

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017

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Pro Basketball

Bucks run by Trail Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Kris Middleton had 26 points while Eric Bledsoe had 25 and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Trail Blazers 103-91 on Thursday night to snap a three-game Portland winning streak.

Giannis Antetokounmpo added 20 points, nine rebounds, and three blocked shots for the Bucks, who have won their last four games against the Blazers.

The Bucks led by as many as 24 points in the third quarter and the Blazers struggled to keep up. Portland was also vexed by turnovers, with 19 compared to Milwaukee's nine.

Jusuf Nurkic led Portland with 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Damian Lillard added 18 points.

Lillard's layup closed Portland within 94-81 with 5:52 left and it appeared the Blazers may rally, but Middleton answered with an 11-foot jumper. Portland's frustration was clear when Nurkic and coach Terry Stotts both earned technicals for a foul call on Nurkic on a block.

Portland was coming off a 4-1 trip, including a 103-91 victory over the Knicks on Monday. The Blazers also saw the return of forward Al-Farouq Aminu, who missed 13 games with a right ankle injury.

But they struggled with the Bucks from the start.

Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Bucks a 33-21 lead at the end of the first quarter. Portland went on a 10-2 run to close within 35-31, but Middleton slowed the rally with a long jumper.

John Henson's short jumper put the Bucks up 46-33 as the Trail Blazers struggled to find much offensive flow. Lillard went up for a layup to end the half and he was blocked by Antetokounmpo.

Milwaukee led 60-45 at the break, led by Bledsoe with 17 points. Bledsoe's jumper stretched the lead to 69-49 in the third quarter.

Bledsoe's layup made 83-59 and boos could be heard among the hometown fans.

UP NEXT

The Trail Blazers host the Pelicans on Saturday night.



Milwaukee Bucks guard Tony Snell dunks in front of Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum during the first quarter of Thursday's game in Portland.

HERMISTON

Hermiston celebrates with the Bulldogs

Community shares evening with the state champions

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — On Thursday night in Hermiston High's main gym, the entire community was able to congratulate the new 5A state champions. Although the stands were full of fans in purple Saturday in Hillsboro, many others weren't able to make the trip 200-plus miles west. For some, the win was seen from an entirely different view.

Eric White, one of the many seniors who will leave a lasting legacy in Hermiston, had one of the most difficult years of any Bulldog.

On the bus ride home from camp before the season began, he and head coach David Faaeteete made a pit stop to the emergency room as White suffered a back injury. Then, in the season opener — a 35-21 loss to Union (WA) — he broke his collarbone in the first quarter. Then, as his injury was healing he got in a car accident, and re-broke his collarbone.

On Thursday, before the community celebration, White was given the Mr. Never Quit team award. Faaeteete praised his ability to comeback against all odds, and his persistence to suit up one last time. In White's final start as a Bulldog, he recorded two total tackles, 0.5 sacks, and a fumble recovery — which proved to be a game changer.

White had added motivation. "A lot of people don't know that my grandpa passed away," he said. "So, throughout the year I had an angel looking out for me, and that's why I think I was — because when I came back from my broken collarbone there was a 50-percent chance I would break it for the rest of the year and I think he was up there looking out for me."

White's grandfather passed a week after he had suffered his first collarbone break. Through his recovery, and in his final game where he and the rest of the

See HERMISTON/2B

College Football

Smith welcomed in Corvallis, happy to be 'home'

OSU alum ready to start dream job

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Jonathan Smith introduced himself as head coach of the Oregon State Beavers with a simple message.

"It is great to be home," Smith said to applause from boosters gathered at a news conference on campus

Jonathan Smith coaching file

- 2002-03 Oregon State (Graduate Assistant)
- 2004-09 Idaho (QBs)
- 2010-11 Montana (Offensive coordinator)
- 2012-13 Boise St. (QBs)
- 2014-17 Washington (offensive coordinator)

Thursday, a day after he was named to the job. Smith, a former Oregon

State quarterback who led the team to a Fiesta Bowl victory following the 2000 season, comes to the Beavers from Washington, where he was quarterbacks coach under coach Chris Petersen.

"Now I'm sitting here in front of you with my dream job, in my dream town, at my dream school," Smith said.

Oregon State President Ed Ray called Smith the "perfect person in the

perfect moment." A rally was scheduled for fans Thursday evening at Reser Stadium.

Smith fills the vacancy left by Gary Andersen, who surprisingly parted ways with the Beavers in early October after a 1-5 start. The Beavers promoted cornerbacks coach Cory Hall as interim head coach.

Hall appeared to inspire the team, which challenged

See SMITH/2B



Jonathan Smith listens to a question at a news conference Thursday in Corvallis announcing his hiring as football coach at Oregon State.

Sports shorts

Pitino suing Louisville over firing

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rick Pitino has sued the University of Louisville Athletic Association for \$38.7 million, saying it breached his contract by placing him on unpaid administrative leave without notice and firing him last month with no legally justified "cause."

The ULAA fired the Hall of Fame coach on Oct. 16, weeks after he was placed on leave when Louisville acknowledged it was being investigated in a federal bribery probe of college basketball. Pitino is not named in the federal complaint and has denied participation in and knowledge of alleged payments to a recruit's family.

Pitino's lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court seeks liquidated contract damages of \$4.307 million through 2026. It says the ULAA did not give him 10 days advance notice before it "effectively fired" him and insists that he followed suggestions to improve oversight.



Pitino

"I think I can do everything that's within my power to do. Anything that I've done before and anything that I haven't done, hopefully I can achieve it. I think the sky is the limit. I feel that I'm in great shape, and if I can just help out there and try to make a play and try to put us in position to win."

— Josh Gordon

The Cleveland Browns WR will take the field in a regular season game for the first time since 2014 on Sunday in Los Angeles after missing two years to suspensions for substance abuse.

Dallas breaks out of slump, thumps Washington 38-14

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes, including a franchise record-breaker to Dez Bryant, and the Dallas Cowboys finally won without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott, beating Washington 38-14 on Thursday.

Prescott shook off a hand injury and found Bryant on a 13-yard leaping grab in the end zone for Bryant's first score in six games and 72nd of his career, one more than Hall of Famer Bob Hayes.

The Cowboys (6-6) started quickly thanks to three first-half turnovers and four overall by Washington (5-7) and kept it going after halftime with a 21-7 scoring edge after getting outscored 72-6 in the second half of three straight losses without Elliott.

Alfred Morris ran for 127 yards and one touchdown.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1984 — Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie is named the 50th Heisman Trophy winner.

2012 — Landon Donovan scores the tiebreaking goal on a penalty kick in the 65th minute, and David Beckham leaves the MLS as a two-time champion with the Los Angeles Galaxy's 3-1 victory over the Houston Dynamo in the MLS Cup.

2015 — The Philadelphia 76ers end the longest losing streak in the history of major professional sports in the U.S., topping the Los Angeles Lakers 103-91 to snap a 28-game skid.

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