

Sports

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

Leonard scores 27, leads Raptors to NBA Finals

By Ian Harrison
Associated Press

TORONTO — Kyle Lowry stole the ball and pushed it ahead, then waited for Kawhi Leonard to arrive before feeding his All-Star teammate for a thunderous one-handed slam over Giannis Antetokounmpo.

“The building exploded after that dunk,” Leonard said. It sure did. Now imagine

how it will sound when the NBA Finals come to Toronto for the first time next week.

Leonard had 27 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Raptors into the finals for the first time with a 100-94 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night. His big dunk with 6:46 to go in the fourth quarter was the final basket in a game-changing 26-3 run that began

late in the third. “It was kind of a momentum capper,” Lowry said. “We were on a run, and why not feed the big dog? Let the big dog eat.”

The Raptors overcame a 15-point deficit to win the series in six games and will host the Golden State Warriors in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night. It will be the two-time de-

fending champions against a Raptors team that will finally bring the NBA Finals outside the U.S. after entering the league in 1995.

“They’re one of the greatest teams in history,” Raptors coach Nick Nurse said of the Warriors. “It will be a tall task, but we’ll try to figure it out.”

Pascal Siakam scored 18 points, Lowry had 17 and

Fred VanVleet 14 for the Raptors.

Lowry held the game ball and picked up his children after the game, finally getting to the championship round after the Raptors kept falling short against Cleveland.

“It’s taken a long time to get here in my career,” Lowry said. “I’ve run into one guy for a while.”

AT A GLANCE

Baker’s Jayme Ramos receives \$1,000 scholarship

PORTLAND — Baker’s Jayme Ramos received the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association \$1,000 student/athlete scholarship award May 18 at the association’s annual banquet. Ramos, a senior at BHS, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Mount Hood Community College.

Duke women win NCAA golf title

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — In a total team effort, the Duke women’s golf program won its seventh NCAA Championship as the Blue Devils came-from-behind to take down Wake Forest, 3-2, at Blessings Golf Club in Fayetteville, Ark., May 22.

Duke head coach Dan Brooks, a graduate of Baker High School, brought home his 136th all-time victory and seventh NCAA Championship since 1999. It marked his first team title since 2014 and the first since the event moved to match play in 2015. The NCAA Championship is the 17th overall in Duke Athletics history.

Needing to win two matches Wednesday to secure the title, the Blue Devils opened the day with a 3-2 win over Arizona and then needed extra holes once again to take down fellow ACC foe Wake Forest.

Timbers defeat Philadelphia 3-1

CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Brian Fernández scored twice and the Portland Timbers beat Philadelphia 3-1 on Saturday night to knock the Union from the top spot in the Eastern Conference standings.

The game ended Portland’s 12-game, season-opening trip because of stadium renovations. The Timbers will return home Saturday to re-open Providence Park against Los Angeles FC.

Fernández gave the Timbers a 2-0 lead with goals in the 31st and 36th minutes. Fernández opened the scoring with a header to finish Andy Polo’s pinpoint cross, then finished a counter-attack highlighted by unselfish passes late in the charge by Diego Valeri and Diego Chara. Fernández has three goals in his first two games after signing as a Designated Player on May 6 for Portland (4-6-2).

Kacper Przybylko slotted home an awkward finish in the 47th minute for the Union (7-4-3) that bounced off the post and curved over the goal line with the ball’s heavy spin. Valeri capped the scoring for Portland in the 87th minute with a low hard shot from long distance.

The loss ended the Union’s six-game unbeaten streak.

Seattle Storm wins in opener

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) — Natasha Howard had 21 points and 16 rebounds, Jewell Loyd added 17 points and the Seattle Storm opened defensive of their WNBA title with a 77-68 win over the Phoenix Mercury on Saturday.

Seattle outscored Phoenix 40-25 in the middle two quarters and held off the best efforts of DeWanna Bonner to rally the Mercury.



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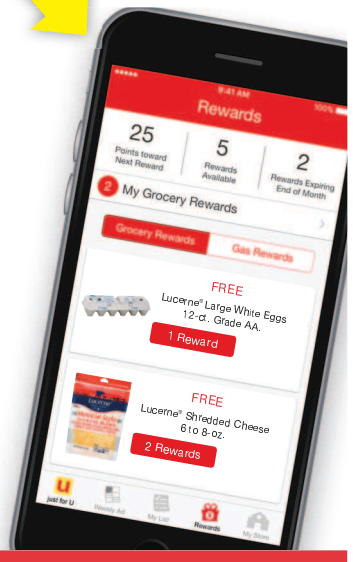
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