

Nuggets shake off Friday's 4OT loss, even series with Blazers

By Anne Peterson
The Associated Press

The Denver Nuggets have been good at bouncing back all season.

Not even a draining four-overtime defeat could keep this team down.

Nikola Jokic had 21 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his second straight triple-double and fourth of the playoffs, and the Nuggets evened their Western Conference semifinal series against the Portland Trail Blazers at 2-2 with a 116-112 victory Sunday.

It was less than 48 hours after Portland's epic 140-137 quadruple-overtime victory to take a 2-1 lead in the series. It was only the second game in playoff history that went to four OTs. The other was in 1953.

"I think it's not quitting. We have a lot of competitive guys who don't want to lose. I think we don't want to lose

more than we like to win — which is weird," Jokic said. "We just didn't want to have the excuse that we lost because of four overtimes, because we were tired."

Jamal Murray led all scorers with 34 points and made all 11 free throws for the Nuggets, who handed Portland its first postseason loss at home this season. The series now heads back to Denver for Game 5.

CJ McCollum had 29 points and Damian Lillard added 28 for the Blazers, who missed out on taking a 3-1 lead in a conference semifinals for the first time since 2000.

"Our guys are tough. We're resilient," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "I mean, to come in here and win this game 36 hours after losing in four overtimes, speaks to just how tough we are."

Malone cited regular-sea-

son statistics to back up his claims: Denver was 12-1 in the second game of back-to-backs, best in the NBA. The Nuggets were good in close games, too: 13-3 in games decided by three points or less, he said.

"We just said to ourselves, 'If we win today then the last game doesn't really matter that much,'" Jokic said. "Yes we played a four-overtime game, it was exhausting, but we won tonight so the last game doesn't really matter."

Denver outscored the Blazers 27-14 in the third quarter to take an 84-77 lead into the fourth. Malik Beasley kicked off the final period with a 3-pointer for the Nuggets.

Rodney Hood's 3-pointer got the Blazers within 110-107 with 52 seconds left and Lillard's layup got the Blazers even closer at 112-110 with 7.7 seconds to go.

But Murray's free throws gave Denver a four-point lead. McCollum hit a long jumper that after a video replay was ruled a 2 and Denver prevailed.

"It is disappointing. You go up 3-1 and you have a lot of momentum and obviously that would be a great position to be in. But they're a good team, they came out and played well," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We had a bad third quarter and that kind of made the difference. We made a good comeback, but now it's a three-game series."

Jokic played 65 minutes in the quadruple-overtime loss, the fourth-most minutes in NBA playoff history and just two short of the

record. McCollum led the Blazers with 60 minutes.

Fatigue was more of a concern for the second-seeded Nuggets, who had just one day off after their seven-game, first-round series against San Antonio. The Blazers dispatched of first-round opponent Oklahoma City in five games, clinching their first trip to the conference semifinals since 2016 on Lillard's buzzer-beating 3-pointer.

Enes Kanter started for Portland despite ongoing concerns about his left shoulder, which he injured in Game 5 against the Thunder. He and Jokic have been physical adversaries through the first three games, and Kanter

said after Friday's game that the shoulder separation was worse and wasn't sure he could play.

Seth Curry made three straight 3-pointers — all in the space of a minute — to put Portland up 53-46 in the second quarter. Curry added a 3 at the buzzer to send Portland into halftime with a 63-57 lead. Curry had 14 of his 16 points in the second quarter.

The Nuggets opened the second half with an inspired 10-2 run to go up 67-65. Paul Millsap's 3-pointer gave Denver a 78-72 lead, and after a couple of calls that went against Portland and drew the ire of the Moda Center fans, Jokic added a bank shot. ■

SWEEP

Continued from Page 6A

er's first 10 batters — including a nine-pitch 'immaculate' inning in the third — and took a perfect game into the six inning.

"Allie's pitches were working great. It's a nice day, and Allie's a competitor," Wright said of the Tigers' ace. "She's going to step up and try to do her best."

Brock finished with 18 strikeouts and allowed just one hit.

"It's crazy," Bowen said. "Other pitchers that we face are not like that, and just for Allie to go and do that is really cool."

The bats woke up in a big way in the second game. La Grande pounded out four home runs — one each from Brock, Alaina Carson, Jayce Seavert, and Sophie Bell — and didn't let up, using an 11-run third inning as part of the scoring frenzy. Seavert, who finished 3-for-3 with six

RBIs, hit a three-run shot in the first for a quick 3-0 lead three batters in. Brock connected in the second on a two-run home run after both Gooderham and Seavert drove in runs with doubles, and Carson lifted out a two-run dinger to start the scoring in the third. The inning, which saw La Grande score in almost every conceivable manner — a squeeze bunt, an error, two RBI singles, a fielder's choice and two bases-loaded walks were among the ways the Tigers forced home runs — ended with a Seavert RBI double for a 19-0 lead.

Bell, who had five RBIs, hit a three-run homer in the fourth to polish off the scoring.

Carson and Gooderham both added three RBIs, and three pitchers combined to toss the Tigers' 11th shutout of the season, eight of which have come against overpowered GOL competition.

La Grande (18-1 overall, 10-0 GOL) finishes league play Saturday at McLoughlin. ■

TRACK

Continued from Page 6A

(11-foot-6), Henry Coughlan in the 3,000 (9:30.13) and Juston Rodgers in the 800 (2:03.33), and a third-place effort from Coughlan in the 1,500 (4:16.03).

