

Sports

Westbrook has triple-double as Wizards end Blazers' win streak

By Erik Garcia Gunderson
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Russell Westbrook had 27 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds, and the Washington Wizards snapped Portland's six-game win streak with a 118-111 victory over Damian Lillard and the Trail Blazers on Saturday night, Feb. 20.

Bradley Beal scored 37 points, helping Washington to its fourth straight win. Rui Hachimura added 17 points, and reserve Robin Lopez had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Wizards coach Scott Brooks said he thinks Westbrook is finding a rhythm.

"He's going to have more games like this," Brooks said. "The guy is a championship player. How he prepares, how he talks to our guys, he gets them to be ready. His voice was loud in that first quarter. That's what you want your leaders to do."

Lillard had 35 points and 12 assists, but he was 10 for 30 from the field. Enes Kanter had 19 points and 13 rebounds for Portland, and Robert Covington finished with 11 points and 11 boards.

"We were on a winning streak too but they were feel-



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Portland Trail Blazer Carmelo Anthony.

ing confident," Kanter said. "They beat three good teams before us and they were playing confident, making shots. We cannot let our offense affect our defense."

Lillard was held in check in the first half, going 2 for 13 from the field. But he scored 23 points in the third quarter on 7-for-8 shooting. He was hit in the neck by an elbow from Washington's Raul Neto, but he remained in the game after he was examined by the Blazers training staff.

Lillard's buzzer-beating 3-pointer from just in front of the midcourt logo lifted Portland to a 92-89 lead heading into the fourth.

"We made some mistakes in the third quarter, but I thought we did a good job on him," Brooks said. "He's a great player and we helped, but he did have some missed shots that he normally would make."

The Trail Blazers had a 96-93 lead with 8:39 left when the Wizards grabbed control with a 10-2 spurt. Lopez sparked the run with a layup, Davis Bertans hit a key 3 and Hachimura finished the decisive stretch with a foul shot, making it 103-98 with 5:40 to go.

Bertans made another big 3 with 2:18 left, lifting Washington to a 110-101 lead.

"We didn't make a lot of 3s," Brooks said. "We made them when they counted."

TIP-INS

- Wizards: Beal was 16 for 27 from the field. He also had seven rebounds and three assists. ... Brooks said defense has been a key part of the team's win streak. "The defense has been much better," he said.

- Trail Blazers: It has been over a month since starting center Jusuf Nurkic had surgery on his right wrist. Although the Blazers have not yet updated his status and aren't expected to do so for another two weeks, they are encouraged by the fact that he has been able to stay in relatively good shape since he can still work out his lower body. "He's doing well," coach Terry Stotts said. "The good thing is since it's a hand injury, he can do aerobic things to stay in basketball shape." Nurkic admitted to reporters prior to his injury that the early turnaround, as well as attending to family matters in Bosnia, caused him to be in worse condition than he would have liked to start the season.

OREGON MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duarte, Figueroa lead Ducks past Utes

EUGENE (AP) — Chris Duarte and LJ Figueroa scored 15 points apiece and Oregon beat Utah 67-64 on Saturday night for the Ducks' fifth straight win.

Eugene Omoruyi added 13 points for Oregon (14-4, 9-3 Pac-12) before fouling out with 3:29 to play.

Duarte, who had 11 points in the second half, and Figueroa hit 3-pointers 21 seconds apart to give the Ducks a 64-61 lead with 1:55 to play. Alfonso

Plummer answered with a 3-pointer before Duarte made 1 of 2 free throws to give Oregon the lead for good with 1:20 remaining. Utah went 0 for 2 from the field with two turnovers from there, and Duarte made two free throws with three seconds left to cap the scoring.

Plummer hit four 3s and finished with 17 points, and Timmy Allen scored 15 for Utah (9-10, 6-9). Branden Carlson and Pelle Larsson added 13 points apiece.

Carlson had nine rebounds, and Larsson had seven boards and five assists.

Neither team led by more than five points, and there were nine ties and 19 lead changes.

Oregon, which made just four of its first 14 second-half shots and went without a field goal for more than three minutes midway through the period, made 8 of 15 — including four 3-pointers — to close it out.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wright, Colorado hold off Beavers, 61-57

CORVALLIS (AP) — McKinley Wright IV scored 21 points and moved to No. 7 on Colorado's career scoring list as the Buffaloes beat Oregon State 61-57 on Saturday night.

Colorado won its fifth conference road game of the season, its most since the 1961-62 season.

Wright passed Josh Scott (1,709 points, 2012-16) and Stevie Wise (1,717, 1987-

91), finishing the night at 1,718 career points. He scored the Buffaloes' first 11 points of the second half and finished with 15 after halftime.

Evan Battley added 10 points for the Buffaloes (17-7, 11-6 Pac-12), who never trailed in the second half.

The Beavers (11-11, 7-9) tied it at 35 early in the second half and closed the deficit back to 44-43 before Colorado

pulled away with an 11-2 run to lead by 10 with 4:19 left. Oregon State got no closer than the final score.

