



Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul (3) drives past Golden State Warriors center Kevon Looney (5) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix. (AP)

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Suns win early showdown with GSW

Trail Blazers hand Pistons seventh straight loss

PHOENIX, Dec 1, (AP): Mikal Bridges and Deandre Ayton were all smiles at the postgame podium, reminiscing about a four-year turnaround for the Phoenix Suns that's in some ways still hard to believe.

The Suns won just 19 games during their rookie seasons. Now, they've tied a franchise record with 17 wins - in a row.

Ayton scored 24 points, Chris Paul added 15 points and 11 assists, and the Suns won their 17th straight by beating the Golden State Warriors 104-96 on Tuesday night in an early showdown between the NBA's top teams.

The Suns won despite losing star guard Devin Booker to a left hamstring injury in the second quarter.

He had 10 points and two rebounds in 15 minutes. The 25-year-old appeared to get hurt when driving to the basket for a layup, grabbing at the back of his left leg before walking to the locker room a few minutes before halftime.

Suns coach Monty Williams said postgame that he didn't have an immediate update on Booker. The two-time All-Star came back to the bench for the second half, cheering on his teammates.

Even without Booker, the Suns led 56-54 at halftime and 80-78 going into the fourth quarter. The game stayed tight, and neither team led by double digits until Landry Shamet knocked down a 3-pointer - on an assist by Paul - with 54.4 seconds left.

BASKETBALL

The win was another milestone for the Suns, who have thrived with the young core of Ayton, Bridges and Booker. The final key piece came when they added Paul - an 11-time All-Star - before last season. Phoenix made the NBA Finals in July before losing to the Milwaukee Bucks, and now they're on a winning streak that's lasted more than month.

The two teams play again Friday night at Golden State.

Tuesday's game was a highly anticipated showdown, as the Suns and Warriors have NBA's best records. It was also the first time in league history that two teams from the same division played each other with winning percentages of .850 or higher after at least 20 regular-season games, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

The game mostly lived up to the hype - at least until the Warriors, who had their seven-game winning streak snapped, went cold in the fourth quarter.

Jordan Poole led Golden State with 28 points. Stephen Curry - who came into the game averaging 28.6 points per game - had 12 points on 4 of 21 shooting, including 3 of 14 from 3-point range.

The Suns limited the Warriors to just 42 points in the second half. The Warriors also had 22 turnovers.

The Suns and Warriors are now both 18-3. The only other time Phoenix has won 17 straight games was during the 2006-07 season. They'll go for their franchise record 18th win against the Pistons on Thursday.

The Suns haven't lost since Oct. 27 when Harrison Barnes hit a game-winning 3 at the buzzer for the Sacramento Kings.

Lakers 117, Kings 92
In Sacramento, Anthony Davis scored 25 points, Russell Westbrook added 23 and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame the absence of LeBron James to beat the Sacramento Kings 117-92.

The Lakers sent James home earlier in the day after he was placed in the NBA's health and safety protocol. Davis said James told him he felt good and was asymptomatic, but the Lakers will have to play at least a few games without him.

The Lakers got more than enough from their other two big stars and took over with a dominant third



Memphis Grizzlies forward Dillon Brooks (24) battles against Toronto Raptors forward Scottie Barnes (4) for the loose ball as Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) keeps close during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto. (AP)

Leeds pip Palace

10-man Newcastle denied 1st victory

NEWCASTLE, England, Dec 1, (AP): Newcastle was denied its first Premier League win of the season when Norwich striker Teemu Pukki equalized in the 79th minute in a 1-1 draw between the teams that started as the bottom two.

Ciaran Clark's straight red card for pulling back Pukki left last-place Newcastle having to play with 10 men from the ninth minute, yet the team that recently came under Saudi ownership still managed to take the lead.

Norwich midfielder Billy Gilmour's raised hand blocked a header from Federico Fernandez that was heading toward goal and, after a penalty was awarded following a VAR check, Callum Wilson converted in the 61st despite goalkeeper Tim Krul getting a hand to it.

Pukki earned Norwich a point by volleying home from Dimitris Giannoulis' cross after Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka only palmed away a deep cross into the area.

SOCCER

Newcastle's winless start to the season extended to 14 games, with Eddie Howe's team on only seven points - three fewer than Norwich.

Leeds 1, Palace 0

Brazil winger Raphinha converted a penalty in the third minute of stoppage time to earn Leeds a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace that moved the team five points clear of the Premier League's relegation zone.

In a dramatic ending to a lackluster match at Elland Road, the referee needed to check the pitch-side monitor before awarding a spot kick after Palace defender Marc Guéhi blocked a goal-bound header from Liam Cooper with a raised arm at a corner.

Raphinha's penalty kick was nonchalant as he stepped up to the ball and sent it to goalkeeper Vicente Guaita's left.

It was only a third win of the season for Leeds, which hardly troubled Palace as they struggle for goals continued while star striker Patrick Bamford is out injured. The penalty was Leeds' 13th goal of the season - only five teams have fewer.

Substitute Christian Benteke wasted Palace's best chance, heading wide from barely three yards (meters) out at the back post from Wilfried Zaha's cross.

It was a second straight loss for Palace, which were beaten 2-1 by Aston Villa on Saturday.

Tottenham center back Cristian Romero will be sidelined until at least January because of a "serious" hamstring injury, manager Antonio Conte said Wednesday.

The Argentine defender, one of the club's key signings in the off-season, sustained the injury during a World Cup qualifying match against Brazil two weeks ago.

"The injury is serious. I don't know at this moment but for sure he's not going to play in 2021, and we'll have to wait until January, February," Conte said. "It's a pity because he's an important player for us. We'll check him week by week, but he needs time."

