

NBA Finals

Irving has fractured kneecap, lost for series

Cavaliers point guard sidelined from remainder of postseason

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Cleveland Cavaliers finished off Chicago and swept past Atlanta, even when Kyrie Irving wasn't available.

Now they have to find their way past the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals without him.

Irving has a fractured left kneecap and will have surgery that could sideline him for three to four months, the Cavaliers said Friday.

Already without Kevin Love, the Cavaliers are now without their All-Star point guard, who had been playing in pain for most of the postseason and was injured again in the final minutes of Game 1 on Thursday night.

“As far as how we prepare, we’ve been through this. We’ve played games without Kevin, without Kyrie,” coach David Blatt said Friday, before the team announced Irving’s diagnosis. “We know how we want to play when they’re not in there. From that standpoint, we can prepare. Our main concern right now though is just Kyrie’s health. That’s all.”

The Cavaliers said an MRI exam Friday at Stanford Sports Medicine Clinic revealed the injury and that surgery will be performed at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland by Cavaliers head team physician Dr. Richard Parker.

“Saddened by the way I had to go out but it doesn’t take away from being (a part) of a special playoff run with my brothers,” Irving wrote in a Twitter posting. “Truly means a lot for all the support and love. I Gave it everything I had and have no regrets. I love this game no matter what and I’ll be back soon.”



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving (2) walks off the floor after being injured during overtime of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, Calif., Thursday. The Warriors won 108-100.

AP Photo/Eric Risberg

Irving limped off the court during overtime of Cleveland's 108-100 loss on Thursday night and left the arena on crutches. He has been bothered by foot and then knee pain for most of his first postseason, sitting out the second half of the series-clinching victory over Chicago in the second round.

He then missed two games during the Eastern Conference finals, but played well Thursday, finishing with 23 points before leaving with 2 minutes left in the extra period.

Matthew Dellavedova stepped in during Irving's absence in the last round but played only 9 scoreless minutes Thursday.

LeBron James said Friday the Cavs would be prepared no matter who was available.

“Well, there are a few things that you would love to have going late in the season,” he said. “That’s being healthy, having a great rhythm, and then you need a little luck as well. We’ve had a great rhythm. We haven’t had

much luck, and we haven’t been healthy. But I haven’t gotten discouraged.

“I understand the moment that I’m in, and I’m not too much worried about the game. I’m worried about the moment. I’m happy with the moment. I’m excited to be in this moment once again, and I’m going to stay strong for my team, no matter who is or is not in the lineup.”

The Cavs have battled injuries throughout James’ first season back in Cleveland. Starting forward Anderson Varejao was lost to a ruptured left Achilles tendon months ago, then Love’s dislocated left shoulder came as the Cavs were finishing a first-round sweep of Boston.

Now they are without one of the league’s dynamic performers, who had posted the NBA’s two highest-scoring games this season with 57 and 55 points, against a team that Warriors already had a decided advantage in depth.

“Well, Golden State has a very deep roster that’s been one of their strengths throughout the season. We’ve been a team that’s been struck with injuries that has shortened ours to a certain extent,” Blatt said. “I think we did pretty good coming through that. We’re here in the NBA Finals. But certainly their depth is something that has to be reckoned with, and it’s a factor for them.”

Still, the Warriors insisted it wouldn’t make things easier as they chase their first title in 40 years.

“So we can’t assume that Kyrie plays or doesn’t play that it’s going to be a cakewalk for us to get a championship,” Warriors star Stephen Curry said. “It’s still going to be a challenge. It’s still going to be tough. We have to control what we control and do what we do.”

James scored 44 points Thursday, his most ever in the finals. He’s dealt with having important teammates hurting in the finals, from the Cavs shutting down Larry Hughes midway through the 2007 series to Dwyane Wade’s leg injuries last season.

He said the good thing now is the Cavs were already used to playing without Irving.

