



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan, File
Hermiston wide receiver Garrett Walchli (5) runs the ball in for a touchdown during the Nov. 1, 2019, game against Kamiakin. The Braves defeated the Bulldogs 40-7 at Neil F. Lampson Stadium in Kennewick, Wash.

Signing: ‘It has never been about me’

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quarterback of the Tri-Cities Fever, and brother to Portland Trail Blazer Damian Lillard.

“Going into my sophomore year, I got on the team, and he (Houston Lillard) took me under his wing,” Walchli said. “I got out of Hermiston. We played in Texas and California. To be the best, you have to compete with the best.”

At Utah State, Walchli said they are looking at him as a slot receiver and return man.

“Offense, 100%,” said

Walchli, who also played defensive back for the Bulldogs. “I’m a lot better at it. They (Utah State) haven’t defined anything yet. I have to get down there and get to work.”

As he wraps up his high school career, Walchli said he hopes he left an impression on the players to come.

“It has never been about me,” he said. “Hopefully me, Dustyn (Coughlin) and Chase (Bradshaw) have helped others see what they need to do if you want to go to the next level. It’s a chain of events. You have to put in the work as a team.”

Pendleton: Both teams show firm commitment

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I’ve also seen what kind of artillery the girls are able to bring out from the bench — sophomore Chloe Taber has a fantastic aim from beyond the arc, and is able to bring her team out from behind when they need her the most.

On Tuesday, she came into the fourth quarter and scored four 3-pointers to complete a rally for a regular-season closing victory over Ridgeview, who had bested her team earlier in the year.

The boys also have shown impressive persistence, including their home defeat over Crook County on Feb. 11, after dropping a two-point game to the Cowboys on the road earlier in the season.

Senior Stockton Hoffman turned in one of his season’s best performances with 22 points, and coach Zach Dong called it one of the year’s best

team wins.

The Bucks also closed their season Tuesday and made a bit of school history in the process. In their 95-58 blowout road win over Ridgeview, junior Dakota Sams broke the school record for most 3-pointers in a single game with nine. He finished with 34 points.

The record was previously set by his father, Ryan, with eight, during the 1991-92 season.

If the Bucks can show this much heart, grit, and determination during the regular season, odds are good that they’ll only step it up even more in their respective state runs, when the stakes are even higher.

But no matter the outcome, both teams have already shown us impressive seasons in just their second year in the conference, and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing how the postseason plays out.

BRIEFLY

Buckaroo Baseball Camp registration now open

PENDLETON — The annual Pendleton Buckaroo Baseball Camp will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Fallen Field, located behind the Pendleton Convention Center.

The camp is open to players ages 5-14 and costs \$50 per camper. Payment can be made on the day of the camp or sent to Pendleton High School. Players will be separated based on their age and experience.

Each camper will receive a Buckaroo Baseball Camp T-shirt and individualized instruction with Pendleton High School coaches and players.

To register, visit www.buckaroobaseball.com. If you would like a hard copy of the registration form mailed to you, email Pendleton head baseball coach TJ Haguewood at thaguewood@pendletonsd.org.

Big River Golf Course now accepting Ladies Club registration

UMATILLA — Signups are now available for Big River Golf Course’s Ladies Club.

The Ladies Club opening scramble is set to be held on Saturday, March 7. The club is open to all women of all ages and levels of experience interested in joining.

To register, entry forms can be obtained at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla. There is a \$10 entry fee per applicant. Checks should be made payable to Big River Ladies Golf Club.

The opening scramble will start at 9:30 a.m. on March 7. A brief meeting to discuss the season will be held before play, which commences with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

Entry forms can be returned to treasurer Sandy Obrist at PO Box 777, Hermiston, OR, 97838. Forms can also be turned in at Big River Golf Course, or by texting Bev Miller at 541-561-5479.

All entries must be submitted by Thursday, March 5.

