

BASKETBALL / NBA

WINNING RUN GOES ON

Rockets go five up by dumping Celtics

LOS ANGELES

JAMES Harden scored 42 points before fouling out, and the visiting Houston Rockets extended their winning streak to five games with a 115-104 victory over the Boston Celtics on Sunday.

Before being whistled for his sixth foul with 1:44 left to play, Harden staved off a furious Boston rally with a driving layup and a 3-pointer over two defenders that extended the lead to 112-100. The Celtics, once down 71-43, scored the opening 10 points of the fourth quarter and had cut the margin to nine on a Marcus Smart second-chance basket at the 4:40 mark.

The Celtics rallied behind their reserves, with Jaylen Brown posting 15 points and six rebounds off the bench to lead the charge. Boston recorded a 31-9 advantage in bench points.

Thunder 99 Grizzlies 95

Russell Westbrook scored 22 points, including two big shots in the closing stretch, to lead Ok-

lahoma City past visiting Memphis.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for the Thunder, the team's first since an 0-4 start to begin the season, and kept them tied with Portland for third place in the Western Conference after the Trail Blazers won at Charlotte earlier in the day.

Pistons 112 Raptors 107 (OT)

Blake Griffin had 27 points and seven rebounds, and Detroit scored the final 10 points of overtime to defeat visiting Toronto.

Luke Kennard and Reggie Jackson had 19 points apiece for Detroit, who have won nine of their last 11 to reach the .500 mark at 31-31.

Trail Blazers 118 Hornets 108

Rodney Hood came off the bench to score 27 points, including 21 in the fourth quarter, as Portland knocked off hosts Charlotte.

Portland won for the sixth time in their last seven games.

Wizards 135 Timberwolves 121

Bobby Portis had 26 points and 12 rebounds, Bradley Beal scored

22 points and hosts Washington defeated Minnesota.

Clippers 128 Knicks 107

Landry Shamet made four 3-pointers in the first eight minutes as Los Angeles went on to rout visiting New York.

Shamet finished with 21 points, all on 3-pointers, and Danilo Gallinari added 20 for the Clippers, who were beginning a stretch of eight consecutive games at the Staples Center.

Cavaliers 107 Magic 93

Jordan Clarkson scored 18 points off the bench, and Cleveland enjoyed a big fourth quarter to top visiting Orlando.

Collin Sexton had 17 points on 6-for-11 shooting. Kevin Love posted a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Cedi Osman finished with 14 points and six boards.

Magic big man Nikola Vucevic led all scorers with 28 points on 13-for-16 shooting. He pulled down 13 rebounds and dished out six assists.

Hawks 123 Bulls 118

Alex Len scored a season-high 28 points and made two key free throws in the final seconds as visiting Atlanta hung on to beat Chicago. **Reuters**