

Sports

Undermanned Blazers win

By Dan Gelston
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Without Damian Lillard or CJ McCollum, Portland's "other guys" stepped in for the stars and pulled off the upset in Philly.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 24 points and Enes Kanter had 17 points and 18 rebounds to lead the undermanned Trail Blazers to a 121-105 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night, Feb. 4.

Carmelo Anthony had 22 points and a Trail Blazers team with four starters missing led by as many as 29 points against the top team in the East.

"Dame is our best player, our superstar," Kanter said. "But on both ends of the floor, the other guys did an amazing job today."

Joel Embiid scored 37 points for the Sixers. Tobias Harris added 12 points and 11 boards.



Tim Nwachukwu/Getty Images-TNS

The Portland Trail Blazers' Gary Trent Jr. (2) defends against the Philadelphia 76ers' Shake Milton (18) during the first quarter on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Embiid puffed-up his All-Star game credentials in a game that otherwise lacked star power. Sixers guard Ben Simmons sat out with tightness in his left calf. Portland played without Lillard (abdominal strain) and Derrick Jones Jr. (left foot sprain). Throw in four players already out with injuries — including Jusuf Nurkic (wrist) and McCollum (left foot) — and the Trail Blazers were down to nine players.

"It does change the chemistry of the game," coach Terry Stotts said. "We've lost games against teams that were shorthanded."

Portland got one this time around. CJ Elleby scored 15

points for the Trail Blazers.

"It was just a different energy with the team," Elleby said. "It was a celebration tonight."

Sixers President Daryl Morey replied, "I am not fooled" hours before the game to a tweet that noted all of Portland's injuries. He had reason for concern.

With Portland trying to keep Embiid in check, Trent hit two 3s and Portland outscored the 76ers 40-19 in the third.

Portland entered 26th in the NBA in team defense, allowing 117.1 points per game. McCollum tweeted, "We might move up to 22nd in the league in Defense after this outstanding performance!"

Embiid scored 31 points in the first half (on 11-of-17 shooting; 9 of 9 from the line) and might have topped 40 had he not left the game for about four minutes when he tweaked his right knee.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers roll past Washington, 91-71

CORVALLIS (AP) — Jarod Lucas hit five 3-pointers and scored 19 points, Warith Alatishe had a double-double and Oregon State never trailed en route to a 91-71 win over Washington on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Alatishe had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Beavers (9-7, 5-5 Pac-12 Conference). Zach Reichle scored 17 points and a career-high eight assists and Ethan Thompson 16 points and seven assists as Oregon State had 25 assists on 32 baskets.

Roman Silva added 14 points and 6-of-7 shooting as the team went 32 of 65 for its highest-scoring game against a D-I opponent this season.

Marcus Tsohonis led the Huskies (3-13, 2-9) with 22 points off the bench. Erik Stevenson added 14 points and Jamal Bey 13.

Lucas opened the game with a 3-pointer and Thompson had a four-point play on the next possession and the Beavers were off. A basket at the 13:26 by Alatishe made it 21-6.

Washington scored 11 straight, the first nine on 3-pointers, two by Tsohonis, to pull the Huskies within four but late in the half Reichle made five free throws and a Lucas 3-pointer capped a 10-0 run to recapture the 15-point advantage.

It was 47-35 at the break and Washington never challenged in the second half. UW had six free throws but missed its first five shots and trailed 65-41 after a Reichle 3 barely five minutes in.

The Huskies made 20 of 22 free throws but were just 5 of 20 behind the arc against the league's best 3-point defense. Washington shot 45% on 23 of 51 shooting up but had 14 fewer shots. The Beavers turned 14 turnovers into 20 points.

Ducks fall to Cougars in return from COVID-19 pause

Chris Hansen
The Register-Guard

EUGENE — After nearly a four-week stretch of COVID-19-related pauses and COVID-19-related losses, Oregon finally looked like it caught a break on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Shortly before tip-off against Washington State, the Ducks announced point guard Will Richardson's return for the first time this season.

The excitement of getting their floor general back was short lived as Oregon, playing for just the second time since Jan. 9 and first time since Jan. 23, lost to Washington State, 74-71, in a Pac-12 men's basketball game at Matthew Knight Arena.

The final score might not have been the worst outcome of the night for the Ducks.

