

# James, Cavs sweep Raptors to make conference finals

By TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Order has been restored for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Four games with Toronto straightened them out.

LeBron James sent the Raptors into summer vacation for the third straight season as the Cavs completed another series sweep over the East's top team with a 128-93 win in Game 4 on Monday night to advance to the conference finals for the fourth consecutive year.

James finished with 29 points, 11 assists and spent some of the final 7:38 dancing near the bench during Cleveland's 10th straight playoff win over Toronto, which changed its system, its roster and its approach but still can't beat the game's best player.

Pushed to the max for seven games by Indiana in the first round, the Cavs took care of Toronto quickly.

"It was a great series for us," James said. "We had a lot of challenges to start the series knowing the domination they had in the regular season. We had a great game plan and we just tried to execute it."

Kevin Love added 23 points and J.R. Smith 15 for the Cavs, who can now rest while waiting for the Boston-Philadelphia semifinal series to end.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 18 and Kyle Lowry had 10 assists to lead the exasperated Raptors. Toronto's frustration hit its peak late in the third when All-Star DeMar DeRozan was ejected for a flagrant foul.

Cleveland will be appearing in its fourth straight conference final despite a turbulent regular season and a bumpy start to the playoffs.

The Cavs didn't stumble and had one of their best all-around games of these playoffs after so many tight ones.



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

**Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) strips the ball from Toronto Raptors' Serge Ibaka in the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Monday, May 7, 2018, in Cleveland.**

They won Games 1 and 3 over Toronto by a combined three points, needing a buzzer-beater to outlast the Raptors on Saturday night.

There was no need for such heroics and for a change, James, who came in averaging 41.7 minutes per game in the postseason, had plenty of help. All five Cleveland starters scored in double figures and Love continued his spring rebirth after struggling against the physical Pacers.

The contributions from Cleveland's supporting cast came two days after "Saturday Night Live" poked fun at the team in a skit entitled "The Other Cavaliers," which didn't air but went viral on social media.

"From Game 1, they were wonderful," James said of his teammates. "I was horrible in Game 1 and they picked it up for me. So I tried to follow their lead going into Game 2 and all the way through Game 4."

Cleveland took control with a 12-0 run over the final 2:12 of the first half. The Cavs didn't let up, pushing their lead to 30 as their fans finally got a chance to relax and start making plans for the next round.

It's back to the drawing board for Toronto. The Raptors had the league's second-best record, the No. 1 seed in the playoffs, a deeper bench and in Lowry and DeRozan enough firepower to offset James.

But after blowing a big lead and giving away Game 1 on their home floor, the Raptors never recovered and now face an offseason full of questions and second-guessing.

"We had a heck of a season," said Raptors coach Dwane Casey. "But there's a different level and you saw it tonight. Everybody called Cleveland out. But as long as they have him (James) they have a chance."

**PHILADELPHIA 103,**

## BOSTON 92

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — T.J. McConnell turned a surprise start into the save of the season and Dario Saric scored 25 points to help the Philadelphia 76ers stave off elimination in a 103-92 win over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 on Monday night.

The Sixers still face daunting odds headed into Game 5 and trailing 3-1 in the Eastern Conference semifinals: No NBA team has ever won a series down 3-0.

McConnell had a career-high 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists in only his second start of the season and meshed well in the backcourt with Ben Simmons. Joel Embiid had 15 points and 13 rebounds and Simmons had 19 points and 13 boards.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 20 points and Marcus Morris had 17.

Game 5 is Wednesday at Boston.

# Caps drop Penguins in OT, conference finals are next

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A cathartic celebration 20 years in the making began with a poke of Evgeny Kuznetsov's stick. It built as the puck that Kuznetsov tapped away from Sidney Crosby made its way to Washington Capitals teammate Alexander Ovechkin.

It neared its crescendo as Ovechkin flipped it back to Kuznetsov, who at this point had split two Penguins and was streaking toward the Pittsburgh net. And it culminated jubilantly and unexpectedly in the corner moments later, with the puck in the net and Kuznetsov's teammates mobbing him after he ended two decades of frustration with a flick of the Russian's wrist.

