

NBA
Hawks stay on streak

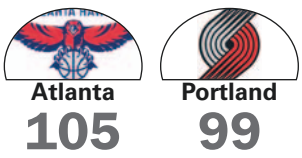
By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks overcame 37 points by Portland’s LaMarcus Aldridge to extend their franchise-record winning streak to 18 games by beating the Trail Blazers 105-99 on Friday night.

Portland, which has lost four of five, led after each of the first three quarters but couldn’t stretch the advantage to more than six points.

Following four ties in the final period, 3-pointers by Mike Scott and Paul Millsap gave Atlanta its biggest lead at 97-91. Portland came no closer than four points the remainder of the game.

The Hawks have not lost in 2015. The winning streak began after a loss to Milwaukee on Dec. 26.



Millsap scored 21 points to lead six Atlanta scorers in double figures. Al Horford had 17 points and Kyle Korver 16. Atlanta outscored Portland 36-25 in the final period.

Aldridge had a game-high 11 rebounds. Wesley Matthews had 16 points and Damian Lillard had 13 points with 11 assists.

Aldridge, who has continued to play with a torn ligament in his left thumb, scored 21 points in the first half while making nine of 12 shots.



AP Photo/John Bazemore
Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (4) goes up for a basket against Portland Trail Blazers’ LaMarcus Aldridge (12) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, in Atlanta.

Hernandez jury given Super Bowl restrictions

Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The 18 New England residents sitting on the jury in the murder trial of former Patriots star Aaron Hernandez will be allowed to watch the home team play in Sunday’s Super Bowl, but the judge overseeing the case says they must leave the room if his name is mentioned.

Hernandez caught quarterback Tom Brady’s last Super Bowl touchdown pass in the Patriots’ 2012 loss to the New York Giants. Now he is on trial for murder, charged with the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating his fiancée’s sister.

The trial is playing out just as Hernandez’s old team is preparing to take on the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL championship game.

Bristol County Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh closed the second day of testimony Friday by telling jurors they may watch the game if it is important to them, but they must be vigilant for mention of the case or Hernandez.

“You hear that word, you’ve got to walk out of the room,” Garsh said. “Distance yourself.”

The judge previously told jurors that they are not allowed to discuss the case with anyone, even to tell their families or employers that they are sitting on the jury for Hernandez. During jury selection, jurors were asked if they were Patriots fans, but that did not mean they were automatically disqualified from being selected.

Hernandez had a \$40 million contract with the Patriots when he was arrested.

Earlier Friday, Lloyd’s mother, Ursula Ward, was overcome with emotion and had to leave the courtroom as a prosecutor showed graphic photos of her son’s body at the industrial park where he was found. The 27-year-old Lloyd was shown lying on his back with his left fist curled in a ball over the gunshot wounds to his chest.

It was the second straight day she left the courtroom in tears.

Lloyd’s body was found riddled with bullets in an industrial park near Hernandez’s North Attleborough home, not far from Gillette Stadium.

Super Bowl XLIX

Gronk vs Chancellor matchup crucial

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

PHOENIX — On some point Sunday it will happen. At least everyone hopes it happens.

The biggest, most athletic tight end in football will be running downfield and be met in a full-speed collision with the hardest-hitting strong safety in the game today.

What will happen when the NFL’s version of Thunderdome comes to the Super Bowl, featuring Rob Gronkowski in one corner and Kam Chancellor in the other?

“I don’t know. I’ll be sitting there with popcorn,” Seattle’s Richard Sherman said. “It’ll be good football.”

There are a bevy of important individual matchups when New England and Seattle meet on Sunday. Will Tom Brady throw at Sherman? Can the Patriots’ defensive front slow down Marshawn Lynch? What about LeGarrette Blount trying to run against the best defense in the NFL?

All those factors could matter in the final outcome. Trumping them all might be whether Chancellor and the Seahawks are able to keep Gronkowski under control.

Even the NFL anticipated the potential matchup: Both Gronkowski and Chancellor sat at the same podium on media day.

“I guess it was destiny. It was destiny for us to have the same seat,” Chancellor said.

