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Blazers guard Damian Lillard shoots over Denver center Nikola Jokic Monday in the first game of the second round playoff series. The Nuggets won 121-113. (AP photo)

## Blazers Begin Second Round

(AP) —The Denver Nuggets rode a 37-point performance from center Nikola Jokic to a 121-113 win over the well-rested Portland Trail Blazers Monday night in the opener of their second-round playoff series, despite Damian Lillard's strong 39-point effort and Enes Katner's formative return.

Lillard, who struck for 50 points, including a 37-footer at the

buzzer to oust Oklahoma City in five games, missed 8 of 12 3-point attempts and Gary Harris blocked his 3 from behind in the closing minute to keep the Trail Blazers from closing in.

Kanter separated his left shoulder in Game 5 against the Thunder but scored 26 points in his return to the lineup.

Back-to-back layups by Lillard pulled Portland to within five

points with nine minutes left, but Jokic sank a pair of free throws off CJ McCollum's flagrant foul sandwiched by a pair of dunks by Mason Plumlee as Denver pushed its lead back to double digits at 107-96.

Game two in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Games three and four will be on Friday and Sunday in Portland.

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## Franklin Picks Lightning for Mascot

Shout it out for the Franklin High Lightning.

The southeast Portland school has made a decision on the likely name for their new mascot.

A selection committee has picked Lightning over two other finalists, the Ambassadors and the Thunderbolts. The school board is expected to vote on the nickname

in June.

Franklin had to cut its old nickname – Quakers – when the board updated school naming policies last year, forbidding names deemed discriminatory or too religious.

The Lightning keeps a connection with Benjamin Franklin, the school's namesake.

“Something that we felt to be very important part of the process is the connection Ben Franklin to the mascot name, and so knowing the impact he's had regards to his experiments, in particular with electricity and lightning, we thought it was a definite connection,” said Principal Chris Frazier.



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