

NBA

Curry’s big third propels Warriors past Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Stephen Curry scored 28 points, 23 in the third quarter alone, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Portland Trail Blazers 127-104 on Tuesday night to extend their early season winning streak to three games.

Ian Clark came off the bench with a career-high 22 points for the Warriors, who have rebounded after a season-opening loss to San Antonio. Kevin Durant added 20 points and Golden State rested its starters down the stretch after leading by as many as 35 points.

Damian Lillard had 31 points for the Blazers, who fell in five games to the Warriors in the Western Conference semifinals last season. Playing the first of a back-to-back, Portland coach Terry Stotts also went to his reserves with



eight minutes left.

The Blazers beat the Warriors 137-105 in Portland last February, with Oakland native Lillard scoring a career-high 51 points against his hometown team. It was one of just nine losses for the Warriors. Lillard averaged 36.5 points against the Warriors last season.

Lillard scored with 0.3 seconds left to give the Blazers a 115-113 win at Denver on Saturday. He finished with 37 points.

Clark, who averaged fewer than 3.0 points in Golden State’s first three games, scored 16 in the first half. Clark’s 3-pointer midway through the second quarter



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, right, shoots as Portland Trail Blazers forward Ed Davis, left, defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Tuesday in Portland.

AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldyer

extended Golden State’s lead to 47-38. Clark hit his first 3-point attempt after going 1 for 7 from the perimeter in the Warriors’ first three games.

Lillard’s 3-pointer pulled

the Blazers within 55-51 but Golden State led 59-53 at the break. Lillard finished the first half with 22 points in just under 18 minutes.

CJ McCollum made

the Warriors up 94-71 late in the third quarter as the game slipped out of reach for Portland.

Golden State was coming off a 106-100 victory over Phoenix on Sunday.

TIP-INS

Warriors: Coach Steve Kerr was asked if the team was in danger of looking past Portland to the Thunder and Kevin Durant’s first game against his former team on Thursday. “I don’t know how you’d look past the Blazers,” Kerr said. ... Durant scored 94 points in his first three games as a Warrior. Only Wilt Chamberlain had more, with 120 points in his first three games with the Philadelphia Warriors.

Trail Blazers: The sellout crowd was enthusiastic, even giving Lillard a standing ovation for an early 3-pointer that put Portland up 14-7. ... Lillard has scored at least 25 points against the Warriors in seven straight games.

PENDLETON



Photo courtesy of Lucy Argueta

BACK ROW (left to right): Coach Cesar Argueta, Brooke Newson, Gracie Seeliger, Chelsea Kendrick, Molly Magill, Clara Sams, Sage Wyland, Kaylee Zimmerman. FRONT ROW: Alathia Bork, Olivia Shrader, Kelsey Lovercheck, Kaidence Fine, team mascot Maya, Reilly Lovercheck, Olivia Corbett, Emily Lozier, Hiley Newson. Not pictured: Macie Lantis.

Huskies finish season with eight wins

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Huskies U15 girls soccer team recently finished its season in the Walla Walla fall youth league with a 8-1-1 record.

The Huskies played each team in the five-team league twice, with one game each weekend in Walla Walla, Washington, except when the Huskies had to play twice in one day to make up from getting a bye during the Pendleton Round-Up.

They won both of those games, and began and finished their season with victories.

“So it was a good feeling, start winning and finish winning,” coach Cesar Argueta said in an email. “All teams were great competing and sportsmanship. There was a great team environment. At the end of the game is just what it is, a game.

“I think the girls enjoyed every practice and every game. The key of the good season, I think, was the teamwork and the union in the group. I’m proud of how they played all 10 matches.”

The Huskies outscored their opponents 57-23 with 13 different players getting goals.

DUCKS: Brooks champing at bit

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the projections on a national scale. We’ll have our non-conference opponents fired up to play against us,” Altman said about the expectations. “So, it will be an adjustment our team will have to make. I’m interested to see how they’ll handle it.”

Guard Tyler Dorsey, who averaged 13.4 points and 4.3 rebounds in 35 starts as a freshman last season, said the key will be preparation.

“We have to take one game at a time, be mentally prepared and focus on the opponent we’re going to play that night, and just come in prepared,” Dorsey said. “We are going to have a target on our back, so we have to be ready.”

The Ducks are certainly in good shape to handle the pressure. They return four of five starters from last season’s team, including junior forward Dillon Brooks, who led the team with 16.7 points per game. The only regular starter to graduate was Elgin Cook.

