



FC Basel's goalkeeper Dorde Nikolic (right) makes a save in front of Shakhtar's Taison during the Europa League quarter-final soccer match between FC Shakhtar Donetsk and FC Basel at the Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on Aug 11. Shakhtar won 4-1. (AP) - See Page 17

# Sports

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## Timbers win MLS is Back championship



Portland Timbers players pose for photos after defeating Orlando City 2-1, during an MLS soccer tournament on Aug 11 in Kissimmee, Fla. (AP)

### Zuparic shines

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla, Aug 12, (AP): Soaked in sweat and doused in water, the Portland Timbers hoisted the MLS is Back trophy at midfield and then headed toward a giant TV screen filled with fans cheering from afar.

It was a huge Zoom party. It might just be the way to celebrate championships in 2020.

Dario Zuparic's first goal of the season gave Portland a 2-1 victory against Orlando in Major League Soccer's return tournament finale Tuesday night, capping a month-long event that showed sports can be played safely inside a bubble.



Zuparic

"I always think the more difficult the fight is the more beautiful the victory is at the end," said Portland's Larrys Mubiala, who scored the game's first goal.

Orlando was slow to react to Diego Valeri's corner kick in the 66th minute, allowing Eryk Williamson to collect the ball, change direction and take a shot that Jeremy Ebobisse deflected to Zuparic's feet. Zuparic didn't have to do much to get it by Pedro Gallese, who had made two fantastic saves in the lead-up to the corner kick.

The goal started the celebration on Portland's sideline and sent Orlando into panic mode. The Lions had a chance in the closing minutes, but failed to get the equalizer.

"It's a group of players in a lot of pain right now," Orlando coach Oscar Pareja said. "Things didn't bounce our way. We made a couple of mistakes."

The Timbers, who spent 39 days in the MLS bubble and remained on West Coast time, hugged and danced after the final whistle. They raised the silver trophy while hooting and hollering. But the lasting image will be players and coaches waving at a camera and reaching hundreds back home.

It ended a wild month for the MLS, which managed to play 51 matches in 45 days at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex at Disney World.

No family. No friends. No fans. But it was by most accounts a rousing success, especially considering how it started. FC Dallas and Nashville

### SOCCER

were forced to withdraw days before the start because of positive coronavirus tests.

Players, coaches and support personnel were tested regularly inside the MLS bubble. The league reported just two positives out of nearly 35,000 tests following the initial setbacks that threatened to derail a tournament that came with a \$1.1 million purse.

"We just told ourselves we need to make it worth it," Mubiala said, adding that his son has been calling, crying and clamoring for him to come home in recent days.

Portland will get \$328,000 in prize money to split. The Timbers also earned a berth in the CONCACAF Champions League, their first since 2016.

Orlando settled for \$150,000 to share.

Orlando's appearance in the finale was a surprise considering the team finished 11th out of 12 in the East last season and fired coach James O'Connor. Pareja took over in 2020 and made an immediate impact.

Pareja convinced his players, including star Nani, to settle into the bubble several days early. They won the tournament opener, a group-stage victory against Miami, and ended up spending nearly seven weeks quarantined in the bubble.

Portland's experience — the Timbers won the MLS title in 2015 and were runners-up two years ago — showed in the finale.

Portland's first shot on goal found the back of the net. Valeri delivered a perfectly placed free kick into the box that Mubiala headed past Gallese in the 27th minute. It was Valeri's 93rd assist with the Timbers.

But considering Portland has managed just three clean sheets in its last 23 matches, it was no surprise to see a defensive breakdown just a few minutes later.

Nani worked the ball down the left side following a turnover and created enough room to get a crosser into the box. Mauricio Pereyra got a foot on the ball and then took advantage of a fallen defender to tie the match.

### Spurs keep hopes alive

## Lillard scores 61 as Blazers move into 8th place

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla, Aug 12, (AP): Damian Lillard tied his career high with 61 points, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 134-131 on Tuesday night to move into eighth place in the Western Conference.

The Blazers will clinch a spot in the play-in series for the last playoff spot out West with a win Thursday against Brooklyn.

Lillard made nine 3-pointers in his sixth 50-point game of the season. He's the 12th player in NBA history



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) shoots as Dallas Mavericks forward Kristaps Porzingis (6) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 11, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

### BASKETBALL

to score 50 points in back-to-back games after dropping 51 on the 76ers on Sunday.

Carmelo Anthony added 26 points on 10-of-17 shooting for Portland.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 36 points and Luka Doncic had 25 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who will finish No. 7 in the West.

### Spurs 123, Rockets 105

Keldon Johnson had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and the Spurs kept alive their chance of becoming the first team in NBA history to make 23 consecutive playoff appearances.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points for San Antonio, which has won five of seven since arriving in the Florida

right quadriceps.

