## McCollum

Continued from B1 He played 26 minutes
Tuesday and then 21 on Tuesday and then 21 on
Thursday. McCollum said he feels great physically after doing whatever he could to take
care of his body while he was injured. from here on out," McCollum said. Given how McCollum's first two games went, one could
see why continuing to protect see why continuing to protect
McCollum would be considered a wise strategy. "I had to find speed and pace," McCollum said. "I didn't have enough legs to shoot threes."
McCollum said his first
time playing five-ontime playing five-on-five bas Tuesday against the Pelicans, when he went 3 of 11 for 10 points. He followed that up on Thursday by going 3 of 16 for 11 points against New Oreans. Portland won both
games. Although he didnt shoot well overall,
make 5 of 13 threes in those two games (38.5\%). That was a good sign. Still, McCollum said he didn't feel like his balance was right and he felt
sluggish getting in and out of his shots. Because tense game schedule and COVID-19 protocols, full practices have been rare. McCollum got in mostly one-onone work starting with him
being cleared for contact prio to the All-Star break. "I knew it was going to take
some time", McCollum said. some time," McCollum said.
"That was my ninth time "That was my ninth time playing basketball since january 16 th, so, it takes time to
kind of find your rhythm" It became clear early into Friday's victory that the McCollum on display did not resemble the one who shot a combined 6 of 27 in two games against the Pelicans. the first quarter against $D$ in the first quarter against Dal-
las for 10 points and finished the first half with 16 points in 13 minutes. Suddenly the restraints were off. McCollum scored 11 points in the fourth to lead the team to a come-
back victory and finished with a team-high 32 on 11 of 23 shooting while making 7 of 13 threes in 27 minutes. "He looked like C.J." Stotts said.
Through three games since his return, McCollum is 12 was shooting $44 \%$ before his injury.


Portland Trail Blazers' C.J. McCollum, right, drives to the basket | Steve Dyk |
| :--- | Portland Trailas Mazers C.J.McCollum, right, dives to the basket "I think for the most part, Covington said McCollum's I had good balance, missed short a few times, I didn't have any turnovers, and I think, defensively we did a pretty goodjob being active and I did what I was supposed to do."

## - C.J. McCollum, Portland Trail Blazers guard

Without McCollum doing McCollum-like things, the Blazers probably wouldn't forward Robert Covington said more should be expected rom McCollum in the near future.
"Oh, he's not all the way "Hack just yet," Covington said. "Hes still got to get a couple more games under his belt to that game-type shape."

Cresence takes the focus of opposing defenses somewhat off of Damian Lillard. Plus,
Gary Trent Jr has now moved Gary Trent Jr. has now moved
back to the second unit Covington said, making the bench stronger.
Once we get him back to make us mode, it's going to make us that much more deadly," Covington said. Nurkic) back, now we can start really preparing for the run down the stretch. Dallas' Tim Hardaway Ir. said Portland is certainly more difficult to deal with when McCollum and Lillard
are on the court together. are on the court together.
"That's his running mate" Hardaway told reporters. "They do a great job of feeding off each other. And when Dame is out and C.J. is in the game, that's his time to go.
That's one of the best duos in the league. They made some tough shots. But that's what they do."


Mountain View's Luke Roberts (44) breaks a tackle by Bend's Alex Roath (54) to gain extra yards during the first quarter Friday night at Mountain View High School.

## Cougs

## ontinued from B1

 Early in the fourth quarter, Mountain View gave up a fumBut on the very next play, Bend fumbled the ball right back to the Cougars, who wasted little time in building their lead. Moss found Jake Hatch across the middle for a 40 -yard with 9:08 remaining. Moss was 6 -of- 8 passing for 162 yards and two touchdowns, and Hatch finished with two receptions for 72 yards and the touchdown.The Bears mounted yet nother drive, but fumbled he ball away at the Mountain View 7-yard line midway hrough the fourth quarter, and the Cougars held on the "est of the way.
Thad no doubt that Bend was going to play as hard as well-coached, and watching well-coached, and watching tainly better than how they had played in the past. But I never doubted our kids. They (the Bears) came out and tried to take away some of the things
that we do. But we were able of find some big plays when we needed them, and that was huge."
Crum said Moss "played outstanding" and was "throwng the ball on dots." He called Roberts "a dependable kid who
doesn't come off the field, ever." "We're going to put the ball in his hands as much as we can," Crum said of Roberts. Bend High coach Matt Cra ven said he was extremely pleased with his team's effor forced to move many players

to different positions this season due to injuries and other circumstances. A key move Friday night was moving Martin from wingback to fullback The 6 -foot-1-inch, 225-pound Martin was not always easy fo
the Cougars to bring down the Cougars to bring down.
"We lost two fullbacks, so mo lost two fullbacks, so said. "If I had known he was going to play the position like that, wed have had him there from week one. He played really, really tough, and he played every down of defense (at line
backer), so he was a warrior." Craven added that he thought his team played well in the second half, despite the end result.

## 索 EXPLORE

Looking for the conditions report? It publishes online and
every Friday in The Bulletin's section for outdoor adventures overs and big plays," Craven overs and big plays, Craven
said.
"If we eliminated the long kick returns, the long runs, and don't turn the ball over, we could have had a better outcome.
Mou Mountain View hosts Sum-
mit next Friday, while Bend has a bye before playing at Summit on April 2 . In a twist due to the shortened season, and travel and scheduling challenges, Bend and Mountain View are sched-
uled to play each other again in the last game of the season on April 9 at Bend High.

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## MARKET RECAP


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