

Richardson, Young help Oregon rally, beat Utah 79-66

EUGENE (AP) — Will Richardson scored 23 of his career-high 26 points in the second half, Jacob Young had a season-high 22 points and Oregon rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat Utah 79-66 on Saturday night, Jan. 1.

De'Vion Harmon added 11 points for Oregon (8-6, 1-2 Pac-12).

The Ducks made just one of their first 10 field-goal attempts and trailed most of the first half before Both Gach hit a 3-pointer to give Utah (8-6, 1-3) a 40-31 lead early in the second. Richardson and Young combined to score 15 points in a 17-2 run over the next 3½ minutes that gave Oregon the lead for good.

Richardson, who finished 9-of-12 shooting and hit a career-high five 3-pointers, scored Oregon's first nine points in an 11-4 spurt that made it 67-57 when Young drove the left side of the lane and dropped a wrap-around pass to N'Faly Dante for a two-hand dunk with 5:22 to play. Young hit a 3 about 2½ minutes later to

push the lead into double figures for good.

Branden Carlson led the Utes with 15 points, Marco Anthony scored 14 and Lazar Stefanovic added 10. David Jenkins Jr., who scored 1,194 points in two years at South Dakota State before leading UNLV in scoring at 14.8 points per game last season, fouled out with 7 minutes to play and was held scoreless for the first time in his career. The redshirt junior went into the game as Utah's second-leading scorer at 12.7 per game while leading the Pac-12 in both made 3s (37) and 3-point field-goal percentage (.435).

Oregon seemed to crank up its defensive intensity in the second half, pressuring Utes ball handlers into turnovers and scoring 20 of the Ducks' 22 fast-break points. They shot 18 of 28 (64.3%) from the field and 6 of 8 from 3-point range while scoring 50 points after halftime.

The Ducks are 20-2 against Utah under coach Dana Altman and have won eight straight in the series.



Oregon guard Jacob Young, shown here against the University of Portland on Dec. 15, 2021, scored 22 points to help the Ducks beat Utah on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, in Eugene.

Zack Palmer/The Register-Guard

Penny, Metcalf lead Seahawks to 51-29 blowout of Lions

BY TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Russell Wilson was the last off the field, waving his arms and stopping to sign a few autographs for the Seahawks fans who lingered in the rain.

Heading into an offseason with expected changes that may include the franchise quarterback, Wilson provided at least one bright spot in Seattle's home finale of an otherwise disappointing season.

"I was just thinking about joy and I was thinking about our fans," Wilson said. "I was thinking about just, what a special moment to be able to, you know, win this game at home for our fans and for them to feel that energy again."

Rashaad Penny rushed for a career-high 170 yards and two touchdowns, Wilson threw three of his four TD passes to DK Metcalf, and the Seattle Seahawks routed the Detroit Lions 51-29 on Sunday, Jan. 2.

Seattle (6-10) closed out its home schedule with its most impressive offensive showing of the season, raising questions about where those fireworks have been for most of an underachieving year.

Penny rumbled for 144 yards in the first half, while Wilson threw TD passes to Metcalf and Tyler Lockett as Seattle built a 31-7 halftime lead.

Penny has 481 yards rushing over the past four weeks and praised the performance of his offensive line.



Quarterback Russell Wilson of the Seattle Seahawks leads his team onto the field to start the NFC Wild Card Playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams at Lumen Field last January, in Seattle. With possible changes in the offseason, Wilson might have played his last home game for the Seahawks in a 51-29 win over Detroit on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Steph Chambers/Getty Images-TNS

"It means a lot having them guys and then my job is easy," Penny said. "There's a big hole there, all you have to do is hit it."

Wilson added a third TD to Metcalf on the third play of the second half. Wilson finished 20 of 29 for 236 yards, while Metcalf had a career-high three touchdown catches. Metcalf has 12 TD catches this season, also a career best.

It was the fifth 50-point game in franchise history and first since 2012 when Seattle beat Buffalo 50-17 in a game played in Toronto.