The Rockets played without guards James Harden (rest) and Eric Gordon (ankle).

### Suns 130, 76ers 117

Devin Booker scored 35 points and the Suns protected their playoff hopes by beating the 76ers to remain undefeated in the NBA restart.

Booker became the Suns' career leader with his 91st 30-point game, breaking a tie with Walter Davis.

Mikal Bridges had 24 points for the Suns, who pulled into a ninth-place tie in the Western Conference with Memphis, a half-game behind new No. 8 Portland.

Phoenix are 7-0 as the only undefeated team in the restart.

Alec Burks led the 76ers with 23 points. Philadelphia, No. 6 in the East and already assured of a playoff spot, are attempting to prepare for the postseason after losing Ben Simmons to a knee injury.

### Celtics 122, Grizzlies 107

Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, and the Celtics put the Grizzlies in further danger of missing the playoffs.

The Grizzlies missed another chance to guarantee themselves a spot in the West play-in series. They dropped to ninth in the conference with Portland's victory over Dallas.

Boston (48-23), who have already locked up the Eastern Conference's

### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 12, (AP): NBA results and standings after Tuesday's games.

Brooklyn	108	Orlando	96	Portland	134	Dallas	131
San Antonio	123	Houston	105	Sacramento	112	N. Orleans	106
Phoenix	130	Philadelphia	117	Milwaukee	126	Washington	113
Boston	122	Memphis	107				

#### Eastern Conference

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	51	19	.729	-
x-Boston	48	23	.676	3½
x-Philadelphia	42	29	.592	9½
x-Brooklyn	35	36	.493	16½
New York	21	45	.318	28

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	44	27	.620	-
x-Orlando	32	40	.444	12½
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18
Washington	24	47	.338	20
Atlanta	20	47	.299	22

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Milwaukee	56	16	.778	-
x-Indiana	43	28	.606	12½
Chicago	22	43	.338	30½
Detroit	20	46	.303	33
Cleveland	19	46	.292	33½

x denotes clinched playoff spot  
y denotes clinched division

#### Western Conference

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Houston	44	26	.629	-
x-Dallas	43	31	.581	3
Memphis	33	39	.458	12
San Antonio	32	38	.457	12
New Orleans	30	41	.423	14½

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Denver	46	25	.648	-
x-Oklahoma	43	27	.614	2½
x-Utah	43	28	.606	3
Portland	34	39	.466	13
Minnesota	19	45	.297	23½

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-LA Lakers	52	18	.743	-
x-LA Clippers	47	23	.671	5
Phoenix	33	39	.458	20
Sacramento	30	41	.423	22½
Golden State	15	50	.231	34½

z denotes clinched conference

third seed, won their fourth straight. Gordon Hayward added 19 points and five assists.

Memphis (33-39) lost for the sixth time in seven games since the restart. Ja Morant finished with 26 points and 13 assists.

Memphis head to their final seeding game against Milwaukee on Thursday needing a win to earn a place in the play-in game. The team that finishes ninth would have to beat the eighth-place team twice.

### Bucks 126, Wizards 113

Brook Lopez scored 24 points and Milwaukee beat Washington after Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was ejected in the second quarter for headbutting Moritz Wagner.

Wagner took a charge from Antetokounmpo, who didn't like the call in what had become a physical game early on.

During a break in the action with Milwaukee challenging the call, Antetokounmpo approached Wagner on the way to the bench and started jabbering at him before headbutting him and drawing the ejection.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning NBA MVP, finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Rui Hachimura led the Wizards with 20 points, and Ish Smith added 19.

### Kings 112, Pelicans 106

Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, including 12 in the third quarter, and the Kings beat the Pelicans.

The Kings earned their second win in the NBA restart — each over the Pelicans.

With both teams eliminated from the playoffs, among the top starters given the night off were Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson and Kings leading scorer De'Aaron Fox.

Jahlil Okafor led New Orleans with 21 points. Lonzo Ball added 16 points while making four 3-pointers.

### Nets 108, Magic 96

Jeremiah Martin and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot each scored 24 points, leading Brooklyn to the victory.

Dzanan Musa added 17 points and Tyler Johnson had 14 for the Nets, who improved to 5-2 in the restart with their third straight victory.

With the Nets locked into the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference and the Magic eighth, the teams went with limited rosters while getting players extra rest. Brooklyn suited up nine players and Orlando used 10.

Markelle Fultz and Wes Iwundu each scored 18 points for the Magic, who have dropped five in a row after a 2-0 start at Walt Disney World.



Philadelphia 76ers guard Furkan Korkmaz (30) drives past Phoenix Suns guard Cameron Payne (15) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 11, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)