

# Sports

## McCollum powers Blazers to win

■ Guard scores 35 points as Portland turns back rally from Cleveland Cavaliers

By Steve Herrick  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard made sure Portland didn't turn an easy win into a crushing loss.

McCollum scored 35 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, and Lillard hit two crucial 3-pointers down the stretch as the Trail Blazers hung on to defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 123-110 on Monday night.

The Blazers led 71-48 at halftime, but needed a 14-0 run late in the fourth quarter to finally put away a game that looked like a rout in the first half.

McCollum finished the night hitting 12 of 18 shots, including 7 of 8 3-pointers. Lillard scored eight of his 21 points in the final period.

McCollum, a native of Canton, Ohio, played in front of a large contingent of family and friends.

"I had about 60-100 people here," he said. "They spent a lot of money on tickets and drove in for the game, so I figured I had to give them

### Blazers get stuck in elevator

BOSTON (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers might want to use the stairs after the squad got stuck in an elevator.

They were headed to practice Tuesday at Emerson College in Boston when the elevator stopped between floors. Center Enes Kanter tweeted a video in which team members looked at their phones and talked about "survival mode" as one held a candy bar. They said it was hot in the elevator.

Center Meyers Leonard tweeted video of the tall basketball players climbing out of the elevator about 30 minutes later. No one was hurt.

The college apologized and in a statement said it hopes the team "takes it easy on the Boston Celtics" Wednesday.

something tonight."

"CJ carried us on the offensive end," Lillard said. "We tried to just keep that rolling because it seemed like he was making every shot. When a scorer gets in that rhythm, it's important not to cool him off."

Cleveland cut the lead to 88-84 going into the fourth and was behind 105-102 with 4:42 left, but Portland's backcourt duo took over from there.

Cleveland coach Larry Drew was asked about the

pair before the game. His words turned out to be hauntingly accurate for the Cavaliers.

"They can change a game," he said. "They can make big shots. Either guy can have not a big night, but a huge night. They're going to score. They're just that good."

Cedi Osman scored 27 points for the Cavaliers, who were attempting to win three straight for the first time this season. Kevin Love, playing his fifth game since returning from foot surgery, had 18

points and 12 rebounds in 28 minutes.

The Blazers, coming off road wins over playoff contenders Brooklyn and Philadelphia, seemed to be on their way to a comfortable win against the Cavaliers, who have the league's third-worst record.

Portland scored the game's first 14 points and continued to pour it on in the second quarter. Cleveland rallied in the third, and Matthew Dellavedova's 3-pointer with a second left cut the lead to 88-84.

"We were saying how it didn't feel like a double-digit loss," Love said. "It just got away from us a little bit there at the end."

Cleveland appeared to tie the game early in the fourth, but Larry Nance Jr.'s 3-pointer was waved off after the Blazers were charged with a common foul on a screen set by Dellavedova.

Seth Curry hit all five 3-point attempts and finished with 15 points for Portland, which is in fourth place in the Western Conference.

## Raptors rout slumping Celtics, 118-95

By Ian Harrison  
Associated Press

TORONTO — A lack of togetherness is turning into big trouble for the struggling Boston Celtics.

Pascal Siakam scored 25 points, Kawhi Leonard had 21 and the Toronto Raptors used a huge second quarter to rout Boston 118-95 on Tuesday night.

Marcus Morris scored 17 points, and Jayson Tatum and Terry Rozier each

had 11 as Boston lost for the fifth time in seven games. The Celtics are 0-3 since play resumed following the All-Star break.

"We have to be a lot more connected as a team," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "That's been the theme for a while."

Celtics guard Marcus Smart echoed his coach's assessment.

"Nobody is together," Smart said. "We've got to have everybody on the

same page doing the same things at the same time."

Still, Celtics guard Kyrie Irving wasn't on the same page when asked to respond to Smart's comments.

"That's Marcus' opinion," Irving said, declining to answer after being asked whether he agreed with his teammate.

Irving also had little to say about Stevens' comment that Boston is taking too many "shortcuts" on defense.

## Nuggets top Thunder in top West match up

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic is making his presence felt down the stretch, and that's the way the Denver Nuggets want it.

Jokic scored 36 points, including five free throws in the final moments, and the Nuggets fended off Oklahoma

City's late rally for a 121-112 victory Tuesday night in a matchup between two of the top three teams in the Western Conference standings.

