

## SPORTS

# Jokic returns, Nuggets end 6-game skid

76ers hold off Magic 101-96

**MIAMI, Nov. 30, (AP): Nikola Jokic returned and scored 24 points, Aaron Gordon added 20 and the Denver Nuggets snapped their longest losing streak in nearly six years by beating the short-handed Miami Heat 120-111.**

Bones Hyland scored 19 and Will Barton added 14 for the Nuggets, who had dropped six straight. Jokic, the reigning NBA MVP, hadn't played in the last four of those because of a wrist injury but finished with 15 rebounds and seven assists.

Jeff Green scored 12 for Denver, which shot 58% on the day it was revealed Michael Porter Jr. will need back surgery. Porter has been limited

to nine games this season.

Bam Adebayo finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds for Miami, which was without its two leading scorers - Jimmy Butler was out with a bruised tailbone, and Tyler Herro missed the game with what the Heat called general body soreness.

Kyle Lowry had 17 points and 14 assists.

#### Bulls 133, Hornets 119

In Chicago, Lonzo Ball and the Chicago Bulls won the battle of the Ball brothers, riding a stellar performance by Nikola Vucevic to a victory over LaMelo Ball and the Charlotte Hornets.

Chicago shot a season-high 59.6% from the field and had five players score in double figures. Vucevic had a season-best 30 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, and Zach LaVine, a game-time decision because of an illness, finished with 25.

With patriarch LaVar Ball watching and wearing a black hat that read "I Told You So," Lonzo Ball improved to 2-1 in three NBA meetings with the youngest of his two brothers. He had 16 points and eight assists, and LaMelo Ball had 18 points and 13 assists.

Terry Rozier scored 31 points for the Hornets. Charlotte trimmed a 23-point deficit to four with 7:31 left, but Chicago responded with a 9-0 run.

#### 76ers 101, Magic 96

In Philadelphia, Seth Curry scored 24 points, Tobias Harris had 17 and Philadelphia needed free throws in the final minute to beat Orlando.

The Magic (4-18) showed grit in a fiery second half and rallied from 16 down to tie it 93-all on Mo Bamba's dunk with 57 seconds left.

The Sixers just hung on from the line. Ty Maxey made two for the lead, Joel Embiid hit 3 of 4 and Maxey added two more to help the Sixers avoid an embarrassing defeat. Embiid scored



Miami Heat forward P.J. Tucker (17) goes up for a shot against Denver Nuggets forward Jeff Green (32) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, on Nov. 29, in Miami. (AP)

#### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, (AP): Results and standings from the NBA games on Monday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	101	120	.458	96
Denver	102	121	.455	89
Houston	120	104	.535	11
Chicago	133	119	.525	119
Minnesota	100	98	.510	98
Cleveland	114	96	.542	96
Utah	129	107	.548	107
New Orleans	123	104	.542	104
San Antonio	116	99	.540	99

#### Eastern Conference

Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic	14	6	.700	-
Brooklyn	11	9	.550	3
New York	11	10	.524	3-1/2
Boston	11	10	.524	3-1/2
Philadelphia	9	12	.429	5-1/2
Toronto	9	12	.429	5-1/2

#### Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	14	6	.700	-
New York	11	9	.550	3
Boston	11	10	.524	3-1/2
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	3-1/2
Toronto	9	12	.429	5-1/2

#### Southeast Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	13	8	.619	-
Washington	13	8	.619	-
Charlotte	13	10	.565	1
Allianta	11	10	.524	2
Orlando	4	18	.182	9-1/2

#### Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	14	8	.636	-
Milwaukee	13	8	.619	-1/2
Cleveland	11	10	.524	2-1/2
Indiana	9	14	.391	5-1/2
Detroit	4	16	.200	9

#### Western Conference

Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Southwest	10	9	.526	-
Memphis	10	10	.500	-1/2
San Antonio	6	13	.316	4
New Orleans	6	17	.261	6
Houston	4	16	.200	6-1/2

#### Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	14	7	.667	-
Minnesota	11	10	.524	3
Denver	10	10	.500	3-1/2
Portland	10	11	.476	4
Oklahoma City	6	14	.300	7-1/2

#### Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	18	2	.900	-
Phoenix	17	3	.850	1
LA Clippers	11	10	.524	7-1/2
LA Lakers	11	11	.500	8
Sacramento	8	13	.381	10-1/2

#### BASKETBALL

16 points on 4-for-16 shooting.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 27 points.