The ghosts of past playoff failures, many of them at the hands of the Penguins, were gone. Dispatched over the course of six games of grit and guile, the last a 2-1 overtime win in Game 6 on Monday night that gave Washington a 4-2 series victory and a spot in the Eastern Conference finals against Tampa Bay.

"It's pretty emotional," Kuznetsov said after his seventh goal of the playoffs 5:27 into overtime pushed the Capitals into the NHL's final four for just the third time in franchise history. "I don't really have a word for it."

Maybe because there aren't many that can accurately describe the anguish Washington has felt during much of the Ovechkin Era, one filled with postseason failure after postseason failure, many of them coming with the team on the precipice of a breakthrough.

Only this time they didn't crumble. Even with Nicklas Backstrom, Tom Wilson and Andre Burakovsky out. Even with a handful of rookies — including Australian Nate Walker — thrust into the lineup. Even on the road against a two-time defending champion with a special knack for torment.

"Again, it doesn't matter what happened (before)," Ovechkin said. "We have to stick together. We knew it was there we just had to battle and we just had to fight through it."

Alex Chiasson scored Washington's only goal of regulation, a shot from the right circle that gave the Capitals the lead in the second period. Braden Holtby, benched at the start of the playoffs, stopped 21 of the 22 shots he faced and received a dash of luck when Pittsburgh's Tom Kuhnhackl hit the far post early in the extra period.

# RACETRACK: Races held every other Saturday night now instead of weekly

Continued from 1B

start in the sport in the late 1970s when he started driving at the age of 16. Over the course of his career, which he ended in 2006, Walden raced at Hermiston several times. He got into the sport through his father Wayne Walden, who also drove race cars at an early age.

Wayne was a businessman that "was always looking for ways to make money," Greg said, and partnered with three other individuals to take on their hometown Tri-City Raceway when it became available in 1982. Within three years, Wayne became the sole operator of the track. And along with business ac-

men and a passion for racing, he developed a knack for promotion and grew the fast half-mile track into a popular one in the Northwest.

Greg was in line to take over what had become the family business until the track was sold in 1998. Greg and his family then started a screenprinting and embroidery business in Kennewick that year, and he used his business as a reason to remain involved at race-tracks in the region, selling souvenir T-shirts at many of them. Being around the track each summer while holding onto his passion for the sport, Greg knew he wanted to get back into track operations. He just had to wait for

an opportunity.

In only four months operating the Hermiston Raceway, Walden has already made plenty of upgrades to the track that benefit both drivers and fans. Most significantly, more than \$12,000 was spent on fixing the wooden grandstands and making them safe for spectators. Upgrades were also made to lighting on the concourse and in the pits, to make the experience better for race teams.

Walden has also revamped the racing schedule at the track. Races are held every other Saturday night now instead of weekly, in hopes of attracting more cars each night to create a better prod-

uct. He also aims to keep the races moving quickly, limiting the downtime and creating constant action. Pre-race qualifying was eliminated, and the races will line up based on points standings. And trophy dashes are replaced with heat races prior to the main events.

"As long as it's entertaining and fast-paced," Walden said. "We're a form of entertainment, and if we think we're just in the racing business, then it doesn't work. We're in the entertainment business, it's got to be exciting. We want to deliver a good program for the fans and racers, and with that we're able to sell it to businesses to bring their people

out."

Hermiston Raceway has been open for two races now following Saturday's West Coast Late Model Series headliner, and Walden is impressed with the early results. The attendance has been solid, with the grandstands being nearly at capacity on Saturday. And the few dozen cars competing has made for good entertainment for the fans.

Walden also credits numerous track employees — from pit crew to the flagger to the scorers — that remained from previous regimes as a big part of the early success, too.

"The team I inherited want to see it thrive," Walden

said. "They want to be proud of the place where they spend their time and that's important."

Racing returns to Hermiston on May 19 with Northwest Pro 4 Alliance stock cars, as well as the typical late models, street stocks, super mini and mini stocks, legends, bombers and hornet classes.

