

Sports

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ducks rely on defensive pressure to overcome slow start and top Utah

By Matthew Coles
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Oregon teammates and coaches constantly push Will Richardson to be more aggressive. The message seemed to finally hit home. The 6-foot-5 guard seemed to be everywhere and scored a career-high 19 points as the Ducks (13-8, 4-4 Pac-12 Conference) turned an early deficit into a commanding lead en route to a 78-72 win over Utah on Thursday night. "That was huge for us," said Ehab Amin, who scored all

of his 13 points in the second half. "Everybody is embracing him taking charge and having the ball in his hands, scoring and making plays for the rest of us." Richardson had only scored eight total points over the previous four games before the scoring explosion against the Utes (11-9, 5-3). He also had three blocks and two steals. "He was just really aggressive. He got in the paint and really looked to drive through the zone to the hole," Oregon coach Dana Altman said.

Paul White added 14 to complement the Ducks' suffocating defense that caused 16 turnovers and frustrated the Utes. Donnie Tillman and Sedrick Barefield each scored 16 for Utah, which saw its four-game winning streak snapped. Barefield was a point of focus for the Oregon defense and made just 4 of 16 field goal attempts. "Our press took the ball out of Barefield's hands and made other people try and make plays. We just wanted to make everything he did dif-

ficult," White said. Timmy Allen had 13 for the Utes, who made only 13 of 23 free throws and wasted a big early lead. After yet another steal, Amin drained a 3-pointer for the Ducks' largest advantage, 67-53. Parker Van Dyke's steal and layup brought the Utes within 67-60. In a last ditch comeback, Barefield made a 3 to get Utah within 76-72 with 20.3 seconds to play but Payton Pritchard made two free throws to run his consecutive streak to 26 and clinch the victory.

Beavers pull away late to nip Buffaloes

By Michael Kelly
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Oregon State was dominated down low in the first half. The Beavers turned it around in the second half and came away with a big road win. Oregon State attacked the basket after a fiery halftime talk, hitting eight layups and a dunk in a 76-74 win over Colorado on Thursday night. The Beavers were outscored in the paint 26-16 in the first 20 minutes but had a 22-12 advantage after halftime. "We were pretty upset at halftime when we looked at the disparity of points in the paint," Oregon State head coach Wayne Tinkle said. "They manhandled us, whether it was on post-ups or drives,

so we got after our guys pretty good. We needed to flip that in the second half. Our guys pinned their ears back coming out of the locker room." Stephen Thompson Jr. scored 21 points, Tres Tinkle had 19 points and eight rebounds and Ethan Thompson had 14 points, including a dunk that ignited an 8-4 run late to help the Beavers (13-7, 5-3 Pac-12) to the win. "It was a close game, we just kept battling, we made plays for each other," Tres Tinkle said. "We missed some free throws but we made them when it counted." McKimley Wright IV led Colorado with 18 points and Evan Battey had six of his 16 points late in the second half. Colo-

rado lost for just the third time at home this season. Colorado had struggled with slow starts earlier in the season but has faded in the second half in two straight losses. "Same story, different game," Buffaloes head coach Tad Boyle said. "Same story as what happened at Stanford. We weren't good enough in the second half." The game was close throughout the second half and went back-and-forth in the final three minutes. Colorado went 7-1/2 minutes without a field goal after D'Shawn Schwartz's 3-pointer tied it at 60. The game was knotted 65-65 until Ethan Thompson had a dunk off a turnover with 3:01 to play.

Lillard, McCollum lead Blazers' rout

By Erik Garcia Gundersen
Associated Press

PORTLAND — On a night in which they were without starting center Jusuf Nurkic, everything else went right for the Portland Trail Blazers. Damian Lillard had 36 points and 11 assists to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 132-105 win over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night. Lillard's backcourt mate CJ McCollum was excellent as well, scoring 30 points in the win. Donovan Mitchell had 22 points to lead Utah. McCollum, only one game removed from his first career triple-double, had plenty of magic left in his bag. The Blazers guard made all nine of his shots in the first quarter and had 20 by the end of the period. Even when he wasn't shooting, he was still scoring. An attempted lob pass from McCollum to Blazers center Meyers Leonard went in the basket anyway. "He's a magician out there, so you never know," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said when asked if it looked like a pass from his angle. In the eyes of Leonard, who finished with 16 points and six rebounds in place of the injured Nurkic, there was no doubt McCollum intended to pass. But it didn't matter. "It was absolutely a pass," Leonard said. "But I guess the basketball gods knew he was playing so well that it had to go in."

Gonzaga dominates BYU for 21st straight WCC win

PROVO, Utah (AP) — The way No. 4 Gonzaga is dominating West Coast Conference competition, the Bulldogs could be on cruise control all the way into March. Brandon Clarke scored 23 points and Rui Hachimura added 20 in leading the Zags to a 93-63 rout of BYU on Thursday night. The Bulldogs (20-2, 7-0 WCC) got it done with efficient offense and smothering defense. They shot 37 of 63 (59 percent) from the field.