#### Timberwolves 100, Pacers 98

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 16 of his 32 points in the third quarter and Anthony Edwards added 21 as Minnesota rallied past Indiana.

The Timberwolves trailed by 12 early in the third before Towns led a comeback that sent them to their seventh win in eight games. Michael Beasley hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer for Minnesota with 51.5 seconds left in the fourth.

D'Angelo Russell had 21 points and a season-high 11 assists for the Timberwolves.

Domantas Sabonis had 16 points, a career-high 25 rebounds and 10 assists for Indiana. Malcolm Brogdon added 25 points but the Pacers lost for the third time in four games.

#### Rockets 102, Thunder 89

In Houston, Christian Wood had 24 points and a career-high 21 rebounds as Houston won its third straight game by defeating Oklahoma City.

Kevin Porter Jr. contributed a triple-double of 11 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Garrison Mathews scored 19 for the Rockets.

Houston's winning streak follows a 15-game skid, while the loss was the sixth straight for Oklahoma City.

Wood's performance came after he scored a career-best 33 points to lead Houston past Charlotte on Saturday night.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 22 points.

#### Cavaliers 114, Mavericks 96

In Dallas, Jarrett Allen scored 28 points and Lauri Markkanen had 24,



Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris (left), tries to get a shot past Orlando Magic's Mo Bamba during the second half of an NBA basketball game, on Nov. 29, in Philadelphia. (AP)

both season highs, as Cleveland dominated Dallas.

Allen also grabbed 14 rebounds and Darius Garland added 18 points for the Cavaliers in their most lopsided win of the season. Their largest lead was 31 midway through the fourth quarter, when Markkanen's fifth 3-pointer put Cleveland ahead 104-73.

Luka Doncic posted his second triple-double of the season with 25 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Mavericks. Doncic made a season-high seven 3-pointers (7 of 11), while his teammates went 4 for 28 from behind the arc.

Dallas (10-9) has lost five of six. Kristaps Porzingis left midway through the second half with a right ankle sprain.

#### Spurs 116, Wizards 99

In San Antonio, Derrick White scored 24 points, Dejounte Murray had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio beat Washington to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Murray also dished out eight assists for the Spurs, who had six players score in double figures. They last won back-to-back games (three straight) in a stretch in late April.

Jacob Poeltl had 14 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks.

Bradley Beal scored 18 for the Wizards, who completed a 2-2 road trip.

#### Jazz 129, Trail Blazers 107

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points and Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds in Utah's victory over Portland.

Jordan Clarkson added 22 points for Utah, which hit 19 3-pointers and shot 53% from the field a game after making a season-high 20 3s. The Jazz matched their season best with 46 field goals.

Anfernee Simons scored a season-high 24 points and Jusuf Nurkic also had 24 as the Trail Blazers fell to 1-10 on the road.

#### Pelicans 123, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, Jonas Valanciunas

scored 29 of his career-high 39 points in a spectacular first half, and New Orleans beat Los Angeles for the second time this month.

New Orleans rolled to a 21-point lead in the first half with a phenomenal effort from Valanciunas, the Lithuanian veteran in his first season with the Pelicans. The 6-foot-11 Valanciunas hit seven 3-pointers without a miss in the first half to the increasing delight of his teammates and even the 10-year veteran himself.

Valanciunas, who surpassed his career high for 3s in the first half alone, had dropped 26 points and 13 rebounds on Los Angeles 10 days earlier in the Pelicans' 94-81 win in New Orleans. He added 15 rebounds to his prolific scoring in the rematch.

Paul George scored 27 points for the Clippers, who have lost three of four and six of nine after a seven-game winning streak.

## Croatia advance to Davis Cup 'semifinals' after beating Italy

TURIN, Italy, Nov. 30, (AP): Croatia became the first team to reach the Davis Cup semifinals after seeing off Italy 2-1.

With the singles squared, the top-ranked doubles team of Mate Pavic and

and Mektic, winners of Wimbledon and the Olympics this year.

Croatia, a two-time champion, awaits Serbia or Kazakhstan. Their quarterfinal is on Wednesday in Madrid.

Borna Gojo set up Croatia's win by surprisingly taking the opening singles against Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (2), 2-6, 6-2.

Gojo, who is 252 places below the 27th-ranked Sonego, turned around a 4-1 deficit in the opening set to force the tiebreak. Sonego rallied in the second set but continued to make errors in the third, including wasting three break points in the seventh game.

#### TENNIS

Nikola Mektic had no trouble seeing off Fabio Fognini and Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4 in the decider.

