

NBA

Lack of defense deterred the All-Star excitement

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It was the fourth quarter of the All-Star Game, and a few fans started yelling loudly enough for DeAndre Jordan to hear them from his spot on the Western Conference bench.

Their cry: “De-fense! De-fense!”
Jordan’s shout back: “No, no, no!”

The moment was both hilarious and fitting. Defense was in short supply on Sunday night during the NBA’s showcase game, one where Anthony Davis smashed a 55-year-old record with 52 points and the Western Conference beat the Eastern Conference 192-182. And it prompted some questions afterward on whether the glorified exhibition really needs to see at least the appearance of defense return.

“All-Star is about offense and giving the crowd a show, but if they want to see a little more defense as fans and everything — I mean, nobody wants to go out here and get hurt,” said Davis, the game’s MVP in his home arena. “It’s all about fun. ... I love it. I don’t really care. I’ll go out there and have fun. I didn’t play any defense.”

Few did.
There were 33 steals in the game, sure, but most of those were the byproduct of bad passes than picked pockets. There were 16 fouls, mainly ones players were taking to stop the clock and allow substitutions; only four were of the shooting variety. Stephen Curry laid down on the court at one point while Giannis Antetokounmpo was driving in for what became one of his 12 dunks.

“I’m going to play hard no matter what,” Antetokounmpo said. “That’s the only thing I know how to do.”

Davis took 39 shots, making 26, both of those now All-Star records. The game also established records for total points



Bob Donnan/USA Today via AP, Pool

Western Conference forward Anthony Davis of the New Orleans Pelicans (23) slam dunks during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017.

(384), most field goals (162), most assists (103), most assists by one team (West with 60), most points in one quarter (101, first) and so on. The East set a rather dubious record, establishing a new high score by a losing team for the third consecutive season.

Put simply, it’s not a real game, and real-game thinking doesn’t apply. LeBron James made a shot from nearly half-court, something he would never try in a competitive situation.

He loves defense. He wasn’t missing it on Sunday.

“I think the biggest thing coming out of the game is that everybody leaves injury-free,” James said. “We gave the fans what they wanted to see and everyone left injury-free. Another successful All-Star weekend for myself and everyone.”

West coach Steve Kerr said he and East coach Brad Stevens had jobs on Sunday night akin to

the person who played the role of the title character in “Weekend at Bernie’s,” that being a deceased man who gets dragged from place to place and propped up to somehow give others the illusion that he’s still actually alive.

Kerr’s point: How All-Star games are played isn’t up to the coaches, but rather it’ll be the players who decide if they want defense back.

“It would be good to possibly incentivize the guys somehow,” Kerr said. “I don’t know if you can maybe get their charities involved or winner-take-all type thing, but I think it’s possible to play a lot harder without taking a charge. We know what silly is out there, if you’re undercutting guys, but it’s almost gone too far the other way where there’s just no resistance at all. I think there’s a happy medium in there somewhere.”

East guard Kyrie Irving expects that the game will change.

Like many, he said avoiding injury in the All-Star Game is paramount and that’s certainly understandable. But he also expressed a wish that the games had a bit more of a competitive aspect.

“I think going forward, the All-Star experience will probably get a little harder in terms of defense,” Irving said.

Down the stretch, the East did apparently try to raise the defensive bar. Stevens said it was discussed in the fourth quarter, with hopes of putting the East in position to win the game.

He almost sounded disappointed in how the flow went.

“We talked about trying to get back in it at the end and talked about how, obviously, the one way to do that is keep people in front of you,” Stevens said. “But, no, it probably should have been a bigger emphasis in retrospect now.”

Women’s College Basketball

Washington’s Plum just 78 points away from NCAA all-time mark

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Washington guard Kelsey Plum’s postgame celebration Sunday consisted of hugs with family and friends, pictures with kids, autographs and then she was headed to ESPN’s nearby studios for a SportsCenter appearance, her second in two days.

Such is life for the nation’s leading scorer.

Plum scored 35 points to move into second place on the NCAA’s career scoring list and help No. 9 Washington beat Southern California 87-74.

