

SPORTS



Western Conference guard Damian Lillard of the Portland Trail Blazers passes against Eastern Conference center Chris Bosh of the Miami Heat during Sunday's NBA All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden.

Points Piled High in NBA All-Star Game

Aldridge and Lillard represent Trail Blazers

(AP)-Mixing Broadway and basketball, this NBA All-Star Game was a West Side Story.

Russell Westbrook scored 41 points, one shy of the All-Star record, and the Western Conference beat the East 163-158 on Sunday night in the highest-scoring All-Star Game ever.

Portland Trail Blazers LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points in 18 minutes and Damian Lillard had 11 points in 16 minutes.

The Oklahoma City speedster had a record 27 points by halftime and closed out the scoring with two free throws, falling one point shy of Wilt Chamberlain's 42 points in the 1962 game. He was voted the game's MVP at Madison Square Garden.

The NBA's return to New York showed off everything about the Big Apple, and by the time Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" played after the game, it was clear Westbrook was king of the hill.

James Harden added 29 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the West, which built a 20-point lead in the first half and then pulled away after it was tied at 148 with a little more than 4 minutes remaining.

The combined 321 points surpassed the 318 scored last season, and the 48 3-pointers smashed last year's record of 30.

LeBron James finished with 30 points, but couldn't lead the East to the victory in his favorite NBA arena.

Harden's 3-pointer snapped the final tie with 4:02 to play and Chris Paul followed with consecutive bas-

kets. Westbrook's fifth 3-pointer put it away at 158-149 with 2:22 to go.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver made seven 3-pointers and scored 21 points for the East, while Washington's John Wall had 19.

The West shot out to a 20-point lead, but the East chipped away and

cut it to 83-82 before pop star Ariana Grande's halftime performance.

It was New York's first time hosting the NBA All-Star weekend since 1998 and a rare journey to the north for the NBA, which has preferred to stage the festivities in the warmth of the South and West.

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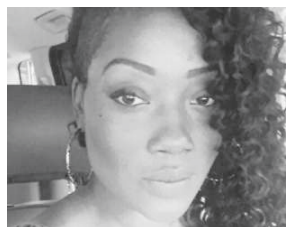
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