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SPORTS
IN BRIEFEarly homers
help Mariners
over Astros 7-1

HOUSTON — Even though it's only June, the Seattle Mariners know playing well against the Houston Astros will be vital if they hope to reach the postseason for the first time since 2001.

They did that on Tuesday night, slugging their way to a lopsided win that left them two games ahead of the World Series champs in first place in the American League West.

Kyle Seager, Mike Zunino and Jean Segura all homered off Dallas Keuchel early to back up another solid start by James Paxton and give the Mariners the 7-1 victory.

Florida State tops
Washington to win
1st softball title

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jessie Warren's career finished just the way she envisioned it.

On Monday night, Florida State's star third baseman made perhaps the play of her career, a diving catch and throw for a double play that helped preserve a 1-0 win over Washington in Game 1 of the Women's College World Series championship series.

On Tuesday night, the senior did the damage with her bat. She had three hits, including a homer, and Florida State beat Washington 8-3 to claim its first national title.

Bears' Miller
won't set limits
on recovery from
leg injury

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — All Zach Miller, a former Seattle Seahawks player, knows is he's not setting any limits on his recovery — and his doctors aren't either.

Whether the Chicago Bears' tight end can play again after a gruesome injury last season nearly cost him his left leg still is to be determined.

"There has not been a definitive 'You can never do this again,'" Miller said.

"That hasn't been talked about. It's approach this as you are planning to get back to where I can be myself and play football, and then when that time comes some of that is out of my hands. So, I'm just going to do as much as I can to get to that point and see what happens."

— Associated Press



(From left) Cleveland Cavaliers forward Larry Nance Jr., center Kevin Love and forward Jeff Green cool down after practice Tuesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

Photos by Joshua Gunter /The Plain Dealer

Mood swing: LeBron, Cavs home
looking to turn around NBA Finals

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James laughed as he came around the backstage partition after arriving fashionably late for his crowded, post-practice news conference.

As he stepped onto the podium, back among friendly faces and in the building where he has done some of his finest work, James seemed at ease, almost content. No signs of stress anywhere.

Moments later, his demeanor shifted.

A few reminders about his team's urgent predicament against Golden State, questions about President Donald Trump and another review of Cleveland's heartbreaking loss in Oakland swung his emotions.

"I know it feels like we're down 2-0, and I don't like the way I feel," James said. "I don't like the mood that I'm in right now. There's no, like, 'OK, you're down 2-0 and you feel better than when you're down 2-0 before.' When you're down like this, in a deficit like this — versus a team like this — there's no good feeling. So I don't feel good about it."

The Cavaliers may be in a dark place.

For the third time in the past four Finals, James and his teammates enter Game 3 against the Warriors in a win-or-make-summer-vacation-plans situation. After they wasted a 51-point effort by James — with a reversed official's call, missed free throw by George Hill and bone-headed move from J.R. Smith — and let Game 1 slip away in overtime, and following Stephen Curry's 3-point barrage in Game 2, the Cavs are faced with the reality that their season, strange as it has been to this point, is in serious jeopardy.

However, coach Tyrone Lue, who plans to give disappointing forward Rodney Hood

NBA FINALS: GAME 3

- Golden State Warriors (2-0) at Cleveland Cavaliers (0-2)
- Today, 6 p.m. TV: ABC



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry warms up before practice Tuesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

playing time on Wednesday night, feels his team can change the complexion of this series.

"We're very confident we can do that," Lue said. "The guys are engaged and locked in. Winning tomorrow is a step forward, but then going out with Game 4 also. We're locked into doing that, and we know we can."

"We believe."

It's easy to understand Lue's confidence. After what the Cavaliers have experienced this season, a 2-0 deficit in the Finals against a star-studded Warriors squad on the cusp

of being stamped as a modern-day dynasty seems manageable.

Cleveland has endured injuries, trades, tragedy and drama for months. The Cavs, who climbed from a 2-0 hole to beat Boston in the conference finals, have major roster holes and unfixable flaws. There's no denying their toughness.

"We've been very persistent and very resilient throughout this whole season, no matter what has been going on," James said. "We have an opportunity to come home and protect home, as Golden State has done. It's a very tall task. A very tough challenge going against these guys, going against this team."

Teams that have taken a 2-0 lead are 29-4 in the Finals, but the Warriors know better than to be overconfident. They've learned the hard way.

Golden State held a 3-1 lead in the 2016 Finals before the Cavs rallied to win three straight and dethrone the Dubs. And last year, the Warriors trailed by six with 3:09 left before storming back to win 118-113 in Game 3.

Cleveland has won eight straight playoff games at Quicken Loans Arena, which may be louder than ever with hometown fans still frothing from some calls that went against the Cavaliers in the Bay Area last week.

Just the sight of Warriors forward Draymond Green should be enough to push the decibel readings inside the building to unsafe levels.

"I don't really think about being up 2-0 because the series could turn so fast," Warriors star Kevin Durant said. "It's a great position to be in. I don't want to take that for granted; don't get me wrong. But the job is not done, and you can't relax or be comfortable when you're still trying to win this thing. We know coming on the road is going to be tougher."

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