

Sports

Pelicans spoil Carmelo's debut with Trail Blazers

■ Damian Lillard misses the game with back spasms as Blazers' struggles continue

By Brett Martel
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Carmelo Anthony smiled easily in a hallway outside the Trail Blazers' locker room and asserted that he "felt great" after the first game of his 17th NBA season, even if his new team couldn't keep pace with Jrue Holiday, Brandon Ingram and a largely revamped Pelicans squad that is showing signs of figuring some things out.

"It felt great just to be back into the flow of the game, be back on the court, be back to where I think I belong," Anthony said. "As far as conditioning, though, I felt absolutely great out there. There was minor things, but it was more of the flow of things, and getting used to how the team plays and sets and getting used to the guys on the team."

Holiday had 22 points and 10 assists, Ingram added 21

points in his return from a four-game absence, and New Orleans beat Portland 115-104 on Tuesday night for its second straight victory and third in four games.

Anthony finished with 10 points while Portland leading scorer and four-time All-Star Damian Lillard missed his first game of the season with back spasms.

Starting at forward and playing across the street from where he led Syracuse to the 2003 NCAA championship over Kansas, Anthony scored the Blazers' first points of the game on a 3-pointer from 26 feet out. Anthony missed 10 of 14 shots, but also hadn't even participated in a full practice, having joined the team the day after its loss in Houston on Monday night.

"For having (only) a morning shootaround, I thought he was pretty good," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I

thought every shot he had, he was getting a good look at the basket."

Ingram looked spry in his return from right knee soreness, particularly on an authoritative, driving, one-handed dunk that got the crowd roaring in the opening quarter.

"I think trying to get to my spots and assert myself a little bit and getting other players involved, I think I did an OK job," Ingram said. "I felt pretty good today. I didn't have any restrictions."

C.J. McCollum led Portland with 22 points, while Hassan Whiteside added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

J.J. Redick hit 4 of 9 3-pointers and scored 14 points for New Orleans. Kenrich Williams, starting at forward, filled the stat sheet with hustle plays, grabbing 14 rebounds to go with three steals, three drawn charging

fouls and a blocked shot. He also scored eight points.

"He just makes winning plays," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "That's what he does — winning play after winning play."

New Orleans seized momentum in the third quarter, going up by 13 on a sequence that began when Nicolo Melli hit a 3 and then got the ball right back in a largely vacated Portland back court after Nickeil Alexander-Walker dove to swipe the ball away from McCollum. Melli went straight in for a dunk that made it 83-70.

UP NEXT

- Trail Blazers: Visit Milwaukee on Thursday in the third game of a six-game road trip that began last Saturday and ends Monday night.
- Pelicans: Visit Phoenix on Thursday night in the first of three straight road games.

BHS adds girls wrestling team

By Jayson Jacoby
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For the first time, Baker High School will have a separate girls wrestling team.

Nine girls turned out for practice Monday, and the Baker School District plans to hire an assistant coach this week to coordinate girls wrestling practices, said Buell Gonzales Jr., the district's athletic director.

"It's exciting," Gonzales said. "This is going to be really cool."

Brandon Young remains the head coach for the BHS wrestling program, encompassing both girls and boys teams, Gonzales said.

Young said he is excited about giving girls the opportunity to participate in a sport that has been such a positive part of his life, both as a competitor and a coach.

"I know what it's done for me, so why would I say that a girl shouldn't be able to wrestle and have that same experience?" Young said.

Baker High School has had one or two girls wrestle — against boys — in the past couple of years, but this year's team is the first to have a separate team in which girls compete against other girls in meets and tournaments.

"You want to meet the needs of the kids you have, and do everything you can to make it a positive experience," Gonzales said.

He said some tournaments, including regional and state tournaments, will have separate brackets for girls. If there are events without a separate girls bracket, Baker girls would potentially have the option to wrestle against boys if they choose to, Young said.

Gonzales said two of Baker's Greater Oregon League rivals, La Grande and Ontario, have girls on their wrestling teams.

Young said he expects more girls to turn out for wrestling at BHS in the future. Girls have been competing the past couple of years in the Baker Mat Club and at Baker Middle School, where Brianna Peppers has been the girls coach.

"We planted the seed," Young said.

LeBron sets triple-double record, Lakers win 5th straight

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — To LeBron James, triple-doubles are not a goal.

They are only a side effect of the consistent, brilliant all-around play he has been dishing out for 17 NBA seasons, with no slowdown in sight.

Triple-doubles also don't mean much to LeBron without wins

attached to them, so James was pleased when his latest statistical superlative occurred during yet another successful night for the surging Los Angeles Lakers.

James became the first player in NBA history to record a triple-double against every team in the league, and Anthony Davis scored 34 points during the Lakers' fifth straight victory, 112-107 over the

Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

James finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to post a triple-double against his 30th opponent for the NBA-leading Lakers, who have won 12 of 13 after a perfect four-game homestand. James was more surprised than thrilled by his latest statistical achievement, particularly while

a different statistic glared at him from the box score.

"Coach (Frank) Vogel came in here and said, 'Congratulations,' and I thought he was joking about my seven turnovers," James said. "I really don't know what to think about it. I just think it's a pretty cool stat to know, and I'm glad it happened in a win."

James has five triple-doubles in

the Lakers' last 10 games, getting four in victories. There's a reason for this spree: Although James has constantly filled the stat sheet since he joined the league in 2003, he is leading the NBA this season with 11.1 assists per game, nearly four more than his career average. He has at least 10 assists in six consecutive games, the longest streak of his career.

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