

# Nuggets end L.A. Clippers' 17-win streak

By Dennis Georgatos  
The Associated Press

DENVER – Even the NBA's hottest team can have a bad night. The Denver Nuggets took advantage of the Los Angeles Clippers' shooting woes Tuesday night, getting 17 points from Danilo Gallinari in a 92-78 victory that snapped the Clippers' franchise-record, 17-game winning streak.

Poor shooting, particularly from 3-point range (5 of 29, 17.2 percent) and the free-throw line (13 of 29, 44.8 percent) doomed the Clippers' streak, the longest in the NBA since the Boston Celtics won 19 in a row from Nov. 15 to Dec. 23, 2008. The Clippers avoided matching their season-low in points when Eric Bledsoe hit a jumper in the final seconds.

"Throughout the course of the game, it's tough when you're missing shots, but at the same time you have games like that and you have to figure out how to get around it, which we didn't do," said Blake Griffin, who had 12 points but shot less than 50 percent from the field (4 of 11) for the first time in 18 games.

The Nuggets, of course, had something to do with that and Andre Iguodala said the victory against the Clippers, who built their streak in part with a Christmas Day win against Denver in Los Angeles, would help the Nuggets build "our confidence, our swagger."

"The Clippers have been playing with that the last 18 games. That builds into them winning. They have the mentality every night they're going to go out there and win. We've got to build the same thing and try to string along the same type of win streak."

The loss was the first for the Clippers since a 105-98 setback against New Orleans on Nov. 26. It also marked the end of a franchise-record seven-game winning streak on the road.

Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who won their eighth in a row at home.

Bledsoe scored 12 points, DeAndre Jordan had 11 and Chris

Paul 10 for the Clippers.

Andre Miller had 12 points and 12 assists for the Nuggets starting in place of point guard Ty Lawson, who has been bothered by tightness in his left Achilles' tendon for the past week and missed a game for the first time this season.

"We don't win this game without Andre," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "He just got us easy baskets, got a lot of guys involved, gave our team a lot of confidence."

Miller wasn't taking all the credit.

"It was a good win against a good team. We beat them every quarter," he said. "It was a weird game, kind of slow. Both teams want to get up and down the court. It was one of those nights where we fell into some easy baskets. We controlled our turnovers and had the energy on our side."

Iguodala helped out at point guard and chipped in with 12 points and eight assists for Denver, which lost 112-100 to the Clippers in Los Angeles on Christmas Day.

After Bledsoe hit a 3-pointer to pull the Clippers within 65-58 with 1:54 left in the third quarter, the Nuggets scored eight of the next nine points, including JaVale McGee's first career 3-pointer at the buzzer to take a 75-59 lead into the fourth quarter. McGee, who had a dunk off an alley-oop from Miller on Denver's previous possession, hadn't even tried a 3-pointer in a game all season until then. He blew on his shooting hand after making the 3 as if to cool it off.

The Clippers got within 87-73 with 4:02 remaining when Griffin made one of two free throws, but the Nuggets, as they did throughout the game, had an answer with Iguodala getting loose in the paint for a slam. The Clippers didn't threaten the rest of the way.

The Nuggets took a 12-point lead with 3:01 left in the second quarter when Faried buried a short hook shot before settling for a 48-43 halftime advantage.

Los Angeles closed the period with a 9-2 run, starting with Paul converting a three-point play followed by Jordan's dunk off a lob from Paul.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs worked hard for a win over the St. Francis Lady Indians on Dec. 18 in Rexford. Jordan Christensen (No. 25) led the girls in this challenging game as she looked for the rebound along with teammates Leea Juenemann (No. 13), Angela Ritter (No. 10) and Tayler Petersen (No. 55).

## Golden Plains girls win again

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains High School girls basketball team continued to win with a 51-30 victory over the St. Francis Lady Indians in Rexford.

The girls are now 4-2 for the season.

The game against the Lady Indians on Dec. 18 started out with a close first quarter. The girls traded baskets throughout the first, but the Lady Bulldogs maintained the lead throughout and finished the quarter 13-12.

"We were tested during this game," said junior Hailee Spresser. "Not all of our shots that we usually make fell."

A pass from Angela Ritter to Jordan Christensen opened the second quarter and the Lady Bulldogs went on a 9-point run by

Christensen and Kylie Jones before the Lady Indians made a three. The Lady Bulldogs answered that with another 8-point run from Christensen and Ritter to take a 30-16 lead at the half.

