Lillard scores 33 to lead Trail Blazers past Thunder

AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND Lillard had 33 points, including a key 3-pointer with just under three minutes to go, and the Portland Trail Blazers rallied for a 114-109 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday night.

Russell Westbrook scored 45 points on 12-of-36 shooting for the Thunder, who had their four-game winning streak snapped. Oklahoma City newcomer Taj Gibson added 15 points, including a high-arching buzzer-beater from 61 feet away to put the Thunder up 60-57 at halftime.

Alex Abrines' 3-pointer put the Thunder in front 97-89 with 7:48 left for their biggest lead of the game. But Al-Farouq Aminu made a layup that tied it at 101 with 3:43 left. He missed the free throw, but Jusuf Nurkic got the tip-in to give Portland the lead.

Lillard's 3-pointer extended the lead to 106-101 before Westbrook's driving layup and free throw pulled Oklahoma City to 110-106.

Abrines' 3-pointer with 17.7 seconds left narrowed it to 110-109. Lillard was fouled twice in the final seconds and made all four free throws before Westbrook and Doug McDermott both missed 3-pointers



AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldver Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder forward Doug McDermott during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Thursday.

Westbrook hit all 15 of his free throws. He had eight rebounds and four assists.

The Thunder were coming off a 109-106 victory over Utah. Westbrook had 43 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in that game for his fourth straight triple-double and 30th of the season. The Thunder opened the game against the Jazz with 12 straight 3s.

The Blazers were coming off a 120-113 overtime loss at Detroit, which capped a 2-7 February.

Portland got bad news on Wednesday when it was revealed that forward Ed Davis will have arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder and will likely miss the rest of the season. The procedure, scheduled for next Tuesday in Los Angeles, will repair an injured labrum.

Davis has averaged 4.3 points and 5.3 rebounds in 46 games, including 12 starts, this season.

Speaking before Thursday's game, Portland coach Terry Stotts said the shoulder had been bothering Portland 114



Davis for a long time.

"It's actually a good thing he's getting the procedure done now so he'll be ready going into next season," Stotts said.

The Thunder were without Victor Oladipo for a fourth straight game because of back spasms. Abrines started in his place. Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan said he did not think the spasms were the sign of a more serious issue.

The game marked the Thunder debut of guard Norris Cole, signed on Wednesday to help fill the void after the team traded backup point guard Cameron Payne to the Chicago Bulls. Cole won NBA titles with the Miami Heat in 2012 and 2013, but most recently played with the Shandong Golden Stars of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Gibson and McDermott, acquired in the trade with the Bulls, were playing in their fourth game with the Thunder.

Portland took a 20-8 lead on Lillard's layup and Nurkic's short jumper. Oklahoma City went on a

16-6 spurt to close to 26-24 at the end of the opening quarter.

Cole hit a 3-pointer early in the second quarter, his first field goal with the team, and the Thunder went up 27-26. But the Blazers reclaimed the lead and went ahead 52-45 on Aminu's 3-pointer.

CJ McCollum's 3 gave Portland a 57-48 lead, but Westbrook made consecutive 3-pointers and three straight free throws to tie it before Gibson's stunning shot from beyond

The Thunder led 85-81 heading into the final period.

TIP-INS

Thunder: It was the first of a three-game road trip. ... Thunder assistant coach Maurice Cheeks was head coach of the Blazers for four seasons (2001-05).

Trail Blazers: A fan from Beaverton hit a half-court shot between the third and fourth quarters to win a new Toyota minivan. Evan Turner, recovering from a broken bone in his right hand, is due to have his cast removed on Friday and could return to practice as early as next week.

UP NEXT

Thunder: Oklahoma City visits the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

Trail Blazers: Portland hosts the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday night.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

2A Tourney: Vernonia vs. Imbler (at Pendleton Convention Center), 9 a.m. 2A Tourney: Columbia Christian vs. Oakridge (at Pendleton Convention Center)

Santiam (at Pendleton Convention Center), 2A Tourney: Life Christian vs. Stanfield (at

Saturday

Saturday
2A Tourney: 4th/6th place game (at Pend-leton Convention Center), 10:45 a.m.
2A Tourney: 3rd/5th place game (at Pend-leton Convention Center), 3:15 p.m.
2A Tourney: Championship game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today 2A Tourney: Regis vs. Weston-McEwen (at Pendleton HS), 9 a.m.

2A Tourney: Grant Union vs. East Linn Christian (at Pendleton HS), 10:45 a.m. 2A Tourney: Monroe vs. Imbler (at Pendleton Convention Center), 1:30 p.m. 2A Tourney: Kennedy vs. Western Mennonite (at Pendleton Convention Center),

No. 1 Nixyaawii vs. No. 12 Arlington (1A semifinals, at Baker HS), 1:30 p.m. Hermiston at Bend (5A first round), 5:30

p.m. Putnam at Pendleton (5A first round),

Saturday

2A Tourney: 4th/6th place game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 9 a.m. 2A Tourney: 3rd/5th place game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 1:30 p.m.