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

All Times PST
Friday, Feb. 1
Boston at New York, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Houston at Denver, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Feb. 2
Tampa Bay at NY Rangers or Minnesota at Chicago, 5 p.m. (NBC)
LA Lakers at Golden State, 5:30 p.m. (BC)
Sunday, Feb. 3
Boston at Washington, 9:30 a.m. (NBC)
Oklahoma City at Boston, 11 a.m. (ABC)
Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

PREP BASKETBALL

Thursday's Games
Boys
Columbia Christian 89, Vernonia 42
Damascus Christian 53, N. Clackamas Christian 42
Eddyville 49, McKenzie 46
Jefferson PDX 73, Grant 66
Knappa 68, City Christian 53
Lowell 68, Oakridge 50
McNary 59, South Salem 57
Neah-Kah-Nie 55, Faith Bible 41

Perrydale 67, Falls City 39
Portland Christian 64, Nestucca 42
Riverdale 76, Portland Adventist 59
Siletz Valley 58, Mohawk 57, OT
Sprague 65, Mountain View 64
St. Paul 68, Livingstone 28
Summit 61, McKay 13
West Salem 62, Bend 51

Girls
Alsea 76, Mapleton 18
Bend 43, West Salem 33
City Christian 50, Knappa 30
Damascus Christian 47, N. Clackamas Christian 31
Lowell 45, Oakridge 35
McKenzie 55, Eddyville 6
Mohawk 40, Siletz Valley 8
Mountain View 52, Sprague 26
Neah-Kah-Nie 45, Faith Bible 38
Nixyaawii 46, Pine Eagle 31
Perrydale 45, Falls City 20
Portland Christian 45, Nestucca 43
Powder Valley 42, La Grande 36
Riverdale 45, Portland Adventist 37
Rogue Valley Adventist 39, Gichrist 19
South Salem 53, McNary 41
Summit 45, McKay 43

Triangle Lake 30, Crow 18
Vernonia 55, Columbia Christian 12

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday's Games
FAR WEST
Arizona St. 95, Arizona 88, OT
Cal Poly 71, UC Rivers die 45
Gonzaga 93, BYU 63
Hawaii 74, Long Beach St. 57
Loyola Marymount 60, Pacific 42
New Mexico St. 70, UMKC 54
Oregon 78, Utah 72
Oregon St. 76, Colorado 74
Pepperdine 83, Portland 58
Portland St. 76, Weber St. 75
Sacramento St. 74, Idaho St. 58
UC Irvine 66, UC Santa Barbara 62, OT

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
East Division
Toronto 37 16 .698 —
Philadelphia 34 18 .654 2½
Boston 32 19 .627 4
Brooklyn 28 25 .528 9
New York 10 40 .200 25½

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	24	25	.490	—
Charlotte	24	26	.480	½
Washington	22	29	.431	3
Orlando	21	31	.404	4½
Atlanta	16	34	.320	8½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	37	13	.740	—
Indiana	32	19	.627	5½
Detroit	22	28	.440	15
Chicago	12	40	.231	26
Cleveland	11	41	.212	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division
W L Pct GB
San Antonio 31 22 .585 —
Houston 29 21 .580 ½
Dallas 23 28 .451 7
New Orleans 23 29 .442 7½
Memphis 20 32 .385 10½

Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Denver 35 15 .700 —
Okla. City 32 18 .640 3
Portland 32 20 .615 4

Utah 29 23 .558 7
Minnesota 25 26 .490 10½

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	36	15	.706	—
L.A. Clippers	28	24	.538	8½
L.A. Lakers	27	25	.519	9½
Sacramento	26	25	.510	10
Phoenix	11	42	.208	26

Wednesday's Games

Boston 126, Charlotte 94
Chicago 105, Miami 89
Dallas 114, New York 90
Denver 105, New Orleans 99
Minnesota 99, Memphis 97, OT
Washington 107, Indiana 89
Sacramento 135, Atlanta 113
Portland 132, Utah 105

Thursday's Games

Detroit 93, Dallas 89
Orlando 107, Indiana 100
Milwaukee 105, Toronto 92
San Antonio 117, Brooklyn 114
L.A. Lakers 123, L.A. Clippers 120, OT
Philadelphia 113, Golden State 104

Today's Games

All Times PST
Memphis at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
Boston at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Miami, 5 p.m.
Atlanta at Utah, 6 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 7 p.m.
Saturday's Games
L.A. Clippers at Detroit, 2 p.m.
Brooklyn at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 4 p.m.
Dallas at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 5:30 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Memphis at New York, 10 a.m.
Oklahoma City at Boston, 11 a.m.
L.A. Clippers at Toronto, noon

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