Just minutes into the second half, guard Chris Duarte rolled his right ankle and had to be carried off the court. He was immediately taken back to the locker room and didn't return.

There was no update on his



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard-TNS

Oregon's Franck Kepnang, center, battles for a loose ball against Washington State on Thursday, Feb. 4.

condition after the game.

The senior is Oregon's leading scorer (18.4 points per game) and was leading the Pac-12 at the start of the game in 3-pointers (2.8) and steals (2.5) per game.

He had 11 points on 5-of-8 shooting and four rebounds when he left the game with 18:09 to play.

Eugene Omoruyi finished with 21 points and seven rebounds for the Ducks (9-4, 4-3 Pac-12), who lost back-to-back

his left (shooting) hand during practice right before the Ducks' opener against Missouri on Dec. 2.

He had surgery soon after and was last seen at Matthew Knight Arena on Jan. 2 when Oregon beat Stanford.

Altman said on Wednesday that when the team returned from its latest COVID-19 pause on Tuesday, Richardson lightly participated in practice but hadn't been cleared yet to play. That changed a day later.

He missed his first four shots of the game and didn't score until converting a pair of

free throws with 1:11 to play in the first half.

He finished with 10 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Richardson wasn't the only player back in the starting lineup. Duarte and Figueroa hadn't played since Jan. 9 against Utah. They missed the Oregon State game on Jan. 23 due to COVID protocols.

Oregon was still without starting forward Eric Williams Jr., who was not cleared to play due to COVID-19 protocols but was with the team on the sideline, an indication

he could be available Saturday against Washington.

Oregon trailed the entire first half as the Cougars made seven 3-pointers to help keep their lead, while the Ducks had nine turnovers preventing them from overcoming their deficit. They were down 36-31 at halftime.

Oregon surged to the lead at the start of the second half as they scored the first seven points on a layup in transition by Duarte, a 3-pointer by Figueroa and free throws by Omoruyi as the Ducks went up 38-36.

Food, fun and football: Ready for Super Bowl

On the eve of the biggest football game of the year, I'm excited for what is in store tomorrow. I'm ready to firmly plant myself on my couch, wearing a comfortable pair of sweatpants, a cold drink within reach.

The Super Bowl is arguably the best sporting event of the year.

The first thing synonymous with the day has to be the food. Appetizers fill coffee tables in front of televisions, different aromas dominate the air, while the entree is being prepared in the kitchen or on the grill in the backyard. This is one of the very few days of the year where I go in with a guilt-free conscience in order to indulge in the tastiness in front of me. While two football teams battle it out on the field, I enjoy battling off a nap throughout the game once I become full.

Although this is a day dedicated to football, another aspect that people look forward to is the entertainment side of the Super Bowl. This is the best commercial day of the year. We see companies from all different platforms use 30 seconds of air time to take in the attention of most of the nation. We get to see commercials that make us laugh, leave us in awe or get choked up, and we rank them from the best to the worst.

The halftime show is another source of entertainment, but for me it's either hit or miss. One of my earliest memories was the halftime show from Super Bowl 35, when Aerosmith, Britney Spears, Mary J. Blige, Run DMC and



COREY KIRK

NSYNC performed a medley of their hits. Having so much talent performing made it a halftime performance to remember. It's rare to see so much talent performing on the stage as of late, but it doesn't mean the most recent performers haven't had merit. The Weeknd is set to perform during this year's Super Bowl, and though I know he has a niche audience, I hope he will hold his own.

Lastly and most importantly, the game itself always brings the drama, if we of course discount Super Bowl 53 where Tom Brady won his last Super Bowl with the New England Patriots. Football fans have more of a vested interest in the game if their favorite team is playing, but we have seen some incredible moments go down. Whether it's the lights going out during Super Bowl 47, the New York Giants taking down the undefeated Patriots in Super Bowl 42 and the collapse of the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl 51 after taking a 28-3 lead going into the third quarter against New England. Though it's never a guarantee, we get to see NFL players shine on the biggest stage, and there is an opportunity to witness some greatness.

Super Bowl Sunday provides different elements that will entertain all parties involved in watching the game. Whether it's enjoying really good food, waiting to see which commercial will be the best, who will perform the halftime show and ultimately the football game itself. The different elements make it a tough argument for any other day of the year when it comes to sports. I cannot wait to see what unfolds this Sunday.



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