"When we were really at our very best we were at our most balanced," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "That's maybe hard to get excited about it. Whatever, I don't care. That's a great way to play this game."

Despite the offensive fireworks, it wasn't all good for Seattle. On Detroit's first offensive play, Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner suffered a sprained knee when he slipped and fell awkwardly trying to defend a screen pass for Jamaal Williams. He eventually walked to the sideline and then to the locker room

but never returned.

Carroll said Wagner was having an MRI.

The futures of Wagner, Wilson and Carroll — the trio that helped bring the Seahawks their lone Super Bowl title — have been debated with Seattle set to finish off its worst season since 2009.

"I hope so. I hope that's the case," Wilson said of being back in 2022. "Take it one day at a time but today was really about our team."

Amon-Ra St. Brown ran for one touchdown and caught another for the Lions (2-13-1), who turned in a lackluster per-

formance after several competitive games. Three of the Lions' previous four losses had been by four points or less.

"When we pulled it back within two scores, I thought this is a chance to get this thing back in our our favor. We'll get a stop or turnover and now we make this a one-possession game, and we just couldn't do it," Detroit coach Dan Campbell said. "That really disappointed me more than the other stuff."

Tim Boyle made his second straight start for Detroit with Jared Goff out due to a knee injury and was 22 of 37 for 262 yards and three interceptions in the second half. He did have the highlight of throwing a 6-yard touchdown pass to left tackle Taylor Decker in the third quarter to pull Detroit within 38-22.

St. Brown finished with eight catches for 111 yards.

Penny's big half

Penny topped his previous career high of 137 yards in the first half. It was the most yards rushing by a Seahawks player in the first half of any game and the most in a half since Shaun Alexander had 192 yards in the second half of a 2001 game against the Raiders.

Penny also had the second-most yards rushing of any player in a half this season, trailing only Dalvin Cook's 153 yards in the first half for Minnesota against Pittsburgh. "We wanted to be physical

and coaches had all the faith in us to continue to dial them up, and Penny is just really running with a lot of confidence, really been playing inspired," Seattle left tackle Duane Brown said.

Rookie records

St. Brown joined Leonard Thompson in 1981 as the only Lions wide receivers to score a touchdown rushing and receiving in the same game. The last Lions wide receiver to rush for a touchdown was Calvin Johnson in 2007.

St. Brown also became the first Detroit rookie to have touchdown catches in three straight games since Dave Middleton in 1955.

Referee concern

Referee Tony Corrente was helped off the field by athletic trainers after dropping to one knee on the field following a play midway through the third quarter.

Medical personnel immediately rushed off both sidelines and Corrente eventually walked off the field and toward the Seahawks locker room with a Seattle trainer holding his arm. Corrente returned at the start of the fourth quarter.

Carroll said a player collided with Corrente.

Up next

Lions: Host Green Bay in the season finale next Sunday. Seahawks: Close out the season next Sunday at Arizona.

OSAA might allow high school athletes to profit

BY NIK STRENG

The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Last summer, new rules allowed college athletes the ability to profit off their name, image and likeness (NIL).

Immediately, college stars like Oregon football player Kayvon Thibodeaux and basketball player Sedona Prince were able to start cashing in on their brands, including sponsorship and non-fungible token (NFT) deals.

But could the same rules be extended to those in the high school ranks? It's a little closer than one might think.

While the National Federation of State High School Associations was quick to respond in July that high schoolers would not be able to profit from NIL, many states have since switched their positions. High school student-athletes in states like California and New York can profit via NIL. And Oregon could be joining those ranks soon.

Oregon School Activities Association Executive Director Peter Weber told the Oregonian/OregonLive that the OSAA and the OSAA's Executive Board have had discussions on the topic. Weber said the OSAA has been monitoring what is happening in New York and will have language for the board to review during the Feb. 7 meeting.

