

NBA

Thunder rally in fourth to tie series with Denver

By The Associated Press

DENVER – The Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets at their own game Sunday.

The NBA’s youngest team made all the clutch plays in crunch time against an experienced squad teeming with a championship pedigree, knotting the second-round series with a 92-87 win in Game 4.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored nine of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, pulling the top-seeded Thunder from the brink of a 3-1 deficit against a Denver team known for closing out games while winning six of its last seven playoff series – and the two tight games earlier in this series that resumes Tuesday night in Oklahoma City.

About 36 hours after an exhausting overtime Game 3 Friday night, the early Mother’s Day tip-off produced an ugly first half that featured a combined 25 points in the first quarter and ended with OKC up 42-36 at the break.

“Quick turnaround with an early game today, we made an intentional effort to use our depth today and get everybody going,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.



Denver guard Jamal Murray (right) struggles to move the ball as Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort defends during Sunday's game in Denver.

From Page 6A LARSON

stage. But when Elliott’s team dropped the jack too soon before his right rear tire on during a pit stop, Larson was able to get back to the front on the restart, and he spent the last 50 laps cruising to the checkered flag.

Bell, a three-time winner already, finished in the top three for the sixth time this season. Ryan Blaney came in third, giving Team Penske another good run after Austin Cindric won two weeks ago at Talladega and Joey Logano won last week at Texas.

“I was just trying to get to the end. I know Ryan was coming on really strong there,” Bell said. “I feel like our day was kind of a product of qualifying well and having good pit stops and restarts.”

Blaney knew he was coming on strong, too, but he was left to lament what might have been.

“We were kind of running those guys down quick,” Blaney said. “A few more laps, I would have scared the 5 a bit at least.”

Chase Briscoe finished

From Page 6A WKU

with a double and a walk.

Lizama went 2-for-5 with a home run, two RBIs and two runs scored. Haller was 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs, two runs scored and a walk.

Hayes went 1-for-5 with two RBIs, a homer and a run scored. Vasquez scored

Down by eight points early in the fourth quarter, the Thunder used an 11-0 run fueled by reserves Cason Wallace, who had a pair of 3-pointers, and Aaron Wiggins, who added another, to wrest control.

Wallace’s second 3-pointer put Oklahoma City ahead for good at 75-73.

“I really thought the difference in the game was their bench kind of lit a fuse for them,” Nuggets interim coach David Adelman said. “They made 3s ... pretty incredible in a game where the two teams shoot 21 of 86 from 3.”

Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 13 rebounds but his three assists were a low for this playoff run and gave him 22 assists to go with 23 turnovers in this second-round series.

Pacers 129, Cavaliers 109

INDIANAPOLIS – Pascal Siakam scored 21 points and Indiana tied an NBA playoff record by taking a 41-point halftime lead before routing top-seeded Cleveland for a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Pacers can earn a second straight trip to the East finals with a victory Tuesday in Cleveland, where they

won the first two games.

“We haven’t done anything yet,” coach Rick Carlisle said after earning his 33rd playoff win with Indiana, passing Larry Bird for the most in the franchise’s NBA history. “We’re going to keep approaching this like we have everything to prove.

“We know people don’t believe in us, so we’re just going to stay in the fight and keep fighting.”

Indiana jumped to an 80-39 lead at halftime and led by 44 points. The 41-point lead matched the margin Cleveland set in Game 2 of the 2017 Eastern Conference finals against Boston, according to Sportradar.

And Indiana did it mostly without Benedict Mathurin, one of its top playoff scorers, who was ejected just 7 1/2 minutes into the game for a flagrant foul.

Darius Garland led the Cavs with 21 points and Donovan Mitchell had 12 points despite not playing in the second half because of a left ankle injury. Coach Kenny Atkinson said his All-Star guard would have an MRI exam Monday.

restart; Kyle Busch was bumped and spun to bring out another yellow on the next restart; and Justin Haley, Erik Jones and Bubba Wallace were involved in another wreck on a third consecutive restart.

ODDS AND ENDS

Larson won for the 32nd time, and joined Hamlin and Busch as the only active Cup Series drivers to have led more than 10,000 laps. ... Briscoe was fourth for the fourth time this season. He has yet to finish better. ... Larson made it three straight wins for Chevrolet at Kansas Speedway. Ross Chastain won the fall race last season. ... Hamlin’s streak of seven straight top-10s at Kansas ended. He finished 36th. ... Logano challenged for second late in the race before finishing ninth.

UP NEXT

The All-Star Race is up next Sunday at North Wilkesboro, where Logano is the defending champ. There are changes to the format this year, including an optional promoter’s caution flag, which could dramatically reshape the 250-lap race.

twice in a 1-for-4 day with a home run, an RBI and a walk. Wideman had an RBI with a run scored, a walk and two stolen bases. He is up to 39 steals on the season, just two shy of tying the single-season record of 41 set by Carlos Akins in 1995.

WKU concludes the regular season with a three-game series against CUSA rival Jacksonville State at home. First pitch from Nick Denes Field on Thursday is set for 6 p.m.

From Page 6A OGDEN

Reynolds said. “She’s just a strong girl. She’s worked hard in the offseason and then everything’s been kind of coming into place for her right now. We just need her to keep going strong through the end of the season and the postseason.”

The eye-popping RBIs – Ogden is just short of averaging an RBI each game for the Spartans – are a by-product of South Warren’s ultra-productive lineup.