“I like our depth,” Altman said. “So those are the kind of things that can help you meet expectations because even if one or two players is off, we have players that have the ability to step up.”

FEET AT THE FORE-FRONT: Brooks is expected to miss a few games at the start of the season following offseason foot surgery. “He’s champing at the bit,” Altman said. “He’s ready to go. If it were up to him, he’d be practicing right now. But we’ll listen to the doctors.”

The Ducks expect to have senior guard Dylan Ennis,

who missed all but two games last season because of a stress fracture in his left foot. The NCAA approved his waiver for an extra year of eligibility this summer. A transfer from Villanova prior to last season, Ennis had already used a redshirt year.

GOING SMALL: Because of Brooks’ absence, the Ducks could go with a three-guard lineup early in the season, Altman said. “But I think our guys will look at that as a challenge. We’ve got good depth at the guard spots, and I think those guys will look at that as a challenge to pick up the areas that Dillon would generally do,” he said.

HIGH PRAISE: Arizona coach Sean Miller was complimentary of the Ducks at the Pac-12’s media day in San Francisco earlier this month.

“There is no question with who they have returning and Dana as a coach and the success they had one year ago. We have gone through that. When you get to that level in March, you are hungry to return and get a lot of confidence. I think Oregon has all the pieces to be one of college basketball’s brightest teams this year,” Miller said.

TOUGH NONCONFERENCE SCHEDULE: Oregon opens the season at home against Army on Nov. 11, then plays Baylor (ranked No. 21 at the end of last season) and Valparaiso before heading off to the Maui Invitational, where the Ducks join a field that includes North Carolina (No. 3 last season), Wisconsin, UConn, Georgetown, Tennessee, Oklahoma State and host Chaminade.

Prep Girls Soccer

Bulldogs, Pioneers shut out in first round

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston and Mac-Hi girls soccer teams were each held scoreless in their returns to the first round of the state playoffs to bring their seasons to a close on Tuesday.

Hermiston fell to No. 1 La Salle Prep 4-0 in a 5A match in Milwaukie — it was just the third time this season the Bulldogs (8-8) had been shut out. La Salle (12-1-2) scored three times in the second half to pull away, and no other details were reported.

Hermiston

was playing in the round of 16 for the first time since 2012, where it fell to 0-4 and has been outscored by a 19-0 total.

Mac-Hi was shut out for the sixth time on the year in a 2-0 loss at No. 4 Cascade in Turner. The Pioneers (9-6-1) were playing in the

round of 16 for the first time since 2013, where they dropped to 0-4 all-time and have been outscored 15-1 there.

Both teams reached the playoffs via their conference’s No. 2 berth and then won play-in games to finish 1-1 in the postseason.

PIRATES: Hernandez ends game with 12 saves

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the back line of defenders with a leading pass that Plankenhorn laced into the near corner for the game-winning goal.

Jenna Worthington added the insurance goal in the 16th minute, which was again assisted by Stephens. This time the pass came from near midfield, which Worthington controlled at the top of the box before turning and splitting two Riverside defenders with a shot that arced over Hernandez’s gloves and just under the crossbar.

Riverside (8-4-2) was routinely beat to 50-50 balls by the Medford-based Challengers, and Pirates senior outside midfielder Rubi Salazar said it was obvious some of her teammates were nervous to start the game.

“I think we needed to work more on sprinting, getting to the ball and not being scared of taller people, just using our bodies more,” she said.

The Pirates began getting more physical after falling into the 2-0 hole, but their adjustment issues weren’t limited to defense, and the team struggled to get off strong shots on goal.

Riverside had some success working the ball up the sidelines, but each time it would build a counter-



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Riverside’s Faith Rosen battles for the ball with Cascade Christian’s Joelle Sills on Tuesday in Boardman.

attack that carried the ball within striking distance, the centering pass would find only Challenger defenders.

“It’s really hard because you know what has to be done but you can’t go out there and do it yourself,” said Xenia Velasco of her first experience missing games due to injury.

Velasco wasn’t only the key piece missing from the offense as sophomore Faith Rosen had been moved back to support the defense. She was moved back up in the game’s final 15 minutes and sparked a late push by the Pirates, but by then Cascade was keeping five back on defense and had the numbers working in their favor each time Riverside advanced.

Coach Velasco said his younger replacements just weren’t quite sure of their

roles.

“They didn’t know how to play in that situation, and so it was kind of difficult for them, because they didn’t know where to be,” he said.

