

NBA Playoffs

LeBron scores 46 as Cavs even series with the Pacers

CLEVELAND — The situation was dire, requiring dominance. LeBron James delivered.

No surprise there. Taking matters into his own hands, James scored 46 points and added 12 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers bounced back from a poor performance in the series opener by holding off the Indiana Pacers 100-97 on Wednesday night to even their Eastern Conference playoff matchup at one game apiece.

Game 3 is set for Friday night.

Dazzling from the start, James scored the game's first 16 points and had 29 at halftime, ruling the floor as he has done in so many previous postseasons.

"I played my game," he said.

But in a season in which nothing has been easy for the Cavs, Cleveland was lucky that Indiana's Victor Oladipo missed a wide-open 3-pointer that would have tied it with 27 seconds left.

"I got a clean look, I shot and I just missed," Oladipo said, shrugging his shoulders. "If I had that look again, I would take it every time."

Kevin Love scored 15, but Cleveland's All-Star center jammed his left thumb — the same hand he broke earlier this season— while deflecting a pass and sat out the final 3:43 left with the Cavs clinging to a slim lead. Lue said Love could have returned and "he's fine" for Game 3 on Friday.

As long as James is OK, the Cavs will always have a chance.

Lue shook up his starting lineup for Game 2 and Kyle Korver contributed 12 points, all on 3s, made several hustling plays and took two charges.

Oladipo scored 22 — he was in early foul trouble — and Myles Turner 18 for the Pacers, who shocked the Cavs with an overpowering win in Game 1 and head



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner (33) during the first half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Wednesday in Cleveland.

home full of confidence.

Indiana clawed back from an 18-point deficit and was within 95-92 when Oladipo, who scored 32 in the opener, somehow came free off a screen but missed maybe his easiest shot in two games.

James grabbed the rebound and made three free throws over the final 22 seconds as the Cavs avoided falling behind 2-0 on the series.

The 33-year-old James was expected to be more aggressive than in Game 1, when he was unusually passive, deferred to teammates and suffered the first playoff-opening loss of his career.

James was his unstoppable self again, and there wasn't a whole lot the Pacers could do about him in the first half.

"We just wanted him to set the tone and he did that by getting to the basket

early, making a couple jump shots," Lue said. "But we ran the same first play until they stopped it. He kept getting what he wanted. We just kind of followed his lead from there."

James made his first five attempts and scored Cleveland's first 16 points, making a pair of 3-pointers and then picking up assists on 3s by Love and Korver. James outscored the Pacers 20-18 in the first 12 minutes.

HOUSTON 102, MINNESOTA 82

HOUSTON — Chris Paul had 27 points and Gerald Green came off the bench to score 21 as the Houston Rockets used a huge second quarter to cruise to a 102-82 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night that gave them a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Houston fell behind early,

but went on top for good with a 37-point second quarter, powered by four 3-pointers from Green, and the Wolves didn't threaten again.

The top-seeded Rockets won the opener by three behind a 44-point performance from James Harden on a night when most of the team struggled offensively. Things were much different on Wednesday when Harden had just 12 points as one of four Rockets who finished in double figures.

Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns had another disappointing game, scoring all of his five points in the first quarter, after being criticized for finishing with eight in the series opener. Jamal Crawford scored 16 points for the eighth-seeded Timberwolves, who are in the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

The series moves to Minnesota for Game 3 on Saturday.

UTAH 102, OKLAHOMA CITY 95

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rookie Donovan Mitchell scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter to help the Utah Jazz defeat the Oklahoma City Thunder 102-95 on Wednesday night and tie their Western Conference playoff series at one win game apiece.

Derrick Favors had career playoff bests of 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Jazz, and Ricky Rubio had 22 points, nine assists and seven rebounds in the first playoff win of his seven-year career.

Russell Westbrook had 19 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds for the Thunder. Paul George, who scored 36 points in Game 1, finished with 18 on 6-for-21 shooting. Carmelo Anthony scored 17 points, but made just six of 18 shots.

