

Sports

NBA PLAYOFFS: WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

Blazers squander big lead, fall behind Golden State, 2-0

■ Best of 7 series shifts to Portland for Game 3 on Saturday

By Janie McCauley
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — These Golden State Warriors have long been able to score in fabulous, jaw-dropping flurries. Down by eight to the Portland Trail Blazers at home with 4½ minutes to go, they needed every last burst, perfect pass, driving layup and dunk.

“Our experience really paid off for us tonight having a bunch of guys who just won’t quit,” said Draymond Green, who was right smack in the middle of it all.

Stephen Curry scored 37 points, and the Warriors rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit before holding off Portland on the final possession for a 114-111 win Thursday night and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr insisted his team stole this game with a sensational final few minutes and another, familiar third-quarter outburst.

Counterpart Terry Stotts of the Trail Blazers considered it a “lost opportunity” on the road.

CJ McCollum missed a driving jumper with 32 seconds left and Green scored on the other end for the Warriors, giving Portland one final chance with 12.3 seconds to go. Andre Iguodala then blocked a 3-point attempt by Damian Lillard on the left wing.

“They stole it, but they earned it down the stretch,” McCollum said.

Seth Curry, Steph’s little

brother, scored 16 points and put Portland ahead on a 3-pointer with 1:03 left before Kevon Looney’s dunk on the other end put Golden State back on top at 112-111. Seth tried to “distract” his brother at the free throw line late, or so the story went from Steph, who called Seth a “pest” on defense.

“This was like the coolest experience I think I’ve ever had playing against him. You talk about the stage, he was amazing tonight,” Stephen Curry said. “For my parents, I know we’ve talked about it the whole series, these last two games it’s probably nerve-wracking as heck for them. It worked out perfectly tonight. He played well and we won.”

Stephen Curry shot 11 for 22 and made all 11 of his free throws — three with 2:01 left — to post his third straight 30-point performance while Splash Brother Klay Thompson needed a half to heat up, scoring 13 of his 24 points in the Warriors’ 39-point third period. It was reminiscent of those old third-quarter runs that have defined this group.

McCollum scored 22 points for Portland and Lillard overcame a slow start to add 23 points and 10 assists as the Blazers looked far more in sync than in a 116-94 defeat two days earlier.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday night at Portland.

“We did play a much better game at both ends of the floor tonight. We’ve got to take that into Game 3,” Stotts said. “It

is a lost opportunity, no question. We had a chance to get one here on the road.”

Green made a pretty bounce pass through the paint to a cutting Iguodala for a dunk with 3:06 left to make it 108-105, then Green assisted on a layup by Looney the next possession.

“Draymond’s been special all playoffs,” Thompson said. “... When he goes, we go. He was tremendous tonight.”

Green had 16 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and five blocked shots playing with foul trouble. His seven straight playoff games with at least 10 rebounds are a career high.

“We’ve been here before,” Green said. “When you’re on a run like we’re currently in, you’ve seen everything. Down eight points with what, four minutes to go, or whatever it was, just got to keep going, because we know we can erase eight points.”

The Warriors missed Kevin Durant for a third straight game because of a strained right calf and he isn’t likely to return at all this round.

Curry scored Golden State’s first eight points of the third to get his team back within 69-58 then Thompson hit two straight 3s.

The Blazers had built a 65-50 halftime lead, capitalizing on 10 Warriors turnovers for 18 points.

Then two of the top backcourts in the Western Conference went at it in an entertaining final two quarters. The game was tied at 89 to start the fourth.



Submitted photo

Terri Axness’ sculpture, ‘Pedaling Potter,’ won a Best of Show award at the 2019 Ceramic Showcase in Portland in late April.

POTTERY

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Her creation stands 24 inches. Her husband, Dennis, first created the bicycle frame using copper.

Then Terri set to work on the pottery, sculpting the figure right on the bicycle.

“It was complicated,” she said. “I had to calculate the shrink of the clay and wanted her proportions correct.”

The clay she used shrinks 12% when it dries. Due to the fragility of the sculpture, Axness dried it inside the kiln to avoid unnecessary movements.

“It was a process,” she said. “She barely fit in my kiln.”

The bicycle’s baskets are made from clay as well, as are the flowers, plates and Corgi dog.

“I wanted her to be a pedaling potter. She was on the way to a show,” Axness

“It was complicated. I had to calculate the shrink of the clay and wanted her proportions correct.”

— Artist Terri Axness, talking about her award-winning sculpture, ‘Pedaling Potter’

said.

This was the 37th-annual Ceramic Showcase. Axness has attended for the past 12 years.

“I’ve gotten a lot of education watching the master potters doing demonstrations,” she said.

Although the Pedaling Potter did not sell at the showcase, it sold a week later at Attic Gallery in Camas, Washington.

Axness continues to create her artwork at Muddy Creek Studio outside of Haines. To see more of her work, visit www.axness-art.com.

GOLF

Twilight League Men’s Golf Standings
First Half, Week 5

	W	L	T
Outpost Electric	4	2	18.5
Barley Browns	4.5	1	15.18.5
Superior Towing	5	1	18.5
Davis Computer	3.5	2.5	16
Windshield Doctor	3.5	2.5	15
Baker Dairies	2	4	13.5
Rosie’s Bordello	2.5	3.5	13.5
Tri County Equipment	2.5	3.5	13.5
Four Seasons	1.5	4.5	12.5
Blacker’s Hackers	1	5	10.5

Front Nine
Low gross — Jim Ingram 35. **Low net** — Bobby Bowe 28.