Plum needed just three points to tie former Baylor star Brittney Griner on the list, and she hit a 3-pointer with 3:35 left in the first quarter to tie for second. Her free throw with 2:04 left in the first lifted her to second place behind former Missouri State star Jackie Stiles.

Stiles had 3,393 points, and Plum has 3,315. She needs 78 points to tie Stiles.

Asked about the list, she did what she always does in giving credit to the Huskies first.

“I was excited to get the win,” Plum said. “USC had been playing great. We lost to UCLA on Friday so we knew we needed to finish strong this weekend. Any split in the Pac-12 is a good split. It’s an honor. I’ve watched a ton of these amazing women on this list growing up as a kid. Obviously, they’re some of the best people to play. It’s just really cool.”



Plum

JENNINGS: Set a personal record in both the 50 yard and 100 yard races



East Oregonian photo by Mike Weber

Pendleton’s Jon Jennings, in silver cap on left, dives from his starting post in the 50 yard freestyle swim at the OSAA state swim championships on Saturday at Mt. Hood Community College. Jennings finished second in the race.

Continued from 1B

very efficient swimmer.”

Jennings, the defending 50 yard freestyle champion, had hopes of capturing a second consecutive state title and he swam hard while clocking a personal best time of 21.38 seconds. Jennings was a close second to Lebanon’s two-time state champion junior Casey McEuen, who won with a state record time of 20.60. The two good friends swam to a one-two finish again in the 100 free. McEuen won the gold medal with another new state record time of 45.47 and Jennings took second with a personal-best of 47.19.

“It feels amazing to be a two-time state champion,” said McEuen, who took third in both events of Friday’s prelims. “I was holding back a little bit yesterday and I wasn’t too concerned

about where I finished, but I just focused on making the top-six to reach finals.

“I knew that I would have a good battle with Jon. He’s such a great competitor and I have all the respect in the world for him. I was more surprised with our times, than I was with the outcome. I’m proud of how well Jon did and he really pushed me to have a good race and I pushed him as well.”

Jennings was glad that the two enjoyed the camaraderie of the prestigious event as they both swam hard while competing together in the special atmosphere of the state meet.

“I love Casey, he’s such a good sport and I’ve been swimming with him throughout my Pendleton High School career,” said Jennings. “Racing with Casey helped me to get a PR in both events, so I really couldn’t ask to have

a better performance. I thought that I might have a chance to stay up with him in the 100, but he was tough. I thought that I could do a little better, but I’m happy with what I got. I’ve had a good career at Pendleton High and I couldn’t ask to have better coaches.”

The state meet also capped the careers for boys team member senior Avery Madrid and girls seniors Oceane Schreier, Sam Schmitz and alternate’s MaKayla Lee, Brooke Lapp and Olivia Broker.

“It was a really good accomplishment for Jon to reach the finals, especially when you consider how difficult it is to do that,” said Pendleton assistant Nick Lapp. “Jon swam really well and he performed up to the best of his ability. I enjoyed working with all the kids and we had a pretty good season.”

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today
Hermiston at Pendleton, 5:45 p.m.
Echo at Prairie City (Class 1A first round), 7 p.m.

Thursday
Pendleton at Hood River, 7 p.m.

Friday
#9 Horizon Christian, Tualitin at #8 Umatilla (Class 3A first round), 6 p.m.
#15 Oakland at #2 Stanfield (Class 2A first round), 6 p.m.

#13 Irrigon at #4 Salem Academy (Class 3A first round), 7 p.m.
#13 Weston-McEwen at #4 Santiam (Class 2A first round), 7 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River, 7 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (Class 1A second round), TBD

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today
Hermiston at Pendleton, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
North Clackamas Christian at Arlington (Class 1A first round), 6 p.m.

Thursday
Hood River at Pendleton, 7 p.m.

Friday
Hood River at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Saturday
#11 Grant Union at #6 Pilot Rock (Class 2A first round), 5 p.m.
#13 Weston-McEwen at #4 Faith Bible (Class 2A first round), TBD
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (Class 1A second round), TBD

PREP WRESTLING

Friday-Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Irrigon, Riverside, Hepner/Ione at OSAA State Championships

COLLEGE MEN’S BASKETBALL

Wednesday
Warner Pacific at Eastern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.
Blue Mountain at North Idaho, 8 p.m.

