

Sports

Jazz holds off Blazers, 121-115

By Matthew Coles
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Joe Ingles was hot early and Donovan Mitchell had it going in the second half. But it took three big plays in the final three minutes by Rudy Gobert for the Utah Jazz to turn back the Portland Trail Blazers.

Mitchell scored 28 of his 35 points in the second half to power the Jazz to a 121-115 win over the Trail Blazers on Thursday night, but it wouldn't have been possible without a few Gobert gems that won't jump out of a box score.

"Those hustle plays by Rudy really sealed the game. You can say what you want about my scoring, or Joe, but at the end of the day it came down to Rudy making two big plays.

That's why he is who he is and that's why we rely on him," Mitchell said.

Clinging to a two-point lead, Gobert used all of his 7-foot-9 wingspan to dive after a ball that was passing over the baseline and flick it to Bojan Bogdanovic for a 3-pointer from the corner with 1:45 to play.

"That was as good a play, as impactful a play as anybody's made all year," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

Gobert, who had 16 points and 15 rebounds, forced Carmelo Anthony into an air ball with 22.4 seconds remaining and blocked Damon Lillard's driving shot with 5.2 seconds left to quell the Trail Blazers' furious fourth-quarter rally.

"Those two guys (Lillard and McCollum) — when they

get going, they're not easy to stop. We knew we were going to need those key stops to win the game," Gobert said.

Lillard scored 34 points, including a pair of 30-foot contested 3-pointers in the final minutes, and CJ McCollum tallied 17 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter for the Blazers (14-18), who have dropped two straight after winning four in a row.

McCollum, who struggled with his accuracy all night, finally made a jumper to cap a 10-0 Portland spurt to draw within 100-93 with 7:23 to play.

"We came out of the huddle saying, 'No worries ... keep competing and try and put pressure on them and steal the game.' I thought we did that. We just came up short,"

Lillard said.

Gobert made a basket and a free throw, but McCollum scored five more points in a 7-0 run to trim the lead to 103-102. But Mitchell seemed to have an answer for every improbable Blazer shot down the stretch.

The Jazz (19-12), who have won six of the last seven games, took their largest lead at 86-63 after Gobert's push shot in the lane. Lillard scored eight straight points but Mitchell wouldn't let Lillard go on one of his epic runs without a response.

"(Mitchell) was poised. I think he made the right play. Didn't settle for jump shots. He attacked the rim, drew some fouls, and won us the game on that end," Gobert said.

Injury-riddled Seahawks turn to Lynch

ByTim Booth
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks have reunited with Marshawn Lynch.

The bruising, 33-year-old running back known as "Beast Mode" signed a contract with the Seahawks on Monday night, his agent confirmed on Twitter.

Seattle is in desperate need of running backs after Chris Carson (hip) and C.J. Prosise (arm) both suffered season-ending injuries in Sunday's 27-13 loss to Arizona. Coach Pete Carroll said earlier Monday on his radio show that Lynch was flying to Seattle to undergo a physical.

Carroll said reports are

that Lynch is in good shape.

Lynch has not played in more than a year. His last game was Week 6 of last season with the Oakland Raiders before a core injury ended his season.

The best stretch of Lynch's career came during his six seasons in Seattle. He arrived via trade from Buffalo early in the 2010 season and became the face of a franchise filled with stars during his time. Sometimes difficult to deal with, but almost always productive on the field, Lynch rushed for 6,347 yards and 57 touchdowns in the regular season during his time in Seattle.

Lynch will always be remembered for his touch-

down run in the 2010 playoffs against New Orleans that helped establish the "Beast Mode" persona. It was the top of the long list of highlights with the Seahawks.

"My relationship with him, it was really fun for me for the most part," Carroll said. "There were some hard times with it because he challenged the system so much. He challenged so many different aspects — the things with the media and all those kinds of things — he was hard on the regular routine of this job in some regards, but he always played and he'd always bring it and I loved the spirit that he'd bring and the toughness he brought. He's a very charismatic person and player

and he affected a lot of people and he affected this program in a big way."

