

Sports

Blazers squander leads early and late, lose to Rockets

■ Portland led by 20 points in the first quarter, and by two points in the fourth

By Kristie Rieken
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Victor Oladipo scored 25 points and the Houston Rockets shook off a terrible first quarter and held on late to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 104-101 on Thursday night.

The Rockets were down by 20 points in the first quarter before using a big second to take the lead and hold on down the stretch for their fourth straight victory.

“The guys have grit and they’re determined,” coach Stephen Silas said. “The adversity part is something that we’ve been talking a lot about. I think earlier in the season adversity would hit and we would succumb to that adversity. But tonight ... we put forth the right energy to overcome it.”

A driving layup by Oladipo extended the lead to 101-98 with 26.2 seconds to go and Gary Trent Jr. missed a layup on the other end. Christian Wood made one of two free throws about 10 seconds later, before Anfernee Simons

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— **Portland coach Terry Stotts**

cut the lead to one with a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds remaining.

Eric Gordon made two free throws with 2.1 seconds to go and Simons missed a shot at the buzzer to give Houston the win.

Wood finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds in his return after missing three games with a sprained right ankle. John Wall had 20.

Wall said things are much better in Houston now that the drama surrounding James Harden’s desire to be traded is over. Harden was traded to Brooklyn on Jan. 13.

“It was kind of hard to play through that and find a chemistry,” Wall said. “And once we made the trades happen and we got the team that we wanted and the guys that wanted to be here and once

we all committed to what we wanted to do, we were going to be a good team. Everybody has something to prove.”

Damian Lillard had 30 points and nine assists for Portland, and Trent added 23 points and tied a career high by making seven 3-pointers.

“We couldn’t close it out,” Trent said.

Portland stayed in it late thanks to Trent making four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

“I thought it was a good effort by everybody,” coach Terry Stotts said. “It was a great start. It was a great finish and we were right there, but we came up short.”

The Trail Blazers scored the first 11 points of the fourth quarter, capped by three straight 3-pointers by Trent, to go on top 88-86 with 10 minutes remaining.

The Rockets got going after that, scoring the next six points, with a 3 from Oladipo, to make it 92-88.

A 3-pointer by Wall pushed Houston’s lead to four with about five minutes left. Trent

made a 3-pointer to start a 5-0 run that gave Portland a 96-95 lead a minute later.

The Trail Blazers had a one-point lead before a 4-0 spurt by the Rockets gave Houston a 99-96 lead with less than two minutes to go. Lillard added a basket for Portland before missing a long 3-point attempt a few seconds later.

TIP-INS

- Trail Blazers: Carmelo Anthony had just six points after scoring a season-high 22 points in the last game. ... Enes Kanter had 13 points and 13 rebounds. ... Simons had 14 points and eight rebounds.
- Rockets: Wood had one block to give him 99 in his career. ... Danuel House had 11 points off the bench.

UP NEXT

- Trail Blazers: Continue a seven-game trip today at Chicago.
- Rockets: Begin a four-game trip tonight at New Orleans.

OREGON STATE MEN’S BASKETBALL

Trojans pull away from Beavers to avenge earlier loss

By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Evan Mobley had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Southern California pulled away over the final 10 minutes to beat Oregon State 75-62 on Thursday for its eighth win in nine games.

Mobley had five dunks on his way to the freshman’s seventh double-double of the season.

Isaiah White and Noah Baumann added 11 points each and Ethan Anderson had 10 points for the Trojans (13-3, 7-2 Pac-12). They avenged a two-point loss to the Beavers on Jan. 19 that snapped USC’s six-game winning streak.

“We didn’t play a perfect game, but we grinded out a home win,” USC coach Andy Enfield said. “They played a physical and energetic basketball game for 40 minutes.”

Ethan Thompson had 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and Jarod Lucas added 18 points for the Beavers (8-6, 4-4).

“We started to score at a better clip to start the second half, and then I thought we stopped making plays for each other,” Beavers coach Wayne Tinkle said in a post-game radio interview.

The teams traded baskets early in the second half after neither led by more than five points in the first 20 minutes.

It wasn’t until the Trojans put together their biggest spurt of the game that they got any breathing room. They outscored the Beavers 18-6 to take a 65-49 lead, their largest of the game. Chevez Goodwin scored six points during the spurt. He finished with 10 rebounds, helping the Trojans dominate the boards, 48-30.

“Our shooting in the first half wasn’t the best. In the second, we were able to get our rhythm and up our pace,” Anderson said. “We’re hoping to put together a complete game here soon.”

