

NBA Playoffs

Warriors erase 20-point hole, beat Pelicans in overtime

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots a 3-pointer over New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) to tie the score in the final seconds of the second half of Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in New Orleans, Thursday, April 23, 2015.

AP Photo/Gerald Herbert



Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Stephen Curry scored 40 points, including a 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation to complete a 20-point, fourth-quarter comeback, and Golden State beat New Orleans 123-119 in overtime Thursday night to take a 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Curry hit seven 3s in all, including one to start overtime that gave the Warriors the lead for good.

Klay Thompson had 28 points for the Warriors, who trailed 89-69 after three quarters, then outscored New Orleans 39-19 over the next 12 minutes.

Anthony Davis had 29 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans, but his missed free throw with 9.6 seconds left — as the crowd chanted "M-V-P!" — allowed Curry's late 3 to tie it.

Davis had a chance to tie it in the final seconds of overtime, but Warriors center Andrew Bogut forced him into a difficult driving shot, which missed badly.

The Warriors go for the sweep on Saturday in New Orleans. No NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 deficit to win a playoff series.

BULLS 113, BUCKS 106, 2 OTs — At Milwaukee, Derrick Rose scored 34 points and Jimmy Butler

added 24 as Chicago took a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference playoff series.

Butler's steal and layup started an 8-0 run that gave Chicago a 109-101 lead with 2:44 left in the second OT.

Rose scored six points in the second overtime, including a layup off an offensive rebound with 2:15 left for a 10-point lead.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and Khrist Middleton added 18 for Milwaukee, which went scoreless for more than 6 minutes in the first and second overtimes.

The Bulls will go for the sweep on Saturday in Milwaukee. No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series.

CAVALIERS 103, CELTICS 95 — At Boston, LeBron James scored 31 points and Cleveland moved one win away from a sweep in its first playoff series in five years.

The Celtics kept it close, just as they did in the previous two games, and trailed 95-92 after Evan Turner hit a 3-pointer with 2:45 left. But Kevin Love hit two 3-pointers for a 101-93 lead with 26 seconds to go.

Cleveland can complete the sweep Sunday in Boston. Turner had 19 points and Avery Bradley added 18 for Boston.

Love had 23 points and J.R. Smith added 15 for the Cavaliers.

College Football

Alie hoping to buck the odds in Oregon quarterback competition

By RYAN THORBURN The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Taylor Alie, the son of a CPA who is majoring in business and accounting at Oregon, is well aware of the numbers game at quarterback.

On the current roster are four scholarship players competing for the starting job: One veteran (Jeff Lockie) with a firm grasp of the playbook, and three talented young players (Travis Jensen, Ty Griffin and Morgan Mahalak) trying to get up to speed this spring.

FCS superstar Vernon Adams arrives on campus this summer. The Eastern Washington graduate transfer has said he's not joining the Ducks to fly as a backup.

And then there's the affa-

ble Alie.

The redshirt sophomore walk-on is trying to beat long odds and emerge as a serious contender to replace Marcus Mariota.

"Last year was definitely just kind of watching and learning from Marcus," Alie said of his progression running Oregon's blur offense. "Every time I had the opportunity, I took advantage of the chance to do that. Now I know the offense well enough, I've been through the ringer once or twice.

"It's nice to go out there and kind of take the lead in the times that I get a chance to, and just go out and play."

Alie, who led Sheldon High to a state championship in 2012, earned the respect of his college peers on the scout team in 2013.

The coaching staff raved about Alie's work behind the scenes last spring. But during the public showcase at Autzen Stadium, the quarterbacks not wearing No. 8 were uninspiring; Alie was 3-for-8 passing for 18 yards and a touchdown in the spring game.

"He's battling," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said when asked where Alie fits into the quarterback mix. "He has at times been fantastic, and at times he has tried to do too much or too little. ...

"Taylor is a smart guy, a competitive guy and he has a ton of talent."

Helfrich isn't worried about having a six-man tug-of-war behind center during fall camp. He's confident one of the quarterbacks — regardless of age, experience

or recruiting stars — will rise to the top before the Sept. 5 opener based on consistent productivity.

"You can have 20 guys out there that are really average, but if you don't have one guy that can operate how we want to operate at that level, then you're still kind of treading water," Helfrich said.

During the Ducks' run to the College Football Playoff, Alie served as the holder on placekicks and the point man on Oregon's two-point conversions (two converted runs, two converted passes).

The coaches have done their best to divide the snaps evenly through 11 spring practices. Helfrich said the experience Lockie and Alie have accrued in the system allows them to get more reps at times.

"We're here to help. We both understand the offense really well, so it would be kind of selfish not to help out the young guys," Alie said. "So any chance we get we always try to help them out, give them a little insight, little tips that we've learned. When we're out there and it's our turn to take reps, we're not thinking about that, we're competing and showing what we've got."

After Monday's scrimmage, it sounded as if Lockie had gained some significant separation from the other four active candidates with Adams' challenge looming on the summer horizon.

"He's been fantastic," Helfrich said of Mariota's backup the past two seasons. "He's been really good all spring, and I don't think that

has surprised anybody. Probably first and foremost his teammates are guys that have a ton of confidence in him.

"His biggest thing is just be him. Don't try to do something that's not you."

That's good advice for anyone trying to follow in the footsteps of a Heisman Trophy winner and soon-to-be NFL franchise quarterback.

Alie is comfortable in his own skin and with the direction his dark horse campaign is going.

"I love it. We're all brothers in there and it's a very friendly competition. It's cool to see after one guy makes a great play, everybody's giving him high-fives," Alie said. "We're all for the team, so when the best quarterback comes out, everybody is going to be happy for him."

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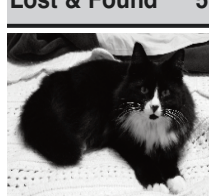
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