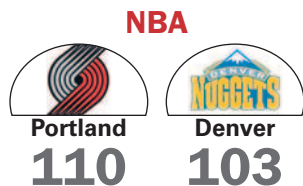


NBA

McCollum helps Trail Blazers knock off Nuggets

Associated Press



PORTLAND — While Damian Lillard rehabs a left foot injury, C.J. McCollum and Allen Crabbe are providing a lift for the Portland Trail Blazers.

McCollum scored 29 points, Crabbe had 20 and Portland beat the Denver Nuggets 110-103 on Wednesday night for their third consecutive victory.

“We look forward to having Damian back. It’s cliché, but everybody has kind of picked up their game a little bit,” Portland coach Terry Stotts said.

At the forefront is McCollum, who moved from shooting guard to the point in Lillard’s absence. McCollum, who nearly got a triple double in Sunday’s win over Sacramento, was 12-for-19 shooting against Denver.

McCollum said his role has changed into someone trying to get everyone to share the ball, while keeping a scorer’s mentality.

“I like how he’s scoring without necessarily forcing the issue. He’s picking his spots well, he’s running the team well,” Stotts said. “He’s playing with a lot of composure and confidence, not only as a scorer, but as a

point guard.”

Lillard missed his fifth straight game with left foot plantar fasciitis. Portland lost at Atlanta and New Orleans in the first two games with Lillard out, but then rebounded with victories against Cleveland, Sacramento and Denver for its first three-game win streak since early November.

Crabbe has started the past five games. He has scored at least 20 points in two of the three wins.

“It’s what I’ve been waiting for since I got into the league. A lot of hard work is paying off,” Crabbe said. “We’re out there moving the ball, executing and the game is just fun for us right now.”

Six Blazers scored in double figures against the Nuggets, including 14 points from Al-Farouq Aminu.

What Stotts admired most about Wednesday’s win was that it didn’t come easily. Portland struggled at times with rebounding and turnovers, but quickly regrouped.

“Every time something wasn’t going right, we bounced back,” Stotts said.

Will Barton, traded by Portland to Denver last season, led the Nuggets with 31 points, one off his career high. Barton hit four 3-pointers and made 12 of 22 shots from the field.

Denver has lost seven of eight. Gary Harris scored 19 points for the Nuggets.

“I told the guys after the game, I’m tired of saying, ‘I’m proud of you guys, you played hard, you competed, but we came up short.’ That gets old after a while,” Denver coach Michael Malone said. “Obviously we need to see some wins. We need some payoff for the hard work.”

Portland trailed 27-26 after one quarter, but took control midway through the second quarter and led by as many as 16 points early in the fourth. Denver cut the deficit to 98-93 with 5:05 remaining after running off 11 consecutive points, but McCollum hit a 20-footer and Crabbe made a 3-pointer, and the Blazers had the lead back to 103-93.

TIP-IN
Nuggets: Malone said F Danilo Gallinari (left ankle sprain) and C Jusuf Nurkic (left patellar tendon)

could return for Saturday’s game against Golden State. Gallinari has missed the past six games, while Nurkic hasn’t played this season. G Emmanuel Mudiay (right ankle sprain) is still a week to 10 days away, Malone said. ... Denver has lost nine of its last 10 games to Portland. ... Barton has scored at least 10 points in 18 consecutive games.

Blazers: Reserve forward Ed Davis returned to the lineup after missing one game with a left ankle bone bruise. ... Lillard went through a pregame workout.

WELCOME BACK WILL

Barton, a 2012 second-round draft pick by Portland, was traded to Denver in February. The 6-foot-6 Barton has since become the Nuggets’ leading scorer at 16.3 points per game, even though he comes off the bench.

Barton’s improvement doesn’t surprise Stotts, who often watched the former Blazer put on crazy performances during practice.

“I have to hand to Will. He’s playing terrific. He’s playing with confidence. Will has put in a lot of time. He’s a gym rat, and it’s showing,” Stotts said.



Portland Trail Blazers guard C.J. McCollum, right, shoots over Denver Nuggets guard Jameer Nelson, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015.