2A Tourney: Championship game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 6:30 p.m. Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker HS), 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. Arlington vs. TBD (at Baker HS), 11:30

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Today Blue Mountain at Walla Walla (DH), 1/4

Sunday Mt. Hood at Blue Mountain (DH), 11

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Today Mt. Hood at Blue Mountain (DH), 1/3 p.m. Saturday Clackamas at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4

Prep Scores

BOYS BASKETBALL

AT Touristay
3A Tournament
DAYTON 69, Horizon Christian-Tualatin 66
Cascade Christian 49, SALEM ACAD. 43
HARRISBURG 49, Blanchet Catholic 36
De La Salle North Catholic 67, AMITY 60 2A Tournament WESTERN MENNONITE 51, Vernonia 44

Life Christian 49, COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN

STANFIELD 59, Oakridge 48 1A Tournament

NORTH DOUGLAS 53, Crosshill Christian DAYS CREEK 50. Hosanna Christian 34

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday
3A Tournament
SALEM ACAD. 43, Lakeview 18
Blanchet Catholic 46, PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACAD. 44

VENTIST ACAD. 44
COQUILLE 47, Rainier 33
DAYTON 41, Nyssa 30
2A Tournament
IMBLER 48, Weston-McEwen 36
MONROE 47, Regis 43
KENNEDY 44, Grant Union 33
MCCTERNAM ANNOUNTE 30, Fast WESTERN MENNONITE 39, East Linn

Arlington Acad. 32

1A Tournament

NIXYAAWII 49, Powder Valley 39

Arlington 44, DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN 42

COUNTRY CHRISTIAN 51, Crane 38 Adrian 46, NORTH DOUGLAS 33

Basketball

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Cleveland	41	18	.695	_
Boston	39	22	.639	3
Washington	36	23	.610	5
Toronto	36	25	.590	6
Atlanta	34	26	.567	71/2
Chicago	31	30	.508	11
Indiana	31	30	.508	11
Detroit	29	32	.475	13
Miami	28	33	.459	14
Milwaukee	26	33	.441	15
Charlotte	26	35	.426	16
New York	25	36	.410	17
Philadelphia	22	38	.367	191/2

Orlando	22	39	.361	20
Brooklyn	10	49	.169	31
WESTERN COR	VFERI	ENCE		
	w	Ĺ	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	50	11	.820	_
San Antonio	46	13	.780	3
Houston	43	19	.694	71/2
Utah	37	24	.607	13
L.A. Clippers	36	24	.600	131/2
Memphis	36	25	.590	14
Oklahoma City	35	26	.574	15
Denver	28	33	.459	22
Portland	25	35	.417	241/2
Sacramento	25	36	.410	25
Minnesota	25	36	.410	25
Dallas	24	36	.400	251/2
New Orleans	24	37	.393	26
L.A. Lakers	19	42	.311	31
Phoenix	19	42	.311	31

x-clinched playoff spot

Thursday's Games Chicago 94, Golden State 87 Phoenix 120, Charlotte 103 Portland 114, Oklahoma City 109 Today's Games Cleveland at Atlanta, 4 p.m.

Miami at Orlando, 4 p.m.
New York at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Toronto at Washington, 4 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 5 p.m. Memphis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m. Brooklyn at Utah, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
San Antonio at New Orleans, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Top 25 **Thursday's Games** No. 14 SMU vs. Tulsa, 5 p.m. Iowa 59, No. 22 Wisconsin 57 Today's Games No. 10 West Virginia vs. No. 24 Iowa

No. 21 Wichita State vs. Bradley or Drake at Scottrade Center, St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.

Women's Top 25

wormen s lop 2.5 Thursday's Games No. 14 Louisville 68, Clemson 46 No. 16 Miami 87, Georgia Tech 71 No. 21 Syracuse 83, North Carolina 64 No. 22 Drake 98, Missouri State 91 Today's Games No. 3 Notre Dame vs. Virginia or Wake

Forest at the HTC Center, Conway, S.C. 11 a.m.

No. 4 Maryland vs. Penn State or Minnesota at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, 3:30 p.m. No. 5 South Carolina vs. Georgia or

No. 5 South actionia vs. Georgia of Auburn at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., 9 a.m.
No. 6 Mississippi State vs. LSU or Mississippi at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., 3 p.m.
No. 6 Oregon State vs. California or Southers Col et Keylage, Scottle, 11:20

Southern Cal at KeyArena, Seattle, 11:30 No. 8 Florida State in ACC quarterfinals at the HTC Center, Conway, S.C., 3 p.m. No. 9 Ohio State vs. lowa or Northwest-

ern at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, 9 a.m. ern at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, y a.m.
No. 10 Stanford vs. Washington State or
Colorado at KeyArena, Seattle, 6 p.m
No. 11 Washington vs. Oregon or Arizona
at KeyArena, Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
No. 13 Duke in ACC quarterfinals at the
HTC Center, Conway, S.C., 5:30 p.m.
No. 15 UCLA vs. Arizona State or Utah at

KeyArena, Seattle, 2 p.m. No. 17 N.C. State in ACC quarterfinals at

the HTC Center, Conway, S.C., 8 a.m. No. 20 Kentucky in SEC quarterfinals at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville No. 22 Drake in MVC guarterfinals at

iWireless Center, Moline, III., 10 a.m. No. 23 Missouri in SEC quarterfinals at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., 5:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

NHL
Thursday's Games
Buffalo 6, Arizona 3
Washington 1, New Jersey 0
N.Y. Rangers 2, Boston 1
Philadelphia 2, Florida 1, SO
Columbus 1, Minnesota 0
Ottawa 2, Colorado 1
Montreal 2, Nashville 1
N.Y. Islanders 5, Dallas 4
Los Angeles 3, Toronto 2, SO
San Jose 3, Vancouver 1 San Jose 3, Vancouver 1 San Jose 5, Vancouver 1 Today's Games Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. Arizona at Carolina, 4:30 p.m. St. Louis at Winnipeg, 5 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.

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Toronto at Anaheim, 7 p.m

USA AUS 10.33 9.57 2. Jason Day 3. Rory McIlroy 8.95 8.49 4. Hideki Matsuvama JPN 5. Henrik Stenson SWF

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