

Warriors pull even in finals

By Brian Mahoney
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Klay Thompson scored 25 points before leaving with a hamstring injury, Stephen Curry had 23 and the Golden State Warriors ran off the first 18 points of the second half on their way to a 109-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday night that tied the NBA Finals at one game apiece.

With Kevin Durant already out and Thompson eventually joining him in the fourth quarter, the Warriors relied on a champion's heart to overcome their weary bodies.

Andre Iguodala, himself slow to get up after a hard fall in the first half, made the clinching 3-pointer with 5.9 seconds left after the Raptors scored 10 straight points to cut it to 106-104.

Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors. They had won five straight since falling behind 2-0 in the Eastern

Conference finals.

Curry appeared to be laboring as well in the first half, returning to the locker room in the midst of six straight misses to start the game.

But the Warriors cobbled together a good enough finish to the second quarter to keep it close, then stormed out of the locker room with one of their vintage third-quarter charges that have been so frequent during their run to five straight NBA Finals.

DeMarcus Cousins was inserted into the starting lineup and delivered 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Draymond Green had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists — missing by one assist a fourth straight triple-double.

The series now moves to their Oracle Arena for Games 3 and 4, with the first NBA Finals to be played outside the U.S. assured of returning to Canada for Game 5.

The Warriors will hope to have enough healthy bodies

to get through it. Thompson landed awkwardly after a 3-point attempt early in the fourth quarter and limped off soon after, with backup center Kevon Looney already missing the second half with a chest injury.

And Golden State is still without Durant, who missed his seventh straight game with a strained right calf but hopes to return during the series.

Fred VanVleet scored 17 points for the Raptors, who had red T-shirts with their slogan "We The North" hanging on seats around the arena.

The Warriors sure were seeing red, especially Curry, during a mostly miserable first half when they missed 20 of their first 28 shots.

He hung his head and didn't even attempt to run back when VanVleet stole the ball from him and made a layup to give Toronto an 11-point lead with a little more than 2 minutes remaining in the half

Bruins rout Blues in Game 3

By Stephen Whyno
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Patrice Bergeron and the Boston Bruins' best players took the criticism to heart.

They weren't good enough through the first two games of the Stanley Cup Final and needed to be better. And they were.

The stars came out on Saturday night and led Boston to a 7-2 rout of the St. Louis Blues to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Bergeron and defenseman Torey Krug each scored a goal and had two assists, David Pastrnak scored his first goal of the series and the top power-play unit was a perfect 4 for 4.

Boston chased Blues goaltender Jordan Binnington, silenced actor and Blues super fan Jon Hamm and a raucous crowd that was fired up for the first Cup Final game in St. Louis in 49 years. The Bruins survived an initial onslaught and then took it to the home team.

Nothing was more important for the Bruins than the first line of Brad Marchand, Bergeron and Pastrnak getting going after no even-strength points through the first two games. They combined for five points a decidedly better effort at 5-on-5 and on the power play.

"We spent less time in our zone," Bergeron said moments after the win. "When we do that we have more energy on offense."

Game 4 is tonight.

Playoff MVP front-runner Tuukka Rask was solid as usual in goal with 27 saves, and the Bruins continued to get contributions all over their lineup. Trade deadline pickup Charlie Coyle continued his hot run with his eighth goal of the playoffs, fourth-liner Sean Kuraly scored his second in three games and Marcus Johansson added goal No. 7 in the final minutes.

That recipe for success has the Bruins two victories away from their first Stanley Cup since 2011 and Boston's third in a row in the four major North American professional sports.

The Blues came out flat and continued a troubling trend of parading to the penalty box. After being the least-penalized team through the first three rounds, the Blues took six more minors Saturday to give them 16 in the final.

Staying disciplined was coach Craig Berube's focus given the charged atmosphere that delivered on all the hype. His players didn't practice what he preached, and Berube's staff even got a penalty for unsuccessfully challenging Kuraly's goal for offside with 7.8 seconds left in the first period.

Just about everything went wrong for the Blues, who were forced to put backup Jake Allen into the game. He gave up one goal on four shots.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Jacie Howton waits for a popup during the sixth inning Saturday.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Lexee Gomes hits an RBI single during the Tigers' three-run third inning Saturday.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Alaina Carson takes a moment alone before the start of Saturday's state championship game.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande seniors, from left, Kara Gooderham, Alaina Carson and Lexee Gomes toss their caps skyward after receiving their diplomas on the field at Jane Sanders Stadium.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Jaiden Hafer gets hit by a pitch in the first inning, which forced home the Tigers' first run of the game.