While Seattle nickel cornerback Jeremy Lane said last week that he didn’t think Gronkowski was that good,



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File
In this Oct. 14, 2012, file photo, New England Patriots’ Rob Gronkowski (87) is tackled by Seattle Seahawks’ Kam Chancellor in the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle.

most of the Seahawks have been respectful of his skill.

Rightfully so.

Gronkowski might have been better in 2011, but considering the injuries he’s overcome, 2014 could be his most impressive season. He had 51 receptions and eight touchdowns in the final eight games of the regular season and another 10 receptions and two scores already in the playoffs. Only once this season did Gronkowski have fewer than three catches in a game.

“Aw man, Beast Mode. He’s an animal, man,” New England wide receiver Brandon LaFell said stealing a phrase normally used to describe Lynch. “When you put a corner on him, he’s too small. When you put a safety on him, he’s too slow, man. You know, when Gronk is out there doing his thing he is demanding a double team and if he’s not being double teamed, he’s out there making plays for us.”

The difference with Se-

attle is they have Chancellor — a safety with a linebacker build and cornerback speed — who can match up with Gronkowski. Many felt it was Chancellor and not Malcolm Smith that should have been Super Bowl MVP a year ago. It was Chancellor’s hit on Demaryius Thomas on Denver’s second possession that set the tone for Seattle’s rout.

“That hit alone could have gotten him Super Bowl MVP,” Sherman said.

Seattle struggled earlier in the season defending tight ends, breaking from a trend of being able to shut down elite players at that position in the past. San Diego’s Antonio Gates caught three touchdowns in Week 2 against Seattle and Oakland’s Mychal Rivera had eight catches and two TDs in early November.

Those performances were outliers. Against most elite tight ends, Seattle has been at its best. In two games last season against New Orleans, Jimmy Graham had a com-

“People hate us because, you know, when you talk a lot of smack, people usually hate you,” Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett said. “But when you talk a lot of smack and you back it up, they hate you even more.”

So how does Seattle earn a second title with its defense? By not giving up big plays. They allowed only 39 plays of 20 or more yards the entire regular season and just 17 of those in the final eight games.

And that’s not the strength of the Patriots. New England ranked 26th in the league in offensive plays of 20 or more yards.

Make the Patriots move in small chunks. Get to Tom Brady just enough to throw off his timing. Make sure LeGarrette Blount and the New England run game doesn’t get started.

And keep Rob Gronkowski from taking over the game.

Sounds like a lot. But if successful, Seattle will be put in position to do what no team has done before because of the way it’s been constructed.

They are talented. They are still young. And they have most of their core players together through at least the 2017 season with financial flexibility. Some of that extra money will be consumed by a new contract for Wilson, but there will still be room to supplement what Seattle has already created.

That’s what makes the potential for Sunday so unique. There has never been a team to win three straight Super Bowls and that will be all the talk for Pete Carroll and his crew going into next season:

Seahawks 23, Patriots 19

SUPER BOWL: New England offense lacking explosiveness of past seasons

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back-to-back Super Bowl titles facing New England. For as important a role as Lynch might end up playing, whether Seattle is lifting a second straight Lombardi Trophy will be dictated by its defense.

The outcome is certainly deeper than just how Seattle plays defensively. Has Seattle fully recovered emotionally from the NFC title game and its remarkable comeback against Green Bay just to get to the Super Bowl?

Can Russell Wilson be an effective passer against a New England secondary that with Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner is far better than the one Wilson faced as a rookie? And where is Lynch’s head after a week where he was the center of attention?

The difference is Seattle’s defense has shown it’s capable of overcoming

those problems to win games.

The only evidence needed is what the Seahawks did in the NFC championship game. Three times in the first half the Packers took possession inside the Seattle 35 and came away with only nine points. That defense allowed the Seahawks to hang around long enough to post its late rally.

There is a reason Seattle is being mentioned in the same category as the “Purple People Eaters,” the “Steel Curtain,” and the “Monsters of the Midway.”

They have accomplished statistical feats that haven’t been seen in nearly 30 years. The best scoring defense. The best at stopping the pass. The best overall.

