Pelicans lose fight during big losses



Rod Walker

The 2025-26 NBA season had just ended 48 hours earlier.

Joe Dumars, the New Orleans Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations, was giving his assessment of what his team needed to do better after a disappointing 26-win season. He didn't like what he had watched in his first season calling the shots for the Pelicans.

"We have to be able to compete every night," Dumars said that day in April. "We cannot get banged around, pushed around. We have to be physical and compete every night. There were some nights we did it, but too many nights we didn't compete at a high enough level for me."

Jamahl Mosley, who Dumars hired a month later as the new Pelicans head coach, was supposed to stop those type of nights from happening. Fast forward seven months to Monday, and the Pelicans had another one of those nights where they got pushed around and didn't compete at a high level.

Truth be told, they didn't compete at any level at the Chase Center in San Francisco.

The end result was an embarrassing 138-87 loss to the Golden State Warriors, the most lopsided regular-season loss in franchise history. The 51-point beatdown broke the record set in April 2025 when the Pelicans were handed a 49-point shellacking (153-104) by the Miami Heat.

Since the West Coast game had a late tipoff time here in New Orleans, you may not have stayed up to watch all of it. Consider yourself lucky. This one was over by halftime when the Pelicans trailed 72-43.



STAFF PHOTO BY SOPHIA GERMER

Pelicans coach Jamahl Mosley yells from the sideline during a game against the Atlanta Hawks on Oct. 31 at the Smoothie King Center.

➤ Nets at Pelicans.
7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, GCSEN

And just like that, all that hope and optimism the Pelicans had given basketball fans in New Orleans a week earlier was gone. The Pelicans, who started the season with four straight losses, started figuring things out and won four games in a row. Things were pointing in the right direction.

But now the Pelicans find themselves on the mat again, knocked down by a California combo. First, a body blow by the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday. Then the vicious uppercut from the Warriors the next day.

The Clippers had lost seven games in a row before beating the Pels 139-123 in a performance Mosley described as "unacceptable."

Mosley's description of what happened 24 hours later against the Warriors was a bit more blunt.

"We got our ass kicked," Mosley said. "No other way to put it. They came in and punched us in the mouth and we didn't respond the right way."

Even though the Pelicans were without Zion Williamson (rest), Trey Murphy (knee) and Trendon Watford (ankle) on the second night of a back-to-back, that was no excuse for the lack of effort on display.

Turns out, Williamson wasn't the only one who got the night off.

His teammates took the night off, too.

The defense, Mosley's staple, went missing. Here is how many points the Pelicans allowed in a six-quarter stretch from the second quarter of the Clippers game through the third quarter of the Warriors game — 39, 35, 37, 35, 37 and 40.

That's a lot of points yielded by a team with a defensive-minded coach.

"It's two nights in a row we've allowed our offense to dictate our defense," Mosley said. "And to understand how we want to play, sometimes you got to get hit in the dang mouth. And we got hit in the mouth twice.

"How we will respond is going to say a lot about us, and that's all of us."

Can the Pelicans (4-7) get back to being the team that had its fans fired up just a week ago? Or are more debacles like the one Monday on the way?

We'll start finding out the answers during a five-game homestand that starts Wednesday against the Brooklyn Nets.

"I'm confident in this group," Mosley said. "It's a fighting group."

You couldn't tell Monday night in San Francisco.

Email Rod Walker at rwalker@theadvocate.com.

World Series champion catcher Boone, 78, dies

BY DAN GELSTON
AP sportswriter

PHILADELPHIA — Bob Boone, the catcher on the Philadelphia Phillies' first World Series championship team in 1980 who won seven Gold Gloves and was part of baseball's first three-generation family, has died. He was 78.

Boone's son, Bret, announced his father's death Tuesday on social media. The Phillies said in a statement Boone died Monday. No cause of death was announced.

"He was a man of great integrity. He was a great dad, husband, and patriarch. It was a privilege to call him my father. Baseball lost a great one today," Bret Boone wrote.

Boone spent his first 10 seasons with the Phillies, played seven with the California Angels and two with the Kansas City Royals. He also managed the Royals and Cincinnati Reds.

"Bob was an incredible player, teammate and family man. He embodied everything we believe exemplary athletes should represent, both on and off the field," the Phillies said in a statement. "We were proud to have him as part of the Phillies family during one of the most historic runs in team history. His impact on our organization, his teammates, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him will never be forgotten."

Boone's father, Ray, played 13 seasons in the majors and was a two-time All-Star with the Detroit Tigers. Bob Boone's two sons both enjoyed long baseball careers. Aaron Boone played 13 seasons in the majors and played for the Reds when Bob managed the team. Aaron now manages the New York Yankees. Bret Boone was a three-time All-Star over a 14-year career spent largely with the Seattle Mariners. A third son played in the minor leagues. Bret's son, Jake Boone, works in the New York Mets' front office after playing at Princeton and briefly in the minors.

"His legacy is profound, and we can see the values he embodied carried forward by his son, Aaron, in his leadership of the Yankees," the Yankees wrote in a statement.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Former Philadelphia Phillies catcher Bob Boone waves to the crowd before a game against the New York Mets on Aug. 12, 2017, in Philadelphia.

Bob Boone was a sixth-round draft pick as a third baseman out of Stanford in 1969. He was converted to catcher in the minor leagues and caught 1,095 games with Philadelphia, second on the Phillies' all-time list to Red Dooin (1,124). Boone caught 2,225 games overall in 19 big league seasons.

He was the first Phillies catcher to win a Gold Glove (1978, 1979) and led the Phillies with a .412 batting average in their 1980 World Series win over the Kansas City Royals.

A native of San Diego, Boone made NL All-Star teams in 1976, 1978 and 1979. He set the record for career games caught by a catcher with 1,919 while in Kansas City. He was 41 years old when he won his final Gold Glove with the Royals in 1989.

Ivan Rodriguez (2,427) and Carlton Fisk (2,226) have since passed Boone on the career games caught list.

"I grew up watching Bob with the great Phillies teams of the 70's. His play and mastery of catching inspired me to want to play the position," Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza posted on social media.

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