Saturday
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Today
Corban at Eastern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.

Wednesday
Blue Mountain at North Idaho, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Friday
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 11 a.m./2 p.m.

Sunday
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 11 a.m./2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
Oregon vs. Northwestern Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 2/4 p.m.

Saturday
Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene

(at Nampa, ID), 12/2 p.m.
Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, Noon/2 p.m.

Sunday
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, Noon/2 p.m.

Prep Standings

BOYS BASKETBALL

5A Columbia River Conference

| Conf. | OvrRank |
|------------|-------------|
| Pendleton | 7-0 12-4 10 |
| Hermiston | 5-2 15-6 11 |
| Hood River | 1-5 6-12 29 |
| The Dalles | 1-7 4-15 27 |

GIRLS BASKETBALL

5A Columbia River Conference

| Conf. | OvrRank |
|------------|-------------|
| Hermiston | 6-1 12-9 11 |
| Pendleton | 2-1 10-7 12 |
| The Dalles | 6-6 7-11 22 |
| Hood River | 0-6 6-10 28 |

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|---------------|----|-----|-----|----|
| 1. Cleveland | 39 | 16 | 709 | — |
| 2. Boston | 37 | 20 | 649 | 3 |
| 3. Washington | 34 | 21 | 618 | 5 |
| 4. Toronto | 33 | 24 | 579 | 7 |
| 5. Atlanta | 32 | 24 | 571 | 7½ |
| 6. Indiana | 29 | 28 | 509 | 11 |
| 7. Chicago | 28 | 29 | 491 | 12 |
| 8. Detroit | 27 | 30 | 474 | 13 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Golden State | 47 | 9 | 839 | — |
| 2. San Antonio | 43 | 13 | 768 | 4 |
| 3. Houston | 40 | 16 | 690 | 8 |
| 4. L.A. Clippers | 35 | 21 | 625 | 12 |
| 5. Utah | 35 | 22 | 614 | 12½ |
| 6. Memphis | 34 | 24 | 586 | 14 |
| 7. Oklahoma City | 32 | 25 | 561 | 15½ |
| 8. Denver | 25 | 31 | 446 | 22 |

Monday’s Games

2017 NBA All-Star Game
Western Conference 192, Eastern Conference 182
No games scheduled.

Thursday’s Games

Portland at Orlando, 4:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
New York at Cleveland, 5 p.m.
Denver at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

Friday’s Games

Memphis at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Miami at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Phoenix at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Utah at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at Denver, 6 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

Men’s Top 25

| Record | Pts | Pvs |
|-------------------|------|-----|
| 1. Gonzaga (29) | 28-0 | 797 |
| 2. Villanova (3) | 26-2 | 768 |
| 3. Kansas | 24-3 | 738 |
| 4. Arizona | 25-3 | 685 |
| 5. UCLA | 24-3 | 654 |
| 6. Louisville | 22-5 | 620 |
| 7. Oregon | 24-4 | 618 |
| 8. North Carolina | 23-5 | 566 |
| 9. Baylor | 22-5 | 534 |
| 10. Kentucky | 22-5 | 493 |
| 11. Duke | 22-5 | 446 |
| 12. Florida | 22-5 | 412 |
| 13. West Virginia | 21-6 | 413 |
| 14. Purdue | 22-5 | 392 |
| 15. Wisconsin | 22-5 | 354 |
| 16. Cincinnati | 24-3 | 331 |
| 17. Notre Dame | 21-7 | 250 |
| 18. Saint Mary’s | 24-3 | 211 |
| 19. Virginia | 18-8 | 196 |
| 20. Florida State | 21-6 | 195 |
| 21. SMU | 24-4 | 186 |
| 22. Butler | 21-6 | 153 |
| 23. Creighton | 22-5 | 111 |
| 24. Maryland | 22-5 | 95 |
| 25. Wichita State | 25-4 | 52 |

Monday’s Games

No. 12 West Virginia 77, Texas 62
Miami 54, No. 18 Virginia 48, OT
No. 19 Florida State 104, Boston College 72

Tuesday’s Games

No. 9 Baylor vs. Oklahoma, 4 p.m.
No. 11 Kentucky at Missouri, 6 p.m.
No. 13 Florida vs. South Carolina, 4 p.m.
No. 14 Purdue at Penn State, 3 p.m.
No. 25 Wichita State vs. Evansville, 5 p.m.