Ethan Thompson had 18 points and seven assists for the Beavers, moving past Deandra Tanner (457 assists, 1998-01) and Darryl Flowers (457, 1983-86) to No. 3 on Oregon State's career assists list at 462. Warith Alatishe added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Beavers.

OREGON STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Serena Morones for The Oregonian/OregonLive File Photo

Aleah Goodman scored 20 points on Sunday, Feb. 21, to lead Oregon State to an upset win over UCLA.

Beavers upset 8th-ranked UCLA

By Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Oregon State coach Scott Rueck has known he has a good team, but that it needed time and experience to develop. After having two long stretches of their season paused due to COVID-19, it appears as if the Beavers are starting to hit their stride at the right time.

Aleah Goodman scored 20 points and Taylor Jones posted her fifth double-double of the season in a 71-64 upset of eighth-ranked UCLA on Sunday. Most had Oregon State as one of the first four teams out of the NCAA Tournament, but this win provides a huge boost to their resume.

"Everybody in this program is used to going to the tournament. That's the expectation, but the way this season has played out it has been in doubt," Rueck said. "The confidence and belief with this team is growing. We can be a good team and this weekend was all that we hoped."

Oregon State led for most of the final three quarters. The game was tied at 57 with 5:57 remaining but the Beavers (8-6, 6-6 Pac-12) outscored the Bruins 14-7 the rest of the way. Talia von Oelhoffen's jumper from beyond the arc put Oregon State on top for good.

UCLA (13-4, 11-4) was within two late in the fourth quarter, but Goodman hit a 3-pointer with 1:32 remaining to extend Oregon State's lead to 66-61.

"We executed down the stretch and played defense. To see everything come together I was extremely proud of them," Goodman said.

Jones had 16 points and 11 rebounds as the Beavers controlled the inside with a 38-24 advantage in points in the paint and 45-39 edge in rebounding.

Michaela Onyenwere led UCLA with 21 points and Lauryn Miller added 13. The Bruins, who posted a 27-point win over No. 13 Oregon on Friday, shot a season-low 27.6% from the field (21 of 76) but made all 17 of their free-throw attempts.

"There was a lack of focus and we have to learn from this game," Onyenwere said.

UCLA trailed 49-42 late in the third quarter before going on a 10-2 run over the final 2:32 to take a 52-51 lead going into the final 10 minutes. Onyenwere and Natalie Chou each had four points during the rally and Charisma Osbourne hit a jumper in the lane with a second remaining to put the Bruins on top for the first time since early in the second quarter.

Djokovic breezes to 9th Australian Open title, 18th major

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Maybe, just maybe, the thinking went, Novak Djokovic would be just a tad more susceptible to trouble this time around at the Australian Open.

After all, he tore an abdominal muscle in the third round and wasn't sure he could continue to compete. Entering Sunday, Djokovic ceded five sets in the tournament, the most he ever dropped en route to a major final. And to top it all off, he was facing Daniil Medvedev, owner of a 20-match winning streak.

Yeah, right. We're talking about Djokovic at Melbourne Park, where his dominance is most certainly intact — nine finals, nine championships. Plus, he's still gaining on Roger



Mackenzie Sweetnam/Getty Images-TNS

Novak Djokovic holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup as he celebrates winning the Australian Open.

Federer and Rafael Nadal in the Grand Slam standings, now up to 18 overall, two shy of the men's record those rivals share.

Djokovic used improved serving, along with his usual relentless returning and baseline excellence to grab 11 of 13 games in one stretch and beat

Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 for a third consecutive Australian Open trophy.

"Definitely, emotionally, the most challenging Grand Slam that I ever had, with everything that was happening — injury, off-the-court stuff, quarantines," Djokovic said. "A roller-coaster ride."

When the match ended after less than two hours, Djokovic went to the sideline, lifted his white shirt and peeled pieces of beige athletic tape from his stomach.

"I was quite worried," Djokovic said about the injury. "I did not (think) realistically that I could actually play. I didn't know until two hours before the fourth-round match."

Dealing with what he called

"bearable" pain, Djokovic improved to a combined 18-0 in semifinals and finals on Melbourne's hard courts.

"Probably, it's not your last one," Medvedev said. "I have no words to say."

Djokovic, a 33-year-old from Serbia, has won six of the last 10 majors and will stay at No. 1 in the rankings at least through March 8. That will give him 311 weeks there, breaking another mark held by Federer.

His goals now are squarely on Grand Slams, even more than before.

Put Djokovic's nine triumphs in Australia alongside five at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open. The math looks good

for him: He is about a year younger than Nadal and 6 1/2 younger than Federer.

"I do enjoy the success every single time even more," Djokovic said, "because I know that the longer the time passes, the more difficult it's going to become."

The No. 4-seeded Medvedev was appearing in his second Slam final; he was the runner-up to Nadal at the 2019 U.S. Open.

The 25-year-old from Russia had won 12 in a row against Top 10 opponents, but trying to solve Djokovic in Australia is a unique challenge.

"He's really good (at) reading an opponent's game," Medvedev said, "knowing what you will do next, how to beat you."

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