"When the game's on the line, we're going to one guy: Nikola Jokic," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "He's

been able to score in the post against single coverage, double teams. We've won so many close games ... and a lot of those you can attribute to Nikola being effective and efficient in the post and score, make the right play or go to the foul line and make a free

throw."

Jokic added 10 assists and nine rebounds to finish just shy of his 13th triple-double this season for the Nuggets who won their fifth straight and ninth in a row at home. They improved to 3-0 against the Thunder this season.

## SCOREBOARD

### TELEVISION

All Times PST  
Wednesday, Feb. 27  
U.S. women's soccer vs. Japan, 4 p.m. (FS1)  
Portland at Boston, 4:30 p.m. (CSN)  
Tampa Bay at NY Rangers, 4:30 p.m. (NBCSN)  
Detroit at San Antonio, 5 p.m. (ESPN)  
Chicago at Anaheim, 7 p.m. (NBCSN)  
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m. (TNT)  
Thursday, Feb. 28  
Chicago/White Sox at Seattle, noon (ROOT)  
Minnesota at Indiana, 4 p.m. (TNT)  
Tampa Bay at Boston, 4:30 p.m. (NBCSN)  
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m. (TNT)  
Friday, March 1  
Milwaukee at Seattle, noon (ROOT)  
Washington at Boston, 5 p.m. (ESPN)  
Milwaukee at LA Lakers, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
Saturday, March 2  
Golden State at Philadelphia, 5:30 p.m. (ABC)  
Sunday, March 3  
Arizona at Seattle, noon (ROOT)  
Houston at Boston, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

### NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Toronto	45	17	.726	—
Philadelphia	39	22	.639	5½
Boston	37	24	.607	7½
Brooklyn	32	30	.516	13
New York	13	48	.213	31½
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Charlotte	28	32	.467	—
Orlando	28	34	.452	1
Miami	26	33	.441	1½
Washington	24	36	.400	4
Atlanta	20	41	.328	8½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Milwaukee	46	14	.767	—
Indiana	40	21	.656	6½
Detroit	29	30	.492	16½
Chicago	16	45	.262	30½
Cleveland	14	47	.230	32½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	35	25	.583	—
San Antonio	33	29	.532	3
New Orleans 27	35	.435	9	
Dallas	26	34	.433	9
Memphis	24	38	.387	12
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Denver	42	18	.700	—
Oklahoma City	38	22	.633	4
Portland	37	23	.617	5
Utah	33	26	.559	8½
Minnesota	29	31	.483	13
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Golden State	43	17	.717	—
LA Clippers	34	28	.548	10
Sacramento	31	29	.517	12
LA Lakers	29	31	.483	14
Phoenix	12	50	.194	32

**Monday's Games**  
Detroit 113, Indiana 108  
Golden State 121, Charlotte 110  
Portland 123, Cleveland 110  
Brooklyn 101, San Antonio 85  
Phoenix 124, Miami 121  
Houston 119, Atlanta 111  
Memphis 110, LA Lakers 105  
Milwaukee 117, Chicago 106  
Minnesota 112, Sacramento 105  
Philadelphia 111, New Orleans 110  
LA Clippers 121, Dallas 112

**Tuesday's Games**  
New York 108, Orlando 103  
Toronto 118, Boston 95  
Denver 121, Oklahoma City 112

**Today's Games**  
All Times PST  
Houston at Charlotte, 4 p.m.  
Golden State at Miami, 4:30 p.m.  
Minnesota at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.  
Washington at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Memphis, 5 p.m.  
Portland at Boston, 5 p.m.  
Detroit at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.  
Indiana at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.  
LA Clippers at Utah, 6 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 7 p.m.  
New Orleans at LA Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Golden State at Orlando, 4 p.m.  
Minnesota at Indiana, 4 p.m.  
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
Miami at Houston, 5 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.  
Utah at Denver, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
Charlotte at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.  
Portland at Toronto, 5 p.m.  
Washington at Boston, 5 p.m.  
New Orleans at Phoenix, 6 p.m.  
LA Clippers at Sacramento, 7 p.m.  
Milwaukee at LA Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Duke, without Zion, falls to Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Ty Outlaw hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 1:28 left and No. 20 Virginia Tech beat No. 3 Duke 77-72 on Tuesday night while Blue Devils star freshman Zion Williamson sat out his second straight game with a sprained right knee.

Kelly Blackshear Jr. had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Ahmed Hill scored 17 for Virginia Tech (22-6, 11-5 Atlantic Coast Conference), which beat Duke at Cassell Coliseum for the third straight time. The Blue Devils (24-4, 12-3) had been the only team in the country yet to lose on the road this season, but Duke hasn't won at Virginia Tech since Feb. 25, 2015.

