

Sports

NBA FINALS: GAME TWO

Second-half rally helps Warriors even series

By Brian Mahoney
AP Basketball Writer

TORONTO— The Golden State Warriors relied on a champion's heart to overcome their weary bodies.

Klay Thompson scored 25 points before leaving with a hamstring injury, Stephen Curry had 23 and the Warriors ran off the first 18 points of the second half on the way to a 109-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday night that tied the NBA Finals at one game apiece.

With Kevin Durant already out and Thompson eventually joining him in the fourth quarter, the Warriors don't feel great — but they would've felt a whole lot worse flying home in a 2-0 hole.

"I think that when you get to this stage, our DNA shows up," Curry said.

Andre Iguodala, himself slow to get up after a hard fall in the first half, made the clinching 3-pointer with 5.9 seconds left after the Raptors scored 10 straight points to cut it to 106-104.

Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the

Raptors. They had won five straight since falling behind 2-0 in the Eastern Conference finals.

Curry appeared to be laboring as well in the first half, returning to the locker room in the midst of six straight misses to start the game.

But the Warriors cobbled together a good enough finish to the second quarter to keep it close, then stormed out of the locker room with one of their vintage third-quarter charges that have been so frequent during their run to five straight NBA Finals.

"Third quarter we didn't play well enough. We missed too many shots," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "They got out in transition and got a little confidence going. We lost the game there."

DeMarcus Cousins was inserted into the starting lineup and delivered 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Draymond Green had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists — missing by one assist a fourth straight triple-double.

The series moves to their

Oracle Arena for Games 3 and 4, with the first NBA Finals to be played outside the U.S. assured of returning to Canada for Game 5.

The Warriors will hope to have enough healthy bodies to get through it. Thompson landed awkwardly after a 3-point attempt early in the fourth quarter and limped off soon after, with backup center Kevon Looney already missing the second half with a chest or shoulder injury.

And Golden State is still without Durant, who missed his seventh straight game with a strained right calf but hopes to return during the series.

For now, they got key contributions from Quinn Cook, who hit three 3-pointers, and veteran center Andrew Bogut, who wasn't even part of the roster most of the season but came off the bench for three baskets.

"It was a great win. We got to go home and protect our home floor and we'll see about all the injuries," coach Steve Kerr said. "But I'm very proud of our team and in particular

all the guys off the bench."

Kerr said Thompson told him that he thought his injury was minor and he'd be fine, but added that "Klay could be half dead and he would say he would be fine." Kerr was unsure the nature of Looney's injury.

Fred VanVleet scored 17 points for the Raptors, who had red T-shirts with their slogan "We The North" hanging on seats around the arena.

The Warriors sure were seeing red, especially Curry, during a mostly miserable first half when they missed 20 of their first 28 shots.

He hung his head and didn't even attempt to run back when VanVleet stole the ball from him and made a layup to give Toronto an 11-point lead with a little more than 2 minutes remaining in the half.

But Curry made two free throws for the final points of the half to cut it to 59-54, then the Warriors came back and pitched a shutout until nearly the midpoint of the third quarter during a series-changing — perhaps season-changing — swing.

La Grande wins second straight 4A softball title

By Ronald Bond
The (La Grande) Observer

The high expectations. The pressure. The target on their backs as the defending state champions.

None of that kept the La Grande Tigers from doing what they intended to do all season — repeat as state softball champs.

The Tigers softball team scored four early runs to build a lead it would never relinquish and put a stop to a late rally on the way to a 4-2 win over the Henley Hornets Saturday in the 4A softball state championship game at Jane Sanders Stadium in Eugene.

"The expectation of us coming back (to the championship game) and to win motivated us to play well," junior pitcher Allie Brock said after a 12-strikeout effort in the win. "We play really well under pressure, and I think that contributed to our performance today."

The Tigers faced their share of pressure in Saturday's title game rematch against the Hornets, but none tougher than when Henley made its final push at the lead in the sixth inning. Trailing 4-1, the Hornets opened the sixth with two straight singles and a fielder's choice, then cut the deficit to two runs on an infield RBI single by Lilly Poe — with the top of their potent offense coming up, bases loaded and nobody out.

The infield met in the pitcher's circle to regroup, shake off the rough start to the frame and — in the familial sense that has carried the team all year — encourage one another through the pressure-packed moment.

"We just wanted to let each other know we were all present there mentally, that we needed to stay calm and pull through, and we had a lot of confidence in each other," Brock said.

Junior Jaiden Hafer, who had two RBIs in the win, said in that huddle they reminded themselves that they had each other's backs and to take it one play at a time. Brock even said she had to focus on one pitch at a time.

And there was confidence that even if Henley's rally continued, La Grande would have been fine.

"I was never really worried," senior Kara Gooderham said. "We're a great team. We would have pulled something out and would have gotten it done."

Community

GRADUATION

Continued from Page 1A

Mitchell went on to say that the Class of 2019 "has excelled in all areas, including leadership, athletics, citizenship and academics."