Riverside’s best scoring chance in the first half came on a free kick from about 25 yards out, but the shot went into the wall and was quickly cleared. They didn’t put a shot on goal in the second half until the 77th minute, but junior Skylar Wightman didn’t have much of an angle and the shot was easily stopped.

Cascade, which entered the match averaging 3.8 goals a game, had chances to extend the lead in the 65th and 69th minutes with only Hernandez to beat but shots by Worthington and Plankenhorn failed to stay on frame.

Hernandez finished the game with 12 saves, and the Pirates had just four shots on goals as a team.

Cascade Christian advanced in the state bracket to face No. 1 seed Catlin Gabel in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

It was the second straight year the Pirates’ season ended the first round of the playoffs, but despite falling short of one of their main season goals of reaching the quarterfinals, the team was able to go undefeated in league play to claim the school’s first district title in girls soccer.

“It was one of my goals the year before but unfortunately we didn’t make that happen,” said Xenia Velasco. “This year was really great, and it made me feel proud of my team, like all the hours that we worked were worth it.”

“I think it meant a lot,” Salazar said. “It shows that everyone gave it their all, even with injured teammates.”

The Pirates graduate six seniors — the other three being midfielder Laura Lopez, defender Isela Magana and defender Ivonne Navarro — but also will return six starters.

“So I think we can start rebuilding from there, and I believe we will have a good team next year,” Coach Velasco said.

BULLDOGS: Faaeteete not concerned by offensive struggles

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also defeated in the first round by No. 4 Springfield 28-13.

SCOUTING ST. HELENS

The St. Helens Lions finished the season 7-2 overall and 5-2 in the Northwest Oregon Conference to finish in fourth place. Their only two losses of the season came on the road at No. 2 seed Wilsonville (23-14) and at home to No. 13 seed Hillsboro (28-27), but the Lions picked up a signature win in the regular season finale, 9-7, over the No. 6 seed Sandy.

As an offense, St. Helens averaged 35.2 points per game running a scheme the Bulldogs became very familiar with this season.

“Story of the year, another Wing-T team,” Hermiston defensive back Tyler Rohrman said with a smile. “But we are well-seasoned and well-prepared and we know what reads we’re looking for, so we feel confident.”

In the passing game, St. Helens is led by a big senior quarterback Levi

Norton (6-1, 250 pounds) who has five receivers at 6-feet or taller that he can throw to. In the running game, St. Helens has a solid power-speed combo with seniors Haidon Allen (5-7, 155) and Tyler Rea (6-0, 245), who have a combined 12 touchdowns and 888 rushing yards.

On defense, St. Helens deploys a Cover-2 base scheme with cornerbacks that like to play physical against their receivers. The unit allowed an average of 15.6 points per game, with the highest total allowed being the 28 points to Hillsboro.

KEYS FOR HERMISTON

A WHOLE NEW SEASON: The beauty of postseason games in any sport is that often times, what happened in the regular season means nothing when it comes time for the playoffs. That means that the team that wins a game may not necessarily be the most talented of the two teams on the field, but it was the team that was best at finding ways to win.

Hermiston feels that

coming into the postseason with a gritty win over Pendleton gives them enough confidence and talent to be a team-to-beat in the playoffs.

“The Pendleton game was tough, but at the end of the day we know we can find different ways to win,” Rohrman said. “We made the plays we needed to at the right times. Sure we would always like to make more plays, but we did what we had to do and it gives us confidence knowing we can win any way we need to.”

BACK TO BASICS: The Bulldogs are coming off of back-to-back sub-par offensive performances with seven combined turnovers in those games. Hermiston will need to regroup and re-discover the efficiency, balance and productivity that it used during the three-game win streak over Hood River, Ridgeview, and Bend if the Bulldogs hope to advance against a tough St. Helens defense.

Faaeteete said that he’s not concerned about the offense heading into Friday.

“The last couple games

we’re just one dropped pass here or one missed blocking assignment there from making them different ballgames,” he said. “If everybody doesn’t do their job on a certain play then the play doesn’t function the way it should and that’s what we saw.

“But that’s just football, anything can happen on a Friday night.”

KEEP THE PRESSURE COMING: Even with the struggles that Hermiston’s offense has been through over the past two weeks, Hermiston’s defense has kept getting better.

The Bulldogs gave up 303 yards and 26 points to Redmond, but kept Hermiston within striking distance for the offense throughout three-and-a-half quarters. And last week against Pendleton, Hermiston held the Buckaroos to just 114 yards of total offense, forced four turnovers, and totaled seven sacks.

The Bulldogs defense has been improving each week, and will need to have another dominant performance on Friday to come home with the win.