

Pro Basketball

McCollum scores 20 as Blazers stun Hawks

By ANNE M. PETERSON Associated Press

NBA logo and score: Atlanta 88, Portland 107

PORTLAND — CJ McCollum had 20 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Atlanta Hawks 110-89 on Friday night.

Damian Lillard added 14 points before sitting for the fourth quarter and the Blazers snapped a three-game losing streak to the Hawks at the Moda Center. Seven of Portland's players were in double figures.

Dennis Schroder had 14 points to lead the Hawks. They trailed by 25 points in fourth quarter en route to their third loss in four games.

It was not known whether Lillard would play against the Hawks because of a calf injury, but he started. Lillard was averaging just over 25 points heading into the game.

Lillard missed four games with a sore right hamstring before playing 33 minutes

and scoring 25 points in a 127-110 loss at Cleveland on Tuesday night.

The Blazers went on a 12-2 run to take a 20-12 lead. Portland led by as many as 12 points in the opening half, but Atlanta got back within 45-43 on Dennis Schroder's layup.

After a brief dustup where words were exchanged between Jusuf Nurkic and Taurean Prince, the Blazers went on to a 52-46 lead at halftime.

Prince had a 3-pointer in the first half to extend his streak to 20 straight games with a 3.

Al-Farouq Aminu's driving layup gave the Blazers an 80-63 lead late in the third quarter. McCollum's 3-pointer and Pat Connaughton's layup pushed Portland's lead to 91-68 early



AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/Day

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, shoots over Atlanta Hawks forward John Collins during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland on Friday.

in the fourth. Blazers coach Terry Stotts sent his all of his starters to

the bench by the halfway point of the final period. Aminu also finished with 14

points.

Atlanta, in the midst of a five-game trip, fell 104-103 in Phoenix on Tuesday night.

TIP INS Hawks: Atlanta rookie Tyler Dorsey played for Oregon. ... The Hawks recalled forward DeAndre Bembry from the Erie Bay Hawks. He was expected to head to Atlanta for evaluation and treatment for a left groin strain.

Trail Blazers: Portland fell in the first game against the Hawks this season, 104-89 in Atlanta last Saturday. ... The Blazers improved to 9-10 at home. ... Evan Turner reached double figures for the third straight game and 16th game overall. ... Portland made 13 of 30 3-point attempts.

UP NEXT Hawks: At Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night. Trail Blazers: Host San Antonio on Sunday night.

CFP Championship

No mystery: Georgia, Alabama like running, stuffing the run

By JOHN ZENOR Associated Press

ATLANTA — There's no mystery in what the Georgia and Alabama offenses do best: Run the ball.

Stopping them is harder to manage, though both defenses do that quite well, too.

The third-ranked Bulldogs pound away with Sony Michel and Nick Chubb, one of college football's best tailback tandems. No. 4 Alabama will counter in Monday night's national championship game with an offense led by running threat quarterback Jalen Hurts and big-play tailback Damien Harris, among others.

Not to mention the nation's stingiest run defense.

"That's what Alabama is known for, having good run defense, just an overall good defense," Michel said. "I'm excited for the challenge. I'm sure this offense is, the team is, and I'm looking forward to it."

Led by linebacker

Roquan Smith, Georgia's good at defending the run, too.

While both teams will have to throw the ball some, there is no Deshaun Watson in this game. He topped 400 passing yards in each of the last two title games against the Crimson Tide. It would be a major surprise if Hurts or Georgia freshman Jake Fromm approached that big number because they simply haven't had to.

So this showdown could turn into mostly smash mouth football, old-school Southeastern Conference style, 3 yards and a cloud of ... artificial turf. Run hard and often. And do your best to keep the other team from running very far.

Passing is the expected second option for a couple of teams with top 10 run games. And both these squads have plenty of options.

The Bulldogs have two of the Southeastern Conference's top five rushers. Chubb and Michel are the only two backs to

College Football

Alabama Crimson Tide (12-1) vs Georgia Bulldogs (13-1) logo and schedule: Monday, 5 p.m. (ESPN) at Mercedes-Benz

each top 1,000 yards in the same season for a program that's produced the likes of Herschel Walker, Todd Gurley and Terrell Davis.

Chubb has run for 1,320 yards and 15 touchdowns. Michel has 1,129 yards and 16 TDs and is coming off a huge Rose Bowl performance against Oklahoma. D'Andre Swift outgained both in the SEC title game against Auburn.

They'll face a run defense powered by tackle Da'Ron Payne, a 308-pounder whose biggest claim to fame now was his interception and touchdown catch against Clemson. In his day job as a run-stopper, he's facing his biggest challenge yet.