WRESTLING: Skramstad, Chester shine for Mac-Hi

Continued from 1B

16 placers. Walla Walla placed second with 213 points, while Willamina placed third with 209.5 points.

“I’m really impressed with the effort,” said Phillips. “I didn’t see anyone lay down or wrestle scared, which is good. And I keep getting more and more impressed with the young guys and our upperclassmen are improving.”

Other placers for Pendleton included Lane Evens (second) at 106 pounds, Chris Chambers (third) at 106 pounds, Caleb Tremper (fifth) at 106 pounds, Blake Davis (fourth) at 120 pounds, Koby Jones (third) at 126 pounds, Alex Rendon (third) at 132 pounds, Shawn Yeager (fourth) at 138 pounds, Brendon Bedolla (fifth) at 138 pounds, Mychael Pointer (sixth) at 145 pounds, J.D. Peters (second) at 160 pounds, Alex Gear (sixth) at 170 pounds, Greg Lee (third) at 182 pounds, Marcus Taylor (second) at 195 pounds, and Jeff Priester (sixth) at 220 pounds.

The Mac-Hi Pioneers also had a strong showing at the tournament as well, finishing in fourth place with 188.5 points and 11 placers.



Mac-Hi's Cole Skramstad pins Walla's Justin Evens in a 160 pound bout Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Pioneers performance was highlighted by Riley Chester taking first place at 138 pounds and Cole Skramstad taking first at 160 pounds.

Skramstad made quick work of Pendleton’s J.D. Peters in the final, earning the win with a fall just 19

seconds into the match. Chester faced Edwin Romero from Walla Walla in the final, and earned the victory with an 8-2 decision.

Other top finishers for Mac-Hi included Zach Crisman (second) at 113 pounds, Zach MacPherson (fourth) at 113 pounds, Deazen

Zerba (fifth) at 113 pounds, Kaden Kilburg (fourth) at 160 pounds, Alyxander Shaw (second) at 170 pounds, Brandyn Chaney (sixth) at 182 pounds, Joshua Torres (fourth) at 195 pounds, Greg Moreno (second) at 285 pounds, and Donnie Clark (sixth) at 285

pounds. The Riverside Pirates finished the tournament in eighth place with five placers, led by A.J. Rockwell’s first place finish at 132 pounds. Rockwell earned the victory over Jose Rayo-Landa from Vale with a fall at the 4:07 mark. Other placers for the Pirates were Andrew Barker (fifth) at 120 pounds, Silvestre Vazquez (fifth) at 126 pounds, Ulises Calvillo (third) at 145 pounds, and Anthony Kernal (fifth) at 220 pounds.

The Heppner Mustangs took eight wrestlers to the tournament, and head home with two placers and one winner. Ryan Smith earned first place at 120 pounds over Ethan Howard with a fall at the 3:22 mark. And at 220 pounds, Cord Flynn finished in second place after losing by a fall at 3:41.

The Irrigon Knights also competed at the tournament, finishing No. 12 out of 12 teams with 28 points and did not place any wrestlers on the podium.

Contact Eric Singer at esinger@eastoregonian.com, (541) 966-0839, or follow on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

PREPS: Pendleton girls wrap up tournament with win over Summit

Continued from 1B

on a good note, defeating Crescent Valley to earn the Bucks’ third win in their last four games.

Caden Smith led the Buckaroos with 21 points and Daniel Adams was close behind with a career-high 19 points. James Bradt also added 19 points for the Bucks.

Free throw shooting was a big key in the Bucks’ win, finishing the game 15-20 but most importantly hitting on 12 of 14 attempts in the fourth quarter to grab the win.

Pendleton (4-5) hits the floor again on Monday when they host Century at 6:30 p.m.

PHS (4-5) 20 13 10 25 - 68
CV (6-4) 14 16 15 18 - 65
PENDLETON — C. Smith 21, D. Adams 19, J. Bradt 19, W. Morris 4, D. Roe 3, J. Stuvland 2, J. Peterson, K. Quinn, M. Foreman.
CRESCENT VALLEY — J. Casey 27, C. Gray 16, T. Hufanga 12, K. Phillips Houston 8, N. Van Tarnelen 2.
3-pointers — PHS 7, CV 5. Free throws — PHS 15-20, CV 19-23. Fouls — PHS 19, CV 19. Technicals — Bench (PHS), Hufanga (CV).

