

# Sports

## Westbrook sets triple-double record in leading Thunder past Trail Blazers

By Cliff Brunt  
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Chalk up another triple-double record for Russell Westbrook.

Westbrook set an NBA record with his 10th straight triple-double, Paul George scored 47 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 120-111 on Monday night.

Westbrook broke a tie with Wilt Chamberlain, who had nine straight triple-doubles in 1968, by finishing with 21 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. Westbrook already was the only person to average a triple-double in consecutive seasons, and he set the single-season record for triple-doubles with 42 in 2016-17.

He downplayed this record while still showing respect for Chamberlain.

"I just go play the game the right way," he said. "It's what I do. Go out and compete every night and leave it on the floor, and whatever happens, happens. I'm very, very blessed to be able to go out and play, and I don't take it for granted."

Westbrook clinched the record on an assist to George for a 3-pointer with 3:52 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I thought he had it already," George joked. "Usually, Russ has that by the first quarter I didn't know it was that close."

It was Westbrook's 23rd triple-double of the season and the 127th of his career. Most important to the Thunder, the team has a 9-1 record during his triple-double run.

"I do know the most important thing for him is to win," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "That's what he's about. He wants to win. I think a lot

of the things he does that he gets attention for in terms of the triple-doubles are things that impact winning for our team."

George had 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the third triple-double of his career. Rookie Deonte Burton had a career-high 18 points and Raymond Felton added a season-high 15 for the Thunder.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Jake Layman added 17 for Portland.

The Thunder shot 56 percent in the first half to lead 68-49 at the break. George scored 21 points and Felton added 15.

The Trail Blazers started the second half on a 7-0 run to make things interesting, and they trimmed Oklahoma City's lead to 87-82 by the end of the third quarter.

Westbrook had five assists

heading into the fourth, and after a rest, he re-entered the game with 9:36 remaining. He got his first assist of the quarter with 6:54 left and was up to his ninth with 4:57 to play.

Westbrook made a 3-pointer in the final minute that gave George his triple-double. Westbrook told George that he was one assist away.

"Yeah, we talked about it right before that play," George said. "I was clueless at that moment. But he told me the situation. So, it's cool to be on the other end of the triple-double."

Westbrook figured he might as well get a different kind of assist.

"It's amazing to go out and compete," he said, "to see your teammate, your brother, do amazing things, and you can be right on the side of him doing something special as well."

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Ducks projected as No. 1 seed in tourney

By Doug Feinberg  
AP Basketball Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. — Baylor, Louisville, Oregon and Mississippi State are the No. 1 seeds in the first NCAA Top 16 reveal.

The Lady Bears would be the top team in the Greensboro Region, according to the potential seedings revealed Monday night. The Cardinals would be the No. 1 seed in Chicago. Oregon would stay near home as the top team in Portland, and Mississippi State would have to travel to Albany to be the top seed there with a potential match-up against second-seeded UConn in the regional finals.

Other No. 2 seeds in the reveal are Notre Dame, Stanford and N.C. State.

Rhonda Lundin Bennett, chair of the Division I Women's Basketball Committee, said there were five or six teams in consideration for the top line of the poll.

"This is just a snapshot in time and there are about 1,000 games left to be played," Bennett said.

The committee moved a couple of the second-seeded teams around to adhere to their principle and procedures that are intended to make sure "each of the first four teams selected from a conference shall be placed in different regions if they

are seeded on the first four lines."

That policy came into effect prior to the 2014-15 season.

The three seeds are Oregon State, Marquette, Maryland and Iowa.

Miami, Iowa State, South Carolina and Gonzaga round out the potential top 16 teams, which would host the opening two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

Bennett said there were around 20 teams in the mix for the top four lines.

South Carolina is still

looking for a site to play games in the first two rounds. Its home court is being used for the men's NCAA Tournament that weekend. Its alternative site in Greenville, South Carolina, also isn't available. South Carolina is still working on finding a place to host. If the Gamecocks, who lead the country in attendance, can't find an alternate site, the No. 5 seed in the bracket would host.

"When a team can't play at home, the opportunity exists that if they choose to

submit a request to play at an alternate site they can," Bennett said. "South Carolina did that and we have approved a consideration site. Greenville wasn't available and we haven't gotten an additional bid through our process yet."

The NCAA will have one more reveal of the top 16 teams on March 4 before Selection Monday, which is on March 18. The NCAA Tournament begins that Friday.

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## Curry, Warriors rally past Jazz

By Michael Wagaman  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Golden State wasn't as crisp offensively as it usually is, and the two-time defending NBA champs certainly know they'll need to get better coming out of the All-Star break.

Some heady defense early and late, along with some timely perimeter scoring from Stephen Curry helped make up for it.

Curry made a pair of pivotal 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, Kevin Durant had 28 points and seven assists, and the Warriors beat the Jazz 115-108 on Tuesday night.

At 41-15, the Warriors have the second-best record in the NBA behind Milwaukee. The Warriors have won four straight and 16 of 17 but have been slowing down heading into the break.

The win over Utah was the third straight in which coach Steve Kerr's team has had to rally from behind.

"They were rolling offensively," Kerr said of the Jazz. "We turned up the volume defensively down the stretch. Steph got hot and we were able to push (ahead)."

Curry had 24 points on 8 of 19 shooting. The two-time MVP missed his first five shots beyond the arc and finished 5 of 14 on 3s.

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