Furious rally keys US’s first ever win over The Netherlands

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Danny Williams scored in the 89th minute and Bobby Wood in the 90th, capping a comeback from a two-goal second-half deficit and leading the United States over the Netherlands 4-3 on Friday night for the Americans’ first win against the Dutch.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored on headers in the 27th and 49th minutes in the exhibition and assisted on

Memphis Depay’s 53rd-minute goal as the sixth-ranked Netherlands built a 3-1 lead.

Gyasi Zardes got his first international goal in the 33rd as the U.S. reached halftime in a 1-1 tie despite having just 39 percent possession.

John Brooks cut the U.S. deficit in the 71st minute with a tap-in past goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen after U.S. captain Michael Bradley sent the ball wide to DeAndre Yedlin, who then centered.

Williams, who entered in the

63rd minute, tied the score following a corner kick when he reached a failed clearance and his 20-yard shot deflected in off the foot of Luuk De Jong.

Wood, who came in in the 65th, scored after Bradley brought the ball up the center of the field and passed to Jordan Morris, who then cut the ball back. They were the first international goals for Williams and Wood, both far down on the American depth chart.

“I was lucky that my shot

deflected at the end,” said Williams, who plays for second-tier Reading in England. “It’s an absolutely fantastic feeling to win against Holland in Amsterdam.”

Wood, whose Erzgebirge Aue club was relegated to the German third division, was making just his seventh appearance for the U.S.

The Americans, ranked 27th, had been 0-4 against the Dutch coming in and had been outscored 7-1. They play at world champion Germany on Wednesday in their next-to-last game before starting the defense of their CONCACAF Gold Cup title.

U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann previously led the Americans to their first win against Italy and their first victory at Mexico.

Huntelaar’s goals raised his total to 41 in 72 international matches, moving one ahead of Patrick Kluivert for second place on the Dutch scoring list. Dutch captain Robin van Persie, who leads with 49, could not put the ball past goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

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By Holiday

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

ARIES (March 21-April 19). An African proverb suggests that until the lion has a historian, the hunter will always be a hero. As you present the story in your own point of view (because it's the only one you have), you try to be fair.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The mission of the weekend includes heavy work that doesn't feel all that difficult given the nobility of the goal. (If the hard work feels arduous and pointless, you're on the wrong mission.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Life gets better when you're a witness, not a judge. When you rid yourself of prejudice and release yourself of the need to have an opinion, you'll see the truth clearly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can't radiate a beautiful aura while feeling dark inside. That's why the time you spend feeling good is well worth the effort. If you were to be 10 percent more selfish, what would you do next?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Most parents would prefer their children to be courteous, obedient and respectful, but also sensible enough to fight ferociously for themselves when necessary. The weekend will highlight both your mild and feisty qualities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You fought for your principles, and that took guts, but not as much as it will take to live up to them. You're in that process now. Feel good about yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some say you should follow your impulses as long as they don't lead you to intentionally hurt another person. Unfortunately, the pain is the same whether or not the infliction is intentional.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll put yourself out there and be seen by someone whose opinion really matters to you. You may not realize at first that you are on this person's radar, especially if your presentation is digital.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships that start with attraction can end in repulsion, but it rarely goes the other way. Obey your aversions. Tonight, you'll pick up on the details that others miss.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may find yourself pulling away from someone without consciously knowing why. Figure it out, because the knowledge will help your other relationships. Hint: Maybe this person somehow always causes more work for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are attractive, in demand and, like most people in that position, slow to add new people to your world. You appreciate casual interest from others, but intensity will scare you off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What good are blessings in disguise if they never reveal themselves and no one makes the effort to recognize them? Ask your blessings to unmask themselves.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 6). Love takes time, and you'll give it the best of your attention this year even when you're crazy busy. You'll find a new work niche in July. Younger people will credit you for their success. Start socking away money so you'll be ready for an exciting November investment. Your true riches will multiply in 2016. Pisces and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 42, 35, 1, 38 and 47.

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