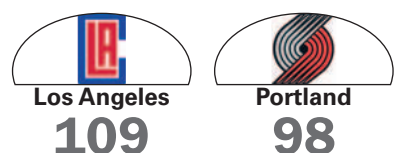


NBA

Paul leads Clippers to win over Trail Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer



PORTLAND — The Los Angeles Clippers got their seventh straight win — and sixth without Blake Griffin — but all the attention was on a guy who didn't play.

Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum sat out of Portland's 109-98 loss to the Clippers on Wednesday night because he was mistakenly left off the active roster that was turned in before the game.

The "clerical error" caused confusion at the start of the game, but ultimately it meant that Portland's second-leading scorer couldn't play.

That took some of the attention away from Chris Paul, who had 21 points and a season-high 19 assists for the Clippers, who have the league's longest active winning streak at seven games. And that's come despite the absence of Griffin, the team's leading scorer with an average of 23.2 points a game, because of a partially torn left quadriceps tendon.

"Now we're playing a lot smoother; we're just trying to hold it down until the big fella gets back," Paul said. "I'm going to keep saying this, we're holding this together 'till 32 gets back."

DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 14 rebounds for his sixth consecutive double-double for the Clippers.

Damian Lillard had 20 points and nine assists, while Mason Plumlee had a season-high 19 points for the Blazers, who trailed by as many as 23 points but closed the gap in the fourth quarter.

Mo Harkless dunked to narrow Portland's deficit to 97-91 with 4:35

left. Paul Pierce's 3-pointer pulled the Clippers out front 101-91 and the Blazers couldn't catch up.

The uncertainty over McCollum, who is second on the team with an average of 21 points a game, marred the start of the game for the Blazers.

Allen Crabbe started in place of McCollum, who was dressed and on the bench at the start of the game but left for the locker room after the first quarter. Shortly before the break, the Blazers announced that McCollum was inactive "due to a clerical error in the NBA's active list reporting."

Afterward, Blazers coach Terry Stotts took full responsibility for the error.

"I signed the paper without really noticing it, but it's my fault for not looking at it," Stotts said. "Although we caught the error, we thought we'd caught it in time, apparently we did not, so CJ was ruled inactive, and that's that."

McCollum said he was putting it all in the past.

"It's unfortunate, but it's over with. Just moving on to the next game," he said.

The Clippers jumped out to an early 22-10 lead on Pierce's 3-pointer. They extended the lead to 35-23 on Jamal Crawford's 3-pointer and free throw. It was his 45th 4-point play, an ongoing NBA record.

Los Angeles led 63-40 at the half,

the team's largest lead of the game.

Lillard hit a 3-pointer that pulled the Blazers within 70-58 in the third quarter, then added another 3 that pulled Portland within 89-79 with just under 10 minutes left. Gerald Henderson's tip and Harkless' fast break layup and free throw closed the gap to 89-83.

Wesley Johnson answered for the Clippers with a 3-pointer — his first basket of the game — to stop Portland's momentum.

It didn't help Portland that Lillard was still getting back into form after missing seven games with plantar fasciitis in his left foot. The Blazers' All-Star came back on Monday against the Memphis Grizzlies, but Portland fell 91-78.

The Clippers were coming off a 130-99 victory over Philadelphia TIP-INS

Clippers: Wesley Johnson, who was dealing with a sore right foot, was in the Clippers' starting lineup. ... Griffin, who was injured Christmas Day against the Lakers, could return as early as this weekend, although coach Doc Rivers said Wednesday there was no update as to his status.

Trail Blazers: The Blazers lead the Clippers 86-21 in games played in Portland.

ABOUT THOSE ASSISTS

It was Paul's fourth straight game with at least 10 assists. His career high is 21, set Nov. 6, 2007 against the Lakers.

"When you have a guy on your team that can recognize plays that you should run without having to look back (at the coach) — he called four in a row, that were perfect calls," Rivers said about his star point guard.



Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan (6) and Portland Trail Blazers center Mason Plumlee (24) compete for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016. The Clippers won 109-98.



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) works the ball as Washington Wizards forward Otto Porter Jr. defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016, in Washington. The Cavaliers won 121-115.

LeBron motivated by 5-year-old friend

By IAN QUILLEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — LeBron James had a special fan in Washington on Wednesday night watching the Cleveland Cavaliers' victory over the Wizards.

Five-year-old Leah Still, whose battle with cancer won her the 2015 ESPY Award for perseverance, attended the game wearing James' No. 23 jersey.

After scoring 34 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in Cleveland's 121-115 victory

over Washington, James said Still's presence "absolutely" provided some extra motivation.

"Her and Zhuri, my baby girl, are my two favorite women in the world," James said. "I know my mom and my wife will be a little bit jealous, but they've got to take a back seat to those two."

James and Still, the daughter of NFL defensive end Devon Still, have had an ongoing friendship since the pair first met last season at another game.

