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Pacers leave Blazers behind in OT

By Hank Lowenkron
 The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — When Portland left Mark Jackson all alone in overtime, he made the Trail Blazers pay.

The Indiana guard hit a trio of 3-pointers in the extra session Thursday night to spark the Pacers to a 127-119 victory.

"The guys caused my man to rotate. I got some good looks. I got into a rhythm. I was stepping into them and knocking them down," said Jackson, who scored 10 of his season-high 23 points in the extra period as the Pacers stretched their franchise-record home winning streak to 25 games.

The Blazers, meanwhile, have lost three in a row for the first time this season and four of their last five games.

Indiana had a chance to win the game in regulation, getting the ball inside to Rik Smits. But he was triple-teamed and tied up with fourth-tenths of a second to play.

Smits, who had sat out all but the final 12.2 seconds of the fourth quarter, made up for the miss in overtime, scoring six quick points to give Indiana a 115-108 lead with 2:29 left in the extra session. He finished with 22 points, one of six Pacers to finish in double figures as they overcame a career-high 29-point effort by Portland reserve Bonzi Wells.

Wells played a career-high 34 minutes, topping his previous high by eight minutes. He also had a career-high 11 field goals on just 18 shots.

"Tonight was just my night and the guys kept on feeding me," said Wells, a former high school and collegiate star in nearby Muncie. "Coach gave me a big opportunity tonight. He knew I was coming home and he gave me some extended minutes. I just wanted to take advantage of it."

Portland coach Mike Dunleavy was impressed. "It was a super game for Bonzi. He does a good job of putting the ball on the floor and making plays," Dunleavy said.

Reggie Miller and Chris Mullin, who made his first start of the season with Jalen Rose out with the stomach flu, each scored 17 for Indiana. Dale Davis contributed 12

points and 13 rebounds to the victory.

"We know we're missing a key pop [without Rose]. Chris stepped up," Jackson said. "That's how you win the whole thing, when guys like that step up and do the job. It's a great, great lesson for the young guys: no matter what happens, keep yourself ready. When he was called on, he was ready."

Rasheed Wallace scored 24 for Portland, and Arvydas Sabonis added 21 points for the Trail Blazers.

Jackson's third 3-pointer in the overtime put Indiana ahead 118-110 and Portland never seriously challenged after that.

The Pacers raised their home record against Western Conference teams to 18-0.

The fourth quarter was tight all the way and Portland led only once. A 3-pointer by Wells left Portland trailing 103-100 with 1:51 to go. Sabonis completed a three-point play to tie the score with 1:27 remaining.

Davis made one of two free throws with 1:13 left.

Portland took its final lead on a short hook shot by Wells with 53 seconds to go. After Travis Best put Indiana back in front, Wells

tied the game at 106 by hitting the first of two free throws. But he missed the second to set up the play by Smits.

Indiana built an 18-point lead, 55-37, when Best made two free throws with 5:18 left in the first half, but then went cold as Portland went on an 11-1 run.

The Trail Blazers tied the game twice early in the third quarter, then fell behind by 10 twice in the period, which ended with the Pacers leading 89-86. Scottie Pippen, who was scoreless in the first half, had 10 points in the quarter.

Notes: Wallace picked up his league-leading 25th technical foul when he protested being called for his third personal. ... Indiana was just the ninth Portland opponent to reach 100 points. ... Mullin, who has seen limited action this season, left the game late in the third quarter when he pulled his right calf muscle and did not return. "I was just getting ready to jump. I flexed my foot, and it jump popped," Mullin said. ... Indiana swept the season series with Portland. ... Wells' previous high was 23 points on Jan. 8 against Phoenix. ... Jackson, who had nine assists, had his previous season high of 18 on Dec. 30 against Charlotte.

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Wildcats shake up the standings, beat Stanford men and women

TUCSON, Ariz. — Stanford can beat just about anybody in the country — except Arizona.

