

Sports

Lillard leads Blazers to win in return from COVID cancellations

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard had 39 points, including six 3-pointers, and the rested Portland Trail Blazers jumped out early against the New York Knicks on the way to a 116-113 victory on Sunday night.

Anfernee Simons added 16 points off the bench for the Blazers, who led by as many as 25 points before seeing their advantage slip away in the final quarter.

Rookie Immanuel Quickley scored 31 points off the bench and Julius Randle added 25 for the Knicks.

Quickley's 3 pointer got the Knicks within 96-91 with 7:13 left. But Robert Covington's layup and Lillard's 3-pointer put Portland up 101-91.

Randle's layup narrowed it to 106-98 with 2:39 to go. Quickley hit three free throws to make it 106-102 with 1:33 left.

After Mitchell Robinson's dunk with 19 seconds left, former Knick Carmelo Anthony made a pair of free throws to extend Portland's lead to 112-106.

Quickley dished to Robinson for an alley-oop dunk to narrow New York's deficit to 114-111 with 10 seconds left, but in the end, the Knicks couldn't catch up.

"If you watch the games around the league, it happens every night," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said about watching the lead dwindle. "There are teams every night that are up 20 points, 15 points and the lead evaporates in some way. As a coach you don't want it to happen, obviously, but the biggest thing is managing it when it does happen."

The Blazers (9-6) were still adjusting to the loss of guard CJ McCollum with a hairline fracture in his left foot. Rodney Hood started in McCollum's place for the second game. Portland was also without big man Jusuf



Abbie Parr/Getty Images-TNS

Immanuel Quickley (5) of the New York Knicks drives against Anfernee Simons (1) of the Portland Trail Blazers in the second quarter on Sunday, Jan. 24, in Portland.

"It was the kind of game we needed to play, especially with CJ and Nurk being out."

— **Damian Lillard, Portland Trail Blazers guard**

Nurkic because of a right wrist fracture.

Despite being short-handed, the Blazers were well-rested after a pair of scheduled games last week against Memphis were postponed because of coronavirus protocol and contact tracing among the Grizzlies.

"It was the kind of game we needed to play, especially with CJ and Nurk being out," Lillard said. "That second group, they came out and they were sharp, they were making shots, the ball was moving. We were active in our zone. It was the way we needed to play."

Portland's last game was a 125-104 loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Monday, Jan. 18.

The Knicks (8-10) were without Reggie Bullock because of a sore neck. Frank Ntilikina, who has been out since Dec. 29 because of a sprained right knee, was

available but did not play. Austin Rivers returned after missing two games with a sore right Achilles.

Lillard was hot at the start, scoring 10 points as the Blazers built an early 19-11 lead. Portland was up 37-24 after the opening quarter.

Portland led by as many as 22 points in the first half, going into the break with a 70-50 advantage. Lillard led all scorers with 18 points and was 3 for 3 from 3-point range — passing Chauncy Billups for 16th on the all-time list for made 3s.

The Knicks rallied in the third quarter, pulling within 82-69 on RJ Barrett's layup. They outscored Portland 27-19 and went into the final period trailing 89-77.

Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said Lillard was a challenge.

"He's seen just about every type of defense and he doesn't stop moving. If you get it out of his hands he'll fly back to it," Thibodeau said. "He's a terrific player."

TIP INS

- Knicks: It was the third of a four-game trip. ... The Knicks went into the game with the league's second-best

defensive rating. ... New York was coming off a 103-94 loss at Sacramento on Friday. ... Randle fouled out with 16.6 seconds left.

- Trail Blazers: Lillard was 11-for-11 from the free throw line. He has broken his own franchise record (64) for consecutive free throws made. He now has 66.

DADDY DAME

Lillard announced on Instagram that he and his fiancée welcomed twins on Thursday. He wrote "Just call me Daddy Dame from now on." The couple already has a toddler, Damian Jr.

"Obviously I've had Dame Jr. almost three years now, and I think, well I don't think, I know that the thing I enjoy the most is being his dad and going home to him every night and being around him every day. That's something that I think has allowed me to be a better player, because I don't take wins and losses home."

UP NEXT

- The Knicks visit the Utah Jazz today.
- The Trail Blazers hosted the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday.

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers top shorthanded Ducks, 75-64

■ Oregon was without its top scorer and rebounder due to COVID-19

EUGENE (AP) — Ethan Thompson scored 19 points and Warith Alatishe had 14 points and 16 rebounds as Oregon State beat No. 21 Oregon 75-64 on Saturday night.

Jarod Lucas added 13 points and the Beavers (8-5, 4-3 Pac-12) had a 42-23 rebounding edge in their third straight victory.