— EO Media Group

Pacers beat Trail Blazers 106-100

By JIM JOHNSON
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Pacers are preparing for a playoff run with a starting five that’s barely played together this season.

Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead Indiana to a 106-100 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night.

Malcolm Brogdon had 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds while T.J. Warren and Victor Oladipo scored 15 points each for the Pacers, who have won four of their last five. Oladipo was playing in his ninth game of the season.

“Tonight was about being consistent and really establishing ourselves, especially that first unit,” coach Nate McMillan said. “That group has only played about 100 minutes together this season. That’s about three games, so it was really about them working on an identity.”

CJ McCollum had 28 points and eight assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half and finished with five rebounds, and Hassan Whiteside had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have lost five of six.

The Pacers were able to hold off the Blazers’ late push to snap a five-game



AP Photo/AJ Mast
Indiana Pacers forward Domantas Sabonis, left, looks to pass around Portland Trail Blazers center Moses Brown during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis on Thursday.

losing streak in the series.

Indiana led by as much as 14 when Warren made a fadeaway jumper to give the Pacers a 96-82 lead with 6:12 remaining.

“We started being aggressive,” Sabonis said. “We didn’t have enough energy in the first half. We’ve got a lot of weapons and when we get stops, it’s tough to guard us in transition.”

Portland then went on an 18-7 run to cut the deficit. After Brogdon made a jumper to give Indiana a 103-93 lead with 1:54 remaining, the Trail Blazers scored seven straight. McCollum’s floater made it 103-100 with 30 seconds to go.

Myles Turner drilled a 3-pointer with 9 seconds remaining to seal it.

“It felt like it was a winnable game, that’s for sure,” McCollum said. “We had a chance. Probably shouldn’t have let them get that run, but we were able to withstand it and come back.”

The Trail Blazers went on a 10-1 run late in the first half to push ahead.

McCollum made a 3-pointer to give Portland a 42-40 lead with 3:13 to go in the second quarter. After a free throw by Oladipo, McCollum made another 3 and then a fadeaway to put the Trail Blazers in front 47-41.

Portland led 49-43 at halftime.

Cardinals: Goad averages 16 points a game

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Sky League play last year.

“Combining with Arlington hasn’t hurt, and a lot has to do with the maturity level,” Stefani said. “That growth has helped quite a bit.”

The Ione team lost just one senior from last year — Nestor Ramirez.

This season, they added five players from Arlington, three of whom — Wesley Goad, Jace Troutman and Jacob Shandy — have earned starting positions.

“They are very good athletes,” Stefani said. “Wes is a tremendous all-around athlete, whereas Jace is more the true basketball player and can create off the dribble. Jacob runs the point for us. He is the guidance that every team needs.”

The Cardinals returned junior Hunter Padberg, and freshman Carson Eynetich has come off the bench and started some games, giving the team a surge of energy.

“He has grown all season,” Stefani said of Eynetich. “He had 17 points in the district final against South Wasco. He’s athletic and gives us quickness on defense.”

Stefani said he believes the Cardinals could have



Photo courtesy of Cindy Troutman
Ione/Arlington’s Jace Troutman (21) attempts to ward off a pair of Echo defenders during their Jan. 28, 2020, game in Echo. The Cardinals defeated the Cougars 80-32.

fought for the fourth district playoff spot without joining forces with Arlington, but things are better together.

“We would have had a

different team,” Stefani said. “Their presence is huge. I start three of of them. I don’t care where the kids are from, my job is to win, not to

Tip-ins

Trail Blazers: Carmelo Anthony had 12 points and seven rebounds. ... McCollum was 3 of 12 from 3-point range. ... G Damian Lillard missed a fourth straight game with a right groin strain.

Pacers: Turner had 14 points and 10 rebounds. ... Oladipo finished with seven rebounds. ... Indiana went 18 of 23 (78.3%) from the free-throw line. ... G Edmond Sumner was out with a sore left hip.

