

SPORTS

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59 points? Lillard thinks he can top it

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Moments after scoring a franchise-record 59 points in Portland's victory over Utah, Damian Lillard said he believed he could top it.

The declaration was quintessential Lillard.

"A lot of players have played here, so just to think about that it's a great honor, but hopefully I'll beat it. Hopefully I'll get past that," the Trail Blazers' focused point guard said. "I think I will."

**UP NEXT:
TRAIL BLAZERS**

• San Antonio Spurs (61-19)
at Portland Trail Blazers (40-40)
• Today, 7 p.m.
TV: FSSW, CSNW

Something else that happened following Saturday night's 101-86 win was also typical of Lillard: He gave the game ball to Utah veteran Joe Johnson, who scored his 20,000th career point during the game.

"That's an accomplishment for him as well," Lillard said.

Lillard's step-back 3-pointer with 1:49 left pushed him past Damon Stoudamire's previous franchise record of 54 points, set in New Orleans on Jan. 14, 2005. He also surpassed Brandon Roy's Moda Center record of 52 set back in 2008.

He pointed to his wrist, indicating "Lillard Time" — which becomes a thing in Portland when he takes over games — and then raised his hands before pounding his chest. He shouted to the standing Moda Center crowd: "I got this."

He finished with nine 3s to match his career high and the Blazers' record. He set another team record with his 27th game of 30 or more points this season. He is also the only Blazers player to have three games in a season with 50-plus points.

Oh, and he didn't have a single turnover.

Coach Terry Stotts said simply, "Damian was phenomenal."

"When he gets it going, it's fun to watch," Portland forward Meyers Leonard said.

Lillard came oh-so-close to reaching the 60-point milestone, but two missed free throws with 23.1 seconds left kept him at 59.

Earlier in the week at Utah, Portland fell 106-87. Lillard finished with 16 points, well below his average of 27 a game.

"I think he kind of knew in the back of his mind that he struggled last game against us, and he came in on a mission," Utah's Rodney Hood said. "He started off hot and it was hard to slow him down. Once a guy like that gets hot, there's only so much you can do."

But more important than the points, at least to Lillard, was the win.

Portland (40-40) clinched the eighth and final playoff spot on Sunday when Denver fell 106-105 to Oklahoma City.



Photos by Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian

LEFT: Astoria's Natalie Cummings crosses the finish line first in the girls 4x100 relay — and in the rain — at Saturday's meet in Seaside. **RIGHT:** Ilwaco's Alex Kaino, Astoria's Jacob Olson and Jewell's Ben Stahly rocket to the finish line of the boys 100-meter dash in Seaside Saturday. Kaino won the race in a time of 12.03. More photos from the invite available online at DailyAstorian.com/sports

Invite: More than 300 students from 12 area schools competed

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Even with a late set-up, "I don't know if we've ever been better prepared for this meet than we were today," Kilday said. "We had eight National Guard volunteers helping us out, and with all the adults, from (Seaside athletic director) Jason Boyd to the coaches and other kids ... we got through everything just great."

Weather-wise, "I don't think we've ever had hail like that, and it was a little cooler than I expected," he said. "But just from the fact that we didn't have to cancel any events, I thought it was a great meet."

Twelve schools

The annual "Daily A" meet showcases athletes from the local schools, plus a few out-of-towners for a one day event, hosted this year by the Gulls.

The meet is never team-scored, but with a few state champions and state-placers in most of the events, there's never a shortage of excitement at the Daily A.

Twelve schools took part, with 300-plus athletes competing. Athletes from Astoria and Seaside won 19 of the 34 events, with only one near-meet record.

Of course, the defending state champion Astoria girls had a dominant day on the track, with wins and impressive performances from, among others, Natalie Cummings, McKenzie Burnett and newcomer Sam Hemsley. Early-season leg issues limited Darian Hageman, who finished second in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

And the Seaside boys flexed their muscle on the track, from sweeping the relays to the middle distances (Juneau Meyer in the 400 meters, Jackson Januik in the 800); to the long distances (Bradley Rzewnicki in the 1,500, Rafi Sibony in the 3,000 meters).

The highlight race of the meet was a familiar one — Astoria's Lucas Caruana going head-to-head with Januik in the 800.

Caruana — third place in the state meet last



Astoria's Darian Hageman placed second in the girls long jump with a distance of 15-feet-5.5.

year — led for over half the race, before Januik — the defending state champion in the 800 — passed Caruana on the final lap to win in 1 minute, 59.31 seconds, just off the meet record of 1:59.27, set by Astoria's Jeremy Matlock in 1993.