Sinner replaced Simone Bolelli after winning his singles, which took nearly three hours. But he and Fognini couldn't get a break point against Pavic

Sampson, Brown guide Arkansas-Pine Bluff to 1st victory

## Richardson sparks Oregon in rout of Montana

EUGENE, Ore., Nov. 30, (AP): Will Richardson hit 4 of 6 shots from long range and scored 18 points as Oregon shot 66% from the field in an 87-47 rout of Montana.

Montana got two free throws from Robby Beasley III with 15:27 left in the first half to trail 11-10, but the Ducks responded with an 11-0 run. Isaac Johnson's layup with 5 seconds left in the half gave Oregon a 46-24 lead at the break. The Ducks cruised through the second half, outscoring the Grizzlies 41-23 over the final 20 minutes.

#### BASKETBALL

Oregon snapped a two-game losing streak. The Ducks (4-3) had lost three of their last four coming into the game, with all three losses coming by double digits.

#### Grand Canyon 78, LMU 72

In Los Angeles, Holland Woods had 24 points as Grand Canyon defeated Loyola Marymount 78-72. Jovan Blacksher Jr. added 20 points for the Antelopes.

Taeshon Cherry had 12 points and six steals for Grand Canyon (6-1). Sean Miller-Moore added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Eli Scott had 25 points for the Lions (4-3). Dameane Douglas added 12 points. Keli Leaupepe had 10 points.

#### Saint Mary's 67, UC Riverside 50

In Moraga, Calif., Matthias Tass registered 18 points as Saint Mary's beat UC Riverside 67-50.

Dan Fotu had 14 points for the Gaels (7-1), who earned their fifth straight home victory. Tommy Kuhse added 11 points and six rebounds.

Zyon Pullin had 12 points and six rebounds for the Highlanders (5-3).



Texas forward Timmy Allen (0) is fouled by Sam Houston State guard Javion May (11) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game on Nov. 29, in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Flynn Cameron added 11 points.

#### Wyoming 79, CSUF 66

In Fullerton, Calif., Hunter Maldonado had 21 points as Wyoming topped Cal State Fullerton 79-66.

Graham Ike had 17 points and nine rebounds for the unbeaten Cowboys (6-0). Xavier DuSell added 16 points, while Drake Jeffries scored 14.

E.J. Anosike had 19 points for the Titans (3-4). Jalen Harris added 14 points.

Ark-Pine Bluff 75, Ark-Baptist 70

In Pine Bluff, Ark., Trey Sampson had 21 points and Brandon Brown added a double-double as Arkansas-Pine Bluff snapped its season-opening seven-game losing streak with a 75-70 victory over Arkansas Baptist.

Brahm Harris had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Golden Lions (1-7). Brown had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Kyleen Milton added 13 points and seven rebounds.

G'Quavious Lennox had 17 points to lead the Buffaloes. Gabriel Johnson added 15 points.

S. Alabama 69, A&M-Commerce 66

In Mobile, Ala., Charles Manning Jr. had 20 points as South Alabama narrowly beat Texas A&M-Commerce 69-66.

South Alabama led 69-66 when Diante Smith missed two free throws with 10 seconds left but the Lions' Alphonso Willis missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Jay Chandler had 13 points and seven rebounds for South Alabama (6-2), which won its fifth consecutive game. Kayo Goncalves added 13 points. Smith had 11 points and seven rebounds.

#### UT-Arlington 70, UCSB 62

In Santa Barbara, Calif., Pedro Castro scored 16 points and Texas-Arlington topped UC Santa Barbara 70-62 on Monday night.

David Azure had 11 points for Texas-Arlington (2-5), which snapped its four-game losing streak. Jack Hoiberg added 11 points. Patrick Mwamba had 10 points.

Amadou Sow had 23 points and seven rebounds for the Gauchos (3-2). Robinson Idehen added 11 points. Calvin Wishart had 10 points. Josh Pierre-Louis had a career-high 11 rebounds plus 7 points.

#### Illinois 82, Notre Dame 72

In Champaign, Ill. (AP) - Kofi Cockburn scored 28 points, Alfonso Plummer added 21 and Illinois defeated Notre Dame 82-72 in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

Cockburn, a preseason All-American and player of the year candidate, leads the nation in scoring at 26.6 points per game. He did not take a shot in the first 12 minutes but finished the first half with 10 points on 5-for-5 shooting. For the game, he was 11 of 16 from the field and made 6 of 9 free throws.

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