

## NBA

## Portland snaps 7-game skid

By MALIKA ANDREWS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — After the second of back-to-back 3-pointers found the bottom of the net, Damian Lillard pointed to his wrist signaling, “It’s Lillard time.”

The crowd roared. When he hit the third 3, Lillard knew the Portland Trail Blazers’ losing streak was ending.

“After I hit the third one I was like, whatever happens, I’m going to make sure we win this game,” Lillard said.

Lillard finished with 27 points and the Trail Blazers snapped a seven-game skid with a 102-91 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday night.

Lillard’s 3-pointer with 3 ½ minutes left gave Portland a 90-85 lead. Blake Griffin answered with a basket on the other end, but Lillard nailed another 3.

Lillard hit another 3-pointer with 1:46 remaining to put Portland up 100-87 and

the Clippers couldn’t catch up.

CJ McCollum added 18 points for the Blazers, while Mason Plumlee added 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Griffin led Los Angeles with 21 points. Jamal Crawford made five 3-pointers and finished with 20.

Paul Pierce did not play on the second night of a back-to-back. The Clippers blew a 23-point lead in a 124-117 home loss to the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors the night before.

“We’re just not finishing games right now,” Chris Paul said.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he planned to play Paul sparingly, because the point guard continues to work his way back from a groin injury. Paul ended up playing more than 28 minutes and finished

with 11 points and eight assists. Paul had averaged 29.3 points in his past six games against the Blazers.

JJ Redick returned for Los Angeles after missing the last three games with back spasms. He played 26 minutes and had seven points on 3-of-12 shooting.

Griffin left the floor in the first half but returned to the game with 8:04 remaining in the second quarter wearing a sleeve on his left leg.

The Clippers tied it at 70 with 1:39 left in the third quarter and Portland’s was 75-73 heading into the final quarter.

Coming out of a Los Angeles timeout, Plumlee split a pair of free throws to put the Blazers on top 87-85. Lillard’s back-to-back 3-pointers extended their lead to 93-87.

“He’s been very determined,” Portland coach Terry Stotts said. “The back-to-back 3s would probably be the signature plays of the game. I thought he showed a lot of leadership.”

TIP-INS

Blazers: Meyers Leonard did not play because of a dislocated shoulder. He’s missed four games. ... Ed Davis recorded a double-double with 17 points and 15 rebounds.

Clippers: The Clippers fell into third place in the Pacific Division, a game behind Phoenix.

**DAVIS DELIVERS**  
Forward Ed Davis, who came to the Blazers as a free agent in the offseason, had 17 points and 15 rebounds — including a career-high 10 offensive rebounds, the most for the Blazers since Greg Oden had 10 in December 2009. Davis is the first Blazers player to have at least 15 points and 15 rebounds off the bench since Travis Outlaw in 2006.

**TRIPLE DOUBLE-DOUBLES**  
In addition to Davis and Plumlee, Al-Farouq Aminu had 10 points and 12 rebounds. The last time the Blazers had three players with double-doubles also came against the Clippers (LaMarcus Aldridge, Chris Kaman and Meyers Leonard).



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard reacts after making a 3-point basket against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. Portland won 102-91.

## Trail Blazers great Jerome Kersey honored with massive light display

By MIKE RICHMAN  
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Ron Sloy was washing his car outside his West Linn home when a neighbor stopped to chat with him. After a few minutes of friendly banter, Sloy’s neighbor asked him if he was a basketball fan.

“Well, do you want to go to the Blazer game?” Trail Blazers forward Jerome Kersey asked.

Sloy was floored. Of course he wanted to go, but why was an NBA player chatting him up in his driveway and offering him tickets unprompted?

“Am I getting punked here?” Sloy recalled thinking.

There was no prank. It was an honest gesture from a man who would quickly become a close friend. Sloy went to the

game that night with his wife, sitting in the family section in the lower bowl of the Rose Garden. Afterwards the Kerseys, Sloy and his wife ate dinner at Jazz de Opus, a nightclub in Southwest Portland, sparking a 30-year friendship between Sloy and an uniquely welcoming NBA star.