“Layla bats third in our lineup,” Reynolds said. “We’ve shifted her around a little bit. She was fourth and then we moved her up to third. She generates a lot of power and a lot of strength. It’s nice when the two runners in front of her get on so she can build up those RBIs.”

Hudson, a Kentucky commit, leads the state in runs with 61 and fellow junior Kinleigh Russell is sixth with 48 runs scored this year – rest assured, a good many times both of them were driven in by Ogden.

“It just feels like my work has paid off throughout the preseason,” Ogden said. “It just feels nice, leading the state in those categories. And I wouldn’t be leading the state in RBIs if my teammates weren’t getting on base.”

The home runs are more of a solo effort of Ogden, who has shown off easy power throughout her high school career – she has 42 career homers since making her varsity debut back in 2021.

“I would say I’m a power hitter,” Ogden said. “I mean, I don’t feel like I hit home runs every at-bat. I’m just trying to hit line drives, and those line drives turn into home runs. That’s what we all talk about as a team.”

The Spartans have used Ogden at both first base and third base at times during her career, but Reynolds admitted she’s so valuable in the circle that it’s hard to put her



South Warren pitcher Layla Ogden throws during Tuesday's game against Warren Central at South Warren High.

anywhere else on the field even though she has the lateral speed and agility to do so.

That athleticism is something Reynolds thinks WKU will have to consider when Ogden joins the program in 2026 after graduating from South Warren.

“I really think they may look at some way to get her in offensively too,” Reynolds said. “In college you don’t see a whole lot of pitchers that are hitters as well, but I think in Layla’s case she could definitely be a benefit for them offensively as well.”

In the circle, Ogden continues to dominate opposing lineups. She is 9-1 in 11 starts for the Spartans, posting a stellar 1.36 ERA through 56 2/3 innings with 72 strikeouts.

Ogden has played a huge role in South Warren (26-3) maintaining the No. 1 spot in the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association state poll and building KHSAA’s top RPI (.70253) number as of Monday.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Hot Rods fall short despite Horvath’s eighth homer

By the Daily News

Mac Horvath hit his team-leading eighth homer of the year, but it wasn’t enough for the Bowling Green Hot Rods in a 5-3 loss to the Winston-Salem Dash in South Atlantic League action on Sunday at Truist Stadium in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

For the sixth consecutive game of the series, Bowling Green (18-15) scored the first runs of the game, this time in the top of the third inning against MLB rehabber Jesse Scholtens. Bryan Broecker led off with a single, advanced to second on a wild pitch, and moved to third on a ground ball from Adrian Santana. Aidan Smith plated him with another groundout, giving the Hot Rods a 1-0 lead.

From Page 6A ROCKIES

(40-120, 51-111 and 50-112), the 1969 Expos (52-110) and the 1969 Padres (52-110).

Who were the only two teams to lose at least 110 games between 1970 and 2012?

ANOTHER OUSTER

Three days before Black was fired, Pittsburgh replaced manager Derek Shelton with Don Kelly. The Pirates are 14-27. They even have a losing record (3-5) in the eight games Paul Skenes has pitched.

Now that Black and Shelton are out, it’s hard to think of another manager on an immediate hot seat unless Baltimore decides to move on from Brandon Hyde. The Orioles have been a colossal disappointment at 15-24, although they’ve at least

Winston-Salem (12-21) took the lead in the bottom of the third against Bowling Green starter Gary Gill Hill. Jeral Perez and Braden Montgomery walked to start the inning, and Cole McConnell singled, loading the bases. Alec Makarewicz reached on fielder’s choice and Montgomery scored on a wild pitch. McConnell and Makarewicz scored on a Luis Pineda base hit, making it a 3-1 Dash lead.

Winston-Salem added another run in the bottom of the fourth on a Montgomery RBI double for a 4-1 lead.

The Hot Rods responded in the top of the sixth against Dash reliever Tommy Vail. With one out, Emilien Pitre doubled and Horvath blasted a two-run homer to left, cutting BG’s deficit to 4-3.

The Dash plated an addi-

tional run in the bottom of the seventh with Hot Rods reliever Junior William on the mound. Arxy Hernandez hit a one-out, solo homer, extending Winston-Salem’s lead to 5-3.

Bowling Green couldn’t find any offense the rest of the way.

Vail (2-0) picked up his second win of the year, going five innings, allowing two runs on three hits, walking one and striking out eight. Gill Hill (1-2) surrendered three runs on five hits while walking three and striking out five in his second loss of the season.

The Hot Rods enjoy an off-day Monday before starting a six-game set against the Asheville Tourists at Bowling Green Ballpark on Tuesday with first pitch at 6:05 p.m.

in seven runs Friday against the Athletics. The 22-year-old Dominguez became the youngest player in franchise history with a three-homer game, beating Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio’s record by 109 days.

COMEBACK OF THE WEEK

Down 5-1 with two outs in the eighth, Philadelphia began its rally with a three-run homer by Bryson Stott. Then in the ninth, the Phillies tied it against Tampa Bay reliever Pete Fairbanks.

Philadelphia went on to win 7-6 in 10 innings Thursday night. The Phillies’ win probability was down to 1.9% in the eighth inning according to Baseball Savant.

TRIVIA ANSWER

The 2003 Tigers (43-119) and 2004 Diamondbacks (51-111).