Ultimately, Seattle needs production and that will be the big question with a 33-year-old running back.

Lynch averaged 4.2 yards per carry and 62.7 yards per game before getting injured last season. The Seahawks would take that kind of production to help make up for the loss of Carson, who finished the year with a career-high 1,230 yards and 4.4 yards per attempt.

Lynch may not be the only reunion for Seattle. Former running back Robert Turbin posted a picture from the Seahawks locker room on social media late Monday. There was no confirmation from the team that Turbin has signed, but he had been in for a workout with the team last week.

Turbin played for Seattle from 2012-14 and was Lynch's backup.

EOU announces baseball coach

By Ronald Bond
The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University has named the head coach who will lead its reinstated baseball program.

Mike McNerney, who recently completed his eighth season as pitching coach at Western Oregon University, and also is the Wolves' associate head coach, will head up the Mountaineers' baseball program.

The offer is contingent on the completion of a background check and signing of an offer letter.

McNerney has been part of a program that has been a mainstay at the top of the NCAA Division II Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Western has a conference record of 153-58 and won five GNAC titles the past eight years, and at least five players in that span have been selected in the MLB Draft, according to the WOU website.



McNerney

McNerney also coached at Missouri Western State University, Saint Joseph, Missouri, and Churchill High School in Eugene.

EOU will be McNerney's first head-coaching post.

McNerney beat out a field of finalists that included Jim Horner, an assistant coach at Washington State University and a former minor league baseball player in the Seattle Mariners system.

Horner had an impressive resume. According to the Cougars' website, he spent nine seasons playing in the Mariners' farm system — reaching as high as Triple-A Tacoma — and has had several coaching stints since ending his playing career in 2004.

He has more than seven years of managerial experience between the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and High Desert Mavericks — both Single-A teams in the Mariners farm system — and Seattle's Double-A affiliate Jackson Generals. He also served as a hitting coach for Texas Tech.

Horner was named California League Manager of the year in 2009 and has been on the WSU staff the past four years. At least a dozen players he coached have been drafted.

Blue Mountain Community College head coach Brad Baker and Whitman College assistant coach Tommy Richards were the other two finalists.

INDEPENDENCE BOWL

La. Tech blanks Miami

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — J'Mar Smith threw a touchdown pass and had a late scoring run to help Louisiana Tech beat Miami 14-0 on Thursday night in the only shutout in the Independence Bowl's 44-game history.

Louisiana Tech (10-3) hit double-digit victories for the first time since 1984 and ran its postseason winning streak to six. Miami (6-7) completed its second losing season in 12 years.

Smith connected with Israel Tucker on a 26-yard touchdown strike on a screen pass in the second quarter, capping a 13-play, 91-yard drive.