“From there it was a love affair,” Sloy said of his first night out with Kersey, who would become one of Sloy’s closest friends over the next three decades. “(Kersey) was like a son to my dad and he was like my brother.”

Kersey passed away in February from a blood clot that traveled from his left leg to his lung. Sloy, who spoke at Kersey’s memorial service, wanted to find a way to publicly honor one his best friends. He began working with Hanset Stainless to



A 32-foot high sign with 3,800 lights honors former Trail Blazer player Jerome Kersey, who died earlier this year. “What really my drive is, is to remember him and honor him during the holidays,” Ron Sloy said of the sign that displays his good friend’s initials and jersey number.

design a concept for a sign that would honor Kersey and be visible to much of the city. The finished sign that features “JK25” and a Santa hat is 32-feet high and

34-feet wide with 3,800 lights set on an aluminum frame. It’s mounted on the slope of Sloy’s West Hills home.

“What really my drive is, is to remember him and

honor him during the holidays,” Sloy said of the sign that displays his good friend’s initials and jersey number.

Sloy remembers watching Kersey play. He’s been a longtime season ticket holder with seats near the court. But his lasting memories are of Kersey’s genuine kindness away from the court. Just like the unprompted offer of tickets that led to Kersey and Sloy’s friendship, Kersey was quick to do what he could. When Kersey worked for the Blazers as a team ambassador after he finished playing he would often turn down Sloy’s offer to go out after games. Instead, Kersey would collect unopened boxes of food left in luxuries boxes at the arena and personally deliver them to people sleeping outside in Old Town.

“It’s all about someone else and isn’t that the way he

played,” Sloy said. “He set up Terry (Porter), he set up Clyde (Drexler) and Buck (Williams), he set up Duck (Kevin Duckworth) and he did the dirty work.”

“There’s only one Jerome Kersey,” Sloy added. “There’s nobody like Jerome.”

Kersey’s name is dotted all over the Blazers record books. He is fifth all-time in scoring, third in rebounding, third in steals, sixth in blocks, eighth in assists and second in games played. Sloy, who said he’ll light the sign every year he remains in the home, hopes the Blazers retire Kersey’s jersey so that the massive light display in Southwest Portland isn’t the only place where Kersey is honored.

“He’s hanging high above the city and I hope he’s high above the rafters in the (Moda Center) soon,” Sloy said.



The Timberwolves’ Jared Mathews (10) goes up for a basket during Friday’s game against the Fairchild Air Force Base at Blue Mountain Community College.

## BMCC: Edmonds to be much tougher test

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is rebounding and boxing out, that’s what wins games,” Crockett said.

Conrad Ritchie led Fairchild with 16 points but fouled out early in the second half.

The Falcons were admittedly not the toughest opponent BMCC could have scheduled for its opener, and made several ill-advised cross-court passes, but found some soft spots in the T-Wolves defense for some easy buckets.

“We reached a lot of our goals but we didn’t get some

of them so we’ve got to go back and make sure we’re cleaning some stuff up,” Ellis said.

Ellis is sure today’s game against Edmonds at Mosby Court will be a much tougher test.

“We’ve got to be ready to go,” he said. “This’ll be the big-time welcome to the NWAC. Edmonds is a really successful team ... and they’ll catch you if you’re not taking care of business.”

Tip-off is at 4 p.m.

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## TIGERS: Weight room filled in offseason

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first-year head coach Davy Salas said.

Stanfield trusts the work it puts in at practice and in the offseason. When last season ended disappointingly, then-head coach Dominique Coffin began opening the weight room at 6 a.m. shortly after that last Friday, and it was filled with Tiger football players looking to this season.

With that kind of turnout, it’s really no surprise the Tigers have broken through this season.

Stanfield players know the work they’ve done and know that’s for the fourth quarter. In fourth quarters of close games they can look across the sideline and feel confident that their

conditioning is better than their opponents.

It showed in the Tigers’ 27-26 overtime quarterfinal win over Central Linn last week.