"Oh, they're some excellent backs," Payne said. "I



AP Photo/Rusty Costanza

Alabama defensive lineman Da'Ron Payne (94), who was used on an offensive play, pulls in a touchdown reception in the second half of the Sugar Bowl semi-final playoff game in New Orleans on Monday.

think as a defensive front, we're just going to keep trying to create a new line of scrimmage up front and wreak havoc in the trenches and as a defense just like we did this week" against Clemson.

Alabama doesn't have any backs putting up those kinds of numbers. But Harris has 983 yards and 11 touchdowns while averaging a robust 7.6 yards per

carry. Hurts leads the team in runs while Harris and Bo Scarbrough have divvied carries throughout the year. In fact, Harris' 19 runs in the semifinal win over Clemson was a career-high. He gained 77 yards.

"It was fun, I guess," Harris said. "I never complain about getting too many carries. That's what it was, I just did what they

asked me to do." Just don't expect him to rival Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry's 36-carry night in the title game against Clemson two years ago.

Scarbrough wasn't effective running in the semifinal game but the 6-foot-2, 235-pounder was a breakout star in last season's playoffs. Josh Jacobs and freshman Najee Harris are running and receiving threats, too, much like the Bulldogs' Swift.

For Georgia, Michel is coming off a 181-yard effort against Oklahoma. He caught a 13-yard touchdown pass and his 75-yard scoring run was the Bulldogs' longest since Chubb ran 83 yards against Alabama in 2015.

Michel credited the offensive line and receivers blocking downfield for the big run.

"That's the type of play, but we're a downhill team, so we run the ball," he said. "We've got plenty of plays running downhill."

Women's College Basketball

Oregon picks up nail-biter victory, Oregon St. loses big

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Maite Cazorla hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1:32 left and had 18 points to lead No. 9 Oregon over Southern California 70-66 on Friday night.

The Ducks (14-2, 3-0 Pac-12) also got 16 points from Sabrina Ionescu, who was 9 of 10 from the free-throw line. Cazorla added six assists.

The Trojans (10-4, 0-3) were led by Aliyah Mazyck's 21 points. USC's leading scorer Kristen Simon was scoreless in the first half but finished with 18 points and eight rebounds.

It was the lowest scoring game of the season for the Ducks. They started the night averaging 89.2 points per game, fourth most in the country.

USC trailed for most of the game but overcame a 10-point deficit to tie it at 62 with 1:52 to play.

Cazorla hit her 3 to make it 65-62, and Oregon led the rest of the way.

Oregon had to overcome a dismal first quarter, hitting 2 of 14 shots and turning the ball over 10 times. USC also struggled and led only 14-7 at the end of the quarter.

BIG PICTURE

Oregon: The Ducks will carry their perfect Pac-12 record into Pauley Pavilion in an early conference showdown with No. 14 UCLA, the preseason conference favorite.

USC: After going a strong 10-1 in the preseason, the Trojans are still looking for their first conference win.

UP NEXT Oregon: Travels across town to play at UCLA on Sunday.

USC: Remains at home on Sunday to play No. 16 Oregon State.

UCLA controls game

LOS ANGELES — In Los Angeles, Monique Billings scored 19 points and the No. 14 UCLA women beat No. 16 Oregon State 84-49, ending the Beavers' eight-game winning streak on Friday night.

Billings was 8-of-12 from the field with six boards and three steals for the Bruins (11-3, 2-1 Pac-12), who have won four of their last five.

UCLA attempted 29 more shots from the field than Oregon State (11-3, 2-1), a disparity helped by a 21-10 edge on the offensive glass

and a 21-9 advantage in turnovers.

The Bruins never trailed and initially took control with a 14-4 run to end the second quarter with a 40-21 lead. They then started the third quarter with a 14-2 run and carried a 12-2 run through the end of the period to build their biggest lead at 71-31 early in the fourth.

Michaela Onyenwere added 12 points, Jordyn Canada and Japreece Dean had 11 each, and Lajahna Drummer chipped in 10 for UCLA.

Marie Gulich had 16 points and Taya Corosdale added 10 for the Beavers.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Local slate, Prep Boys Basketball, Prep Girls Basketball, Prep Wrestling, Prep Swimming, College Men's Basketball, College Women's Basketball, Prep Scores (Boys Basketball, Friday's Games), and Basketball (NBA, NCAA Men's Basketball, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Pac-12 Schedule, Saturday's Games, Women's Basketball, Saturday's Games, Pac-12 Schedule, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Hockey, NHL, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Pac-12 Schedule, Saturday's Games, Football, NFL, Wild-card Playoffs, Saturday's Games, ESPN/ABC, Sunday's Games, CBS).