

NHL Neal's OT goal downs Ducks

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — James Neal scored 9:24 into overtime, and the Nashville Predators kicked off their first appearance in the Western Conference finals with a 3-2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Friday night.

Pekka Rinne made 27 saves for the Predators, who continued their dominant surge through these Stanley Cup playoffs with a strong start and a gritty overtime effort after Hampus Lindholm's first playoff goal in two years tied it for the Ducks.

Filip Forsberg and Austin Watson scored in regulation for Nashville,



which improved to 9-2 in the post-season.

Jakob Silfverberg scored on the Ducks' first shot, and John Gibson stopped 43 shots. Just two days after finishing off Edmonton in the second round, Anaheim struggled to keep up at times with the more-rested Predators.

Game 2 is Sunday night. Neal put a long shot past a sprawled Gibson after a prolonged threat by the Predators that left

Anaheim's defense in disarray. The goal was the veteran forward's third in four games.

Although this conference final matches two Sun Belt clubs 2,000 miles apart, they have a feisty history. Anaheim and Nashville are meeting in the postseason for the third time, including the past two seasons.

Nashville twice won Game 1 and went on to claim the previous two series with major help from Rinne, who usually has been at his inimitable best when facing the Ducks' scorers. Rinne picked up right where he left off last season when Nashville eliminated Anaheim from the first round in seven games, but Gibson responded with a second straight superb playoff performance.



AP Photo/Chris Carlson
Anaheim Ducks goalie John Gibson, right, and right wing Corey Perry fail to stop the game-winning goal by Nashville Predators left wing James Neal in overtime of Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals, Friday, May 12, 2017, in Anaheim, Calif. The Predators won 3-2.

NBA Wall's late 3 lifts Wizards, forces Game 7

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Wall stood atop the scorer's table, popping his jersey, yelling and celebrating his 3-pointer with 3.5 seconds left for the go-ahead basket that put his Washington Wizards into a Game 7 against the Boston Celtics.

After Washington's 92-91 victory extended the Eastern Conference semifinal, Wall offered his thoughts on Boston's failure to back up its statement of wearing all black clothing to the arena Friday night.

"It was just funny to me. It was kind of copy-cattin' what we did," said Wall, whose Wizards donned dark outfits before a regular-season game between these teams that are building a rivalry. "It was in my mind throughout the game that I didn't want them to come here, wear all black, and basically call it a funeral."

Thanks to him and backcourt mate Bradley Beal, Washington's season will last at least one more game. Wall finished with 26 points, Beal scored a game-high 33, and they combined for 23 of Washington's 26 points in the back-and-forth fourth quarter.

"All we asked for was one more game," Wall said, "and we got it."

Game 7 is at Boston on Monday night. The winner will face LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the East finals starting Wednesday.

The host has won all 10 games between the Wizards and Celtics this season — four in the regular season and six in the playoffs.

"Two best words in playoffs is 'Game 7,'" Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "Seems like it was meant to be."

Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley each scored 27 points for Boston, the conference's No. 1 seed.

But Bradley could do nothing defensively to stop Wall on the winning shot, coming off an inbound play that was designed to get Beal the ball. And Thomas' heave at the buzzer clanked off the rim.

"I thought it was going in," Thomas said. "Honestly I did."

Like the rest of his teammates, he was left to get back into his dark outfit afterward. Wearing a black shirt, he scoffed at the idea Wall and the Wizards derived some boost from



AP Photo/Alex Brandon
Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) shoots the game-winning 3-point shot over Boston Celtics guard Avery Bradley (0) during Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Friday, May 12, 2017, in Washington. The Wizards won 92-91.

knowing about the Celtics' choice of attire.

"Their season was on the line," he said. "They should have been motivated by everything else."

Boston, which won Game 5 at home by 22 points, led Game 6 by 69-66 entering the fourth quarter, when a relatively blah game became much more compelling. The final period was tight throughout, featuring six ties and nine lead changes.

Boston was up 87-82, but did not hold on.

"We put ourselves in position to win the game," said Al Horford, whose 16-foot baseline bank shot with 7.7 seconds left gave Boston its last lead at 91-89. "Couldn't finish it. ... We can't dwell on this."

Wall and Beal both shook off slow starts.

Beal was 0 for 7 on 3s before making his only one of the game with 69 seconds left. The Wizards as a whole started 1 for 15 from beyond the arc. And Wall started 1 for 12 overall before closing by making 8 of 13.

"If I go 1 for 30," he shrugged, "that's the way I go out."

Not since 1979 have the Wizards

reached the conference finals, and Wall has made clear he'll consider this season — Brooks' first as the team's coach — a waste of time if they don't get there this time.