The ninth-ranked Wildcats used intense pressure defense and a balanced, aggressive offense in the second half and made it a sweep of No. 2 Stanford 86-81 Thursday night.

Richard Jefferson, who broke his right foot in Arizona's 68-65 victory at Stanford Jan. 8 and was scoreless in his first two games back last week, scored 19 points off the bench for the Wildcats, 13 in the second half.

Michael Wright scored 20 for Arizona (25-6 overall, 14-3 Pac-10). Jason Gardner, named freshman of the year Thursday by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association,

gave the Cardinal fits with his quickness and finished with 14 points and seven assists.

Luke Walton added 15 points, five in the last four minutes, and handed out 12 assists. Gilbert Arenas scored 14.

David Moseley scored 14 of his team's points in a row in the second half and led a late run that cut Arizona's 15-point lead to 84-81, that after Casey Jacobsen's off-balance 3-pointer with 14 seconds to go.

The Cardinal (25-3, 14-3) couldn't catch the Wildcats to foul them and Wright broke loose for a wide-open stuff with nine seconds to go to clinch Arizona's 29th consecutive homecourt Pac-10 victory.

Jacobsen scored 20 and Mark Madsen had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Stanford.

Arizona, already without 7-foot-1 Loren Woods for four games with a back injury, lost Woods' backup, Justin Wessell, with an ankle injury with 8:02 to play.

Arizona's victory left the teams tied for first in the Pac-10 with one game to go. The Wildcats play host to California in the regular-season finale on Saturday, while Stanford is at Arizona State.

If Arizona and Stanford finish as Pac-10 co-champions, the Wildcats will get the conference's automatic seed by virtue of the sweep of the Cardinal.

Up 39-37 after scoring the last seven points of the first half, Arizona clamped on the pressure. Stanford responded with 10 turnovers in the first nine minutes of the second half.

The Wildcats, meanwhile, went on a 12-3 run punctuated by Walton's two free throws and Arenas' steal and breakaway layup that put Arizona ahead 57-44 with 13:38 to play.

Arizona never trailed after scoring the last seven of the first half.

Ryan Mendez's 3-pointer put the Cardinal up 37-32 with 2:05 left in the half. Gardner, a blur of activity on offense and defense all night, started Arizona's late first-half run with a layup, then drew

an offensive foul against Stanford's Michael McDonald.

'Cat women shock Cardinal
 STANFORD, Calif. — Reshea Bristol and Monika Crank, held to only a pair of baskets between them in the first 20 minutes, came alive in the second half to score 13 apiece and lead No. 22 Arizona over Stanford 79-72 on Thursday.

The Wildcats (23-6) moved into a tie with the Cardinal for second place in the Pacific 10 Conference, each with 12-5 records. Stanford, trying to record its 12th 20-win season in the last 13 years, fell to 19-8 on the season.

Stanford took a 36-32 lead with 16:18 left with a layin by Milena Flores before the Wildcats took off on a decisive 17-5 run.

Crank scored eight of her points during that run, including a pair of 3-pointers. Bristol capped the run with a pair of free throws to give Arizona a 49-41 lead with 10:47 left. She added six more points in the next three minutes, helping to stretch the lead to 58-49 with 6:58 left.

Stanford's shoot-and-foul strategy late in the game didn't work, and the Cardinal couldn't get closer than six points in the last five minutes.

Arizona had a big advantage at the free throw line, hitting 21 of 30 to Stanford's 10 of 14. Both teams shot 47 percent from the field. Stanford hit 10 of 27 from three-point range, but it wasn't enough.

Another key for the Wildcats was their 40-25 domination in rebounding.

Bristol and Crank each finished with 15 points, Angela Lackey added 14 points and eight rebounds and Elizabeth Pickney had 10 points and nine boards for Arizona.

Jamie Carey, Carolyn Moos and Flores each had 15 for Stanford, which also got 12 from Lauren St. Clair.

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