Earlier Monday, Devon Still signed a contract with the Houston Texans for next season after he was cut by Cincinnati last September. The Bengals had kept him on in 2014 in part so he'd have health insurance to cover her treatments.

"That's all blessings from the man above," James said.

Scans this summer found no trace of cancer, but Leah has been undergoing treatment to help rebuild and immune system that was destroyed by chemotherapy.

When James presented

her ESPY, Devon accepted with Leah not yet strong enough to attend. But as she nears the end of her treatments, she was able to enjoy the game courtside.

James said thinking of his own children made Devon Stills' story hit home.

"To be able to keep that strength and keep his composure, when his daughter was going through what she was going through, just resonated, man," James said. "And from that point on, we became good friends. ... (She's) like a little sister of mine."

COLLEGE: Payton II scores 22 for Oregon State in loss to Stanford

Continued from 1B

first half, which ended in a 27-27 tie.

The Ducks stayed close despite shooting just 32.4 percent for the half and missing 10 of 12 3-pointers. Dorsey hit both of Oregon's 3s as he and Boucher each had eight points.

The Golden Bears were hampered by 10 first-half turnovers and a 21-18 rebounding deficit. Brown had seven points and five rebounds at the break.

TIP-INS

California: Tyrone Wallace passed Russ Critchfield for 12th on the Golden Bears' career scoring list with 16 points to give him 1,440. No. 11 is Justin Cobbs at 1,469. Cal came into the game tied with Stanford for fewest turnovers per game in the Pac-12 at 11.9. The Golden Bears had 10 by halftime and finished with 18. Cal is now 11-2 when it wins the rebounding battle.

Oregon: The Ducks will be without senior guard

Dylan Ennis for the rest of the season after he reaggravated a foot injury in Sunday's loss at Oregon State. Ennis, a graduate transfer from Villanova, played 21 minutes in two games after missing the first 12 recovering from surgery on his left foot. Oregon, next-to-last in the Pac-12 in 3-point shooting at 32.1 percent, made 7 of 21 (33.3 percent) in the victory.

UP NEXT

California plays at Oregon State on Saturday night.

Oregon hosts Stanford on Sunday night.

STANFORD 78, OREGON STATE 72 — At Corvallis, Rosco Allen had 21 points and eight rebounds as Stanford beat Oregon State 78-72 on Wednesday night.

Marcus Allen added 15 points and three steals, and Dorian Pickens had 14 points for the Cardinal (9-5, 2-1 Pac-12).

Gary Payton II had 22 points, nine rebounds and six assists, Stephen Thompson Jr. scored 13 points and Drew Eubanks added 13 points for



the Beavers (10-3, 1-1), who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Thompson hit a long-range 3-pointer with 53.7 seconds left to make it 72-66, but Oregon State's press couldn't force turnovers and Stanford made 8 of 12 free

throws in the final 1:03.

Stanford outrebounded Oregon State 46-29 — with a whopping 20 offensive boards — and got plenty of high percentage looks, scoring 32 points in the paint.

The Cardinal went on a 19-5 surge, capped by a Pickens

layup, to go up 22-11. The scrambling and physical Stanford defense held the Beavers scoreless for more than five minutes during the run.

Stanford led by as many as 15 in the first half and went to the break ahead 37-24.

The Beavers cut the lead

to nine points twice in the first 10 minutes of the second half, but every time Oregon State seemed to gain momentum, Stanford stretched its lead.

The Cardinal led by 14 when Oregon State went on a 7-0 run, with Thompson making a 3-pointer and lay-in, to make it 58-51 with 6:48 left.

Allen hit a 3-pointer with 3:02 remaining to give Stanford an 11-point advantage.

TIP INS

Stanford: The matchup was Stanford's second true road game of the season. The first was a 78-61 loss to Saint Mary's on Nov. 22. The victory gave coach Johnny Dawkins his 150th career victory.

Oregon State: The Beavers received four votes in this week's Associated Press poll and three votes in the USA Today poll. It's the first time the Beavers have received votes since 2011. Gary Payton II entered the game as one of only four players in the country leading his team in scoring (16.4), rebounding (8.0), assists (5.1) and steals (2.5).

Oregon State's Malcolm Duivier, center, drives on Stanford's Michael Humphrey, left, Cameron Walker, second from left, and Marcus Allen, right, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Corvallis, Ore., on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016.

AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today
Umatilla at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.
Friday
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Culver, 4:30 p.m.
Heppner at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 7:30 p.m.
Echo at Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Nixyaavii, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m.
Summit at Hermiston, 3:15 p.m.
Pendleton at Lebanon, 5 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 5:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
South Wasco at Arlington, 5:30 p.m.
Horizon Christian at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.
Lone at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaavii at Echo, 5:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Helix, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today
Umatilla at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Friday
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Heppner at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Culver, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 6 p.m.
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray (at Spray), 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Nixyaavii, 6 p.m.
Echo at Joseph, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Pendleton at Lebanon, 3 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Horizon Christian (at

Fossil), 4 p.m.
South Wasco at Arlington, 4 p.m.
Lone at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Powder Valley at Helix, 4 p.m.
Echo at Nixyaavii, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Friday
Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m.
Riverside quad dual at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m.
Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD
Saturday
Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m.
Pendleton, Heppner, Riverside, Irrigon at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m.
Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD.

