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with Dundon and his group.

"I would say to her, 'Take the offer,'" Larry Miller, a former Blazers president, told *The New York Post* at the time. Allen didn't take it, and she didn't negotiate. Instead, she issued a terse statement through the club, saying that it wasn't for sale.

In fact, she hasn't answered any questions about her ownership of either team. While Paul Allen limited public interactions because they made him feel uncomfortable, his sister doesn't consider them part of her job description, apart from very occasionally standing at a podium to announce an initiative.

She prefers to let Blazers executives speak for the Blazers and Seahawks executives speak for the Seahawks, the reason given for her not directly participating in this story with an interview. Because of that, much about her situation remains misunderstood.

"It's kind of like that little game telephone – you whisper something to one kid, and then he whispers to the next kid and it goes around the circle," says Bob Whitsitt, who ran both the Trail Blazers and Seahawks under Paul Allen. "By the time it gets back to you, it's not even close to what you whispered out there."

In March, the Boston Celtics, valued at \$6.1 billion, were sold. With that announcement, the valuation of every other team made a dramatic jump.

Several weeks later, another terse statement was issued: The Blazers were now officially available. Then the Buss family agreed to sell the Lakers, a franchise valued at \$10 billion. Before Wednesday's announcement, the Blazers were thought to be worth between \$3 billion and \$4 billion following the Celtics sale. Now, the reported deal is roughly double the bid Knight's group made three years ago.

Jody Allen recently has been as engaged as her brother ever was, at least with the largest issues. She made the decision to buy out the contract of the popular Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, then met with him herself to explain it.

She plotted strategy with her

general managers, usually on a daily basis, during the negotiations that led to the trades of franchise quarterback Russell Wilson and Damian Lillard, the Blazers' All-Star guard.

Simultaneously, she was investing in the teams like someone who planned to be around a while. She authorized the construction of a new weight room at the Seahawks' practice facility and pushed for a fast-tracked creation of a G League affiliate for the Blazers.

"There was no sense of 'Whatever everyone else decides, I'm fine with' – that she was interim in some way," says the NBA's Silver. "It was absolutely clear that she was overseeing this team in the same manner that any other governor would."

As she has become more involved, public pressure has eased. Instead of urging her to sell the teams, sports talk shows and newspaper columns and Reddit subgroups are more likely to express concern about what might happen when she does.

It helps that results on the field and the court are trending positively, though neither team is back in the playoffs.

The Seahawks, a perennial power under Paul Allen, hadn't won more than nine games since 2020. In their first year under Mike Macdonald, who replaced Carroll in 2024, they won 10.

The Blazers, who played in the postseason for 22 of the 30 seasons of Paul Allen's tenure, haven't managed that since 2021. But they parlayed Lillard into a core of young talent and show signs of rejuvenation.

Jody has been intimately involved with both rebuilds.

"I actually think," says Seattle Kraken CEO Tod Leiweke, who worked for the Seahawks from 2003 to 2010, "she has done a hell of a job."

**'Very fundamental to his world'** The son of a teacher and a librarian, Paul Allen was an original thinker who, famously, had a higher SAT score than his Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

Dubbed an "accidental zillionaire" by *Wired* Magazine in 1994, he was driven by the inner workings of



COURTESY OF VULCAN SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

**“JODY COMMANDS A ROOM A BIT MORE THAN HER BROTHER DID. THERE’S CERTAIN SIMILARITIES IN TERMS OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICAL ABILITIES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I SAW THE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR PERSONALITIES. JODY IS A STRONGER VOICE.”**

Adam Silver, NBA Commissioner

technology rather than making money, according to Laura Rich, the author who used the phrase as the name for her Allen biography. One former Blazers executive says he could have been happy working at a record store. Or writing code.

In 1983, after the first of three cancer diagnoses, Allen left Microsoft and embarked on a life of freewheeling entrepreneurship. Most of the ideas he conjured up,

involving companies and museums and institutes, he relied on his sister to implement.

"She was very, very fundamental to his world, and his world was complicated," says Leiweke.

Jody Allen, six years younger, majored in drama at Whitman College in Walla Walla. Paul's only sibling, she was soliciting donations for the Pacific Northwest Ballet in 1986 when Paul convinced her to

*Jody Allen, center, and Paul Allen, right, are pictured here at Seattle Art Fair in 2017. Most of Paul Allen's art collection has been sold off.*

resign and help him found Vulcan Inc., a family office that would oversee his diverse holdings. As the accidental zillionaire's sister, she's as unlikely an owner of two big-league teams as American sports has seen.

By 1986, Paul Allen was already rich and famous. Jody Allen was an unknown – and preferred to stay that way. Fortunately, her skills complemented his.

"Paul is more an idea person," says the Seahawks' John Schneider, who first worked for the club in 2000 and has been the general manager since 2010. "She is a decision-maker."

Jody eventually had a family: a two-decade marriage to Brian Patton, who owned and managed golf courses, and three children. Her brother never did.

"She was the closest person to Paul," Kolde says. The two of them lived in adjacent houses in a family compound on Mercer Island. At Vulcan (now known as Vale Group), they had offices on the same hallway.

"They would travel together," says Kolde. "They would visit together and discuss everything. 'Should we buy the team?' 'Should we do this referendum?' 'Should we hire Mike Holmgren?' 'Should we hire Pete Carroll?'"

But while she had positions with genuine influence and power, she rarely appeared in public. Inside the sports teams, too, she remained a shadowy presence.

"She was very much in tune with what was going on with both teams, but also very much behind the scenes," Schneider says.

During the nine years he ran the Trail Blazers, Whitsitt remembers seeing Jody at a game only a handful of times, and never in an official capacity.

In part because of her children, Allen cultivated an air of inaccessibility. In 2000, for example, former Lakeside School classmates who were running the class of 1975's 25th reunion repeatedly reached out with invitations to attend. She didn't respond, according to one teacher at the school. On the night of the event, "she showed up unannounced – and brought a guest."

Her biggest public exposure came in 2013, when former security guards accused her under oath of, among other improprieties, bribing officials

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**TIMELINE**

**1986:** Works collecting donations for Pacific Northwest Ballet ... Vulcan Inc. (now Vale Group), co-founder (with brother, Paul Allen)

**1988:** The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation (Allen Family Philanthropies), co-founder

**1993:** Over a course of just six weeks, and without the threat of leaving town, Jody leads the successful public-private effort to fund construction of the \$262 million Rose Garden (now Moda Center), which opened in 1995 as the home of the Portland Trail Blazers and the Western Hockey League Portland Winterhawks

**1997:** First & Goal Inc., vice chair

**2000:** Experience Music Project (now Museum of Pop Culture), co-founder

**1997-2002:** Helps negotiate the public-private partnership that leads to the 2002 opening of the \$430 million Seahawks Stadium (now Lumen Field)

**2003:** The Allen Institute, co-founder

**2007:** Vulcan Sports and Entertainment, president

**2014:** Seahawks defeat the Denver Broncos for their only Super Bowl win

**2016:** Wild Lives Foundation, founder ... Sounders win their first of two MLS Cup championships

**2018:** Following Paul's death, named trustee and executor of his estate

**2018-present:** Oversees the Allen family-related funding of more than \$50 million to the University of Washington, primarily supporting the areas of medicine and engineering, and pushing the Allens' lifetime giving to the school to more than \$200 million

**2020:** Alongside the Trail Blazers, pledges more than \$1.4 million for game-night employees at Moda Center, due to the rescheduling and to aid with COVID-19 impact

**May 2025:** Estate of Paul Allen formally puts Trail Blazers up for sale

– SBJ Research