STANFIELD 64, TRI-CITIES PREP (WA) 45 — At Pasco, Wash., the Stanfield Tigers used a great defensive effort to put away Tri-Cities Prep (WA) on Wednesday for their third-straight win.

“We played great man-to-man defense which caused a lot of problems for (Tri-Cities Prep),” said Stanfield coach Victor Baros. “Offensively we took advantage of our inside game, had a lot of close shots.”

Brody Woods led the Tigers with 16 points, while Ryan Bailey added 15 points

and Dylan Grogan 12 points. Stanfield plays again next Tuesday when they travel to Riverside for a 7 p.m. game.

STAN (6-1) 12 14 18 20 - 64
TCP (0-1) 9 12 11 13 - 45
STANFIELD — B. Woods 16, R. Bailey 15, D. Grogan 12, J. Garcia 8, T. Monkus 4, A. Flores 4, A. Nunez 3, L. Moreno 2.
TRI-CITIES PREP — L. Jones 18, M. Peterson 9, S. Giest 7, C. Dickson 5, J. Almado 4, K. Mercado 2.
3-pointers — STAN 5, TCP 2. Free throws — STAN 7-11, TCP 9-14. Fouls — STAN 13, TCP 15.

UMATILLA 51, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 40 — At Salem, the Umatilla Vikings halted their four game losing streak by defeating Horizon Christian to finish up the Crusader New Year’s Invitational on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Umatilla (6-7) next plays on Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. when they travel to Riverside to begin league play.

BURNS 45, PILOT ROCK 26 — At Irrigon, the Pilot Rock Rockets finished up play at the Irrigon Roundball Holiday Tournament on a bad note, falling to Burns on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Pilot Rock (5-8) next plays on Saturday at 1 p.m. when they travel to Echo.

ARLINGTON 49, MCKENZIE 22 — At Dufur, the Arlington Honkers ended a short two-game losing streak at the IA Hoops Classic, defeating McKenzie on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Arlington (6-5) next plays on Jan. 8 when they travel to Mitchell/Spray for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

CONDON/WHEELER

42, PACIFIC 35 — At Dufur, the Condon/Wheeler Knights pulled out their fourth win of the season on Wednesday, defeating Pacific to end the IA Hoops Classic.

No details were reported. Condon/Wheeler (4-5) next plays on Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at lone to begin league play.

DUFUR 53, ECHO 46 — At Dufur, the Echo Cougars fell just short of their fifth win of the season on Wednesday, falling to Dufur 53-46 at the IA Hoops Classic.

No details were reported. Echo (4-7) next plays on Saturday when they host Pilot Rock at 1 p.m.

The Irrigon vs. Nixyaawii game score was not reported by press time.

Girls Basketball

PENDLETON 53, SUMMIT 46 — At Summit, the Pendleton Buckaroos earned their second-straight win on Wednesday, defeating Summit at the Oregon Holiday Hoopfest.

Haley Greb led the Buckaroos with 19 points on 6-10 shooting, while Kalan McGlothlan added 10 points on 5-7 shooting. “We gained a lot from this trip,” said Pendleton coach Michelle Gomez. “(Today) we were able to slow it down and keep our composure and hold on for the win.”

After starting the season with six-straight losses, the Buckaroos have won three of their last four to end the 2015 calendar year.

Pendleton (3-7) next plays on Tuesday at 7 p.m. when they host Baker.

PHS (3-7) 12 11 14 16 - 53
SHS (5-3) 10 7 6 23 - 46
PENDLETON — H. Greb 19, K. McGlothlan 10, J. Leimberger 5, R. Gentner 4, E. Nirschl 4, H. Porter 4, M. Davies 4, L. Richards 2, C. Hoffman 1, S. Greb, T. Fell.
SUMMIT — S. Heinly 17, M. Hagfors 10, O. Loberg 8, M. Hagfors 4, C. Naegle 3, E. Huntsman 2, M. Shelton 1, T. West 1.
3-pointers — PHS 3, SHS 4. Free throws — PHS 8-17, SHS 8-12. Fouls — PHS 12, SHS 16. Fouled out — K. McGlothlan (PHS).

