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Blazers find third try a winning one

By Landon Hall
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Arvydas Sabonis scored 15 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Los Angeles Clippers for the first time in three tries, 94-81, Thursday night.

Damon Stoudamire added 17 points and nine assists for the Blazers, who lost to the Clippers twice earlier this month, both at Staples Center: 90-89 on Feb. 3 and 123-120 in double overtime on Saturday.

Portland again had trouble with the much younger Clippers, who shot 51 percent in the first half and led 46-45. Los Angeles folded in the second half, however, shooting 34 percent and putting up numerous airballs.

Eric Piatkowski scored 15 to lead the Clippers, who lost their third straight since the win over Portland.

Lamar Odom, the Clippers' leading scorer at 17.2 points per game, was held to three points on 1-of-2 shooting in 27 minutes. He left in the third quarter with a bruised left hip and didn't return.

Stoudamire carried the Blazers in the third quarter by scoring 11 points. He started the period with a 20-foot jumper that put the Blazers ahead for good, 47-46. The Clippers stayed in it, but a spectacular basket by Stoudamire gave Portland a seven-point lead entering the

fourth.

With time running down in the period, Sabonis put up a hook shot that fell short. Stoudamire reached up over the Clippers' Jeff McInnis, grabbed the ball and lofted it into the basket at the horn for a 69-62 lead.

Sabonis tied his season high for points set Jan. 30 against Chicago. He made 10 of 17 shots, including a 23-foot jumper that gave the Blazers their biggest lead, 94-78, with 1:49 to go.

The first half was close and well-played. Stoudamire drove down the lane two straight times for layups to put the Blazers ahead 25-24, but Clippers center Michael Olowokandi banked a hook shot off the glass to close the first quarter.

The Blazers went with mostly veteran reserves early in the second; at one point, their lineup of Sabonis, Steve Smith, Shawn Kemp, Stacey Augmon and Scottie Pippen averaged 33 years and 5 months, while the Clippers averaged 24 years, 3 months.

Los Angeles jumped to a 34-27 lead on a goaltending violation by Kemp, but after getting Rasheed Wallace back in the game, the Blazers pulled close again.

A three-pointer by Corey Maggette gave the Clippers a 46-43 lead late in the quarter, but a baseline 16-foot jumper by Sabonis with one-tenth of a second left got the Blazers within one.

Arizona suffers loss at the hands of OSU

CORVALLIS — Ericka Cook scored 20 points and hit the game-winning free throw as Oregon State upset Arizona 67-66 Thursday night.

Felicia Ragland added 12 points and eight rebounds as the Beavers (15-11, 7-9 Pacific-10 Conference) snapped an eight-game losing streak to the Wildcats (18-9, 8-7 Pac-10).

Elizabeth Pickney led Arizona with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

With the game tied, Holly Holbrook made one of two free throws to give the Beavers a 64-63 lead with 1:05 to play.

Arizona had a chance to take the lead with 20 seconds left, but Sya

sha Thomas stole the ball from Reshea Bristol.

Veranda James was called for an intentional foul and Thomas made both free throws with 10 seconds on the clock.

Oregon State inbounded and Cook was sent to the free-throw line, where she made the first half of a one-and-one and gave the Beavers a 67-63 lead with eight seconds left.

Bristol hit a three-pointer as time ran out to finish the scoring.

Bristol finished with 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds but also had 11 turnovers.

The Associated Press

Track brief

Members of the Oregon men's and women's track teams will compete at Midwest meets today and Saturday in a last-chance attempt to gain or better their NCAA qualifying marks.

Seniors Katie Crabb and Holly Speight, both already NCAA qualifiers, represent the Duck women this weekend. On Saturday, they will compete at the Nebraska Last Chance Meet, which is hosted by Nebraska.

Crabb is aiming to improve her season-best time of 4 minutes, 46.38 seconds in the mile by a couple seconds. Her current time puts her on the NCAA bubble, and improvement would solidify her qualifying chances.

Speight hopes to strengthen her standings on the NCAA pole vault qualifying list.

Three Oregon men compete today

at the NCAA Qualifier meet, held at Iowa State.

Freshmen Trevor Woods and junior Cody Howell are entered in the pole vault, while senior Rian Ingram will test his skill in the shot put.

Woods owns a season best of 17 feet, 2 3/4 inches, and will likely need to clear a height of 17-4 1/2 to qualify for the NCAA meet. Howell, who has a season best of 16-4 3/4, must accomplish the same feat.

Ingram's season best of 57-3 1/2 in the shot put falls more than two inches shy of the minimum NCAA provisional standard. Ingram could need a mark of 60 feet or better to earn an invitation.

Sophomores Jason Hartmann (5,000 meters) and Jason Boness (high jump) will not compete this weekend.

The NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships will be held March 9-10 at Arkansas' Randal Tyson Sports Center.

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