Utah outrebounded Oklahoma City 56-46 to take home-court advantage from the Thunder. Game 3 will be Saturday in Utah.

NHL Playoffs



AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

San Jose Sharks goalie Martin Jones, right, defends a shot by Anaheim Ducks right wing Corey Perry (10) during the second period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series in San Jose, Calif., Wednesday.

Hertl, Jones help Sharks finish sweep of Ducks with 2-1 win

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Tomas Hertl scored the tiebreaking goal 9:09 into the third period, Martin Jones was spectacular in goal yet again, and the San Jose Sharks completed a first-round sweep of the rival Anaheim Ducks with a 2-1 victory in Game 4 on Wednesday night.

Hertl scored just 1:16 after the Ducks finally got a puck past Jones when he deflected a point shot from Marc-Edouard Vlasic past John Gibson. San Jose then held on to advance to the second round against the expansion Vegas Golden Knights.

Fourth-line winger Marcus Sorensen scored for the third straight game to open the scoring for San Jose and Jones did most of the rest of the work with 30 saves. He robbed Corey Pery several times and got help from a replay review that negated an apparent tying goal early in the third.

Andrew Cogliano scored the lone goal for the Ducks, who were outscored 16-4 in the series and swept for the first time since 1999 against Detroit. Gibson finished with 22 saves.

Gibson was unable to match the play of Jones, who had a shutout in Game 1, set a San Jose playoff record with 45 regulation saves in Game 3 and then might have been even better in the clincher that gave the Sharks their second sweep in franchise history after also doing it in the first round in 2013 against Vancouver.

NASHVILLE 3, COLORADO 2

DENVER — Filip Forsberg scored another creative goal, Pekka Rinne rebounded from a rocky performance with 31 saves, and the Nashville Predators withstood a furious rally by the Colorado Avalanche for a 3-2 win in Game 4 on Wednesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

Colton Sissons and Craig Smith also added goals for the Predators, who can close out the series Friday when it shifts back to Nashville for Game 5.

Rinne was solid early after being pulled from the last game. Cruising along

and up 3-0, the Vezina Trophy finalist allowed Gabriel Landeskog's 5-on-3 power-play goal in the third and another on Alexander Kerfoot's tap-in off a rebound.

Colin Wilson nearly tied when his shot appeared to hit the post. The Avalanche pulled backup goalie Andrew Hammond late, but couldn't get the tying goal.

TAMPA BAY 3, NEW JERSEY 1

NEWARK, N.J. — A feisty Nikita Kucherov scored two goals, set up another and knocked New Jersey's top defenseman out of the game with a big hit, and the Tampa Bay Lightning moved within a game of making the Devils' first trip to the playoffs in six years a short one with a 3-1 victory on Wednesday night.

J.T. Miller also scored and had two assists, and Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped three breakaways in making 27 saves as the Lightning bounced back from a loss in Game 3 to tale a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

Tampa Bay can wrap up the best-of-seven series in Game 5 at home on Saturday.

Kyle Palmieri scored on a 5-on-3 advantage for the Devils, who are back in the playoffs for the first time since reaching the Stanley Cup Final in 2012. It was the only time they beat Vasilevskiy, whose 44 wins in the regular season shared the league lead with Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck. Cory Schneider made 34 saves for New Nersey in starting his second straight game.

PITTSBURGH 5, PHILADELPHIA 0

PHILADELPHIA — Sidney Crosby scored his fifth goal of the series and became the Pittsburgh Penguins' career postseason points leader in a 5-0 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

The Penguins lead the first-round playoff series 3-1 as its shifts to Pittsburgh for Game 5 on Friday.