RJ Barrett scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half, but it wasn't enough to keep the Blue Devils from dropping out of a first-place tie with No. 2 Virginia and No. 5 North Carolina in the ACC. Cam Reddish added 17 points as Duke dropped its second in three games, including an 88-72 loss to rival UNC when Williamson was injured last week.

### NO. 4 KENTUCKY 70, ARKANSAS 66

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Tyler Herro had career highs of five 3-pointers and 29 points, including two free throws with five seconds remaining, and Kentucky rallied from a 15-point deficit.

Out of sorts for 22 minutes, the Wildcats (24-4, 13-2 Southeastern Conference) quickly regrouped behind Herro, who finished 5 of 6 from behind the arc and 9 of 10 overall. His long-range baskets 43 seconds apart sparked an 18-3 run over 7:43.

Herro made all five attempts after halftime and all six shots from the foul line to top his previous high of 24 points against rival Louisville in December.

"The shots were just falling tonight," Herro said. Arkansas (14-14, 5-10) stayed within a couple of possessions over the final seven minutes but couldn't break through. Isaiah Joe had 19 points for the Razorbacks.

Kentucky's seventh straight series win over Arkansas also helped it maintain a share of the SEC lead.

Keldon Johnson added 13 points, and Nick Richards came off the bench to grab 15 rebounds for the Wildcats, who shot 50 percent from the field. The Wildcats made 12 of 22 after the break (55 percent) and converted 15 of 20 from the foul line.

### NO. 5 NORTH CAROLINA 93, SYRACUSE 85

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Coby White scored a career-high 34 points and North Carolina pulled away late to beat Syracuse.

Cameron Johnson added 16 points for the Tar Heels (23-5, 13-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 11 of 12 games and own their highest AP Top 25 ranking of the season.

Tyus Battle scored 23 of his 29 points after halftime for the Orange (18-10, 9-6), who shot 48 percent and made 13 of 23 3-pointers.

### NO. 13 LSU 66, TEXAS A&M 55

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Naz Reid bounced back from his least productive game this season by scoring 18 points and grabbing 11 rebounds, and LSU comfortably beat Texas A&M.

Freshman Javonte Smart turned in a second straight productive start in place of ailing point guard Tremont Waters, scoring 17 for the Tigers (23-5, 13-2 Southeastern Conference), who led by double digits most of the way en route to their 16th victory in 18 games.

Wendell Mitchell scored 14 and Christian Mekowulu had 11 for the Aggies (12-15, 5-10).

### INDIANA 75, NO. 19 WISCONSIN 73, 2OT

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Romeo Langford made the go-ahead layup with under a second to go in the second overtime to give Indiana the upset.

Langford, a freshman guard, had 22 points and seven rebounds. Justin Smith had 12 points and six rebounds, and Rob Phinisee and Alijani Durham scored 11 points each for the Hoosiers (14-14, 5-12 Big Ten), who ended a five-game skid.

Ethan Happ had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Khalil Iverson had 15 points, and D'Mitrik Trice scored 12 for the Badgers (19-9, 11-6), who had won their five previous games against Indiana.

### NO. 21 BUFFALO 77, AKRON 64

AMHERST, N.Y. (AP) — CJ Massinburg had 23 points and 10 rebounds to rally Buffalo for its 25th straight home win.

Nick Perkins scored 25 points, and the Bulls (25-3, 13-2 Mid-American Conference) outscored the Zips 14-2 over the final four minutes in a game that featured 12 lead changes. Buffalo has won six straight overall, and its home winning streak is the second longest in the nation behind No. 8 Houston, which has won 33 consecutive.

Tyler Cheese scored 20 points for Akron (15-13, 7-8), which dropped to 2-5 in its past six games.

### OHIO STATE 90, NO. 22 IOWA 70

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Freshman Justin Ahrens scored a career-high 29 points to lead Ohio State past Iowa.

Kaleb Wesson chipped in 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Buckeyes, Keyshawn Woods scored 13, Andre Wesson had 11 and Duane Washington Jr. scored 10.

Ohio State (18-10, 8-9 Big Ten), fighting to improve its NCAA Tournament chances, got its first win in five tries against ranked teams this season.

Joe Wieskamp had 17 points to lead Iowa (21-7, 10-7), and Tyler Cook added 12 points.

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