

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Lillard has 29 as Blazers top Warriors

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard scored 29 points and the Portland Trail Blazers snapped Golden State's five-game winning streak with a chippy 129-107 victory Wednesday night that included the late ejection of Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

Jake Layman added 17 points off the bench for the Blazers, who had eight players in double figures. The win snapped a two-game skid.

Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry each had 32 points for the Warriors, who rested DeMarcus Cousins following a victory at home over Utah the night before.

After a tight three quarters, Layman's long jumper gave Portland a 104-101 lead in the final period before Zach Collins blocked Damian Lee's layup on the other end.

Collins and Klay Thompson exchanged words, and the frustration spilled over to players from both sides. The two players were given offsetting technical fouls.

Portland led 110-103 before Draymond Green was called for a flagrant foul on Collins with 3:54 left. Kerr reacted angrily, throwing his clipboard and yelling at the officials before he was ejected.

Lillard made the three technical shots and Collins made his free throws to give Portland a 115-103 lead. Layman added a 3-pointer to all but seal the win.

In addition to Cousins, the Warriors rested guard Shaun Livingston and forward Andre Iguodala. Kerr said before the game that Cousins and Livingston got the night off because of the back-to-back games, and Iguodala was additionally a "little banged up."

The Warriors started Kevon Looney in Cousins' place.

Earlier in the day, the Blazers signed center Enes Kanter. Blazers coach Terry Stotts said Kanter will join the team for the Jan. 21 game against Brooklyn following the All-Star break. Kanter will back up starter Jusuf Nurkic.

Durant led all scorers with



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, right, passes the ball over Portland Trail Blazers forward Al-Farouq Aminu during an NBA basketball game in Portland on Wednesday.

16 points in the first quarter, and Golden State led 33-31. Durant played just five minutes of the second quarter as the Warriors turned to their bench and finished the half with 20 points.

The first half was close — Portland held a slim 64-61 lead at the break — and it stayed close in the third quarter. Looney's basket tied it at 75 with just under nine min-

utes to go in the period.

The game first got testy midway through the quarter when Durant pushed Nurkic after the two appeared to exchange words, but the officials quickly diffused the situation.

Curry made back-to-back 3-pointers and the Warriors took a 93-88 lead, but Lillard answered with a 3.

Blazers ready for their 50th birthday bash

By DAVE NELSON
For the EO Media Group

It was on Feb. 6, 1970, when one of Oregon's most loved — if not *the* most loved — sports franchises came into existence. The Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City.

It all started with Harry Glickman, an entrepreneur of professional sports, having a dream of top-level sports for his hometown of Portland.

A group of local investors and the NBA expansion committee met in Philadelphia, and the expansion committee raised the franchise price tag to \$3.7 million, causing the group of investors — who were prepared to give \$2 million — to back out, leaving no financial support to make it happen.

Back in Portland, Glickman got a call from then-Seattle Sonics general manager Dick Vertlieb, who, according to the team, said he "knew a guy" who might be interested in staking an NBA franchise, but made it clear he was not interested in being part of the ownership.

That guy was Herman Sarkowsky, a home builder in Seattle, and the possible interest of two developer friends, Larry Weinberg (who would become owner of the team) and Robert Schmertz.

The league had set a deadline to select its new teams, and when the deadline rolled around, Glickman still hadn't heard from Sarkowsky.

Glickman went to Los Angeles with only a scheme to try and persuade the NBA's Board of Governors to accept Portland. He had hoped a good faith offer would work.

Once inside the hotel room of the chairman of the expansion committee and Baltimore Bul-

lets owner Abe Pollin, the mood changed. A few members of the committee, led by the owner of the New York Knicks, did not want Portland in the league.

So Glickman left the room dejected.

When he reached the lobby of the hotel, with the feeling that his dream had failed, he remembered he had left his raincoat back in the room.

"When I got there," Glickman said, "Pollin was on the phone: 'Harry it's for you ... some guy named Sarkowsky is on the phone.' He had reached Weinberg, who was eager to buy into an NBA franchise and finally got in touch with Schmertz, who was in. And Portland was granted an NBA franchise.

"When we got this franchise, we didn't have any support, any political groups ... we had very little from the media," Glickman said at a press conference on Feb. 6. "I hope that changes now, because of the very day we got this franchise, we held a press conference the very next day saying, 'we hope we (as in Oregon) have another major league team.' And my biggest disappointment is, we haven't had another one to join us. I hope we don't have to wait another 48 years to get one."

Now 50 years later, it's time to celebrate 50 years and the 50th anniversary of the beloved franchise. And plans are underway to do so.

The Blazers announced Feb. 6 that a preseason game will be played Oct. 7 against the Denver Nuggets inside their original home, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, next door to their current home, the Moda Center, to honor the historic venue that served as the home of the Trail

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STATE SWIMMING

Barnard leaves a lasting impression with Bucks

Senior holds 3 school records, qualifies for state in 4 events

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

On whiteboard in his room, Ryan Barnard has a list of swim times he would like to achieve.

After his performances last weekend at the Intermountain Conference District Swimming Championships at the Hood River Aquatic Center, the Pendleton senior needs to rework his chart.

The 6-foot-2 Barnard qualified for four events at the 5A state swim meet Friday and Saturday at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center. Prelims begin at 1:45 p.m. Friday. Finals 1 p.m. Saturday.

Barnard will compete in the 200 individual medley, the 100 breaststroke, 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay.

"He has made it to the final round before," Pendleton coach Tony Nelson said. "We are happy for top six at state. You have to be extremely gifted to win state."

The 200 medley relay is up first, where Barnard will swim the breaststroke (second leg). Finishing out the relay team are Matthew Miltenberger (backstroke), Cahill Robinson (butterfly) and Tyler Spratling (freestyle).

The Bucks won the district title in a time of 1 minute, 49.62 seconds.

Barnard will have a quick turnaround (about 15 minutes) before competing in the 200 IM, an event he

won at district in a school record time of 2:04.32. Jon Jennings (2017, 2:06.90) previously held the record.

The 200 IM is where Barnard shines.

He is seeded third behind Jonathan Yordy of Lebanon and Nic Ashland of Corvallis. He beat both of them last year at state.

"I'd love to be in the top three in both (individual races), and I'd love to win the 200 IM," said Barnard, who was sixth at state last year in the event.

He will get about an hour break before hitting the pool for the 200 free relay along with freshmen Robinson, Andrew Williams and Kaleo Theis. Barnard will swim the anchor leg.

A 30-minute break will have Barnard back on the

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Ryan Barnard swims the backstroke at a recent practice at the Roundup Athletic Club. The Pendleton High School swimmer will compete at 5A state swim meet this weekend in the 200 individual medley, 100 breaststroke, 200 free relay and 200 medley relay.

SPORTS SHORTS

Trail Blazers sign center Enes Kanter

PORTLAND (AP) — Center Enes Kanter has joined the Portland Trail Blazers.

Kanter was waived by the New York Knicks along with Wesley Matthews following the trade deadline last week.

Kanter announced Wednesday on Twitter that he had signed with the

Blazers for the rest of the season.

Kanter was once a starter for the Knicks but fell out of the rotation altogether when the team — which holds the worst record in the league — turned its focus to younger players.

The Knicks could not find a deal for Kanter before the deadline.

The center from Turkey came to the Knicks from Oklahoma City in the Carmelo Anthony trade in September 2017 and averaged 14 points and 10.8 rebounds in 115 games over two seasons.

He had become frustrated after first losing his starting spot and then any spot at all in recent weeks.



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File