The 23-year-old Romero moved to north London from Atlanta after winning the "best defender" award in Serie A last season. He helped Argentina win the Copa America this year.



Crystal Palace's Odsonne Edouard, (left), and Leeds United's Daniel James battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Crystal Palace at Elland Road, Leeds, England. (AP)

Egypt, Algeria make winning starts in Arab Cup

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Dec 1, (AP) - Results and standings from NBA games on Tuesday.

Memphis	98	Toronto	91
Brooklyn	112	New York	110
Phoenix	104	Golden State	96
Portland	110	Detroit	92
LA Lakers	117	Sacramento	92

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	15	6	.714	—
New York	11	10	.524	4
Boston	11	10	.524	4
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	4
Toronto	9	13	.409	6-1/2

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

Central Division				
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	17	.190	9-1/2

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	10	9	.526	—
Memphis	11	10	.524	—
San Antonio	6	13	.316	4
New Orleans	6	17	.261	6
Houston	4	16	.200	6-1/2

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

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	18	3	.857	—
Golden State	18	3	.857	—
LA Clippers	11	10	.524	7
LA Lakers	12	11	.522	7
Sacramento	8	14	.364	10-1/2



Egypt and Lebanese players vie for the ball during a Group D match at Arab Football Cup on Wednesday. (KUNA photo)

off the bench. Portland, with Damian Lillard looking on from the bench in street clothes, snapped a three-game losing streak.

Portland has won 10 straight at home for the first time since 2009.

Detroit rookie Cade Cunningham finished with a season-high 26 points, including five 3-pointers. The Pistons have won just four games this season.

Both teams were playing the second of back-to-backs. The Blazers fell 129-107 at the Utah Jazz on Monday night, while the Pistons were coming off a 110-106 loss at the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Blazers were without three key players. Lillard missed the game to manage the abdominal tendinopathy that has bothered him this season, fellow starter Norman Powell has right quad contusion and Nassir Little has a left ankle sprain.

Anfernee Simons started for Lillard, while Tony Snell took Powell's place in the lineup. Simons finished with 12 points and six rebounds.

Portland led by as many as 26 points in the game. McCollum's layup put the Blazers up 36-44 and they went on to lead 54-45 at halftime.

Robert Covington's 3-pointer pushed the Blazers' lead to 65-50 in the third quarter. McLemore hit a 3-pointer and Portland had a 83-62 advantage going into the final period. McLemore finished with four 3s. He played 18 minutes.

The Pistons fell to 2-9 on the road.

Nets 112, Knicks 110

In New York, Kevin Durant and James Harden took turns putting on a show in front of the largest crowd ever to see a Nets game in Brooklyn, one that was split between fans of New York's two teams.

In the end, the Nets were celebrating and the Knicks were fuming.

In its 10th season, the matchup between teams just a few miles apart looked like a real rivalry. They got it after James Johnson made two free throws with 2.2 seconds left to give the Nets a 112-110 victory Tuesday night.

Harden had 34 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and Durant heated up after a slow start to finish with 27 points and nine assists. He had 11 points in the final 5:45, but the Knicks sent a second defender to force him to give the ball up on the last possession - as Durant suspected might happen.

The ball went to Johnson, who was fouled in the lane and made the free throws for the final points of an entertaining, nationally televised undercard to the Warriors-Suns main event.

Alec Burks scored a season-high 25 points in his new role as the Knicks' starting point guard.

Julius Randle added 24 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. But he took only two free throws and was hit with a late technical foul for complaining about not getting calls.

The teams traded leads throughout the fourth quarter in front of an announced crowd of 18,081.

DOHA, Dec 1, (KUNA): The Egyptian soccer team on Wednesday beat Lebanon 1-0 in the first round of Group D match at the Arab Cup FIFA Qatar 2021.

Egypt have three points ranking second after Algeria that beat Sudan 4-0 the same group, earlier today.

Lebanon are third and Sudan fourth.

In the second round due Saturday, Algeria will play against Lebanon while Egypt lock horns with Sudan.

Up to 16 teams are participating in the tournament, hosted by Doha until December 18, under the umbrella of FIFA.

SOCCER

Meanwhile, Qatar beat Bahrain 1-0.

The Group A game, held at Al Bayt Stadium in Al-Khor City, saw Abdulaziz Hatem scoring the sole goal in the 69th minute.

With three points in hand, Qatar will face Iraq on Friday in the second round of the group.

In a Group B, the UAE edged Syria 2-1.

Caio Canedo Correa scored the opening goal for the UAE in 24th minute, while Ali Saleh added the second in the 30th minute. Ward El-Salamah reduced Syria deficit in the 60th minute.

The UAE team will face Tunisia in the second round of the same group on Friday.

The Nets had highlight plays all over the floor to open the second half, with Harden's soaring follow slam and DeAndre' Bembry's swatted shot into the seats coming during a 14-0 spurt that turned a one-point halftime deficit into a 74-61 lead.

Brooklyn had the lead up to 16 with 4 minutes left in the third period, but the Knicks whittled it down to 88-84 heading to the fourth. The lead was never bigger than that in the final 12 minutes.

But the Knicks didn't do enough in a game where the Nets shot 25 free throws to their 12.

Grizzlies 98, Raptors 91

In Toronto, Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 25 points, Desmond Bane had 23 and Dillon Brooks 17 as the Memphis Grizzlies won back-to-back games, beating the struggling Toronto Raptors 98-91.

After beating Sacramento Sunday, Memphis won again without leading scorer Ja Morant, who sat for the second game because of a sprained left knee. Morant is expected to miss at least two weeks.

Jackson, who shot 8 for 14, said the Grizzlies aren't trying to do too much without the influential Morant.

Bane made five 3-pointers and Jackson had four for the Grizzlies, who never trailed and led by as many as 17 points.