PAC-12 Standings

| Conf. | Ovr. |
|----------------|------------|
| Arizona | 14-1 25-3 |
| Oregon | 13-2 24-4 |
| UCLA | 11-3 24-3 |
| California | 9-5 18-8 |
| USC | 8-6 21-6 |
| Utah | 8-6 17-10 |
| Colorado | 6-9 16-12 |
| Arizona St. | 6-9 13-15 |
| Stanford | 5-9 13-13 |
| Washington St. | 5-10 12-15 |
| Washington | 2-13 9-18 |
| Oregon St. | 1-14 5-23 |

Women’s Top 25

| Record | Rts | Prv |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| 1. UConn (33) | 26-0 | 825 |
| 2. Maryland | 26-1 | 788 |
| 3. Mississippi St. | 27-1 | 755 |
| 4. Baylor | 25-2 | 731 |

Monday’s Games

5. Notre Dame 25-3 682 7
6. Texas 21-5 608 8
7. South Carolina 22-4 602 6
8. Stanford 24-4 583 4
9. Florida 24-4 583 10
10. Oregon St. 25-3 528 11
11. Washington 25-4 494 9
12. Ohio St. 23-5 469 12
13. Duke 24-4 467 13
14. Louisville 23-6 414 14
15. UCLA 20-7 350 18
16. Oklahoma 21-6 340 19
17. Miami 19-7 274 16
18. NC State 20-7 232 15
19. DePaul 22-6 208 17
20. Syracuse 18-9 162 21
21. Drake 22-4 123 25
22. Kentucky 19-8 110 -
23. Temple 21-5 99 -
24. Missouri 19-9 62 -
25. Michigan 21-7 53 20

Monday’s Games

Others receiving votes: Texas A&M 45, Kansas St 45, Creighton 32, South Florida 27, Tennessee 9, Belmont 7, Green Bay 4, West Virginia 4, Arizona St. 3, Tulane 2, Colorado St. 2, Wright St. 1, Marquette 1, LSU 1.

Tuesday’s Games

No. 12 Ohio State 98, No. 2 Maryland 87
No. 4 Baylor 70, No. 6 Texas 67

Tuesday’s Game

No. 16 Oklahoma at Kansas State, 5 p.m.

Wednesday’s Game

No. 1 UConn vs. No. 23 Temple (at XL Center, Hartford, Conn.), 4 p.m.

Pac-12 Standings

| Conf. | Ovr. |
|----------------|------------|
| Oregon St. | 14-2 25-3 |
| Stanford | 14-2 24-4 |
| Washington | 13-3 25-4 |
| UCLA | 11-5 20-7 |
| Oregon | 8-8 18-10 |
| Arizona St. | 8-8 17-10 |
| California | 5-11 17-11 |
| Colorado | 5-11 15-12 |
| USC | 5-11 14-13 |
| Washington St. | 5-11 10-17 |
| Utah | 4-12 15-12 |
| Arizona | 4-12 13-14 |

Auto Racing

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup

Daytona 500 Qualifying

Sunday
At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
(Lap length: 2.5 miles
Start position in parentheses)
1. (24) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 192.872 mph.
2. (88) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 192.864 mph.
3. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 192.691 mph.
4. (14) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 192.571 mph.
5. (78) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 192.308 mph.
6. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 192.213 mph.
7. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 192.189 mph.
8. (5) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 192.090 mph.
9. (20) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 192.016 mph.
10. (31) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 191.996 mph.
11. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 191.767 mph.
12. (13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 191.718 mph.
13. (17) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 192.004 mph.
14. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 191.898 mph.
15. (19) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 191.877 mph.
16. (42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 191.804 mph.
17. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 191.779 mph.
18. (21) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 191.746 mph.
19. (6) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 191.718 mph.
20. (27) Erik Jones, Toyota, 191.693 mph.
21. (27) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 191.534 mph.
22