"That was just fun to watch," Kilday said. "Without each other, I don't know if they would have been able to run what they did."

"I'd say those two are the top two, not only in the Cowapa League, but in the state at the 4A level," he said. "And they do a great job of work-

ing together to make each other better. You usually don't see Astoria and Seaside working together like that, but those two do it well."

Seaside's Will Garvin added a victory in the 300-meter hurdles, after a rough start left him fourth out of five runners in the 110-meter hurdle race.

"I look at the 300 as my redemption race, for whenever something doesn't go as planned in the 110s," Garvin said. "Ultimately, I'd like to get to state and make it finals. I've yet to make it finals individually, so that's my main goal. Pretty much everybody in the Cowapa League has a hurdler who's out there ready to compete, so it's going to be a fun year."

Notables

Other notables — Ilwaco's Alex Kaino and Ryan Schenk swept the 100 and 200 meter sprints, respectively; Astoria junior Tim Barnett won the shot put and discus, and was second in the javelin; and Warrenton senior Tyler Whitaker swept the long jump and triple jump events.

Meanwhile, on the girls' side, Cummings was in mid-season form, winning the 100 and 200 meters, anchoring the winning 400-meter relay, and leading off for the 1,600-meter relay, which also won.

"I was expecting some competition, but I seemed to push through pretty well," said Cummings, who received a full-ride scholarship last week to compete at Portland State. "I'm definitely progressing. This is only our second meet. I'm content with where I'm at, for sure."

For Seaside, "Anna Huddleston did a great job in the javelin, with two PRs," Kilday said. "Josie Smith had a good day on the track (winning the 1,500), and Katie Zagata had a second-place finish (behind Astoria's McKenzie Burnett) in the 3,000."

Astoria sophomore Andrea Harris won the 100-meter hurdles, and Warrenton freshman Kaisa Liljenwall took the 300 hurdles. Astoria throwers Kes Sandstrom and Taylor Cosner won the discus and shot put, respectively.



LEFT: Knappa's Spencer Teague set a new personal record with his height of 5-feet-2 in the boys high jump at Saturday's meet in Seaside. **RIGHT:** Seaside senior Josie Smith placed first in the girls 1,500 Saturday in a time of 5:31.55.



SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE
TODAY

Girls Golf — Seaside Invitational (at Astoria Golf), 11 a.m.

Baseball — Ilwaco at Wishkah Valley, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY

Baseball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Tillamook at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Banks at Seaside, 4 p.m.; Ilwaco at North Beach (2), 3 p.m.

Track — Seaside at Corbett, TBA

TRACK & FIELD
Daily Astorian Invitational at Seaside HS

Teams: Arlington, Astoria, City Christian, Faith Bible, Ilwaco, Jewell, Knappa, North Marion, Rainier, Seaside, Vernonia, Warrenton

Girls

100: 1, Natalie Cummings, Ast, 13.33. 2, Emily Scanlan, NM, 13.63. 3, Kaisa Liljenwall, War, 14.22.

200: 1, Natalie Cummings, Ast, 28.42. 2, Alayna Marsh, Ilw, 29.01. 3, Nezhiah Castillo, CC, 30.17.

400: 1, Devin Vandergriff, Kna, 1:04.86. 2, Alayna Marsh, Ilw, 1:05.68. 3, Lene Jacob-

sen, Ver, 1:09.37.

800: 1, Lauren Ely, Ver, 2:52.85. 2, Adriana Dejesus, War, 2:53.10. 3, Samantha Hemsley, Ast, 2:53.98.

1,500: 1, Josie Smith, Sea, 5:31.55. 2, Taileigh Cole, Ast, 5:32.32. 3, Eliza Bannister, Ilw, 5:34.89.

3,000: 1, McKenzie Burnett, Ast, 12:01.75. 2, Kathryn Zagata, Sea, 12:35.04. 3, Kathy Perez, Ast, 13:23.86.

100 Hurdles: 1, Andrea Harris, Ast, 18.11. 2, Kaytlenn Whelden, Ilw, 18.15. 3, Emily Scanlan, NM, 18.30.

300 Hurdles: 1, Kaisa Liljenwall, War, 50.78. 2, Kaytlenn Whelden, Ilw, 50.99. 3, Nara Van de Grift, Ast, 51.57.

400 Relay: 1, Astoria (G.Cummings, Harris, Van de Grift, N.Cummings), 52.43. 2, Ilwaco, 53.56. 3, North Marion, 54.85.

1,600 Relay: 1, Astoria (N.Cummings, G.Cummings, Van de Grift, Hemsley), 4:38.49. 2, Ilwaco, 4:43.25. 3, Seaside, 5:00.92.