PILOT ROCK 43, ELGIN 19 — At Irrigon, the Pilot Rock Rockets downed the Elgin Huskies for the third time this season on Wednesday with a 24 point win at the Irrigon Roundball Holiday Tournament.

“We knew (Elgin) as well as anybody so we knew what we needed to do,” said Pilot Rock coach Butch Wilson. “We held their offensive weapons so six points combined and did a real good job.”

Madison Dave paced the Rockets with a double-double in the game, netting 12 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Wilson also said the Rockets did a great job sharing the basketball in the game, finishing with a solid 15 assists.

Pilot Rock next plays

PHS (8-5) 12 11 10 10 - 43
EHS (4-8) 8 4 4 3 - 19
PILOT ROCK — M. Dave 12, J. Wilson 10, B. Roe 6, S. Weinke 6, T. Ostrom 3, K. Deist 3, R. Oates 2, L. Bray 1.
ELGIN — H. McClure 6, C. Wilhelm 4, M. Harris 3, J. Vermillion 3, S. Davidson 3, M. Ledbetter 1.
3-pointers — PRHS 2, EHS 3. Free throws — PHS 15-20, EHS 2-9. Fouls — PRHS 13, EHS 17.

NIXYAAWII 38, IRRIGON 37 — At Irrigon, Nixyaawii guard Mary Stewart scored a bucket at the buzzer to give the Golden

Eagles a win over the Knights on Wednesday night.

The Golden Eagles never led in the fourth quarter until that basket, giving the Knights a heartbreaking loss.

Stewart led the Golden Eagles with 12 points, while Jada Burns led Irrigon with 10 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

Nixyaawii next plays on Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Sherman. Irrigon next plays on Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at home against Heppner.

NIXYAAWII (11-1) — M. Stewart 12, A. Farrow 9, S. Fitzpatrick 8, D. Maddern 5, S. Fuentes 2, K. Melton 2.
IRRIGON (3-7) — B. Aguilera 12, J. Burns 10, L. Ramirez 5, T. Davis 4, K. McLaughlin 4, A. Zacarias 2.
3-pointers — NIX 5, IRR 5.

SPRINGFIELD 44, HERMISTON 39 — At Lake Oswego, the Hermiston Bulldogs finished up Nike Interstate Shootout play with a loss to Springfield on Wednesday, earning the Bulldogs a sixth place finish in the Swoosh bracket.

No details were reported. Hermiston (9-3) returns home on Saturday for a home game against Kennewick (WA) at 5:45 p.m.

CRESWELL 46, UMATILLA 42 — At Salem, the Umatilla Vikings dropped their second game in a row at the Crusader New Year’s Invitational, falling to Creswell on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Umatilla (9-4) returns home on Monday to host Mac-Hi at 6 p.m.

35 — At Pasco, Wash., the Stanfield Tigers pulled out a close three-point victory on the road in overtime on Wednesday night over Tri-Cities Prep.

The win ends a three-game losing streak for the Tigers. No other details were reported.

Stanfield (4-3) next plays on Tuesday at Riverside at 6 p.m.

HOSANNA CHRISTIAN 47, CONDON/WHEELER 38 — At Dufur, the Condon/Wheeler Knights earned their first loss of the season, falling to Creswell to finish up the IA Hoops Classic on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Condon/Wheeler (9-1) next plays at lone on Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. to begin league play.

ARLINGTON 42, MCKENZIE 15 — At Dufur, the Arlington Honkers stopped its two-game losing streak by earning a blowout win against McKenzie at the IA Hoops Classic on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Arlington (7-4) next plays on Jan. 8 against Mitchell/Spray at 6 p.m. to begin league play.

ECHO 61, PACIFIC 16 — At Dufur, the Echo Cougars rolled to their sixth win of the season by blowing out Pacific at the IA Hoops Classic on Wednesday.

No details were reported. Echo (6-5) next plays on Saturday when they host Pilot Rock at 1 p.m.