Matt Murray stopped 26 shots for his second shutout of the series and the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Penguins are a win away from playing in the second round for the 11th time in the last 12 seasons.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL

Friday
Vale at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Burns at Irrigon (DH), 2 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Riverside (DH), 12:45 p.m.
Saturday
Grant Union at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m.
Weston-McEwen at Elgin (DH), 11 a.m.
Arlington at Heppner (DH), 11 a.m.
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), 12 p.m.
Pendleton at Hood River Valley (DH), 12 p.m.
Mac-Hi at La Grande (DH), 12 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Thursday
Union at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Weston-McEwen at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.
Echo at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Saturday
The Dalles at Hermiston (DH), 12 p.m.
Pendleton at Hood River Valley (DH), 12 p.m.
Mac-Hi at La Grande (DH), 12 p.m.
Burns at Echo (DH), 1 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Union (DH), 11 a.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Friday
Echo, Umatilla at the Condon/Wheeler Invite (Condon), 11 a.m.
Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Pendleton at Kiwanis Twilight Invitational (Hermiston), 2 p.m.
Saturday
Mac-Hi at Blue Devil Legends Invite (Walla Walla), 10 a.m.
Heppner at 54th Centennial Invitational (Centennial HS), 11 a.m.
Helix, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen at Pepsi Invitational (Union), 11 a.m.
Riverside at Portland Christian Invitational, 11 a.m.

PREP GOLF

Thursday
Pendleton, Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Nixyaawii at Pendleton Country Club, 12 p.m.
Friday
Hermiston (girls) at Wandemere Golf Course (WA), 9 a.m.
Heppner at Grant Union Invite (John Day Golf Club), 10 a.m.

PREP TENNIS

Thursday
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 3 p.m.
Hermiston at The Dalles (boys), 4 p.m.
Saturday
Helix, Umatilla, Stanfield at Stanfield, 10 a.m.

PREP LACROSSE

Wednesday
Hermiston at Richland, 7 p.m.
Saturday
West Valley at Hermiston, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Wednesday
BMCC at Big Bend CC (DH), 1 p.m.
Saturday
Wenatchee Valley at BMCC (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
EOU at Corban (DH), 2 p.m.
BMCC at Mt. Hood CC (DH), 2 p.m.
Saturday
EOU at Corban (DH), 11 a.m.

Basketball

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

(Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Toronto 2, Washington 0

Game 1: Toronto 114, Washington 106
Game 2: Toronto 130, Washington 119

Friday: Toronto at Washington, 5 p.m.
Sunday: Toronto at Washington, 5 p.m.

Boston 2, Milwaukee 0

Game 1: Boston 113, Milwaukee 107, OT
Game 2: Boston 120, Milwaukee 106

Friday: Boston at Milwaukee, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday: Boston at Milwaukee, 10 a.m.

Philadelphia 1, Miami 1

Game 1: Philadelphia 130, Miami 103
Game 2: Miami 113, Philadelphia 103

Thursday: Philadelphia at Miami, 4 p.m.
Saturday: Philadelphia at Miami, 11:30 a.m.

April 24: Miami at Philadelphia, TBA

Cleveland 1, Indiana 1

Game 1: Indiana 98, Cleveland 80
Wednesday: Cleveland 100, Indiana 97

Friday: Cleveland at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Sunday: Cleveland at Indiana, 5:30 p.m.

April 25: Indiana at Cleveland, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Houston 2, Minnesota 0

Game 1: Houston 104, Minnesota 101
Wednesday: Houston 102, Minnesota 82

Saturday: Houston at Minnesota, 4:30 p.m.

April 23: Houston at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Golden State 1, San Antonio 0

Game 1: Golden State 113, San Antonio 92

Game 2: Golden State 116, San Antonio 101

Thursday: Golden State at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.

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

New Orleans 2, Portland 0

Game 1: New Orleans 97, Portland 95
Game 2: New Orleans 111, Portland 102

Thursday: Portland at New Orleans, 6 p.m.
Saturday: Portland at New Orleans, 2 p.m.

