

Jazz rout Trail Blazers for 23rd straight home victory

By JOHN COON
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Strong second-half defense helped the Utah Jazz break open a close game and extend their franchise-record home winning streak.

Donovan Mitchell scored 37 points to lead Utah to its 23rd straight victory at home, a 122-103 win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night, April 8.

Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 21 rebounds, Joe Ingles added 13 points and six assists and Utah dominated the glass by outrebounding Portland 58-41 while snapping a two-game skid.

“This was a must-win,” Mitchell said. “We kind of put our focus on that, not letting three go to teams who are playoff bound.”

Damian Lillard scored 23 points and C.J. McCollum added 19 to lead the Trail Blazers, who lost for the third time in four games.

“We couldn’t get stops,” Lillard said.

Utah surged on offense in the third quarter when it erased a six-point deficit and built a double-digit lead while scoring 40 points on 57% shooting from the field.



Portland Trail Blazers forward Norman Powell (24) drives the ball on Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, April 8, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

Isaac Hale/Associated Press

Defense keyed the surge. The Jazz held Portland to 19 points on 32% shooting in the quarter. They also had a 19-6 advantage on rebounds.

“Our defense was the biggest thing,” Utah coach Quin Snyder said. “And our defensive rebounding in the third quarter really broke the game open.”

The Jazz went on a 25-4 run over a six-minute stretch to take a 93-72 lead with 30

seconds left in the third quarter. Mitchell, Gobert, and Ingles combined to make 10 free throws during that stretch. Ingles and Mitchell also combined to score or assist on seven baskets during the decisive run.

“It’s almost like we got better throughout the game,” Gobert said. “Communication got better. Our aggressiveness got better.”

Portland trailed by double

digits the entire fourth quarter.

“We had a good defensive first half, obviously the third quarter was poor offense and poor defense, so it kind of went hand in hand to a bad quarter,” Trail Blazers coach Terry Stotts said.

Both teams struggled with generating consistent offense in the first half. Utah shot 41% from the field and Portland shot 43%. Each team

finally settled into a rhythm late in the second quarter.

The Jazz went up 46-42 when Mitchell scored back-to-back baskets and assisted on a pair of others over a 2½-minute stretch. Mitchell scored or assisted on 10 of Utah’s 20 first-half baskets.

Portland answered with a 12-0 run and took a 54-46 lead just before halftime. McCollum and Lillard scored back-to-back baskets to finish off the run.

Tip-ins

Trail Blazers: Jusuf Nurkic played on a minutes restriction after a one-game absence due to right knee inflammation. Nurkic finished with 10 points, six rebounds, and four assists in 22 minutes. ... Portland outscored Utah 10-7 in fast-break points.

Jazz: Jordan Clarkson did not play because of a sprained right ankle. It was the first game Clarkson missed this season. ... Derrick Favors passed Mehmet Okur for 10th place on the Jazz career scoring list. Favors has scored 7,527 points with Utah. He finished with seven points against Portland. ... Utah is now 9-1 in games with zero days rest.

Foul behavior

Utah shot 27 free throws compared with 18 free throw attempts for Portland. The disparity was more pronounced in the third quarter when the Jazz attempted 12 free throws compared with only three for the Trail Blazers.

Lillard, who picked up a rare technical foul with 4:45 remaining in the fourth quarter, voiced his displeasure in how the game was officiated. He thought the referees allowed the Jazz to be too physical around the basket.

“It just doesn’t add up that I could be attacking teams the way I’m attacking and teams are defending me the way defend me — (and) I just don’t get the whistle,” Lillard said. “I’m not a flopper. I play the game straight up. It’s frustrating.”

Running away

The Jazz improved to 29-0 this season in games where they’ve had a 10-0 run or better.

Up next

Trail Blazers: Host the Detroit Pistons on Saturday, April 10.

Jazz: Host the Sacramento Kings on April 10.

Ducks:

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a game in four weeks so you got to be here to start training.’ It was such short notice and that’s really what it came down to.”

Breeze will be one of the more fascinating cases to watch in this year’s draft. He closed the 2019 season on a tear and earned Rose Bowl Defensive MVP honors. Had he played in a full 2020 season, there’s a chance he’s no less than an all-Pac-12 performer. But teams will have minimal game tape and some impressive measurables from pro day to base his evaluation.

There’s also finite game film for Jevon Holland, though he’s widely projected as a second- or third-round pick. Having played both free safety and nickel and served as the primary punt returner for the Ducks, Holland offers a lot of versatility for a safety.