The Lady Bulldogs had a sluggish third quarter, only making 6 points as the Lady Indians stepped up their game by 10. The girls got back in the game in the last eight minutes of play with baskets from Jones, Christensen, MiKayla Lobato and Leea Juenemann. They put in 15 points while holding the Lady Indians to 4 to capture the 51-40 win.

"Even though we struggled, we still came out on top. Not only did we win, but our mental toughness and team unity grew," said Spresser. "We continue to work our way up and take it day by day."

Christensen had another outstanding offensive game, with 20 points for the Lady

'Dogs. Jones put in 9 and A. Ritter 8. Juenemann had 5 points – all in the fourth – while Lobato scored 4, also in the fourth. Kami Miller put in 3 points while Spresser hit 2 free throws.

The girls worked well together with 13 assists: 7 from A. Ritter, 2 from Miller and 1 each from Juenemann, Jones and Christensen. Their aggressive defense included 15 steals by Christensen with 5, Miller 4, A. Ritter 2, Lobato 2, Juenemann 1 and Jones 1 and 26 rebounds grabbed by Christensen 13, Lobato 9, Jones 5, A. Ritter 3, Miller 3, Spresser 2, Tayler Petersen 2, Rachael Ritter 1 and Maddy Walz 1.

The Lady Bulldogs will look to extend their winning streak when the take on the Brewster-Triplains Lady Titans on Friday in Rexford before heading to the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament on Tuesday.

## Governor sues over Penn State sanctions

By Mark Scoloro

The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – Pennsylvania's governor, in a challenge to the NCAA's powers, claimed in a lawsuit Wednesday that college sports' governing body overstepped its authority and "piled on" when it penalized Penn State over the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal.

Gov. Tom Corbett asked that a federal judge throw out the sanctions, which include an unprecedented \$60 million fine and a four-year ban on bowl games, arguing that the measures have harmed students, business owners and others who had nothing to do with Sandusky's crimes.

"A handful of top NCAA officials simply inserted themselves into an issue they had no authority to police under their own bylaws and one that was clearly being handled by the justice system," Corbett said at a news conference.

The case, filed under federal antitrust law, could define just how far the NCAA's authority extends. Up to now, the federal courts have allowed the organization broad powers to protect the integrity of college athletics.

In a statement, the NCAA said the lawsuit has no merit and called it an "affront" to Sandusky's victims.

Penn State said it had no role in

the lawsuit. In fact, it agreed not to sue as part of the deal with the NCAA accepting the sanctions, which were imposed in July after an investigation found that football coach Joe Paterno and other top officials hushed up sexual-abuse allegations against Sandusky, a former member of Paterno's staff, for more than a decade for fear of bad publicity.

The penalties include a cut in the number of football scholarships the university can award and a rewriting of the record books to erase 14 years of victories under Paterno, who was fired when the scandal broke in 2011 and died of lung cancer a short time later.

The lawsuit represents a reversal by the governor. When Penn State's president consented to the sanctions last summer, Corbett, a member of the Board of Trustees, embraced them as part of the university's effort to repair the damage from the scandal.

Corbett said he waited until now to sue over the "harsh penalties" because he wanted to thoroughly research the legal issues and did not want to interfere with the football season.

The deal with the NCAA has been unpopular with many fans, students and alumni. Corbett, who is up for re-election next year, deflected a question about whether his response has helped or hurt him politically.

An alumni group, Penn Staters

for Responsible Stewardship, applauded the lawsuit but said Corbett should have asked questions when the NCAA agreement was made.

Paterno's family members said in a statement that they were encouraged by the lawsuit. Corbett "now realizes, as do many others, that there was an inexcusable rush to judgment," they said.

Corbett's lawsuit accuses the NCAA of cynically exploiting the Sandusky case, saying its real motives were to "gain leverage in the court of public opinion, boost the reputation and power of the NCAA's president" and "enhance the competitive position of certain NCAA members." It said the NCAA has not cited a rule that Penn State broke.

Corbett charged that the NCAA violated the Sherman Antitrust Act, which prohibits agreements that restrain interstate commerce. Legal experts called it an unusual case whose outcome is difficult to predict.

The NCAA has faced antitrust litigation before, with a mixed record of success. In 1984, the Supreme Court ruled against the NCAA's exclusive control over televised college football games. And in 1998, the Supreme Court let stand a ruling that said the NCAA's salary cap for some assistant coaches was unlawful price-fixing.

But federal courts have consis-

tently rejected antitrust challenges to NCAA rules and enforcement actions designed to preserve competitive balance, academic integrity and amateurism in college athletics.



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