Thompson, a senior guard, joined Gary Payton as the only players in school history with at least 1,400 points and 400 assists. He was 3 for 11 from the field, but made 12 of 14 free throws and scored 14 points in the second half.

"They were pressing a lot so it freed up some looks if I was able to get down the court," Thompson said. "I might have been forcing too much early, but in the second half I let the game come to me. Guys were making plays for me when I was open."

Eugene Omoruyi had 15 points and nine rebounds for Oregon (9-3, 4-2), playing without four projected starters. Freshman guard Jalen Terry scored 13 points, and Eric Williams Jr. added 11.

"We got killed on the boards, that was by far the biggest factor," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "Our physicality on the boards was just awful. We had a chance from the free throw line to stay close and we went 14 for 23 and they went 22 for 24."

The Beavers broke a 34-all tie early in the second half with eight straight points and never trailed the rest of the way.

"We got key stops and made stops, which is something we didn't do early in the season," Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. "We are certainly making progress."

Oregon, which had three games postponed last week due to COVID-19 issues in the program, played without leading scorer Chris Duarte and top rebounder LJ Figueroa, who both tested positive. Oregon also is without starting guard Will Richardson, who has yet to play due to a thumb injury, and center N'Faly Dante, who is out for the year with a knee injury.

"They were missing two big pieces so we know it is going to be a different team the next time we face them," Tinkle said. "We could have laid an egg thinking this game was going to be an easier game, but I am happy with our guys for staying focused and humble."

BIG PICTURE

- Oregon State: After losing 98-64 at home to Arizona last week, the Beavers have rebounded with three straight wins to move above .500 in conference play. Oregon State sits in seventh place in the Pac-12, but just one game out of fourth. "We have come a long way these past three games," Thompson said. "From the start of the season where we were losing close games or getting up in games and not being able to finish out, this team has matured and come a long way."

- Oregon: The Ducks had just eight scholarship players available. They hope to get Duarte and Figueroa back when they go on a three-game trip to Los Angeles later this week.

OREGON STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers fall to Cougars in 2 OT

Steve Gress
Albany Democrat-Herald

CORVALLIS — The difference between rushing to teammates and erupting in celebration or walking off the court with the pain and agony of a loss came down to a play here or there on Sunday afternoon.

When the final buzzer sounded in a slugfest that needed two extra periods to determine a winner, it was Washington State's players that let out shrieks of jubilation while Oregon State players slowly made their way to the bench, the anguish of giving it their all and coming up short evident on their faces.

Aleah Goodman had a career performance but it was not quite enough to push the Beavers over the top inside Gill Coliseum.

With 2.3 seconds left, the Beavers turned to their star senior guard to make one more play.

Her shot was not to be and the Beavers dropped a difficult 77-75 Pac-12 decision to the Cougars.

Washington State's Cherilyn Molina was the key in the two overtime periods, hitting the tying 3-pointer late in the first and then going 5 for 6 from the free-throw line in the second overtime. Still, the Beavers were in position to win at the end of the first overtime, and tie at the end of the second. Both times Goodman had the ball in her hands.

OREGON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Ducks roll past Huskies

EUGENE (AP) — Sedona Prince scored 16 points and blocked five shots, Lydia Giomi added a double-double off the bench and No. 13 Oregon defeated Washington 69-52 on Sunday, Jan. 24.

Giomi had 11 points and 10 rebounds and fellow reserve Sydney Parrish added 12 points for the short-handed Ducks (11-3, 9-3 Pac-12 Conference), who were without starters Nyara Sabally and Erin Boley, who had made 84 consecutive starts.

Angela Dugalic scored 12 points on 5-of-7 shooting with eight rebounds in her first career start. Te-Hina Paopao scored 10 with six assists and three steals.

Haley Van Dyke scored 13 to lead the Huskies (4-5, 1-5). UW has lost four straight, the first one to the Ducks 73-49 in Seattle on Dec. 19. Since then they have had six games postponed, including the last five. Tameiya Sadler and Darcy Rees both scored 10.

Parrish had a pair of 3-pointers and Prince scored twice in a first-quarter 12-0 run to get the Ducks started. They got the lead to 26-12 on a Giomi basket in the middle of the second quarter before the Huskies had an 11-2 run. It was 32-23 at the half.

Oregon scored the first four points of the third quarter to put the lead in double figures for good, stretching it as high as 20 and to 22 midway through the fourth quarter.

The usually high-powered Ducks continued to win with defense, holding their 10th opponent to fewer than 60 points.

Oregon goes to Utah on Friday.

The Huskies have a makeup game scheduled with Oregon State today.



Dana Sparks/The Eugene Register-Guard-TNS

Oregon's Sydney Parrish (33) grapples with a University of Washington player for control of the ball at Matthew Knight Arena on Sunday, Jan. 24.

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