“I knew what I was capable of and the level of play that I have, especially throughout the last



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian, File/Bend Bulletin

Offensive lineman Penei Sewell celebrates after the Oregon Ducks defeated the Washington Huskies at Husky Stadium in Seattle in 2019. Sewell, who opted out of the 2020 season, is expected to be among the top offensive linemen drafted in April, if not the first overall at the position.

couple of years and feel like I put in the work,” Holland said. “When the situation came to be I decided to go with the opt-out. It wasn’t really a gamble. I wasn’t gambling anything. I knew the outcome was going to be what I was going to put down and I went out and I did that.”

Of Oregon’s players who opted out, Graham has by far the most film to go off of. He was a three-year starter and improved each season. The cornerback also played in the Senior Bowl to give a more current showing of his talents on the field in lieu of the season.

“There was no regrets

for me personally,” Graham said. “I felt like the decision that I made was the right decision. I missed being around my boys. It was a little difficult because I missed playing with them.”

Shedding a few pounds and running the 40 in the mid-4.4s will help Graham’s cause.

Volleyball:

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As a team, EOU leads the conference with 13.3 kills per set (18th in the NAIA), a .262 hitting clip (fourth in the NAIA) and 12.5 assists per set (11th in the NAIA). The Mounties also average 2.5 blocks per set (ninth in the NAIA) and hold opponents to a .097 hitting clip.

McMurtrey is a three-time CCC Libero of the Year

and all-conference selection. The senior from Idaho Falls, Idaho, has appeared in all 54 sets for the Mounties and posted a team-high 24 aces — second-most in the conference. She ranks first in the CCC with 5.15 digs per set and boasts a 92.2 service reception percentage.

Pilon earned her first Setter of the Year honor after a solid year fueling the Mountie offense. The Olympia, Washington, native grabs her second All-CCC first-team recognition after post-

ing 8.1 assists per set, which ranks second in the CCC. The senior also averages 2.04 digs per set and has six blocks on the year. Offensively, Pilon has scored off three kills and 11 aces.

Scott was named the Player of the Year after appearing in 53 sets for EOU. She grabs her second consecutive All-CCC first team honor by averaging 2.32 kills per set (16th in the CCC) on a .298 hitting clip (third in the CCC). The middle hitter is a threat at the net, leading the

CCC with 64 total blocks and a 1.21 blocks per set average (12th in the NAIA).

Troutman has had a sparkling rookie campaign, registering an attack percentage of .231 (11th in the CCC) and averaging 2.46 kills per set entering this weekend’s play. She scored a career-high 15 kills against Lewis-Clark State College on March 19, finishing with 18 points on the night. The outside hitter from Powell Butte also has 14 blocks and 19 aces on the year.

ON THE SLATE

Times are subject to change

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

College baseball
Blue Mountain at Spokane (2), 1 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Prep baseball
Umatilla at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Heppner/One at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah, 4 p.m.

Prep softball

Umatilla at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Prep boys tennis

Crook County at Pendleton, 3 p.m.

Prep girls tennis

Crook County at Pendleton, 3 p.m.

Prep boys golf

Hermiston at Pasco, noon

Prep girls golf

Hermiston at Pasco, noon

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Prep baseball

Hermiston at Richland (2), 4 p.m.
Hood River at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Umatilla, 4 p.m.

Prep softball

Hermiston at Pasco, 4 p.m.

Prep girls tennis

Hermiston at Pasco, 4 p.m.

Hermiston at Kamiakin (2), 4 p.m.

Pendleton at Hood River, 4:30 p.m.

Irrigon at Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat (2), 2 p.m.

Umatilla at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii (2), 4 p.m.

Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph at Weston-McEwen (2), 4 p.m.

Union/Cove at Echo/Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.

Prep boys tennis
Hermiston at Pasco, 4 p.m.

Prep girls tennis
Hermiston at Pasco, 4 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Chiawana at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

College men’s basketball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

College volleyball
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 5 p.m.

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 7 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Chiawana at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

College men’s basketball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

College volleyball
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 5 p.m.

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 7 p.m.