"We don't win Game 7," Wall said, "we feel like it was a failure."

TIP-INS

Celtics: Their 42-41 halftime lead was the visitors' first since edge since 2-0 on Horford's basket. ... Trying to reach the East finals for the first time since 2012.

Wizards: Had lost seven consecutive elimination games at home. ... Last reached the Eastern Conference finals in 1979. ... This was the first win by a home team facing elimination on its court in these NBA playoffs; hosts had been 0-10 in that situation until Friday. ... F Otto Porter Jr. had zero points.

BACK IN BLACK

Some Celtics said it was purely coincidence that they showed up wearing black, the way the Wizards did for what became known as the "Funeral Game," won by Washington in January. Joked Brooks: "I'm going to talk to my lawyers. I think we have that trademarked, right? That's our thing."

No Love lost: Cavs star accepts reduced role as champs roll

By TOM WITHERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Kevin Love doesn't mind being a third wheel or a fourth or even a fifth.

His scoring average has dipped and he's taking fewer shots. And he's OK with that. He has not been a major part of Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue's plans in the playoffs so far. And he's not complaining about that, either.

In short, Love isn't demanding more, well, love.

"I told him (Lue), 'We're 8-0. I don't mind it,'" he said Thursday following practice. "If I get five or six shots, if I get 15 shots, it doesn't matter to me, as long as we win. I've been in this position before. We're having success so I'm happy. Feel good."

As the Cavaliers wait for the winner of the Boston-Washington series as their opponent in the Eastern Conference finals, Love's reduced role in his third postseason for Cleveland has become a topic for discussion.

And while the All-Star forward has found himself at the center of previous controversies during his time with the Cavs, there are no hidden meanings or subliminal messages at work this time.

Love was once something of an outsider in Cleveland, but those days are long gone and he's now a pivotal part of everything for the defending champions, who are undefeated through two rounds.

But don't be fooled by his statistical slide to this point of the playoffs. That could soon change as well.

When the Cavs resume their march toward a possible second title next week, Lue hinted that Love, who has even sat out the entire fourth quarter in two victories, could be a bigger factor.

"Some of it's my fault because we haven't really featured him a lot because of the matchups we had on other teams," Lue said. "He has

been great. His whole mindset is winning and that's what it's all about in the playoffs. In this next series, we have some matchups he can definitely take advantage of and it's on me to make sure we do that."

During Cleveland's sweep of Toronto, Love averaged just 12 points — he averaged 19 during the regular season — and he scored just 5 in Game 4 on 2-of-7 shooting.

One of the reasons for Love's drop-off against Toronto is that he was often guarded by Serge Ibaka, a defensive specialist acquired in part to take away one of Cleveland's most potent weapons. Also, with the way LeBron James and Kyrie Irving are playing, the Cavs didn't need as much from Love.

Their "Big 3" has been reduced to a "Terrific 2" but things could be much different in the conference final, where matchups could dictate more minutes for Love.

Love's ability to post up and pop outside for 3-pointers makes him challenging to cover. Lue knows there may be a chance to get the 6-foot-10 big man more involved.

"The playoffs is a game of matchups," he said. "That's why Toronto went out and got Ibaka, to try and slow Kevin down. Maybe we didn't feature Kevin enough against Toronto, maybe we showed 'em too much respect and that's on me. But next round I've got to do a better job of really getting Kevin involved and really establishing Kevin."

Love's willingness to accept a lesser role in the postseason is not only a sign of his comfort in Cleveland, but also his willingness to put the team first.

"It's just growth," Lue said. "Growth for Kevin, growth for this team and it's all about winning. When you come here it's all about one thing, and that's just trying to win a championship. However you gotta do it, you gotta do it."

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Saturday
Weston-McEwen at Grant Union (2), 11 a.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Saturday
Culver at Heppner (2), 11 a.m./1 p.m.

Tuesday

Weston-McEwen at Union, 5 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Saturday
Heppner, Stanfield, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen at CBC District Championships (Prineville), TBD

Umatilla, Irrigon, Riverside at EOL District Championships (Nyssa), TBD

Mac-Hi at GOL District Championships (Baker), 10 a.m.

Helix, Echo, Arlington, Condon/Wheeler, lone at District 3 Championships (Moro), 10:30 a.m.

PREP GOLF

Monday
Heppner (girls) at 4A/3A/2A/1A state championships (Corvallis), 7:30 a.m.

Heppner (boys) at 3A/2A/1A state championships (Redmond), 8 a.m.

Pendleton, Hermiston (girls) at 5A state championships (Creswell), 12:30 p.m.

Pendleton (boys) at 5A state championships (Banks), 12:30 p.m.