All they need is another Super Bowl title to add credence to their status.

SCOREBOARD

Correction

Gonzaga defeated University of Portland 64-46 in men’s basketball on Thursday. Incorrect information appeared in the Jan. 30 edition. The EO sincerely apologizes for the error.

Local State

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL			
Saturday			
Vale at Umatilla, 5:30 p.m.			
Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.			
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 5:30 p.m.			
Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.			
Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.			
Riverside at Nyssa, 6 p.m.			

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL			
Saturday			
Vale at Umatilla, 4 p.m.			
Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.			
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 4 p.m.			
Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.			
Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.			
Riverside at Nyssa, 4:30 p.m.			

PREP SWIMMING			
Saturday			
Pendleton, Hermiston at Baker City, noon			

COLLEGE MEN’S BASKETBALL			
Saturday			
Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 4 p.m.			
Eastern Oregon at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.			

COLLEGE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL			
Saturday			
Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 2 p.m.			
Eastern Oregon at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.			

NBA				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	32	15	.681	—
Brooklyn	18	28	.391	13½
Boston	16	29	.356	15
Philadelphia	10	37	.213	22
Charlotte	9	38	.191	23
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	39	8	.830	—
Washington	31	16	.660	8
Miami	20	26	.435	18½
Charlotte	19	27	.413	19½
Orlando	15	34	.306	25
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	30	19	.612	—
Cleveland	28	20	.583	1½
Milwaukee	24	22	.522	4½
Detroit	17	30	.362	12
Indiana	17	31	.354	12½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	34	12	.739	—
Houston	33	14	.702	1½
Dallas	31	17	.646	4
San Antonio	30	17	.638	4½
New Orleans	25	22	.532	9½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	32	15	.681	—
Oklahoma City	23	23	.500	8½
Denver	19	28	.404	13
Utah	17	30	.362	15
Minnesota	8	38	.174	23½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	36	8	.818	—
L.A. Clippers	32	15	.681	5½

Phoenix	28	20	.583	10
Sacramento	16	29	.356	20½
L.A. Lakers	13	34	.277	24½

Friday’s Games	
Philadelphia 103, Minnesota 94	
Atlanta 105, Portland 99	
Houston 93, Boston 87	
Toronto 127, Brooklyn 122, OT	
Cleveland 101, Sacramento 90	
New Orleans 108, L.A. Clippers 103	
Dallas 93, Miami 72	
Utah 110, Golden State 100	
Phoenix 99, Chicago 93	

Saturday’s Games	
Toronto at Washington, 4 p.m.	
Dallas at Orlando, 4 p.m.	
Sacramento at Indiana, 4 p.m.	
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.	
Houston at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.	
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 5 p.m.	
Cleveland at Minnesota, 5 p.m.	
Portland at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.	
Charlotte at Denver, 6 p.m.	
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 6 p.m.	
Phoenix at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.	

Sunday’s Games	
Miami at Boston, 10 a.m.	
L.A. Lakers at New York, 11 a.m.	

NCAA	
Men Top 25	
Saturday’s Games	
No. 1 Kentucky vs. Alabama, 4 p.m.	
No. 2 Virginia vs. No. 4 Duke, 4 p.m.	
No. 3 Gonzaga vs. Memphis, 7 p.m.	
No. 5 Wisconsin at Iowa, 9 a.m.	
No. 7 Villanova at DePaul, 11 a.m.	
No. 8 Notre Dame at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m.	
No. 9 Kansas vs. Kansas State, 11 a.m.	
No. 10 Louisville vs. No. 13 North Carolina, 4 p.m.	
No. 12 Wichita State at No. 18 Northern Iowa, 1 p.m.	
No. 14 VCU vs. Richmond, 11 a.m.	
No. 15 Iowa State vs. TCU, 11 a.m.	
No. 17 West Virginia vs. Texas Tech, 9 a.m.	
No. 19 Texas at No. 20 Baylor, 3 p.m.	
No. 21 Georgetown at Creighton, 11 a.m.	
No. 22 Indiana vs. Rutgers, 12:15 p.m.	
No. 24 Oklahoma at Oklahoma State, 5 p.m.	
No. 25 Butler at Marquette, 11 a.m.	
Sunday’s Games	
No. 11 Utah at Southern Cal, 11:30 a.m.	
No. 23 Miami at Florida State, 9:30 a.m.	