"I'm just excited there's hope," Walden said. "Last night we camped in Hermiston, in my motorhome at (former) Umatilla Speedway and I told my wife, 'How in the world did I end up here running this race track?' I never thought that, but it came available and somebody had to so why not me?"

## SCOREBOARD

### Local slate

PREP BASEBALL		
Tuesday	Pilot Rock at Elgin (DH), 1 p.m.	Union at Weston-McEwen (DH), 1 p.m.
Wednesday	Irrigon at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.	Riverside at Dufur, 4 p.m.
Thursday	Hood River at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.	Hermiston at The Dalles, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Stamfield at Vale (DH), 1 p.m.	Irrigon at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.
Saturday	Pendleton at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.	
PREP SOFTBALL		
Tuesday	Irrigon at Heppner, 4 p.m.	Riverside at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Hood River at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.	Hermiston at The Dalles, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	Weston-McEwen at Echo (DH), 3 p.m.	Riverside at Hermiston JV, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Irrigon at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.	Pendleton at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.
PREP TRACK & FIELD		
Wednesday	Pendleton, Hermiston at CRC Districts (Hermiston), 4 p.m.	
Thursday	Pendleton, Hermiston at CRC Districts (Hermiston), 4 p.m.	
Friday	Weston-McEwen, Stamfield, Pilot Rock, Heppner at Districts (Athena), 11 a.m.	
Saturday	Umatilla, Irrigon, Riverside at EOL Districts (Umatilla)	
PREP GOLF		
Tuesday	Heppner, Nixyavavii at districts (Pendleton CC), 8 a.m.	
Wednesday	Pendleton, Hermiston (girls) at Districts (Sunriver), all day	
Thursday	Pendleton, Hermiston (boys) at Districts (Emerald Valley GC), all day	
Friday	Mac-Hi at districts, 10 a.m.	
PREP TENNIS		
Monday	Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at districts (Hermiston), 8 a.m.	
Tuesday	Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Stamfield, Ione, Helix at districts (Kennewick), 9 a.m.	
Wednesday	Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at districts (Bend), 10 a.m.	
Thursday	Hermiston, Pendleton (boys) at districts (Hermiston), 8 a.m.	
Friday	Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Stamfield, Ione, Helix at districts (Kennewick), 9 a.m.	

Hermiston, Pendleton (girls) at districts (Bend), 10 a.m.					
COLLEGE BASEBALL					
Wednesday	BMCC at Treasure Valley CC (DH), 1 p.m.				
Thursday	Big Bend at BMCC (DH), 1 p.m.				
COLLEGE SOFTBALL					
Friday	BMCC at Columbia Basin (DH), 2 p.m.				
Prep Standings					
Through May 2					
PREP BASEBALL					
5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pendleton	8-2	14-8	164	110	5
Hood River	7-3	13-10	134	110	11
Hermiston	3-7	7-15	92	151	21
The Dalles	2-8	5-16	72	179	24
4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
La Grande	10-0	16-2	164	46	3
Ontario	6-4	13-9	174	98	10
Baker	4-6	9-12	112	146	26
Mac-Hi	0-10	6-14	87	180	32
3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Stamfield	11-1	18-5	273	150	3
Vale	9-2	13-7	190	113	8
Joseph	7-3	14-5	173	84	5
Irrigon	7-5	12-8	151	137	13
Burns	5-5	7-12	135	162	15
Umatilla	3-9	7-10	126	135	27
Riverside	2-10	6-15	133	220	28
Nyssa	1-10	1-22	50	320	32
2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Sherman	9-0	14-2	175	62	6
Pilot Rock	9-1	14-2	154	39	5
Grant Union	7-5	12-11	158	108	18
Culver	6-3	10-7	122	88	10
Elgin	6-4	6-5	55	47	26
Heppner	3-6	8-12	191	223	27
Weston-McEwen	2-8	4-16	112	191	32
Union	2-8	3-13	70	170	35
Dufur	0-9	2-15	53	211	38
PREP SOFTBALL					
5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pendleton	10-0	22-1	245	45	1
Hood River	6-4	18-4	189	69	5
Hermiston	4-6	13-9	161	145	8
The Dalles	0-10	17-1	132	210	18
4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
La Grande	10-0	17-4	193	55	3
Mac-Hi	8-2	16-7	180	120	4
Ontario	1-9	11-11	189	110	21
Baker	1-9	6-17	151	257	27

