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Lillard Scores Career High

Output follows pick by USA Basketball

In the same month he was named as a finalist to the 2016 USA Basketball Men's National Team, NBA All-star Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard came through with the best game of his career.

Lillard scored a career-high 51 points, and had seven assists, six steals and no turnovers to lead the Blazers to a stunningly dominant 137-105 win over the defending champion Golden State Warriors on Friday night in Portland.

"It's a great feeling," said Lillard, who is from Oakland, California. "Especially against the best team in the league. I haven't scored 50 since ninth grade."

Lillard was recently added to the roster of finalists for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team. The official 12 players who make the final cutoff will be announced later this year.

The 6-foot-3 Trail Blazer was named to the 2014-16 USA Basketball Men's National Team and was a finalist for the 2014 USA World Cup Team, and played in two exhibition games during the



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green on his way of scoring a career high 51 points during a home court victory Friday against the defending NBA Champion Golden State Warriors. (AP Photo)

2014 USA National Team Tour.

Currently in his fourth NBA season, Lillard is averaging career-highs of 24.2 points (6th in the NBA) and 7.3 assists per game (7th in the NBA), while adding 4.4 rebounds per game, and shooting 41.8 percent from the field, 36.2 percent from 3-point and 86.5 percent from the foul line.

"I recently received a call from Damian, and during our conversa-

tion he expressed his desire to be considered for the U.S. Olympic Team and to remain involved with the USA National Team in the future as well," said Jerry Colangelo, who has served as the managing director of the USA Men's National Team since 2005. "Both Mike (Kryzewski) and I feel like Damian is playing at a very high level and that he should be added to our list of Olympic finalists."



In celebration of Black History Month, the Trail Blazers hope for a better world in which we can live in peace and harmony together.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." - Harriet Tubman



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