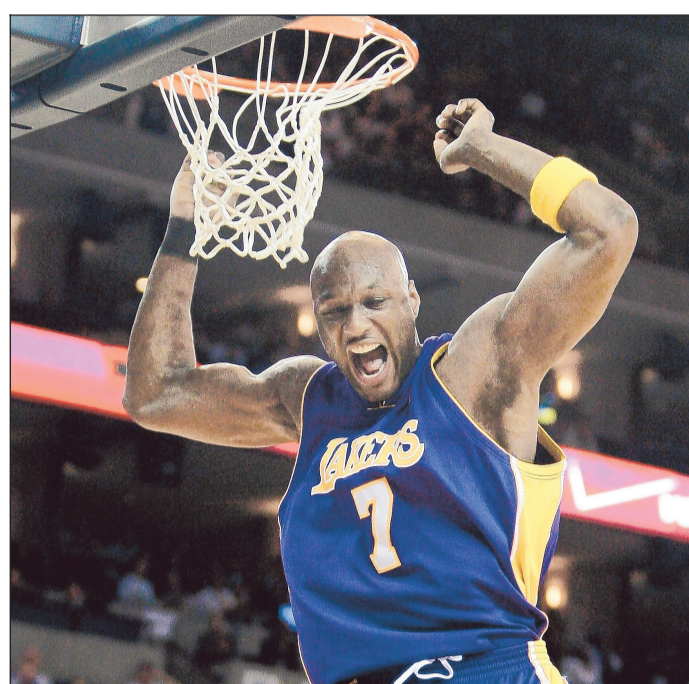
Not the Ducks, less than two years removed from their Stanley Cup championship but showing they need a major overhaul before they can become a force again.

The teams' role reversal probably won't come full circle this season, but it will happen.

Even though the Kings were 4-3 winners over the Ducks on Wednesday at a far-from-sold out Honda Center, showing pluck and patience after they squandered a 2-0 lead, they have too many shootout losses and not enough wins to think they can leap several spots in the tight West playoff scramble.

The Kings likely will finish a few points out of the top eight and that's not a bad fate. They're playing pressure games for the first time as a

[See Elliott, Page D5]



BEN MARGOT Associated Press

**HAPPY SLAMMER:** Lamar Odom celebrates a first-half dunk during the Lakers' victory over the Warriors.

## Lakers toe the lines in the fourth quarter

Ariza makes two three-pointers and Odom hits his free throws as L.A. rallies.

**LAKERS 129  
GOLDEN STATE 121**

**MIKE BRESNAHAN  
REPORTING FROM OAKLAND**

Even at the NBA level, where the average salary approaches \$6 million, a little extra work at the gym can pay off.

Trevor Ariza put in his bo-

nus time over the summer by refining his outside shot, and Lamar Odom logged his extra court time more recently, sneaking into the Lakers' training facility late at night this week to work on his free-throw stroke.

They each played a part in the fourth quarter as the Lakers overcame a 12-point third-quarter deficit to topple the Golden State Warriors, 129-121, Wednesday at Oracle Arena.

With the game waiting to tilt a particular direction, Ariza made two three-pointers in the final five minutes, and Odom made all three of his free-throw

attempts in the same time frame to push the Lakers to their ninth victory in the last 10 games.

Lamar Odom, free-throw king? Trevor Ariza, three-point specialist?

"No," Ariza said. "I just hit open shots, that's all. Teams still leave me [open]. If they're going to leave me, I'm going to keep shooting."

Ariza tied his season high with 17 points and made the first of his tide-turning three-pointers with 4:18 to play, bringing the Lakers within 109-108. His next three-pointer gave [See Lakers, Page D5]

### USC THIS WEEK

Tonight vs. Washington State, 7:30 p.m., PRIME  
Saturday vs. Washington, 4 p.m., PRIME



### UCLA THIS WEEK

Tonight vs. Washington, 8 p.m., FSW  
Saturday vs. Washington State, Noon, PRIME



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

**TIM FLOYD:** The USC coach says home-court advantage is age-old issue.

# TAKING CALLS ON THE ROAD

As USC and UCLA fans question late decisions by officials, numbers show Pac-10 home teams enjoy free-throw advantage.



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

**BEN HOWLAND:** The UCLA coach says controversy comes with the territory.

**BY DAVID WHARTON AND CHRIS FOSTER**

Ask the same question three different ways. Ben Howland won't take the bait. The UCLA coach will not condemn officiating in the Pacific 10 Conference. "You can go to look at any game throughout the country and there's always going to be a little bit of controversy in a call that was or wasn't made," he says.

But after a pair of hotly debated charging calls against UCLA and USC at Arizona State last weekend

— see USC Coach Tim Floyd's on-court tirade on YouTube — Pac-10 officials have become a point of contention among college basketball fans in Southern California.

The storm isn't likely to dissipate, not with Washington in town for two games starting with a conference showdown against UCLA at Pauley Pavilion tonight. Just last month, the Huskies enjoyed a combined 83-32 advantage in free throws over the Bruins and Trojans in Seattle.

As UCLA guard Jrue Holiday said: "If I was a fan, I'd be mad at the refs too." [See Officials, Page D7]

## The role of superhero comes with some unreal consequences

**CHRIS ERSKINE**

Bulletin: In the latest development in the growing steroid scandal, Captain America admitted today to knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and flunking a test to detect such substances. His superhero colleague, Iron Man, a wealthy businessman whose resume includes saving the world, has also been implicated in the burgeoning investigation.



Captain America appeared on ESPN late Wednesday night to admit abusing the illegal drugs after his name was leaked from an investigation into abuse by professional athletes.

"I was young, I was naive, I was just trying to live up to superhero expectations," Captain America said in the ESPN interview.

Meanwhile, investigators continued to pursue reports that Mister Fantastic, the Incredible Hulk and several DreamWorks hippos had also abused anabolic steroids, which are legal only with a doctor's prescription. Their agent, Scott Boras, refused to address any specific allega-

tions, but said in a statement: "Animated hippos today are under a lot of pressure. These guys are just eager to clear the air and put these unfortunate incidents behind them."

In San Francisco, a grand jury was looking into allegations that Iron Man may have perjured himself in testimony during the BALCO investigation. Iron Man, who formerly played for the Avengers, is accused of knowingly taking steroids and WD-40 penetrating oil. Sources who requested anonymity said Iron Man may also have undergone rust-proofing protection that was also illegal for men in metal suits. [See Erskine, Page D8]



MICHAEL A. MARIANT Associated Press

**ON TOUR:** Lance Armstrong signs posters for fans in Merced before the start of cycling event's fourth stage.

### Cavendish sprints to a win

He finishes just ahead of Boonen in Stage 4 of Amgen Tour of California through the Sierras. **PAGE 7**

### Looking at front and side mirrors

NASCAR drivers ready for Auto Club 500 at Fontana after the lessons they learned at Daytona. **PAGE 3**