SCOREBOARD

NFL										Dutch Bros Christmas Classic				
AMERICAN CONFERENCE										Cascade Christian 61, Butte Falls/Crater Lake				
East Division										Charter 41				
	W	L	T	Pct						Phoenix 62, Westside Christian 57				
y-New England	12	3	0	.800						Santiam Christian 62, St. Mary's 50				
x-Buffalo	10	5	0	.667						Les Schwab Invitational				
N.Y. Jets	6	9	0	.400						First Round				
Miami	4	11	0	.267						Bishop Gorman, Nev. 63, Lake Oswego 52				
South										Central Catholic 78, Grant 34				
	W	L	T	Pct						Churchill 55, Barlow 52				
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667						Crater 71, Clackamas 54				
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533						Eastside Catholic, Wash. 78, Wilsonville 69				
Indianapolis	7	8	0	.467						Jefferson PDX 82, Battle Ground, Wash. 54				
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333						Mater Dei-Santa Ana, Calif. 77, Jesuit 52				
North										Norcross, Ga. 62, West Linn 58				
	W	L	T	Pct						Medford Abby's Tournament				
y-Baltimore	13	2	0	.867						Forest Grove 55, North Eugene 35				
Pittsburgh	8	7	0	.533						McNary 75, Roseburg 48				
Cleveland	6	9	0	.400						North Medford 73, Ashland 48				
Cincinnati	1	14	0	.067						South Medford 77, Red Bluff, Calif. 57				
West										Rail City Christmas Classic				
	W	L	T	Pct						Toledo 72, Lassen, Calif. 49				
y-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733						Vince Dulich Christmas Tournament				
Oakland	7	8	0	.467						Astoria 51, Elma, Wash. 34				
Denver	6	9	0	.400						Marshfield 67, Mark Morris, Wash. 66				
L.A. Chargers	5	10	0	.333						Redmond 63, Rainier 39				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										Tillamook 54, Centennial 52				
East										GIRLS				
	W	L	T	Pct						Joseph 46, Dufur 29				
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533						Century/Hillsboro Tournament				
Dallas	7	8	0	.467						Hillsboro 48, Forest Grove 41				
N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267						Lebanon 40, Century 25				
Washington	3	12	0	.200						Newberg 70, Reynolds 22				
South										SoCal Prep Classic				
	W	L	T	Pct						Soldotna, Alaska 59, Gladstone 34				
y-New Orleans	12	3	0	.800						Southern Oregon Subant Christmas Classic				
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467						Ashland 51, St. Mary's 29				
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400						Crater 64, Klamath 36				
Carolina	5	10	0	.333						Eagle Point 46, Phoenix 42				
North										Vince Dulich Memorial Tournament				
	W	L	T	Pct						Centennial 31, Rainier 21				
y-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800						Heritage, Wash. 47, Marshfield 26				
x-Minnesota	10	5	0	.667						Mazama 36, Redmond 16				
Chicago	7	8	0	.467										
Detroit	3	11	1	.233										
West														
	W	L	T	Pct										
x-San Francisco	12	3	0	.800										
x-Seattle	11	4	0	.733										
L.A. Rams	8	7	0	.533										
Arizona	5	9	1	.367										
x-clinched playoff spot														
y-clinched division														
Sunday's Games														
AllTimes PST														
Chicago at Minnesota, 10 a.m.										Tuesday, Dec. 24				
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 10 a.m.										Hawaii Bowl				
Miami at New England, 10 a.m.										Hawaii 38, BYU 34				
Green Bay at Detroit, 10 a.m.										Thursday, Dec. 26				
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 10 a.m.										Independence Bowl				
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 10 a.m.										Louisiana Tech 14, Miami 0				
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 10 a.m.										Quick Lane Bowl				
New Orleans at Carolina, 10 a.m.										Pittsburgh 34, Eastern Michigan 30				
Oakland at Denver, 1:25 p.m.										Friday, Dec. 27				
Tennessee at Houston, 1:25 p.m.										Military Bowl				
Washington at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.										AllTimes PST				
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1:25 p.m.										North Carolina (6-6) vs. Temple (8-4), 9 a.m. (ESPN)				
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1:25 p.m.										Pinstripe Bowl				
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1:25 p.m.										Wake Forest (8-4) vs. Michigan State (6-6), 12:20 p.m. (ESPN)				
Arizona at L.A. Rams, 1:25 p.m.										Texas Bowl				
San Francisco at Seattle, 5:20 p.m.										Oklahoma State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 3:45 p.m. (ESPN)				
END REGULAR SEASON										Holiday Bowl				
NBA										Iowa (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4), 5 p.m. (FS1)				
EASTERN CONFERENCE										Cheez-It Bowl				
East Division										Air Force (10-2) vs. Washington State (6-6), 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)				
	W	L	Pct.	GB						Saturday, Dec. 28				
Boston	21	7	.750	—						Camping World Bowl				
Philadelphia	23	10	.697	½						Notre Dame (10-2) vs. Iowa State (7-5), 9 a.m. (ABC)				
Toronto	21	10	.677	1½						Cotton Bowl Classic				
Brooklyn	16	14	.533	6						Penn State (10-2) vs. Memphis (12-1), 9 a.m. (ESPN)				
New York	8	24	.250	15						Peach Bowl				
Southwest Division										CFP Semifinal, LSU (13-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-1), 1 p.m. (ESPN)				
	W	L	Pct	GB						Fiesta Bowl				
										CFP Semifinal, Ohio State (13-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)				