Central Catholic football coach Steve Pyne said he was not aware that this was something that the OSAA was discussing, but raised equity concerns as the only student-athletes who would likely profit from their NIL are those who also would benefit at the college level.

"It makes sense to me at the college level as the NCAA makes millions of dollars off of the athletes," he said. "My hope is that it does not happen."

Weber agreed that NIL deals could lead to equity concerns, adding that the OSAA is monitoring what

other states are doing before creating their own language.

To avoid certain inequities while allowing student-athletes to profit from their NIL, California and New York both employ a rule that student-athletes are able to participate in commercial endorsements so long as they are not affiliated with their schools or the state athletic association.

"They can't be wearing their school uniform or refer to their school or section," said New York State Public High School Athletic Association spokesperson Chris Watson.

Pyne, whose Rams won the 2021 OSAA 6A football state championship, is no stranger to student-athletes who could profit from these types of deals. Rams junior tight end Riley Williams will likely be the top recruit coming out of Oregon's class of 2022 and would be a top target for high school NIL sponsorships.

James scores season-high 43, Lakers beat Trail Blazers

BY JOE REEDY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One day after quietly celebrating his 37th birthday at home with his family, LeBron James put on an age-defying performance.

James became the oldest player in NBA history to have a game with at least 40 points and 14 rebounds, scoring a season-high 43 on Friday night, Dec. 31 as the Los Angeles Lakers rolled to a 139-106 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

According to Sportradar, the oldest player to have a 40-14 game was Larry Bird, who was 35 when he had 49 points and 14 boards for the Boston Celtics in 1992 (which coincidentally also came against the Trail Blazers).

"I don't feel like I have been in the league 19 years. When I am daily reminded of it, I feel it sometimes," James said after his 67th 40-point game of his career and sixth in four seasons with the Lakers. "Sometimes you do have to remind people you can still do what you can do at a high level."

James was 16 of 26 from the field and made five 3-pointers in a game

where the Lakers led throughout.

"If that's what our team needs to win, I'm OK with that," said James, who during the last seven games — including Friday — is averaging 36 points and has made 57.8% of his shots from the field. "I'm not a guy who goes out and sees if I can jack up a bunch of shots. The streak I have been on with my scoring I have been efficient. I take pride in that as a player."

His seven-game streak is not an anomaly: He's done it four other times. But this is the first since he was with Miami Heat in February 2013. James' longest stretch is 10 with the Cleveland Cavaliers late in the 2005-06 season.

The Lakers were up 69-54 at halftime on 27 points from James, who went coast-to-coast for a dunk to give Los Angeles a 53-37 advantage midway through the second quarter. He topped the 40-point mark on a 3-pointer from 27 feet out with 8:25 remaining to put the Lakers up 109-84.

Los Angeles' largest lead was 35 in the game's final minute.

"This is just LeBron James playing at a superior level more than what is happening around him,"

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

"While (Anthony Davis) is out, he is intent on doing everything he can to pile up wins and play at an extra-high level."

Malik Monk scored 18 points, Carmelo Anthony added 16 points and Russell Westbrook (15 points, 13 rebounds, 12 assists) recorded his ninth triple-double this season for the Lakers, who had dropped six of their last seven coming into the game.

Portland's Ben McLemore came off the bench to tie his season-high with 28 points in his first game back after clearing the league's health and safety protocols. Damian Lillard added 18 points for the Trail Blazers, who have dropped four straight and 11 of their last 13.

"I don't think we played with enough force. They dictated the start," said Portland assistant coach Scott Brooks, who is directing the team while head coach Chauncey Billups is in the league's COVID-19 protocols. "They were attacking on both ends of the floor and we were back on our heels. You can't do that against good teams. We gave them too much respect."

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available.

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$69.99/mo. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 4/13/22.

All offers require credit qualification. Service agreement with early termination fee and shipping. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper Duo or Hopper 3. \$15/mo. (split fees) may apply based on credit qualification.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY! 877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value! Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

GENERAC PWRCELL SOLAR BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER! 1 (844) 989-2328

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.