Pac-12	
Friday’s Games	
Oregon 68, Arizona State 67 (OT)	
Arizona 57, Oregon State 34	

Saturday’s Games	
Stanford at Washington St., 5:30 p.m.	
Colorado at UCLA, 7:30 p.m.	

Sunday’s Games	
Utah at USC, 11:30 a.m.	
California at Washington, Noon	

CCC	
Warner Pacific 76, Eastern Oregon 59	

Women	
Friday’s Games	
Arizona State 68, Colorado 60	
Utah 62, Arizona 48	

Saturday’s Games	
UCLA at Oregon, 12:30 p.m.	
Washington St. at Stanford, 12:30 p.m.	
Washington at California, 2:30 p.m.	
USC at Oregon St., 2:30 p.m.	

Sunday’s Games	
Arizona at Colorado, 10 a.m.	
Arizona St. at Utah, Noon	
Monday’s Games	
USC at Oregon, 5 p.m.	
Washington St. at California, 5 p.m.	

UCLA at Oregon St, 7 p.m.	
Washington at Stanford, 7 p.m.	

CCC	
Eastern Oregon 78, Warner Pacific 44	

Golf

PGA	
Phoenix Open	
Friday’s Leaders	
At TPC Scottsdale, Stadium Course	
Scottsdale, Ariz.	
Purse: \$6.3 million	
Yardage: 7,266; Par: 71	

Partial Second Round	
Martin Laird	66-66—132
Daniel Berger	65-69—134
Justin Thomas	67-68—135
Bubba Watson	66-71—136
Ryan Palmer	64-72—136
Ryan Moore	69-67—136
Zach Johnson	66-70—136
Robert Streb	66-70—136
Angel Cabrera	67-69—136
Geoff Ogilvy	68-69—137
K.J. Choi	68-69—137
Graham DeLaet	67-70—137
Brendon de Jonge	67-71—138
Jordan Spieth	70-68—138
Brendan Steele	71-67—138
Jon Rahm	70-68—138
Keegan Bradley	65-73—138
Brandt Snedeker	70-68—138
Morgan Hoffmann	72-67—139
Billy Horschel	69-70—139
Rory Sabbatini	68-71—139
Ben Martin	66-73—139
Patrick Reed	71-69—140
Hideki Matsuyama	69-71—140
Mark Wilson	70-70—140
Chad Campbell	70-70—140
Andrew Svoboda	70-70—140
Tony Finau	72-68—140
Kevin Chappell	75-65—140
James Hahn	67-73—140
Hunter Mahan	69-71—140
Matt Kuchar	70-70—140
Russell Henley	69-71—140
Justin Leonard	67-73—140
Boo Weekley	69-71—140
Lucas Glover	70-70—140

Tennis

Australian Open	
Friday	
At Melbourne Park	
Melbourne, Australia	
Purse: \$32.9 million (Grand Slam)	
Surface: Hard-Outdoor	
Singles	
Men	
Semifinals	
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Stan Wawrinka (4), Switzerland, 7-6 (1), 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.	
Doubles	
Women	
Championship	
Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, def. Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, and Zheng Jie (14), China, 6-4, 7-6 (5).	
Mixed	
Semifinals	
Martina Hingis, Switzerland, and Leander Paes (7), India, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, 7-5, 6-4.	
Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Daniel Nestor (3), Canada, def. Sania Mirza, India, and Bruno Soares (1), Brazil, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8.	

Hockey

NHL						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	Gf	Ga
Tampa Bay	31	15	4	66	163	132
Montreal	31	13	3	65	127	108

Detroit	28	12	9	65	145	128
Boston	26	16	7	59	131	123
Florida	21	15	10	52	114	129
Toronto	22	24	4	48	144	155
Ottawa	19	19	9	47	129	134
Buffalo	14	33	3	31	94	179
Metropolitan Division						