REPEAT

Continued from Page 6A

in Saturday's title game rematch against the Hornets, but none tougher than when Henley made its final push at the lead in the sixth inning. Trailing 4-1, the Hornets opened the sixth with two straight singles and a fielder's choice, then cut the deficit to two runs on an infield RBI single by Lilly Poe — with the top of their potent offense coming up, bases loaded and nobody out.

The infield met in the pitcher's circle to regroup, shake off the rough start to the frame and — in the familial sense that has carried the team all year — encourage one another through the pressure-packed moment.

"We just wanted to let each other know we were all present there mentally, that we needed to stay calm and pull through, and we had a lot of confidence in each other," Brock said. Junior Jaiden Hafer, who had

two RBIs in the win, said in that huddle they reminded themselves that they had one other's backs and to take it one play at a time. Brock even said she had to focus on one pitch at a time.

One by one, the Tigers' ace navigated the top three batters to get out of the inning with the lead intact. Brock forced Paige Barnett to pop out to Jacie Howton at second base, struck out Kylie Melsness for the fourth time, then induced Kaila Mick to pop out to Howton to end the threat.

"(The sense of family is) what makes us get through games — just like tonight," Hafer said. "We got through that tough situation when the bases were loaded. We were stressed, but we knew we could overcome those obstacles and get the job done."

"If we would have lost it on each other, an error would have got to our heads (and) we would have turned on each other, there is no way we would have come out of that," senior Alaina Carson said.

"The only thing that got us out of it was saying 'We came here to have fun. We came here to play softball with people we love. Let's just get back in and have a good time.'"

There was even confidence within the team that had Henley's rally continued, La Grande would have been fine.

"I was never really worried," senior Kara Gooderham said. "We're a great team. We would have pulled something out and would have gotten it done."

Brock rode the momentum into the seventh to lock up the state title with a strikeout of Maddie Perez, a popup by Carli Moore to Carson at shortstop and a strikeout of Jessica Northcutt on three pitches to set off the celebration.

"(In the) seventh inning, she could smell it, she could taste it, it's right there," head coach Woody Wright said of Brock. "She just needed to finish and do her job."

Brock allowed just four hits, all of them singles, against an offense that

averaged more than 13 runs per game. She did walk seven batters — four alone in the fifth inning — but managed to work out of that jam as well. She did so while battling a sore right knee that began to bother her midway through the contest.

Junior Jayce Seavert said she wasn't surprised at all by the way Brock fought through the major trial late.

"I've seen this before, because I've played with her (for years). She really gave it her all, (despite) her knee hurting," Seavert said.

The Tigers wasted little time building a quick lead, taking advantage of some wildness by Poe, Henley's starting pitcher, who walked a batter and hit two more in the inning, including Hafer with the bases loaded to force home a run for a 1-0 lead.

La Grande extended the margin to 4-0 in the third inning on RBI singles by Hafer and senior Lexee Gomes, and a bases-loaded walk to freshman Kinzy Bowen.

"It doesn't even feel real yet," said

Gomes, who along with Carson and Gooderham graduated on the field postgame. "Last year's state championship (still) doesn't feel real to me, but (this is) going to be the most memorable thing I will look back on from high school."

And the championship that puts a wrap on what is arguably the best season in program history — a 24-1 record, a team that went undefeated against Class 4A, a 275-37 scoring margin on the season — in the minds of many of the players, is better than the first.

"They're both really nice, but (for) this one we had to work a little bit harder since we had that big target on our back the whole season," Howton said. "This one, we knew it was going to happen, but to finally get it feels so nice."

Brock agreed. "This one's even better. Just being able to come back and bring home another championship for the town," she said. "We're all very grateful and excited."



Nicole Cathey

Reed & Associates for
excellent service **LOCALLY!**



An Independent Insurance Agency

Medicare, Auto, Home
insurance and Annuities



Kevin Reed

10106 N. 'C' • Island City

541-975-1364

Toll Free 1-866-282-1925

www.reed-insurance.net