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SPORTS



Trail Blazer Hassan Whiteside is defended by the Lakers' Danny Green and JaVale McGee during Saturday's decisive game 5 win for the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the NBA playoffs in Florida. (AP photo)

James-Led Lakers Beat Blazers

Short-handed Blazers fall in first round

(AP) —LeBron James had 36 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists and Anthony Davis had a playoff-best 43 points as the Los Angeles Lakers advanced to the Western Conference semifinals Saturday, beating the short-handed Blazers 131-122 in Game 5 of the first round of the NBA playoffs.

The Lakers hadn't won a playoff series since 2012, while James had never lost a first-round playoff

series.

CJ McCollum had 36 points for the surprisingly scrappy Trail Blazers, who played without injured All-Star guard Damian Lillard. Carmelo Anthony added 27 points.

Down 14 in the third quarter, Portland got to 100-97 on McCollum's layup and tied it on Anfernee Simon's 3-pointer to cap an 8-point run with 9:46 left. James answered with a 3.

Gary Trent Jr.'s 3-pointer tied it at 109 with just under seven minutes to go. Again the Lakers held off Portland with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3.

After Trent's 3-pointer closed

it to 114-112 with 4:53 left, Davis had a personal 11-0 run to put Los Angeles up 123-112 and all but seal it.

The game was originally set for Wednesday night, but players collectively decided not to play in the three playoff games scheduled for that day to protest racial injustice following the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisc.

Lillard injured his right knee in Game 4 that prompted him to leave the bubble in Florida and return to Portland to see team doctors. Lillard was named MVP of the seeding games heading into the playoffs, averaging 37.6 points and 9.6 assists in eight games.

Remembering Cliff Robinson

Popular former Blazer dies at 53

Cliff Robinson, the popular former Trail Blazer and NBA All-Star is being remembered as much for his personality as his skills after his death on Saturday which was announced by the University of Connecticut where he played college basketball. He was 53.

Robinson, affectionately known as "Uncle Cliffy" was one of the NBA's best sixth men during his 18-year NBA career.

"His personality and energy were unmatched, and his contributions on the court were unmistakable, helping the Trail Blazers into the playoffs each of his eight seasons with the team," the Blazers said. "His streak of 461

consecutive games played with the Trail Blazers still stands as a franchise record, a testament to his hard work and dedication to the team," a statement from the Blazers said.

No cause of death was given, though Robinson reportedly had a stroke 2 1/2 years ago and had went into a coma last week.

Robinson helped the Blazers reach the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992. He not only never missed the postseason in Portland but hardly missed any games at all, playing all 82 in each of his first five seasons and



Former Trail Blazer Clifford Robinson talks with fans during a 2014 NBA game. Robinson is being remembered after his death at the age of 53. (AP photo)

never appearing in fewer than 75.

"RIP Clifford Robinson - some of my earliest memories of NBA

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