Baumann and Goodwin’s efforts led USC’s reserves, who outscored the Beavers’ bench 31-10.

“We’ve been telling ourselves we have to give these guys a lift somehow, some way,” Baumann said.

Oregon State cut its deficit to 65-58 on three consecutive 3-pointers by Thompson, Lucas and Julien Franklin. But that proved to be the Beavers’ last big run as they never got closer than seven points in the closing minutes.

Ducks hire defensive coordinator

EUGENE (AP) — Former California associate head coach Tim DeRuyter has been named Oregon’s defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach.

DeRuyter replaces Andy Avalos, who left the Ducks to become head coach at Boise State.

DeRuyter has been on Cal’s staff since 2017, first as de-

fensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach before serving as co-defensive coordinator and associate head coach last year.

Before that, DeRuyter was head coach at Fresno State from 2012 to 2016. He also had defensive coordinator stints at Texas A&M, Air Force, Nevada, Ohio and Navy over his lengthy career.

“We are excited to add a coach of the caliber and experience as Coach DeRuyter to lead our defense,” Oregon head coach Mario Cristobal said in a statement Thursday. “He is a proven difference maker with a track record for developing players to their full potential, and he has accelerated significant improvement in all of his stops as a

defensive coordinator.”

Oregon went 4-3 (3-2 Pac-12) last season. The Ducks defeated USC 31-24 in the Pac-12 championship game before losing to Iowa State 34-17 in the Fiesta Bowl.

PAC-12 MEN’S BASKETBALL

Sun Devils snap losing streak

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Remy Martin scored 19 points and Arizona State did just enough to beat California 72-68 on Thursday night to end a COVID-extended six-game losing streak that dated back to Dec. 13.

Jalen Graham added 12 points and Josh Christopher 11 for the Sun Devils (5-8, 2-5 Pac-12 Conference), whose other conference win came Dec. 3 at Cal. ASU has had five league games postponed and a nonconference game cancelled.

Matt Bradley, in just his second game back after a five-game layoff for a sprained ankle, scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Golden Bears (7-11, 2-9), who have

lost three straight. Andre Kelly added 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Martin sandwiched a pair of layups around a Marcus Bagley basket in a 6-0 surge that finally put ASU up for good, 60-56 with 7:02 to play. Christopher, who made ASU’s only 3-pointers with three in the second half, made it 65-59 with 4:19 left.

Bradley scored 11 of Cal’s last nine points, keeping the game close as ASU missed three free throws in the last 1:40, including the front end of a 1-and-1.

The Sun Devils shot 50% (28 of 56) but were only 3 of 14 from 3-point range and 13 of 20 from the foul line.

Stanford rallies to upset Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Jaiden Delaire tied his career high with 21 points, 14 in the second half, as Stanford rallied late to defeat Arizona 73-64 on Thursday night.

The win marked Stanford’s first win at the McKale Center — and first sweep of Arizona — since 2008. The Wildcats are now 115-15 at McKale.

Oscar da Silva added 17 points, Michael O’Connell a

career-high 14 and Spencer Jones 10 for Stanford (10-5, 6-3 Pacific-12 Conference). Arizona (12-4, 6-4) saw a three-game win streak come to an end and lost for the third time at home this season.

Delaire, Jones and da Saliva combined to score 19 points in Stanford’s 20-8 late-game surge as the Cardinal broke away from Arizona.

Delaire made his last four shots from the field and

added a pair of free throws with 45 seconds left to keep Stanford’s lead at seven points.

James Akinjo scored 17 with six assists to pace the Wildcats. Terrell Brown Jr. added 13 points, Dalen Terry and Benedict Mathurin 10 apiece.

Stanford outscored Arizona 34-14 on points in the paint in a game that was statistically nearly even otherwise.

No. 1 Gonzaga wins 20th straight

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The No. 1 Gonzaga Bulldogs looked like mere mortals for the first eight minutes before they started showing their swagger.

Drew Timme wishes they’d start doing that from the opening tipoff.

Timme scored 21 points and Corey Kispert had 19 for No. 1 Gonzaga, which routed San Diego 90-62 Thursday night for its 20th straight victory dating to last season.

Jalen Suggs added 17 for Gonzaga (16-0,

7-0 West Coast), which beat San Diego for the 13th straight time.

“We’ve just got to do a better job internally. There’s nothing that any team does to us that we can’t handle,” Timme said. “Coming into the environment, especially like this, like every environment, there’s no energy, no fans, you’ve got to create it on your own. We’ve got to do a better job of coming out ready from the jump.”

After a slow start, the Zags used a 15-0 run in the first half to take control and then ran away in the second half.

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