

SPORTS

Playoff Run Begins
Blazers face
Clippers in Los Angeles

(AP) Chris Paul had 28 points and 11 assists as one of three Clippers with a double-double, leading Los Angeles to a 115-95 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in the opener of their first-round playoff series Sunday night.

Blake Griffin had 19 points and 12 rebounds, DeAndre Jordan added 18 points and 12 rebounds and J.J. Redick had 17 points. The Clippers are 6-0 with Griffin in the lineup since he returned from a 45-game absence two weeks ago.

Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 21 points, while backcourt mate CJ McCollum was held to nine points. They combined to average 45.9 points this season, third-highest by any duo in the NBA. Against the Clippers, they shot a combined 10 of 28.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Led by Paul and Griffin, the Clippers were their flashy Lob City selves dunking, scoring in transition and diving after loose balls. The Blazers never got untracked while shooting under 40 percent for much of the game. Their only lead was by one point in the second quarter of the first postseason meeting between the teams.

The Clippers shot 54 percent

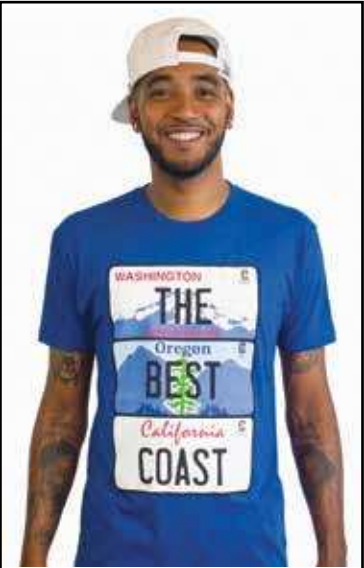


Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul is pressured by Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard on Sunday in Game 1 of the first-round NBA basketball playoff series. Game 2 is Wednesday in Los Angeles. (AP photo)

and owned a 48-34 edge in the paint.

The Clippers outscored Portland 30-13 over both halves to lead 65-48 in the third. Griffin slammed down two dunks over Mason Plumlee early in the quarter, the second on a two-handed jam with Plumlee hanging off Griffin's right side that drew a foul.

Midway through the second quarter, Paul scored 12 of the Clippers' last 15 points to give them a 50-42 lead at the break. Their defense held Portland to seven points over the final 5:50 of the quarter.



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