Discus: 1, Kes Sandstrom, Ast, 106-7. 2, Taylor Cosner, Ast, 104-4. 3, Katie Fajer, FB, 95-1.

Javelin: 1, Taylor Cosner, Ast, 103-3. 2, Anna Huddleston, Sea, 101-1. 3, Gretchen Hoekstre, Sea, 97-5.

Shot Put: 1, Makenzie Kaech, Ilw, 37-6. 2, Gretchen Hoekstre, Sea, 35-10.5. 3, Taylor Cosner, Ast, 32-7.

High Jump: 1, Emily Scanlan, NM, 5-2. 2, Darian Hageman, Ast, 5-0. 3, Brienne Femrite, NM, 4-6.

Long Jump: 1, Elizabeth McMullen, Ilw, 15-5.75. 2, Darian Hageman, Ast, 15-5.5. 3, MarDelSol Verasteugi, NM, 15-1.

Triple Jump: 1, Eliza Bannister, Ilw, 33-6. 2, Darian Hageman, Ast, 33-5.5. 3, MarDelSol Verasteugi, NM, 32-5.

Pole Vault: 1, Ashley Campbell, FB, 8-0. 2, Shrida Sharma, Ast, 7-6. 3, Cadyn Carr, Sea, 5-6.

Boys

100: 1, Alex Kaino, Ilw, 12.03. 2, Clay Sullivan, Vern, 12.16. 3, Jacob Olson, Ast, 12.17.

200: 1, Ryan Schenk, Ilw, 24.63. 2, Jacob Olson, Ast, 25.30. 3, Tyler Whitaker, War, 25.30.

400: 1, Juneau Meyer, Sea, 56.22. 2, Tyler Whitaker, War, 56.97. 3, Levi Card, Sea, 57.27.

800: 1, Jackson Januik, Sea, 1:59.31. 2, Lucas Caruana, Ast, 1:59.88. 3, Luke Liljenwall, War, 2:09.51.

1,500: 1, Bradley Rzewnicki, Sea, 4:22.53. 2, Hunter Thompson, Sea, 4:32.25. 3, Daniel Whiting, Ilw, 4:43.55.

3,000: 1, Rafi Sibony, Sea, 9:54.23. 2, Johnathan Guisinger, Rai, 9:55.13. 3, Daniel Whiting, Ilw, 10:25.22.

100 Hurdles: 1, Clay Sullivan, Ver, 16.82.

2, Michael Kee, Ast, 17.50. 3, Ian Hunt, Ast, 18.79.

300 Hurdles: 1, Will Garvin, Sea, 44.27. 2, Clay Sullivan, Ver, 45.31. 3, Nikolas Caruana, Ast, 47.98.

400 Relay: 1, Seaside (Card, Teubner, Kiser, Meyer), 46.41. 2, Astoria, 47.23. 3, Ilwaco, 47.93.

1,600 Relay: 1, Seaside (Meyer, J.Januik, Thompson, Garvin), 3:39.34. 2, Astoria, 3:42.38. 3, Ilwaco, 3:42.51.

Discus: 1, Tim Barnett, Ast, 147-6. 2, Shawn Hauner, Arl, 124-1. 3, Devon Bows-er, War, 112-1.

Javelin: 1, Thomas Evans, Arl, 160-5. 2, Tim Barnett, Ast, 149-0. 3, Sean Hinson, Jwl, 145-6.

Shot Put: 1, Tim Barnett, Ast, 47-11.5. 2, Devon Bows-er, War, 41-11. 3, David Merry, Ast, 39-8.5.

High Jump: 1, Brett Jones, Ver, 5-10. 2, Karsten Johnson, Ast, 5-8. 3, Phoenix Johnson, Sea, 5-8.

Long Jump: 1, Tyler Whitaker, War, 19-1.75. 2, Phoenix Johnson, Sea, 18-11.5. 3, Andrew Schauermaann, Ast, 17-8.

Triple Jump: 1, Tyler Whitaker, War, 39-7. 2, Javier Arenas Oliver, Ver, 39-4.5. 3, Alex Burchfield, Ast, 39-3.5.

Pole Vault: 1, Cole Olson, Ast, 9-6. 2, Javier Arenas Oliver, Ver, 9-0. 3, Justin Villa, Ast, 9-0.



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard drives to the basket between Utah Jazz's Rudy Gobert, left and Joe Johnson during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland Saturday.