

SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week



CLAIRE BUSSERT
 Warrenton

The senior guard has helped the Lady Warriors to a No. 6 ranking in state, picking up the scoring slack left by the injured Fernanda Alvarez. After a loss at Clatskanie, Bussert scored a game-high 22 points in a 44-38 win over Willamina. Her scores included four 3-pointers and a reverse layup which wowed the home crowd. Less than 24 hours later, Bussert tossed in another game-high 19 points in a 63-25 win over Taft.



DALTON KNIGHT
 Warrenton

In a four-game stretch, Warrenton's senior guard has been a 3-point scoring machine. Knight had seven 3-pointers and a 23-point night in a loss at Clatskanie, followed by five 3-pointers in a win over Willamina. He was still hot Saturday, when he drained six treys for 33 of Warrenton's 43 points in a win over Taft. Knight opened this week with seven 3-pointers in a nonleague win over Southridge, B.C. That's 25 3-pointers in four games.

Jewell, Falls City split twinbill

The Daily Astorian

The Falls City and Jewell basketball teams split a Casco League doubleheader Tuesday night at Jewell.

The Lady Jays won the opener with a 40-30 decision over the Mountaineers, as Jewell's Haley Norman poured in 17 points, with six rebounds and four assists. Teammate Nedi Morales finished with 11 points, seven boards and four steals, and Lillie Meier had a team-high nine rebounds with three steals.

Ally Phillips added six rebounds and Lily Kaczinski had three steals for the Lady Jays, now 3-3 in league play.

Falls City won the boys' game, 56-38, despite 16 points and eight rebounds for Jewell's Andy Valdez. Teammate Aiden Bixel scored eight points with six boards.



Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins defends against Bulls forward Wendell Carter Jr.

AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldyer

McCollum scores 24 points, Trail Blazers beat Bulls 124-112

By ANNE M. PETERSON
 Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Trail Blazers are taking advantage where the schedule allows.

CJ McCollum had 24 points and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the final quarter to send the Chicago Bulls to their fifth straight loss, 124-112 on Wednesday night.

Jusuf Nurkic had 18 points and eight rebounds but got into foul trouble and came up just short of his fifth straight game with 20 or more points. Portland has won three straight and five of its last six games.

Damian Lillard, who leads the team in scoring, said he's been good with letting others take some of the load. Lillard finished with 16 points and 10 assists for his fifth double-double of the season.

"We had a stretch we played against all playoff teams. Not looking down on any of our past few opponents but they've been teams where we've been able to get things that we might not have been able to get against those other

teams because we're so familiar with them, their style," Lillard said. "So I've just kind of been letting the game happen, making the right plays and guys have been playing really well."

Wendell Carter Jr. had 22 points to lead the Bulls in the first of a five-game road trip.

After a tight first half, the Blazers led by as many as 11 points in the third quarter but the Bulls kept the margin from getting any wider until Meyers Leonard's dunk put Portland up 106-94 with just under eight minutes left in the game.

A pair of consecutive 3-pointers from McCollum and Seth Curry put the Blazers up 112-96 and Portland went on to lead by as many as 19 points down the remaining stretch.

"Rebounding and our pick and roll coverage wasn't the best tonight," Carter said. "It was just an effort thing, we didn't stick to the game plan like we were supposed to. We're learning and growing. I have no regrets about what we did tonight. We learn and move on."

Bulls coach Jim Boylen said

before the game that Bobby Portis would be on a 24-minute restriction. Portis returned Sunday from a sprained right ankle that kept him out of seven straight games. He finished with 15 points in 19 minutes against the Blazers.

Portland was without Maurice Harkless, because of left knee soreness. Jake Layman started in his place. Harkless, who had surgery on the knee last March, has missed 14 games this season because of the knee.

The Blazers held a 30-29 edge after a close first quarter but they began to pull away in the second, going up 41-35 after Nic Stauskas' 3-pointer. Portland briefly extended the lead to 10 points and 54-45 but led 56-51 at halftime. CJ McCollum led the Blazers with 12 points at the break, while Zach LaVine had 12 for the Bulls.

Nurkic was called for his fourth foul with 6:30 left in the third quarter and headed for the bench. Portland began to pull away late in the quarter, with Seth Curry's 3-pointer putting the Blazers up 95-85.

Former Oregon player sues school, former coaches for illness

Associated Press

EUGENE — Former Oregon football player Doug Brenner has filed a lawsuit against the university, the NCAA, former coach Willie Taggart and a former strength coach for negligence over a strenuous workout that sent him and two other players to the hospital.

Brenner is seeking \$11.5 million in damages from the January 2017 workout that caused rhabdomyolysis and other injuries, the lawsuit said.

Rhabdomyolysis is a potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when muscle tissue breaks down and leaks into the blood. The condition can cause kidney damage.

"The drills were done in unison, and whenever a player faltered, vomited, or fainted, his teammates were immediately punished with additional repetitions," said Mark McDougal, one of Brenner's attorneys.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court, claims the school failed to regulate or supervise the workouts, and alleges that Taggart and former strength coach Irele Oderinde were negligent in imposing them. It also claims that the NCAA has failed to address such practices.

Ackley returning to Mariners on minor-league deal

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Former No. 2 overall pick Dustin Ackley is returning to the Seattle Mariners on a minor-league deal after spending the past two seasons in the minors with the Los Angeles Angels, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The deal reunites Ackley with the team that took him second in the 2009 draft.

Ackley had a rocky career with the Mariners after being touted as one of the top college hitters. He made a promising debut in 2011, but his production decreased from there. Ackley hit .243 in parts of five seasons with the Mariners, but never came close to matching the .273 average of his first season.

Ackley was traded to the New York Yankees in July 2015 and appeared in 51 games over two seasons with the Yankees. He spent the past two seasons with Triple-A Salt Lake in the Angels organization.

Gurley meets Elliott in big-time showcase for NFL's top RBs

By GREG BEACHAM
 Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Todd Gurley roots for running backs when he watches football. A playoff duel between arguably the two best ballcarriers in the NFL would be irresistible to him as a fan.

Gurley won't be watching the Los Angeles Rams' playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys from his couch, however.

He'll be in the Coliseum on Saturday night to go up against Ezekiel Elliott in a tantalizing NFC matchup.

"It's not really about us," Gurley said Wednesday night. "It's a team game. Obviously, we've got to hype it up, Zeke

versus Gurley, but it'll be a good game. He's a great back, and I guess I'm not too bad myself."

The good feelings are mutual between these elite running backs when the Cowboys (11-6) visit the Rams (13-3). Gurley and Elliott are friends who realize they have a remarkably similar style of play, adding an extra bit of intrigue to an already compelling matchup.

"He's a big, fast back," Elliott said about Gurley. "He can run inside. He can run outside. He can run through you, jump over you, around you, make you miss. He's a great asset out of the backfield. Just a guy who has a well-rounded game and really doesn't have any weaknesses."



Todd Gurley, left, and Ezekiel Elliott.

Associated Press