3A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Echo	8-2	17-4	255	68	11
Irrigon	6-4	10-12	142	174	15
Riverside	5-4	8-8	100	95	13
W-McEwen	4-5	5-12	158	193	25
Umatilla	0-8	0-12	59	231	36
2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6					
	Lg	Ovr	RS	RA	Rnk
Pilot Rock	9-1	17-2	242	52	4
Union	9-1	17-3	210	95	5
Heppner	2-8	7-11	94	171	16
Culver	0-10	0-21	64	322	28
Basketball					
NBA PLAYOFFS					
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS					
Monday's Games					
Philadelphia 103, Boston 92 (BOS leads series 4-0)					
Cleveland 128, Toronto 93 (CLE wins series 4-0)					
Tuesday's Games					
Utah at Houston, 5 p.m. (HOU leads 3-1)					
New Orleans at Golden State, 7:30 p.m. (GS leads 3-1)					
Wednesday's Games					
Philadelphia at Boston, 5 p.m. (BOS leads 3-1)					
Hockey					
NHL PLAYOFFS					
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS					
Sunday's Games					
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1 (TB wins series 4-1)					
Vegas 3, San Jose 0 (VGK wins series 4-2)					
Monday's Games					
Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT (WAS wins series 4-2)					
Nashville 4, Winnipeg 1 (OTT wins 3-3)					
Wednesday's Games					
Winnipeg at Nashville, TBD (NBCSN)					
Baseball					
MLB					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					
Monday's Games					
Texas 7, Detroit 6					
Minnesota 6, St. Louis 0					
Houston at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.					
Tuesday's Games					
Minnesota (Odorizzi 2-2) at St. Louis (Martinez 3-1), 10:15 a.m.					
Boston (Pomeranz 1-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 5-1), 4:05 p.m.					
Kansas City (Duffy 0-4) at Baltimore (Bundy 1-4), 4:05 p.m.					
Seattle (Paxton 1-1) at Toronto (Stroman 0-4), 4:07 p.m.					
Atlanta (Newcomb 2-1) at Tampa Bay (Snell 4-1), 4:10 p.m.					
Cleveland (Kluber 5-1) at Milwaukee (Miley 1-0), 4:40 p.m.					
Detroit (Fiers 2-2) at Texas (Minor 3-1), 5:05 p.m.					
Pittsburgh (Nova 2-2) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 1-4), 5:10 p.m.					
L.A. Angels (Heaney 1-1) at Colorado (Gray 3-4), 5:40 p.m.					
Houston (McCullers 4-1) at Oakland (Manaea 4-3), 7:05 p.m.					
NATIONAL LEAGUE					
Monday's Games					
Philadelphia 11, San Francisco 0					
N.Y. Mets 7, Cincinnati 6					
Chicago Cubs 14, Miami 2					
Minnesota 6, St. Louis 0					
Washington at San Diego, 10:10 p.m.					
Tuesday's Games					
Minnesota (Odorizzi 2-2) at St. Louis (Martinez 3-1), 10:15 a.m.					
San Francisco (Holland 1-3) at Philadelphia (Nola 4-1), 4:05 p.m.					
Atlanta (Newcomb 2-1) at Tampa Bay (Snell 4-1), 4:10 p.m.					
N.Y. Mets (Vargas 0-2) at Cincinnati (Castillo 1-4), 4:10 p.m.					
Cleveland (Kluber 5-1) at Milwaukee (Miley 1-0), 4:40 p.m.					
Miami (Urena 0-5) at Chicago Cubs (Davis 0-3), 5:05 p.m.					
Pittsburgh (Nova 2-2) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 1-4), 5:10 p.m.					
L.A. Angels (Heaney 1-1) at Colorado (Gray 3-4), 5:40 p.m.					
Arizona (Godley 4-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Hill 1-1), 7:10 p.m.					
Washington (Hellickson 0-0) at San Diego (Richard 1-4), 7:10 p.m.					
Soccer					
MLS					
Wednesday's Games					
Philadelphia at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.					
Seattle at Toronto FC, 4:30 p.m.					
Sporting Kansas City at Atlanta United FC, 4:30 p.m.					
Montreal at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.					
Minnesota United at Los Angeles FC, 7 p.m.					
Friday at Vancouver, 7:30 p.m.					
Saturday's Games					
San Jose at Minnesota United, 11 a.m.					
Philadelphia at Montreal, 12 p.m.					
L.A. Galaxy at FC Dallas, 12:30 p.m.					
Chicago at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.					
Toronto FC at New England, 4:30 p.m.					
D.C. United at Real Salt Lake, 6 p.m.					
New York at Colorado, 6 p.m.					

