

SPORTS

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Three Knappa players gain all-league honors

The Astorian

The Knappa Loggers landed three players on the Northwest League volleyball all-league squad, announced during the recent league playoffs.

League champion and defending state champion Portland Christian led the way with five selections, including four first team players.

Vernonia had two first team and two second team selections.

For Knappa, senior Sophia Carlson and sophomore Hannah Dietrichs were named second team, and junior Vicki Ramvick was selected third team.

NORTHWEST ALL-LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL

First Team

Madi DeLucia, Sr., Portland Christian

Josie Ernst, Sr., Portland Christian

Maddy Files, Sr., Portland Christian

Olivia Leslie, Sr., Nestucca

Danielle Tsague, So., Portland Christian

Brooklynn Walters, So., Vernonia

Jordan Walters, Sr., Vernonia

Second Team

Annie Bahr, Sr., Portland Christian

Nicole Bishop, Jr., Columbia Christian

Jessica Butcher, Sr., Vernonia

Sophia Carlson, Sr., Knappa



Knappa volleyball coach Jeff Kaul stands with his three all-league players. From left to right: Hannah Dietrichs, Sophia Carlson, Vicki Ramvick.

Nita Cook, So., Vernonia

Hannah Dietrichs, So., Knappa

Ryleigh Royster, Jr., Nestucca

Third Team

Hannah Farmer, Sr., Gaston

Grace Miller, Sr., Neah-Kah-Nie

Clover O'Connor, Sr., Neah-Kah-Nie

Gillian O'Reilly, Sr., Faith Bible

Vicki Ramvick, Jr., Knappa

Maya Rosenberg, Fr., Gaston

Rachel Strober, So., Nestucca

Honorable Mention

Riley McClatchey, So., Manna-house Christian

Emilee Owen, Sr., Mannahouse Christian

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Football — 4A state playoff: Seaside at Marist, 7 p.m.; 2A state playoffs: Culver at Knappa (CMH Field), 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Sheridan, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Cross-Country — OSA state meet, Eugene (Lane Community College), 10 a.m.

Portland Trail Blazers to lean on depth, versatility after Collins injury

By **JOE FREEMAN**
 The Oregonian

LOS ANGELES — The Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday offered a little clarity on the severity — and projected rehabilitation timeline — of Zach Collins' injured left shoulder. And both are significant.

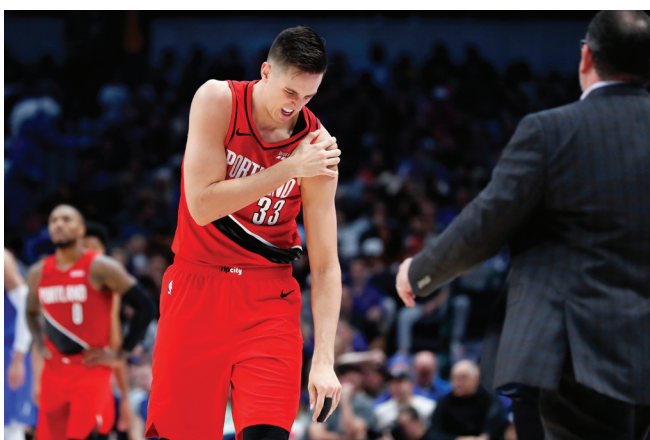
Collins underwent surgery Tuesday to repair his left labrum and the Blazers say their starting power forward will be reevaluated in approximately four months. Therefore, the best-case scenario has Collins returning in early-to-mid March and potentially missing more than 60 games this season.

It's a devastating blow for the Blazers (3-4), who must now press on without an important player who seemed poised for a career year.

"It's tough," Damian Lillard said Monday in San Francisco. "I saw a big year coming for Zach and I'm sure he did as well. For this to happen, especially at this point in the season, it's tough on our team."

So where do the Blazers go from here? They landed in Los Angeles early Tuesday morning featuring 14 players on their 15-man NBA roster, so they have wiggle room to add frontline help. But, according to a team source, "that is not a priority at this point." Because the Blazers are so deep into the luxury tax and because they have reinforcements on the horizon — veteran Pau Gasol and Jusuf Nurkic are rehabilitating from foot and leg surgeries, respectively — they have decided it makes the most sense to lean on their depth and versatility to stay afloat.

Coach Terry Stotts has started Anthony Tolliver in Collins' stead and used Skal Labissiere off the bench,



Tony Gutierrez/AP Photo

Portland Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins (33) underwent surgery Tuesday on his left shoulder and will be reevaluated in four months.

while also featuring a variety of unconventional "small-ball" lineups.

"I think one of the things that we have is some versatility," Stotts said. "As much as it hurts to lose Zach, I think we have enough guys, enough versatility, that we can still be effective. I'm certainly trying different combinations."

But in the four games without Collins, the results have not been encouraging. Collins dislocated his left shoulder at Dallas on October 27. Portland is 1-3 since, suffering a heartbreaking, buzzer-beating loss to the Philadelphia 76ers at home and sputtering to an embarrassing road loss against the injury-riddled Golden State Warriors along the way.

During the disappointing stretch, the Blazers' defense has clearly missed Collins' versatility and shot-blocking prowess, allowing an average of 117.0 points per game and logging the NBA's eighth-worse defensive rating (110.9). The 127-118 loss to the Warriors — who were missing seven injured players, including four All-Stars, and started three rookies — was especially concerning.

"I hope so," CJ McCollum said, when asked if the setback was a wakeup call. "If we weren't woke, then we should be woke now."

The Blazers don't have the luxury of hitting the snooze button, either. They're navigating a road-heavy early-season schedule that features 13 of the first 18 games away the Moda Center, including matchups at the LA Clippers, San Antonio Spurs, Houston Rockets and Milwaukee Bucks before Thanksgiving.

The good news? Gasol has slowly but surely increased his behind-the-scenes rehabilitation work. He went through a shooting session at the team's Monday morning shootaround in San Francisco and, save for a day off here and there, said he has started doing daily basketball activities. Gasol said he's even done minor 1-on-1 contact work against Blazers assistant coaches.

Gasol refused to offer a timeline for his return, but, at the very least, he's making progress from May surgery to repair a stress fracture in his left foot.

"It's still early," Gasol said. "But hopefully I'm get-

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

- Portland Trail Blazers (3-4) at Los Angeles Clippers (5-2)
- Tonight, 7:30 p.m. TV: TNT

ting there."

And, of course, the biggest reinforcement will come when Nurkic returns, although that is not expected to be until approximately February.

In the meantime, the Blazers will lean heavily on Tolliver and Labissiere.

The Blazers' coaching staff loves Tolliver's team defense, long-range shooting and experience, but he has not been particularly effective since joining the starting lineup, averaging just 5.5 points and 5.5 rebounds, while shooting 33 percent from three-point range, in 24.8 minutes per game. Early returns have been more encouraging for Labissiere, whom Lillard called the Blazers' training camp "MVP."

The fourth-year center is averaging 9.0 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks, while shooting 56 percent from the field, in 22.7 minutes over the last four games. During the run, he recorded 10 points and six rebounds in a three-point loss at San Antonio and 15 points and four rebounds — while delivering multiple screens that led to buckets — in the loss to the 76ers.

"He had a great September and October," Stotts said of Labissiere. "As disappointing as it was to lose Zach, Skal's taken advantage of the opportunity. I'm happy for him ... he's a great young man, he's a great worker, he's fun to be around. I think all his teammates really respect him."

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