LOCAL STANDINGS

Through games played April 8

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NWAC EAST DIVISION

Team	League	Overall
North Idaho	1-0	1-0
Walla Walla	1-0	1-0
Wenatchee Valley	1-0	1-0
Big Bend	0-0	0-0
Yakima Valley	0-0	0-0
Treasure Valley	0-0	0-0
Blue Mountain	0-1	0-1
Columbia Basin	0-1	0-1
Spokane	0-1	0-1

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NWAC EAST DIVISION

Team	League	Overall
Big Bend	2-0	2-0
Walla Walla	1-0	1-0
Wenatchee Valley	1-0	1-0
Columbia Basin	0-0	0-0
North Idaho	0-0	0-0
Treasure Valley	0-0	0-0
Blue Mountain	0-1	0-1
Yakima Valley	0-1	0-1
Spokane	0-2	0-2

COLLEGE BASEBALL

NWAC EAST DIVISION

Team	League	Overall
Yakima Valley	2-0	2-0
Spokane	2-0	2-0
Columbia Basin	2-0	2-4
Treasure Valley	1-1	1-1
Walla Walla	1-1	1-1
Big Bend	0-2	1-5
Blue Mountain	0-2	0-2
Wenatchee Valley	0-2	0-2

NWAC EAST DIVISION

Team	League	Overall
Wenatchee Valley	2-0	2-0
Big Bend	0-0	2-4
Treasure Valley	0-0	2-4
North Idaho	0-0	1-2
Blue Mountain	0-0	0-0
Walla Walla	0-0	0-0
Spokane	0-0	0-1
Yakima Valley	0-0	0-2
Columbia Basin	0-0	0-2

PREP FOOTBALL

5A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1

Team	League	Overall
Pendleton	3-1	4-1
Redmond	3-1	4-1
Hood River Valley	3-2	3-2
Ridgeview	2-2	2-3
The Dalles	1-1	2-2
LaSalle Prep	1-2	3-2
Parkrose	0-1	1-4
Putnam	0-3	1-4

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	4-0	5-0
Weston-McEwen	2-1	4-1
Stanfield	2-2	3-2
Umatilla	2-3	2-3
Grant Union	1-2	2-2
Irrigon	0-1	0-3-1
Riverside	0-2	0-4-1

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Team	League	Overall
Dufur	3-0	5-0
Pilot Rock	4-1	4-2
Wallowa	3-1	3-1
Imbler	3-1	3-2
Crane	2-2	2-3
Powder Valley	1-1	3-2
Enterprise	1-1	1-1
Elgin	0-0	0-1
Cove	0-3	0-3
Union	0-3	0-3
Ione/Arlington	0-4	0-5

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4 (6-MAN)

Team	League	Overall
South Wasco County	5-0	5-0

Joseph	3-1	4-1
Dayville/Monument	2-0	3-2
Sherman/Condon	2-1	3-1
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler	1-3	1-4
Harper Charter	0-1	0-1
Prairie City	0-2	0-2
Echo	0-5	0-5

PREP VOLLEYBALL

5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Ridgeview	9-1	13-4
Crook County	8-1	12-2
Pendleton	6-4	10-6
Hood River Valley	3-6	3-9
The Dalles	2-8	3-10
Redmond	1-9	2-13

3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Burns	4-0	13-1
Vale	2-2	5-7
Irrigon	0-0	6-4
Umatilla	0-0	2-6
Riverside	0-0	2-8
Nyssa	0-4	3-8

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	5-0	9-1
Grant Union	4-2	5-5
Union	1-0	11-1
Weston-McEwen	1-1	8-4
Enterprise	0-1	2-6
Stanfield	0-3	2-8
Pilot Rock	0-4	5-7

1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Echo	9-1	9-2
Condon	9-1	9-2
South Wasco County	6-1	7-6
Sherman	5-5	5-6
Dufur	4-1	7-4
Ione/Arlington	4-5	5-5
Lyle/Wishram	2-1	2-1
Trout Lake	1-5	1-6
Mitchell/Spray	1-8	1-9
Glenwood/Klickitat	0-5	0-5
Bickleton	0-8	0-8

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Imbler	4-1	5-3
Cove	2-3	4-5
Joseph	1-0	7-4
Wallowa	1-1	5-5
Powder Valley	0-0	11-0
Nixyaawii	0-0	7-4
Griswold	0-0	2-9
Elgin	0-0	2-3
Pine Eagle	0-3	0-8

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Redmond	3-0-2	6-2-2
Ridgeview	2-1-2	4-5-2
The Dalles/Dufur	2-1-1	4-4-1
Hood River Valley	1-0-3	4-4-3
Pendleton	1-4-0	1-9-0
Crook County	0-3-0	0-6-0

3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Team	League	Overall
Riverside	2-0-0	8-2-0
Nyssa	2-0-0	5-2-0
Umatilla	0-1-0	1-3-0
Stanfield/Echo	0-1-0	0-5-0
Four Rivers	0-2-0	0-8-0