Mac-Hi (boys) at 4A state championships (Corvallis), 12:15 p.m.

PREP TENNIS

Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton (boys) at District Championships (Sunriver), TBD

Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at District Championships (Hermiston), TBD

Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Helix, lone at District Championships (Kennewick, Wash.), TBD

PREP LACROSSE

Saturday
Hermiston vs West Albany (at Summit), TBD

Sunday
Hermiston vs TBD (at Sisters), TBD

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Blue Mountain at Big Bend (2), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Sunday
Big Bend at Blue Mountain (2), Noon

Prep Standings

BASEBALL

5A Columbia River Conference

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
Hood River 10-2 18-7 166 102

Pendleton 6-6 10-15 150 179

The Dalles 4-8 10-15 150 214

Hermiston 4-8 10-16 122 184

4A Greater Oregon League

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
La Grande 11-1 17-3 177 50

Ontario 8-4 16-7 194 112

Baker 5-7 9-15 170 197

Mac-Hi 0-12 4-16 102 225

3A Eastern Oregon League

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
Stanfield 10-4 21-1 298 49

Irrigon 14-0 17-4 219 110

Nyssa 9-5 11-11 166 161

Joseph 7-7 10-9 156 137

Vale 6-8 8-13 188 236

Burns 5-9 7-16 153 207

Riverside 4-10 4-19 132 311

Umatilla 1-13 2-17 96 248

2A/1A Special District 6

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
Dufur 15-1 21-1 224 76

Sherman 12-4 15-5 187 102

Pilot Rock 12-4 14-8 156 93

Culver 10-6 13-8 171 126

Weston-M. 8-6 10-9 143 137

Elgin 7-9 7-9 80 104

Grant Union 4-10 7-14 122 161

Heppner 1-15 2-20 100 264

Union 1-15 1-17 56 221

SOFTBALL

5A Columbia River Conference

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
Pendleton 10-2 22-4 206 48

Hood River 9-3 15-10 148 103

Hermiston 3-9 9-16 96 151

The Dalles 2-10 3-21 107 213

4A Greater Oregon League

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
La Grande 10-2 19-4 199 49

Mac-Hi 10-2 17-5 204 99

Ontario 4-8 16-9 201 148

Baker 0-12 4-18 94 220

3A Special District 1

Lg. Ovr. RS RA
Weston-M. 9-3 12-7 205 111

Echo 8-4 12-10 196 110

Irrigon 7-5 15-9 221 153

Riverside 6-6 16-8 315 141

Umatilla 0-12 1-18 58 429

2A/1A Special District 6

Basketball

NBA

Playoff glance

SECOND ROUND (Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

May 1: Cleveland 116, Toronto 105

May 3: Cleveland 125, Toronto 103

May 5: Cleveland 115, Toronto 94

May 7: Cleveland 109, Toronto 102

Boston 3, Washington 3

April 30: Boston 123, Washington 111

May 2: Boston 129, Washington 119, OT

May 4: Washington 111, Boston 89

May 7: Washington 126, Boston 102

Wednesday: Boston 123, Washington 101

Friday: Washington 92, Boston 91

Monday: Washington at Boston, 5 p.m. (TNT)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio 4, Houston 2

May 1: Houston 126, San Antonio 99

May 3: San Antonio 121, Houston 96

May 5: San Antonio 103, Houston 92

May 7: Houston 125, San Antonio 104

May 9: San Antonio 110, Houston 107, OT

Thursday: San Antonio 114, Houston 75

Golden State 4, Utah 0

May 2: Golden State 106, Utah 94

May 4: Golden State 115, Utah 104

May 6: Golden State 102, Utah 91

May 8: Golden State 121, Utah 95

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Golden State vs. San Antonio

Sunday: San Antonio at Golden State, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

Hockey

NHL

Playoff glance

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7)

Ottawa vs. Pittsburgh

Saturday: Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.

Monday: Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.

May 17: Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 5 p.m.

May 19: Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 5 p.m.

Nashville 1, Anaheim 0

Friday: Nashville 3, Anaheim 2

Sunday: Nashville at Anaheim, 4:30 p.m.

May 16: Anaheim at Nashville, 5 p.m.

May 18: Anaheim at Nashville, 5 p.m.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Baltimore 22 12 647 —

New York 21 12 636 ½

Boston 18 17 514 4½

Tampa Bay 18 20 474 6

Toronto 15 21 417 8

Central Division

Minnesota 18 14 563 —

Cleveland 18 16 529 1

Detroit 17 17 500 2

Chicago 15 18 455 3½

Kansas City 14 21 400 5½

West Division

Houston 25 11 694 —

Los Angeles 18 20 474 8