

NBA

Lillard scores 33 to lead Trail Blazers past Thunder

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Damian 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 Mitchelldyer

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.

at the end.

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	Oklahoma
114	109

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 halfcourt.

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

Today

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

2A Tourney: Columbia Christian vs. Oakridge (at Pendleton Convention Center), 10:45 a.m.

2A Tourney: Western Mennonite vs. Santiam (at Pendleton Convention Center), 3:15 p.m.

2A Tourney: Life Christian vs. Stanfield (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8:15 p.m.

Corvallis at Pendleton (5A first round), 7 p.m.

Saturday

2A Tourney: 4th/6th place game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 10:45 a.m.

2A Tourney: 3rd/5th place game (at Pendleton 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), 6:30 p.m.

No. 1 Nixyaavii 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), 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

2A Tourney: 4th/6th place game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 10:45 a.m.

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2A Tourney: Championship game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8:30 p.m.

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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.

Nixyaavii vs. TBD (at Baker HS), 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Arlington vs. TBD (at Baker HS), 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Today

2A Tourney: Life Christian vs. Stanfield (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8:15 p.m.

Corvallis at Pendleton (5A first round), 7 p.m.

Sunday

Mt. Hood at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Today

Mt. Hood at Blue Mountain (DH), 1/3 p.m.

Saturday

Clackamas at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

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

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2A Tourney: Championship game (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday

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

SANTIAM 54, Imbler 39

Life Christian 49, COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN 41

STANFIELD 59, Oakridge 48

1A Tournament

NORTH DOUGLAS 53, Crosshill Christian 38

DAYS CREEK 50, Hosanna Christian 34

3A Tournament

SALEM ACAD. 43, Lakeview 18

Blanchet Catholic 46, PORTLAND AD-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

WESTERN MENNONITE 39, East Linn Christian Acad. 32

1A Tournament

NIXYAUVII 49, Powder Valley 39

Arlington 44, DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN 42

COUNTRY CHRISTIAN 51, Crane 38

Adrian 46, NORTH DOUGLAS 33

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W

L

Pct

GB

Cleveland

41

18

.695

—

Boston

39

22

.639

3

Washington

36

23

.610

5

Toronto

36

25

.590

6

Atlanta

34

26

.567

7½

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

19½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W

L

Pct

GB

x-Golden State

50

11

.820

—

San Antonio

46

13

.780

3

Houston

43

19

.694

7½

Utah

37

24

.607

13

L.A. Clippers

36

24

.600

13½

Memphis

36

25

.590

14

Oklahoma City

35

26

.574

15

Denver

28

33

.459

22

Portland

25

35

.417

24½

Sacramento

25

36

.410

25

Minnesota

25

36

.410

25

Dallas

24

36

.400

25½

New Orleans

24

37

.393

26

L.A. Lakers

19

42

.311

31

Phoenix

19

42

.311

31

Thursdays 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.

NCAA

Men's Top 25

Thursday's Games

No. 14 SMU vs. Tulsa, 5 p.m.

18 Cincinnati 65, Houston 47

Iowa 59, No. 22 Wisconsin 57

Today's Games

No. 10 West Virginia vs. No. 24 Iowa State, 4 p.m.

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

Women's Top 25

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 at 11:30 a.m. 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 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 Southern Cal at KeyArena, Seattle, 11:30 a.m.

No. 8 Florida State at ACC quarterfinals at the HTC Center, Conway, S.C., 3 p.m.

No. 9 Ohio State vs. Iowa or Northwestern at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, 9 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

HTC Center, Conway, S.C., 8 a.m.

No. 20 Kentucky in SEC quarterfinals at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., 11:30 a.m.

No. 22 Drake in MVC quarterfinals at Wireless Center, Moline, Ill., 10 a.m.

No. 23 Missouri in SEC quarterfinals at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., 5:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

Thursday's Games

Buffalo 6, Arizona 3

Washington 1, New Jersey 0

N.Y. Rangers 2, Boston 1

Philadelphia 2, Florida 1

Columbus 1, Minnesota 0

Ottawa 2, Colorado 1

Montreal 2, Nashville 1

N.Y. Islanders 5, Dallas 4

Los Angeles 3, Toronto 2

San Jose 3, 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.

Detroit at Calgary, 6 p.m.

Toronto at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Golf

World Golf Rankings

Through Feb. 26

1

Dustin Johnson

USA

10.33

2

Jason Day

AUS

9.57

3

Rory McIlroy

NIR

8.95

4

Hideki Matsuyama

JPN

8.94

5

Henrik Stenson

SWE

8.46

6

Jordan Spieth

USA

8.28