Sunday's Games		
Seattle at Portland, 1 p.m.	Atlanta United FC at Orlando City, 3 p.m.	New York City FC at Los Angeles FC, 5:30 p.m.
Golf		
PGA TOUR		
WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP		
Sunday	At Quail Hollow Club Charlotte, N.C.	Purse: \$7.7 million
Final Leaderboard	Yardage: 7,554; Par: 71	
Jason Day	69-67-67-69—272	-12
Nick Watney	72-67-66-69—274	-10
Aaron Wise	68-68-70-68—274	-10
Bryson DeChambeau	75-65-66-70—276	-8
Paul Casey	69-68-69-71—277	-7
Phil Mickelson	72-72-64-69—277	-7
Peter Uihlein	72-72-62-71—277	-7
Patrick Reed	71-71-67-69—278	-6
Emiliano Grillo	68-71-71-69—279	-5
Luke List	70-72-67-70—279	-5
Sam Saunders	70-69-68-72—279	-5
Charl Schwartzel	70-67-70-72—279	-5
Taylor Gooch	71-72-66-71—280	-4
Kyle Stanley	67-72-71-70—280	-4
Notables		
Rory McIlroy	68-76-66-71—281	-3
Rickie Fowler	72-69-68-73—282	-2
Justin Thomas	73-69-70-70—282	-2
Tiger Woods	71-73-68-74—286	+2
Auto Racing		
NASCAR CUP SERIES		
AAA 400 Drive for Autism Results		
Sunday	At Dover International Speedway Dover, Del.	Lap length: 1 mile
(Starting position in parentheses)		
1. (2) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 400.		
2. (12) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 400.		
3. (7) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 400.		
4. (3) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 400.		
5. (9) Kurt Busch, Ford, 400.		
6. (8) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 400.		
7. (10) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 400.		
8. (14) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 400.		
9. (19) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 400.		
10. (11) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 400.		
11. (13) Aric Almirola, Ford, 400.		
12. (6) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 400.		
13. (18) Joey Logano, Ford, 400.		
14. (17) William Byron, Chevrolet, 399.		
15. (5) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 399.		
16. (23) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 399.		
17. (25) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 399.		
18. (11) Erik Jones, Toyota, 399.		
19. (22) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 398.		
HERMISTON RACEWAY		
Saturday Results		
Top Five Finishers (Car number in parentheses)		
1. (77) Devin Taylor		
2. (11) Joe Dunn		
3. (77X) David Knowles		
4. (73) Ryan Rodabaugh		
5. (21) Steve Owen		
Street Stocks Main		
1. (18) Adam Baker		
2. (68) Brad Hector Sr.		
3. (75) Terry Lydell		
4. (19) Mike Denton		
Bombers Main		
1. (123) Jeremy Erb		
2. (2) Arlen Callie		
3. (55) Justin Gage		
4. (N21K) Carlton Leggett		
5. (17) Kedric Preston		
Mini Stock Main		
1. (49) Angel Oseguera		
2. (60) Jeff Mullins		
3. (29) Andy Pierce		
4. (43) Joe Blackburn		
Super Mini Main		