

Lillard leads Trail Blazers to 120-106 win over Suns

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Damian Lillard scored 24 points, CJ McCollum and Jake Layman added 20 apiece and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the second half to hand the short-handed Phoenix Suns their sixth straight loss, 120-106 on Thursday night.

The Trail Blazers beat Phoenix for the ninth straight time. Portland has won four of five and eight of 11 overall.

Devin Booker scored 27 points for the Suns but only nine after the first quarter. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 on 6-of-18 shooting. Dragan Bender, forced into the starting center role due to injuries, had 17.

The Suns were without rookie center Deandre Ayton (sprained left ankle) and backup Richaun Holmes (right foot sprain) for the third straight game. T.J. Warren also sat out with a sore right ankle, and Suns starting point guard De'Anthony Melton left in the third quarter with a sprained right ankle.

Seth Curry scored 17 and Jusuf Nurkic 16 for Portland.

What was left of the Suns stayed with the Blazers through the first half and much of the second.

Booker shot 6 of



AP Photo/Matt York
Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) drives around Phoenix Suns forward Mikal Bridges during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday in Phoenix.

9, including 2 of 4 on 3-pointers, in his 18-point first quarter and the Suns led 31-30 after one. With McCollum on the bench with three fouls, Phoenix stretched the lead to 47-41 on Josh Jackson's coast-to-coast drive with 5:52 left in the half.

Portland, though, responded with a 12-1 run to go up 54-48 on Lillard's two free throws with 1:17 remaining. Booker sank four free throws, his only points of the second quarter, and the Trail Blazers led 56-52 at the break.

The Blazers opened the final quarter with a 12-4 surge and Phoenix never challenged again.

Union: Dead time in free-agent market 'threat to our game'

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — The head of the baseball players' association expressed concern over a second straight offseason that has seen Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and many other free agents remain without deals less than a month before spring training.

"All the dead time in the last two free-agent markets is a larger threat to our game than any supposed dead time between pitches," Tony Clark said Thursday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Wanting to increase the pace of games and concerned about a drop in offense, management has made proposals to the union that include a pitch clock and rules changes. The



AP Photo/Michael Owen Baker, File
In this Tuesday, April 10, 2018, file photo, sports agent Scott Boras attends batting practice before a baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Oakland Athletics in Los Angeles.

players' association says it will respond, and unlike last year the union appears open to discuss the issues.

Against this backdrop, just 58 of the 164 players who exercised the right to become free agents following the World Series had

announced deals through Thursday afternoon. That is up from 45 of 166 on the same date last offseason, but this year's free-agent class contains far more accomplished players.

Those still available included Harper, Machado,

pitcher Dallas Keuchel and closer Craig Kimbrel.

"When they're signing that late, it's just how major league owners choose to do business and how the commissioner's office has directed them to do so," agent Scott Boras said Thursday.

Major League Baseball declined to respond to Clark and Boras, spokesman Pat Courtney said.

Boras, more than most other agents, is known for negotiating late into the offseason. Last year, he reached a \$110 million, five-year contract between J.D. Martinez and Boston that was announced Feb. 26 and a \$75 million, three-year agreement between right-hander Jake Arrieta and Philadelphia that was announced March 12 — about a month after spring training began.

Hoops: Umatilla boys rally past Irrigon in 69-45 win

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and thinking, 'Oh no, this is close.' I knew we had to pick things up."

Burns drove the Knights' victory with 15 points for the night. After a nine-point Umatilla run in the third quarter that brought the Vikings within five points of taking over, Burns knocked down another try to keep Irrigon alive, 32-24.

"I expect a lot out of Ja'Jay," Royer said. "She's a freshman, but she's played more basketball than anyone on the team. She makes some freshman mistakes, but she's learning to be a leader. She can do good things on both ends of the court."

Umatilla sophomore Devin Monreal grabbed an Irrigon ball to pull within four points of the lead with just 0:34 left in the final quarter. But Irrigon seniors Ana Zacarias and Myka Davis combined for three at the line to keep the game out of reach in the final seconds.

Sophomore Alyssa Luna posted a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Knights.

"This feels pretty good," Luna said of the win. "We worked hard even when they were catching up on us. The coach told us at halftime, 'You guys have to dig,' and we did. Umatilla is always a challenge."

