

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

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1B

NBA

Trail Blazers stuffed by Jazz



Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) blocks the shot by Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, during the first half in an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in Salt Lake City. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Portland's lead on final playoff spot shrinks to just half game

By KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Smaller, quicker guards have given the Utah Jazz fits in many instances this season. Tuesday wasn't one of them.

Gordon Hayward scored 30 points and Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Jazz to a 106-87 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Jazz controlled the game most of the night with a defensive effort that bottled up everyone not named C.J. McCollum, and the Blazers never found a consistent offensive flow.

"We have so much respect for their guards and our guys know the urgency it takes to guard them," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "So we're working hard. At the same time, you have to be fortunate with those guys. A lot of shots they missed tonight, they're capable of making. "You kind of knock on wood a little bit."

On the other end, Hayward was an efficient 12 for 20 from the floor, including 4 for 6 from behind the arc. Gobert recorded his 57th double-double and continued to

Portland
87

Utah
106

show his offensive growth in the pick-and-roll game. He also had three blocks and constantly altered shots in the paint.

"The way they guarded me tonight, I was able to get some looks early," Hayward said, "with the big being back and so there was a lot of space to operate. That got me going early."

"Rudy did a good job screening them and freeing me, then I could attack the big downhill and kind of have whatever I wanted. Once you see a couple shots go in, too, that definitely makes you feel better."

The Jazz opened the fourth quarter with a 15-6 stretch to take a 90-70 lead that put away the game.

McCollum scored 25 for the Blazers and Damian Lillard finished with 16.

"I didn't shoot the ball well," Lillard said. "Didn't impact the game as much as I would have liked. ... They're on a string out there on the defensive end and they made it tough for us. You got to give them credit. But I also felt like I had some looks I should have made, I usually do make that I didn't."

"We're ready to go home and finish the season out strong and we know that we control what

See BLAZERS/2B

MLB

Two solo home runs enough for Astros to beat M's

Seattle leaves 10 runners on base in loss

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Brian McCann's focus this offseason was finding a way to hit more balls to the opposite field like he used to earlier in his career.

On Tuesday night against the Mariners it paid off when he got his first hit with the Astros on an opposite field home run that helped Houston to a 2-1 win.

"A lot of work went into this offseason with my swing to be able to do that," he said. "Over the last two years I'd just become a dead pull hitter and I put a lot of hours in the cage for that swing right there. I



Seattle's Mitch Haniger (17) shakes hands with Leonys Martin after scoring a run during the fourth inning of Tuesday's game in Houston. AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith

Seattle
1

Houston
2

to left-center in the sixth inning.

McCullers (1-0), slowed by injuries for chunks of last season, allowed one run and five hits while fanning seven in six innings. It was his first start since August 2 after he missed the last two months of last year with an elbow injury.

"I felt really good most of the start. I felt pretty locked in," he said. "I thought I was working the fastball pretty good. The curveball mix was pretty good. I mixed in a couple changeups along the way, so it was good."

Will Harris pitched a perfect See MARINERS/2B

Sports shorts

Tony Romo retires, joins CBS Sports

DALLAS (AP) — Tony Romo is retiring from the Dallas Cowboys to replace another former quarterback in Phil Simms as lead analyst for CBS.

The network announced Tuesday that Romo will be paired with Jim Nantz on Thursday night and Sunday games next season. The former 10-year starter considered multiple network offers while also deciding whether to keep playing after losing the Dallas job to rookie Dak Prescott last season.

The departure of the all-time passing leader has been expected since November, when Romo conceded the job after missing 10 weeks with a back injury.

CBS Sports Chairman Sean McManus said the network planned to keep Simms and was working on finding another role for their lead analyst the past 19 seasons.



Romo

"It's something that I could never dream about growing up in the inner city of Los Angeles. I never dreamed about a moment like this, to be able to be on this stage."

— Russell Westbrook
Oklahoma City Thunder guard after tying Oscar Robertson's single-season record with his 41st triple-double in a 110-79 win over Milwaukee on Tuesday. Westbrook had 12 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists. It was his 78th career triple-double, matching Wilt Chamberlain for fourth all-time.

Oregon State baseball wins 20th consecutive game

PORTLAND — The Oregon State baseball team just keeps on winning.

Coming off of a sweep of the Stanford Cardinal over the weekend, the top-ranked Beavers beat Portland 4-3 on Tuesday evening in a non-conference game. It marks the 20th consecutive victory for the Beavers (25-1), extending their school record.

The Pilots did make the Beavers nervous for a bit on Tuesday, holding a 3-2 lead over the Beavers after five innings. However in the sixth, Oregon State's Adley Rutschman ripped a pinch-hit single to bring in a pair of runs which put the Beavers on top for good at 4-3.

Oregon State's pitching staff tied a school record with 18 strikeouts, led by Brandon Eisert who struck out nine in 3 1/3 innings of relief.

Oregon State next opens a three-game series against Utah on Friday.



Prep Roundup

Mustangs run wild for win

Heppner softball beats Umatilla in five

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — The Heppner softball team scored 11 runs in the first, and needed just five innings to earn a 29-1 win over Umatilla in non-league play on Tuesday.

The Mustangs (6-2) were roping the ball to the tune of 18 hits, and five players combined for 15 of those. Miranda Lemmon was 4 for 5 with six RBIs, Taylor Hamby was 3 for 5 with five RBIs, Dakota Durfey and Tresslyn McCurry were both 3 for 5 with four RBIs, and Maggie Flynn went 2 for 3 with three RBIs and five runs.

Durfey also pitched the first five innings before McCurry closed out the fifth to limit

Softball



1



29

See PREPS/2B

HERMISTON EOTEC is ready to rumble

Pro wrestling event bringing former WWE, UFC stars to Hermiston

East Oregonian

The WWE wrapped up its biggest event of the year over the weekend, as many top stars put on quite the show at Wrestlemania 33 in front of 75,000 fans in Orlando, Florida.

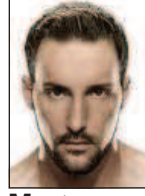
On Saturday, April 15 a few former WWE personalities will try to bring the same energy to wrestling fans here in Eastern Oregon.

Prestige Championship Wrestling, a newly-formed professional wrestling promotional company based in Hermiston, is putting on its first event, Prestige Championship Wrestling 1, at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center. The event will feature the likes of former WWE stars Ken Anderson and Chris Masters, who competed for the top professional wrestling company in the mid 2000s,

See WRESTLING/2B



Anderson



Masters

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1972 — Major league baseball fails to open for because of a players' strike. It starts April 1 and ends April 13.

1984 — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar hits a sky hook with 8:53 left in the Los Angeles Lakers' 129-115 victory over the Utah Jazz to become the NBA's top career scorer. Wilt Chamberlain, with 31,419 points, held the record since his retirement in 1973.

2010 — Duke wins its fourth national men's basketball championship holding off Butler 61-59 and surviving Gordon Hayward's last second desperation shot that clangs off the rim.

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