The Eagles girls scored 38 points to tie for seventh, getting wins from Ellyse Tingelstad in the 1,500 (5:06.28) and in the 3,000 (11:30.80), and from Ella Coughlan in the 800 (2:22.13), and taking second in the 4x400 as Sabrina Albee, Haley Miller, Coughlan and Tingelstad finished in 4:24.89.

The Cove Leopards girls placed fifth with 52 points. Sophie Pettit won both the 100 (13.27) and the 200 (27.27) and Allie Best won the javelin (119-foot-9). Pettit was also third in the long jump (16-foot-5-3/4) and ran with Rachel Baird, Austin Kendall and Alisa Fox to take third in the 4x100 relay (52.65). Cove's boys scored 16 points for 13th, with the top mark a win by Tim Stevens in the 800 (1:57.36).

The Elgin Huskies placed sixth on the boys side (42.33 points) and tied for seventh on the girls side (38 points). Tristan Simpson led the EHS boys by taking first in the javelin (163-foot-4), second in the 100 (11.66) and running on both the Huskies' second-place 4x400 relay team with Wyatt Hallgarth, Geoy Greenlee and Clay Wilhelm (3:34.00), and the third-place 4x100 team with Hallgarth, Greenlee and Jordon Palmer (45.43). Aaliyah Burton led the Elgin girls by taking first in the 300 hurdles (48.87), tying for second in the 100 (13.27) and third in the 100 hurdles (17.20), while Shelby Sannar was second in the javelin (114-foot-3).

The Powder Valley Badgers boys placed ninth with

26 points, taking third in the 4x400 relay as the team Reece Dixon, Roper Bingham Case Olson and Kaden Kreiger, finished in 3:38.00, while the Badger girls scored five points for 17th, with Brooke Allen, Keanna Bingham, Megan Bingham and Sonora Blair placing sixth in the 4x400 relay (4:31.85).

The Union Bobcats boys had 24 points for 11th, and the girls had 25.5 points for 13th. Griffin Nash won the shot put (44-foot-2-1/2) and Jaxon Blackburn took second in the pole vault (11-foot-6) to lead the Union boys, and on the girls side Jaimee Baxter won the 400 (1:00.44) and Abriel O'Reilly placed third in the 1,500 (5:18.66).

The Imbler Panthers scored seven points for 16th on the girls side, and the boys scored five points for 18th. Erin Coston was fourth in the pole vault (7-foot-6) to lead the girls, and Calvin Martin took fourth in the javelin (146-foot-0) to score all the points for the IHS boys.

Up next for each team is their respective district track meets. La Grande hosts the GOL meet Saturday. Cove, Imbler, Elgin, Joseph and Powder Valley head to the 1A Special District 4 meet in Baker Friday, and Union travels to John Day for the 2A Special District 5 meet Friday.

OUTLAW GIRLS SECOND, BOYS THIRD AT JOHN DAY

The Enterprise Outlaws girls track and field team scored 157.5 points for second at the Grant Union Invitational Friday in John Day, and the boys tallied 124 points for third.

The EHS girls won four events, claiming victories by Shelby Moncrief in the 200 (27.49 seconds), Ashley Wilson in the 800 (2:30.95), Kyla Hook in the 3,000 (11:38.49) and Karli Bedard in the 300 hurdles (51.78). Additionally, Bedard and Savannah

Vaughn tied for second in the high jump (4-foot-6), Ashlyn Gray was second in the 100 hurdles (17.93) and the discus (95-foot-7), Hook was second in the 1,500 (5:13.18) and the 4x400 relay team of Vaughn, Charlotte McDonald, Lannie Stonebrink and Wilson came in second (4:22.72).

The boys claimed first in three events, with the 4x100 relay (Shane Lund, Foster Hobbs, Jericho Peters and Garrett Thorne) winning in 45.82. Austin Brockcamp, meanwhile, won the 200 (24.00) and Hobbs won the 400 (50.33). Taking second was Thorne in the 100 (11.66), Riley Masters in the shot put (38-foot-6), Joe Robb in the long jump (19-foot-4-1/2) and Colby Harris in the triple jump (39-foot-11).

Enterprise heads back to John Day Friday for the 2A Special District 5 meet. ■



Quality Steel Roofing & Siding Products Since 1982

Manufacturing Zee & Cee Purlins In-House Custom Cut Exact Lengths




- 24 Colors
- Custom Trim
- 2 1/2" Corrugated
- Delivery Available
- Full Soffitt Line
- 3 ft. Gulf Coast Panel
- 3 ft. PBR Panel
- 3 ft. Mesa Panel
- 3 ft. Tuff Rib Panel
- Standing Seam
- 2 ft. Delta Rib
- 3 ft. Pro Panel

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

40 Year Full Paint Warranty • WeatherX Paint System




ONTARIO
541-889-4214
1460 N. Verde Dr.
Toll Free 1-866-887-8335

BOISE
208-336-7505
6619 S. Supply Way
Toll Free 1-888-717-8335

WWW.TREASUREVALLEYSTEEL.COM



Celebrating Hospital Week

We applaud the outstanding service provided by each member of the Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics staff. Your daily commitment to ensuring excellent patient care helps to make our hospital and our clinics great.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and associates.

Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc. is a private, 501(c)3 not-for-profit health system, established 1907.