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday
Pendleton, Hermiston at The Dalles meet, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 5:30 p.m.

Football

NCAA
Monday, Jan. 11
College Football Championship Game

Glendale, Ariz. vs. Alabama (13-1), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday
Kansas City (11-5) at Houston (9-7), 1:35 p.m. (ABC/ESPN)
Pittsburgh (10-6) at Cincinnati (12-4), 5:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday
Seattle (10-6) at Minnesota (11-6), 10 a.m. (NBC)
Green Bay (10-6) at Washington (9-7), 1:30 p.m. (FOX)

Basketball

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	15	.595	—
Boston	19	16	.543	2
New York	18	19	.486	4
Brooklyn	10	25	.286	11
Philadelphia	4	33	.108	18

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	14	.600	—
Atlanta	21	15	.583	½
Orlando	19	17	.528	2½
Charlotte	17	18	.486	4
Washington	15	18	.455	5

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	24	9	.727	—
Chicago	21	12	.636	3
Atlanta	20	15	.571	5
Detroit	20	16	.556	5½
Milwaukee	14	23	.378	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	31	6	.838	—
Dallas	21	15	.583	9½
Memphis	19	18	.514	12
Houston	17	19	.472	13½
New Orleans	11	23	.324	18½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	25	11	.694	—
Utah	15	19	.441	9
Portland	15	23	.395	11
Denver	13	23	.361	12
Minnesota	12	24	.333	13

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	33	2	.943	—
L.A. Clippers	23	13	.639	10½
Sacramento	14	21	.400	19
Phoenix	13	25	.342	21½
L.A. Lakers	8	28	.222	25½

Wednesday's Games
New York 98, Miami 90
Indiana 95, Orlando 86
Cleveland 121, Washington 115
Toronto 91, Brooklyn 74
Detroit 99, Boston 94
Denver 78, Minnesota 74
Dallas 110, New Orleans 91
San Antonio 123, Utah 98
Phoenix 111, Charlotte 102
Oklahoma City 112, Memphis 94
L.A. Clippers 109, Portland 98

Today's Games
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 5 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
TOP 25
Wednesday
1. UConn (12-0) beat Tulsa 95-35. Next: at Houston, Friday.

4. Texas (13-0) beat Iowa State 75-54.
Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.
6. Baylor (14-1) beat Kansas 58-40. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.

17. Oklahoma (11-3) beat TCU 78-65. Next: vs. Kansas State, Sunday.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Top 25
3. Maryland (14-1) beat Rutgers 88-63.
Next: at Wisconsin, Saturday.
10. Xavier (14-1) beat St. John's 74-66.
Next: vs. DePaul, Tuesday.

11. Villanova (13-2) beat Seton Hall 72-63.
Next: at No. 18 Butler, Sunday.

13. Iowa State (12-2) beat Texas Tech 76-69. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.

14. Duke (13-2) beat Wake Forest 91-75.
Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Saturday.

21. Texas A&M (12-2) beat Mississippi State 61-60. Next: at Tennessee, Saturday.
24. Pittsburgh (13-1) beat Georgia Tech 89-84. Next: at Notre Dame, Saturday.

25. Dayton (12-2) beat UMass 93-63.
Next: at La Salle, Saturday.

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	40	24	12	4	52	111	86
Montreal	42	23	16	3	49	121	104
Detroit	40	20	13	7	47	101	106
Boston	38	20	14	4	44	118	105
Ottawa	40	19	15	6	44	114	120
Tampa Bay	40	19	17	4	42	101	98
Toronto	38	15	7	39	103	103	
Buffalo	40	15	21	4	34	92	110

N.Y. Islanders 40 22 13 5 49 113 99
N.Y. Rangers 40 22 14 4 48 118 105
New Jersey 41 20 16 5 45 94 97
Pittsburgh 40 19 16 5 43 94 99
Philadelphia 38 16 15 7 39 83 105
Carolina 41 16 18 7 39 94 114
Columbus 41 15 23 3 33 105 131

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	42	28	10	4	60	146	113
Chicago	42	25	13	4	54	117	100
St. Louis	43	23	14	6	52	106	107
Minnesota	39	21	11	7	49	105	92
Nashville	40	19	14	7	45	104	106
Colorado	41	20	18	3	43	117	114
Winnipeg	40	19	19	2	40	108	115

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	39	25	12	2	52	105	87
Arizona	39	19	16	4	42	110	124
Vancouver	41	16	19	4	41	100	115
Calgary	39	19	18	2	40	104	