“We used to do a lot of conditioning to prepare for situations like that so we’re always the team on top with the advantage,” senior Jason Fitzpatrick said. “We know we’re not as tired as they are.”

However, perhaps the more important aspect of this Tigers team is its comfort with having a small roster.

Being from a small town and small school presents certain unavoidable truths. One is the guys a team has are the guys it has. Salas preaches that idea, that ‘nobody is

coming to save us.’ Stanfield has embraced it.

“We’re a small school, so we’re really close with each other,” junior Thyler Monkus said. “If we yell at each other, we don’t take it the wrong way.”

But they’ve had success with small groups. Last year’s 4-5 season was the worst the class of juniors ever suffered, and it was one of the biggest rosters they’ve had.

Having a small group doesn’t bother them, and there’s a certain comfort in it, too.

They all know each other since their early elementary school days. And, for the most part, they’re all friends.

“If one person sees (a

mistake), then a couple people see it, too,” senior Jason Fitzpatrick said. “and they’ll go over and talk to them — even if it’s in the middle of a game. We’ll make a quick huddle and talk about it real quick, get the play called and go.”

But, ultimately, it’s the familiarity with the system and each other that has propelled Stanfield to heights not seen in decades.

“We’ve been running the same offense and had the same people in the same positions since fifth grade year,” junior Hunter Barnes said. “If something doesn’t go right, we know where they came from and we know who’s there (on our team) because we’ve been there for eight years.”

## MUSTANGS: Linemen always feel appreciated

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said senior center Saul Erickson. “It was my first year playing center and so there were a lot of techniques to get down. The middle of the season I had a lot of trouble snapping just because I wasn’t used to stepping at the same time, just getting the snaps off. It was really frustrating, but all my teammates really helped me keep my head up and it was great.”

Returning starters Patrick Collins, a senior, and Kevin Murray, a junior, took it upon themselves to bring their new linemates along.

“Last year I was that new piece trying to come in and fit in,” Murray said. “I’m trying to tell them what they need to do and what they need to understand because I was in their shoes.”

Grant likened an offensive line to a team of sled dogs, and said having players willing to lead was crucial to the unit’s

progress.

“You’ve got to have one dog that says, ‘Hey, follow me.’ And I think Patrick’s done that,” he said. “He’s done it in a positive way and in a little bit of a demanding way, which is perfect.”

“I guess I try to make it as fun as possible. It’s a lot easier to work hard if you’re having fun doing it,” Collins said. “We take our job really seriously, but we always have fun in our drills. We always go hard, it’s a competition, and I think the competition makes everybody better every day.”

But preparing and doing are two different things, and in the team’s first few games there were some frustrating moments that led to heated exchanges on the field.

“Early on in the preseason, definitely. You get on their tail about it and then they won’t ever do it again,” Murray said.

“When they were kind of getting after each other and having issues

during the games, I would look and them and say, ‘This is good. This is the maturation of an offensive line.’” Grant said. “The maturation of an offensive line is when you guys turn and you scream and yell at each other for a little bit and then you say, ‘OK, let’s do it this way.’”

Part of the problem, Grant said, was players still learning what terminology they were using to call out blocking assignments.

“Each line kind of develops their own language,” he said. “They’re a tightly knit unit and they have to figure out each others’ language, line calls, and they have to go through some learning situations.”

Those issues are in the past now, though, and running backs C.J. Kindle and Weston Putman were quick to give a nod to the offensive line after steam-rolling Reedsport in the quarterfinals.

“If you watch a game, every single touchdown

whoever scores is going to go up and thank his linemen. It’s really awesome,” Collins said. “I don’t know if linemen from other schools get the type of congratulations that we do, but our backs do a great job of letting us know that, ‘Hey, we see what you’re doing and we’re proud of you. Thank you.’”

The Mustang blockers will try to give their team even more to be thankful for this holiday season when they take on No. 3 Regis at noon at Liberty High School.

“We came together pretty well (against Reed-sport), best we’ve done all year. We got low, played hard and stayed together. The best things we could do,” Murray said. “We’ve just got to keep doing the exact same thing (against Regis), even harder, even lower. These guys are big.”

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