Taylor Durfey posted 14 points for the Vikings (2-17, 0-5 EOL), and Ford ended with 12. They'll host Riverside on Friday. Meanwhile, Irrigon (12-8, 3-4 EOL) travels to Burns.

Boys hoops

On paper, Umatilla might have thought they were in for an easier win.

On Thursday night's Eastern Oregon League contest, the Umatilla Vikings were welcomed by the lower ranked Irrigon Knights, but were forced to rally in the third quarter to claim the 69-45 win.

The two teams were tied at 2-2 early on before Irrigon took an 8-2 lead with 4:33 left in the first quarter. Four straight points from Vikings junior Andrew Earl and senior Christian DeLoera brought them within two points

BOYS HOOPS

Umatilla
69

Irrigon
45



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Umatilla's Andrew Carl drives past Irrigon's Felipe Guadarrama (3) and Leonel Carrillo (23) in the Vikings' 69-45 win against the Knights on Thursday in Irrigon.

from the lead. But Irrigon senior Danny Telles hit a 3-pointer from half court to keep the Knights ahead 17-12.

DeLoera posted seven more points in the second quarter to help Umatilla catch up 30-24 at the half. The Vikings came out of the locker room renewed to start their comeback, outscoring Irrigon 22-3.

"We stepped up and decided to play some ball," said Umatilla coach Scott Bow. "We let them get some easy shots in the first half, but we put them in some tough positions in the second."

Umatilla claimed the fourth quarter 23-12 to seal the win. DeLoera led the way for the Vikings (16-3, 4-1 EOL) with 25 points, and Earl followed with 16.

"It was a big win for us," Bow said. "They did a fantastic job of picking up the energy and intensity in that third quarter. When it's late in the game like that, you have to start playing smart."

Senior Leonel Carrillo had 15 points for the Vikings (8-12, 2-5 EOL), and Telles and senior Lino Covarrubia each chipped in 13.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jordan Franklin, of Hermiston, wrestles Walla Walla's Emilio Sardina in the 145-pound weight class during Thursday's match at the Dawg House. Franklin won by decision.

Wrestling: Dawgs will host District 8 championships Feb. 1-2

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"I'd rather him go out and fight than forfeit a match," Larson said. "We have thrown him to the wolves a few times. He's a great kid. He's happy to be here. I wish some of our other guys had his attitude."

Hermiston Zayne Helfer started the match with a first-round pin of John-Mark Whitaker at 106. Adrian Delgado (113) followed with a 5-2 decision over Ruben Lozano, and Lambert pinned Bernardo

Bautista in 3:10 to give the Bulldogs a 15-0 lead.

"He put up a good fight," Lambert said of his opponent. "But I wanted it more. This was our last night, and everybody was excited. It's fun to win your last dual your senior year."

Hunter Dyer (126) pinned Tanner Bollinger in 57 seconds, and Shipley needed 4:36 to pin Camrin Henzel.

"It felt really good to come out and win my last (dual) match," Shipley said. "I gave it my all."

Jordan Franklin picked up a 17-2 technical fall at 138 to give the Bulldogs a 32-0 lead.

The Blue Devils recorded their first win at 145 as Tanner Siller pinned Brock Remmer in 2:46. Alejandro Mata followed with a second-round pin of Pakdee at 152 before Trevor Wagner earned a 16-0 technical fall over Jesse Easley at 160.

Walla Walla forfeited at 170, 182, 195 and 220, giving Hermiston a 61-12 lead.

In the battle of the big men, Wa-Hi's Jerry Corona

pinned Dustyn Coughlin in the second round.

Hermiston will host the District 8 championships Feb. 1-2. The top four in each weight class will advance to the Regional Tournament Feb. 9 in Yelm. Action will begin at 3:30 p.m. Friday, and at 10 a.m. Saturday.

"It's fun to have it at home," Larson said. "Hopefully we come out and put on a show. We have all the advantages of sleeping in our own beds and such. It should be real comfortable for us."

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

FRIDAY, JAN. 25

Boys Basketball
Stanfield at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Enterprise at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
Echo at Horizon Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Pendleton at The Dalles, 6:30 p.m.
Hanford at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Ione at Dufur, 7:30 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Grant Union at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. Kittitas (at Hermiston), 8:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Hanford at Hermiston, 5:30 p.m.
Dufur at Ione, 6 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 6 p.m.
Grant Union at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.