Finding his way

Oladipo was back in the lineup after missing the last two games with a sore lower back. He missed the first 47 games of the season while recovering from a right knee injury.

“He’s still working his way back and I thought he had a better third quarter,” McMillan said. “I thought he had a couple attacks in transition, which is what we want to see. We want to advance and allow him to get to the basket. We had 15 fast break points in the third quarter, so we got to the tempo we wanted to play and Vic was a big part of that.”

Up next

Trail Blazers: At Atlanta on Saturday for the second of a three-game trip.

Pacers: At Cleveland on Saturday for the opener of a five-game trip.

play favorites. I pick basketball players. I have so much support from both sides. The communities have come together.”

Goad leads the Cardinals with 16 points a game, while Padberg and Troutman each add 13.

“Wes had a 31-point game, but for the most part, it has been pretty balanced all year,” Stefani said. “They are starting to figure things out.”

Stefani’s bench is about nine men deep, with Gary Walls, Jed Knight, Sam Grady and 6-foot-7 freshman Bryce Rollins getting quality minutes.

“The have a role off the bench, and their minutes are valuable,” Stefanie said. “They fill in perfectly and give the starters 2 to 3 minutes of rest. They’ll be huge contributors next year. There is talent there.”

Stefani’s team in 2014 placed fourth at the 1A state tournament, but there’s something about this year’s team that puts it at the top of his list.

“For me, this is my funnest year of coaching basketball,” he said. “They were hungry to learn. In a small community, when you are winning, the gym is full. It’s been really exciting.”

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

FRIDAY, FEB. 28				
Girls basketball				
Stanfield at Gervais, 2A state playoffs, 6 p.m.				
Heppner at Kennedy, 2A state playoffs, 6 p.m.				
Echo at St. Paul, 1A state playoffs, 6 p.m.				
Wrestling				
Oregon state championships				
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland, 9 a.m.				
SATURDAY, FEB. 29				
Boys basketball				
Cascade Christian at Umatilla, 3A state playoffs, 3 p.m.				
Bandon at Pilot Rock, 2A state playoffs, 7 p.m.				
Perrydale at Ione/Arlington, 1A state playoffs, 5 p.m.				
Siletz Valley at Nixyaawii, 1A state playoffs, 5 p.m.				
Wrestling				
Oregon state championships				
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland, 9 a.m.				

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	42	16	.724	—
Boston	41	17	.707	1
Phila.	37	23	.617	6
Brooklyn	26	31	.456	15½
New York	17	42	.288	25½
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	36	22	.621	—
Orlando	26	32	.448	10
Washington	21	36	.368	14½
Charlotte	20	38	.345	16
Atlanta	17	43	.283	20
Central	W	L	Pct	GB

x-Milwaukee	50	8	.862	—
Indiana	35	24	.593	15½
Chicago	20	39	.339	30½
Detroit	19	41	.317	32
Cleveland	17	41	.293	33
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	38	20	.655	—
Dallas	36	23	.610	2½
Memphis	28	30	.483	10
New Orleans	25	33	.431	13
San Antonio	W	L	Pct	GB
Northwest	24	33	.421	13½
Denver	40	18	.690	—
Oklahoma City	37	22	.627	3½
Utah	36	22	.621	4
Portland	26	34	.433	15
Minnesota	W	L	Pct	GB
Pacific	17	40	.298	22½
L.A. Lakers	44	12	.786	—
L.A. Clippers	39	19	.672	6
Sacramento	24	34	.414	21
Phoenix	24	35	.407	21½
Golden State	12	46	.207	33
x-clinched playoff spot				
Thursday’s Games				
Phila. 115, New York 106				
Indiana 106, Portland 100				
Oklahoma City 112, Sacramento 108				
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, late				
Friday’s Games				
Minnesota at Orlando, 4 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.				
Charlotte at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at New Orleans, 5 p.m.				
Dallas at Miami, 5 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.				
Sacramento at Memphis, 5 p.m.				
Detroit at Phoenix, 6 p.m.				
Washington at Utah, 6 p.m.				
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.				
Saturday’s Games				
Chicago at New York, 2 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Miami, 4:30 p.m.				
Portland at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.				
Indiana at Cleveland, 5 p.m.				