Back Nine
Low gross — Dan Story 34. **Low net** — Barry Nichols, Mark Bunch 30.

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	26	15	.634	—
New York	26	16	.619	½
Boston	23	20	.535	4
Toronto	17	26	.395	10
Baltimore	14	29	.326	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	28	15	.651	—
Cleveland	23	19	.548	4½
Chicago	20	22	.476	7½
Detroit	18	24	.429	9½
Kansas City	15	29	.341	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	29	15	.659	—
Seattle	22	24	.478	8
Los Angeles	20	23	.465	8½
Texas	19	22	.463	8½
Oakland	20	25	.444	9½

Wednesday’s Games
Minnesota 8, L.A. Angels 7
N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 3, 1st game
San Francisco 4, Toronto 3
N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 1, 2nd game
Boston 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings
Houston 5, Detroit 1
Tampa Bay 1, Miami 0
Texas 6, Kansas City 1

Thursday’s Games
Oakland 17, Detroit 3
Texas 16, Kansas City 1
Cleveland 14, Baltimore 7
Chicago White Sox 4, Toronto 2
Minnesota 11, Seattle 6

Today’s Games All Times PDT
Tampa Bay (Stanelek 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 2-1), 4:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Bundy 1-5) at Cleveland (Rodriguez 1-2), 4:10 p.m.
Houston (Cole 4-4) at Boston (Porcello 3-3), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Montas 4-2) at Detroit (Norris 2-1), 4:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 4-3) at Texas (Leclerc 1-1), 5:05 p.m.
Toronto (Sanchez 3-4) at Chicago White Sox (Nova 2-3), 5:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Keller 2-4) at L.A. Angels (Har-

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	24	19	.558	—
Atlanta	23	21	.523	1½
New York	20	22	.476	3½
Washington	18	25	.419	6
Miami	10	31	.244	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	25	16	.610	—
Milwaukee	27	19	.587	½
St. Louis	23	21	.523	3½
Pittsburgh	21	20	.512	4
Cincinnati	20	24	.455	6½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	29	16	.644	—
Arizona	24	20	.545	4½
San Diego	23	21	.523	5½
Colorado	20	22	.476	7½
San Francisco	18	24	.429	9½

Wednesday’s Games
Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 1
San Francisco 4, Toronto 3
Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 5, 10 innings
Milwaukee 5, Philadelphia 2
Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 1
Boston 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings
Tampa Bay 1, Miami 0
Atlanta 4, St. Louis 0
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 0

Thursday’s Games
Milwaukee 11, Philadelphia 3
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 6
Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 2
Atlanta 10, St. Louis 2
San Diego 4, Pittsburgh 3

Today’s Games All Times PDT
Chicago Cubs (Hameis 3-0) at Washington (Scherzer 2-4), 4:05 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 3-3) at Philadelphia (Ivins 1-0), 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Hill 0-1) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 2-1), 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 3-4) at Miami (Richards 0-5), 4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 3-4) at Atlanta (Fried 5-2), 4:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 4-3) at Texas (Leclerc 1-1), 5:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Samardzija 2-1) at Arizona (Kelly 3-4), 6:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Lyles 3-1) at San Diego (Lucchesi

Saturday’s Games				
Colorado (Senzalea 3-2) at Philadelphia (Nola 3-0), 1:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Hudson 2-3) at Texas (Sampson 0-3), 1:05 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 4-0) at Cincinnati (Mahle 0-5), 1:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Matz 3-2) at Miami (Lopez 2-5), 1:10 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Lester 3-1) at Washington (Strasburg 3-3), 7:15 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Anderson 2-0) at Atlanta (Fried 5-2), 4:20 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Brault 0-1) at San Diego (Marquez 2-4), 5:40 p.m.				
San Francisco (Bumgarner 2-4) at Arizona (Godley 1-3), 7:10 p.m.				

NBA PLAYOFFS
CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
All Times PDT
Eastern Conference Milwaukee 1, Toronto 0
Wednesday, May 15: Milwaukee 108, Toronto 100
Friday, May 17: Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 19: Milwaukee at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21: Milwaukee at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 23: Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.
x-Friday, May 25: Milwaukee at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.
x-Saturday, May 27: Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.

Western Conference Golden State 2, Portland 0
Tuesday, May 14: Golden State 116, Portland 94
Thursday, May 16: Golden State 114, Portland 111
Saturday, May 18: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.
Monday, May 20: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.
x-Wednesday, May 22: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.
x-Friday, May 24: Golden State at Portland, 6 p.m.
x-Sunday, May 26: Portland at Golden State, 6 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS
CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
All Times PDT
Eastern Conference Boston 4, Carolina 0
Thursday, May 16: Boston 4, Carolina 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE San Jose 2, St. Louis 1
Saturday, May 11: San Jose 6, St. Louis 3
Monday, May 13: St. Louis 4, San Jose 2
Wednesday, May 15: San Jose 5, St. Louis 4, OT
Friday, May 17: San Jose at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 19: St. Louis at San Jose, noon
x-Tuesday, May 21: San Jose at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 23: St. Louis at San Jose, 6 p.m.

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