Boys Wrestling
Mac-Hi/Weston-McEwen at Ontario, 1 p.m.

Girls Wrestling
Riverside at Hood River Valley, 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

Boys Basketball
Baker at Mac-Hi, 3 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Heppner at Grant Union, 4 p.m.
Echo at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Richland, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Echo at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
Baker at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.
Heppner at Grant Union, 5:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Richland, 5:45 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 4 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 2 p.m.

Girls Wrestling
Riverside at Hood River Valley, 12 p.m.

NFL

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 20

NFC
L.A. Rams 26, New Orleans 23, (OT)

AFC
New England 37, Kansas City 31, (OT)

PRO BOWL
Sunday, Jan. 27, at Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, noon (ABC/ESPN)

SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 3, at Atlanta
New England vs. L.A. Rams, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	49	37	10	2	76	199	140
Toronto	49	30	17	2	62	174	140
Montreal	51	28	18	5	61	154	149
Boston	49	27	17	5	59	143	128
Buffalo	48	24	18	6	54	140	144
Florida	48	20	20	8	48	152	170
Detroit	51	19	25	7	45	145	172
Ottawa	50	19	26	5	43	156	187
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	49	29	15	5	63	147	122
Washington	50	27	17	6	60	171	162
Columbus	48	28	17	3	59	154	146
Pittsburgh	48	26	16	6	58	169	149
Carolina	50	24	20	6	54	140	146
N.Y. Rangers	48	21	20	7	49	139	164
Philadelphia	48	19	23	6	44	139	169
New Jersey	48	18	23	7	43	140	164

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	48	31	15	2	64	167	134
Nashville	52	30	18	4	64	161	135
Minnesota	50	26	21	3	55	142	142
Dallas	49	24	21	4	52	126	128

Colorado	50	22	20	8	52	169	162
St. Louis	49	22	22	5	49	139	149
Chicago	51	18	24	9	45	156	190
Pacific	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	51	33	13	5	71	190	145
San Jose	52	29	16	7	65	187	167
Vegas	52	29	19	4	62	157	140
Vancouver	51	23	22	6	52	147	161
Anaheim	51	21	21	9	51	120	153
Arizona	50	23	23	4	50	132	142
Edmonton	50	23	24	3	49	144	163
Los Angeles	50	20	26	4	44	114	150

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's Games
Central All-Stars vs Pacific All-Stars: Central vs. Pacific at San Jose, Calif., 5:15 p.m.
Metropolitan All-Stars vs Atlantic All-Stars: Metropolitan vs. Atlantic at San Jose, Calif., 6:15 p.m.
All-Star Game Final: TBD vs. TBD at San Jose, Calif., 7:15 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	36	14	.720	—
Philadelphia	32	17	.653	3½
Boston	30	18	.625	5
Brooklyn	26	23	.531	9½
New York	10	36	.217	24
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	23	24	.489	—
Miami	22	24	.478	½
Washington	20	27	.426	3
Orlando	20	28	.417	3½
Atlanta	15	32	.319	8
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	34	12	.739	—
Indiana	32	15	.681	2½
Detroit	21	26	.447	13½
Chicago	11	37	.229	24
Cleveland	9	40	.184	26½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	27	20	.574	—
San Antonio	27	22	.551	1

New Orleans	22	27	.449	6
Dallas	21	26	.447	6
Memphis	19	29	.396	8½
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	31	15	.674	—
Oklahoma City	30	18	.625	2
Portland	30	20	.600	3
Utah	27	22	.551	5½
Minnesota	24	24	.500	8
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	34	14	.708	—
L.A. Clippers	26	22	.542	8
L.A. Lakers	25	24	.510	9½
Sacramento	24	24	.500	10
Phoenix	11	39	.220	24

Thursday's Games
Golden State 126, Washington 118
Oklahoma City 122, New Orleans 116
Portland 120, Phoenix 106
Minnesota 120, L.A. Lakers 105

Friday's Games
Washington at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 6 p.m.

Saturday's Games
San Antonio at New Orleans, 3 p.m.
Indiana at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Golden State at Boston, 5:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 3 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Cleveland at Chicago, 12:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 3 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 4 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 4 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 4 p.m.
Miami at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 6:30 p.m.