L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 5 p.m.							
Houston at Boston, 5:30 p.m.							
Orlando at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.							
Golden State at Phoenix, 6 p.m.							
Sunday's Games							
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 10 a.m.							
Dallas at Minnesota, 12:30 p.m.							
Phila. at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m.							
Detroit at Sacramento, 3 p.m.							
Toronto at Denver, 3 p.m.							
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 5 p.m.							
Washington at Golden State, 5:30 p.m.							
NHL STANDINGS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	65	40	13	12	92	214	167
Tampa Bay	64	40	19	5	85	226	180
Toronto	65	34	23	8	76	229	216
Florida	64	33	25	6	72	222	218
Montreal	66	29	28	9	67	199	204
Buffalo	63	29	26	8	66	184	196
Ottawa	65	22	31	12	56	174	221
Detroit	66	15	47	4	34	132	251
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	64	39	19	6	84	222	196
Pittsburgh	62	37	19	6	80	202	170
Phila.	63	36	20	7	79	210	185
N.Y. Islanders	63	35	20	8	78	181	171
Columbus	65	31	20	14	76	170	171
Carolina	62	35	23	4	74	202	176
N.Y. Rangers	63	35	24	4	74	212	193
New Jersey	62	25	27	10	60	171	211
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	65	38	17	10	86	209	181
Colorado	62	37	18	7	81	215	168
Dallas	64	37	21	6	80	174	164
Nashville	63	32	23	8	72	202	174
Winnipeg	66	33	27	6	72	199	195
Minnesota	63	31	25	7	69	198	202
Chicago	64	28	28	8	64	192	205
Pacific	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	65	35	22	8	78	211	196
Vancouver	63	34	23	6	74	209	195
Edmonton	64	33	23	8	74	201	199

Calgary	65	33	25	7	73
Arizona	66	31	27	8	70
Anaheim	63	25	30	8	58
San Jose	63	26	33	4	56
Los Angeles	64	23	35	6	52
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.					
Thursday’s Games					
Toronto 5, Florida 3					
N.Y. Rangers 5, Montreal 2					
Chicago 5, Tampa Bay 2					
Minnesota 7, Detroit 1					
Ottawa 5, Vancouver 2					
Boston 4, Dallas 3					
Winnipeg 3, Washington 0					
Nashville 4, Calgary 3, OT					
St. Louis 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT					
New Jersey at San Jose, late					
Friday’s Games					
Colorado at Carolina, 4 p.m.					
Minnesota at Columbus, 4 p.m.					
N.Y. Rangers at Phila., 4 p.m.					
Buffalo at Vegas, 7 p.m.					
Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 7 p.m.					
Saturday’s Games					
Boston vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 10 a.m.					
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.					
New Jersey at Los Angeles, 1 p.m.					
Chicago at Florida, 3 p.m.					
Carolina at Montreal, 4 p.m.					
Detroit at Ottawa, 4 p.m.					
Vancouver at Toronto, 4 p.m.					
Buffalo at Arizona, 5 p.m.					
Colorado at Nashville, 5 p.m.					
Dallas at St. Louis, 5 p.m.					
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 7 p.m.					
Pittsburgh at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.					
Sunday’s Games					
Phila. at N.Y. Rangers, 9 a.m.					
Calgary at Florida, 1 p.m.					
Vancouver at Columbus, 4 p.m.					
New Jersey at Anaheim, 5 p.m.					
Washington at Minnesota, 5 p.m.					
Los Angeles at Vegas, 7:30 p.m.					