Oklahoma City 1, Utah 1

Game 1: Oklahoma City 116, Utah 108
Wednesday: Utah 102, Oklahoma City 95

Saturday: Oklahoma City at Utah, 7 p.m.
April 23: Oklahoma City at Utah, 7:30 p.m.

April 25: Utah at Oklahoma City, TBA

Hockey

NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE

(Best-of-7; x if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1

Game 1: Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2
Game 2: Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 3

Game 3: New Jersey 5, Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday: Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1

Saturday: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m.

Boston 2, Toronto 1

Game 1: Boston 5, Toronto 1
Game 2: Boston 7, Toronto 3

Game 3: Toronto 4, Boston 2
Thursday: Boston at Toronto, 4 p.m.

Saturday: Toronto at Boston, 5 p.m.

Columbus 2, Washington 1

Game 1: Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT
Game 2: Columbus 5, Washington 4, OT

Game 3: Washington 3, Columbus 2, OT
Thursday: Washington at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: Columbus at Washington, 12 p.m.

Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia 1

Game 1: Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0
Game 2: Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 1

Game 3: Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1
Wednesday: Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 0

Friday: Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Nashville 3, Colorado 1

Game 1: Nashville 5, Colorado 2
Game 2: Nashville 5, Colorado 4

Game 3: Colorado 5, Nashville 3
Wednesday: Nashville 3, Colorado 2

Friday: Colorado at Nashville, 6:30 p.m.

Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 1

Game 1: Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2
Game 2: Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1

Game 3: Minnesota 6, Winnipeg 2
Tuesday: Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 0

Friday: Minnesota at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.

Vegas 4, Los Angeles 0

Game 1: Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0
Game 2: Vegas 2, Los Angeles 1, 2OT

Game 3: Vegas 3, Los Angeles 2
Tuesday: Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0

San Jose 4, Anaheim 0

Game 1: San Jose 3, Anaheim 0
Game 2: San Jose 3, Anaheim 2

Game 3: San Jose 3, Anaheim 1
Wednesday: San Jose 2, Anaheim 1

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	2	.882	—
Toronto	12	5	.706	3
New York	8	8	.500	6½
Baltimore	5	13	.278	10½
Tampa Bay	5	13	.278	10½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	8	5	.615	—
Cleveland	9	7	.563	½
Detroit	6	9	.400	3
Chicago	4	11	.267	5
Kansas City	3	13	.188	6½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	13	4	.765	—
Houston	12	7	.631	1½
Seattle	9	7	.563	3
Oakland	9	10	.474	4½
Texas	7	13	.350	7

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 6, Baltimore 5
Tampa Bay 4, Texas 2

Oakland 12, Chicago White Sox 11, 14 innings

Toronto 15, Kansas City 5

Minnesota 2, Cleveland 1, 16 innings

Boston 9, L.A. Angels 0

Houston 7, Seattle 1

Thursday's Games

Baltimore (Cobb 0-1) at Detroit (Zimmermann 0-0), 10:10 a.m.

Houston (Morton 2-0) at Seattle (Gonzales 1-1), 12:40 p.m.

Toronto (Sanchez 1-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 0-0), 3:35 p.m.

Boston (Rodriguez 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Tropiano 1-0), 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	4	.765	—
Atlanta	10	7	.588	3
Philadelphia	10	7	.588	3
Washington	9	10	.474	5
Miami	5	12	.294	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	12	6	.667	—
St. Louis	12	7	.588	1½
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	2½
Chicago	7	8	.467	3½
Cincinnati	3	15	.167	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	12	5	.706	—
Colorado	11	9	.550	2½
Los Angeles	8	9	.470	4
San Francisco	8	10	.442	5
San Diego	7	13	.350	6½

Wednesday's Games

St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, ppd.

Pittsburgh 10, Colorado 2

Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 0

N.Y. Mets 11, Washington 5

Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 3

San Francisco 4, Arizona 3, 10 innings

L.A. Dodgers 13, San Diego 4

Thursday's Games

St. Louis (Weaver 2-0) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 1-0), 11:20 a.m.