He introduced the salutatorian, Zachary Schwin, who "has distinguished himself in each of those four categories."

Schwin addressed his fellow graduates saying, "Today is an important day in all of our lives, as we celebrate over a decade of hard work and learning."

He thanked the parents for the many life lessons they have instilled in their children.

"We could not have made it this far without any of you," Schwin said. "Everything we have done and have yet to accomplish in our lives starts with you and we will always appreciate the things you have done and sacrifices you have made for us."

Schwin also lauded the BHS faculty for their efforts to make the students the best they could be.

Schwin then gave words of wisdom to his classmates.

"We will never have more energy, hair, or brain cells than we have today," he said, telling his fellow graduates that "life is short, smile while you have teeth," and to not worry about the "world ending today, it's already tomorrow in Australia."

Witty introduced commencement speaker Betty Spooner.

"I count it as such a privilege to be here today," Spooner said. "I count it a privilege to be the voice of many in this community, it's an exciting time in your life. I count it a privilege to be here, to inspire you just a little bit, to encourage you a lot, and I'm hoping to cheer you on one last time."

Spooner said that in preparing her remarks she reached out to community members. She read excerpts from several of their submissions.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Betty Spooner addresses the audience as the commencement speaker during the Baker High School graduation Sunday.

raising one of the graduates, to stand. She then asked the students to find their parents and thank them.

Spooner also quoted a message from Ginger Savage, director of the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center.

"The class of 2019 has grown up and helped build some of the bedrock programs of Crossroads, including Missoula Children's Theatre," Savage wrote. "(Your) whole lives in Baker City, you have witnessed a town being revitalized by the arts. Go forth and celebrate arts and culture every step of your journey. See more art, listen to more music, go to more theatre, be transformed by the arts. Today, Crossroads is cheering for you."

Barbara Stiff, the grandmother of graduate Dylan Mastrude, also contributed a comment to Spooner.

"Perseverance is the hard work that you do after you

"This is our class and it has become a part of our lives."

— **Morgan Delaney Stone, valedictorian, Baker High School Class of 2019**

have done the hard work," Stiff wrote. "Challenges produce perseverance. Perseverance, character and hope. Persevere."

Spooner said she thought about all of the people she could contact to give encouragement with the graduates.

"No doubt there would be dozens," she said.

Her final message was from Adriene Oster, a BHS teacher whom students last fall had originally suggested as a commencement speaker.

Spooner quoted from Oster, who received flowers and hugs from graduates receiving diplomas.

"As a teacher, our mission is to inspire young minds, we write and we rewrite lesson plans to accomplish this very thing," Oster wrote. "But what happens when all of this flips and these young minds (behind me) inspire us? We think deeper, we care more, we fight harder, and we heal faster because we are better people when we are around them."

Spooner then quoted from the song, "You've Got A Friend in Me." The lyrics, she said, "say exactly what I have wanted to share with you today."

Valedictorian Morgan Delaney Stone spoke next, recounting a conversation she once had with an elementary school teacher.

She would tell the teacher she was tired and would always get the response, "Hi Tired, I'm Mrs. Shocked."

Stone said she went by a wide spectrum of names.

"It's almost like I have a bunch of little identities depending on where I am. Finding your identity in high school is a universally difficult thing. Developmental psychologists, teen novel

writers and young, angst poets all agree that finding out who you are in adolescence is tough, as you struggle between who you've been, who you want to be, and who you are."

Stone said that living in a small town can be a blessing and a curse.

Baker City is "comfortably consistent," she said, meaning that even when you leave for years, when you return you still see the Geiser Grand Hotel still standing and people you've known for years.

"I have seen my classmates grow up over the years into truly incredible people," Stone said. "Year after year, I'm amazed by their maturity, sincerity and resilience that are in the graduating class of 2019. I've seen this in how opinions are expressed, disagreements are handled, trials are faced, how a success has bloomed and by how their peers are treated."

Stone said she respects her classmates and feels a sense of pride in being one of that group.

"This is our class and it has become a part of our lives," Stone said.

She noted that she and her classmates will take a variety

of paths from here, some attending college or a trade school, serving in the military or moving straight into a career.

"I look forward to seeing where life brings you all," she said.

Stone shared a quote from Robert F. Kennedy: "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better."

"It's a simple quote but I feel that it's an important thing to remember," Stone said. "It's truly what we should all be striving for at the end of the day. If there is a way to make even one person's day a little brighter, then it's an opportunity that should be seized."

As the graduates made their way to receive their diplomas, each handed a pink carnation to Oster, with a card that had a lyric from her favorite song on one side and a personal note from the students on the other.

The new graduates walked to the other side of the field as their senior farewell song "Take Me Home, Country Roads" played.

Cheers, whistles, cow bells and air horns added to the celebration of the graduation of class 2019.

Your Family Deserves The

BEST

Technology...
Value...
TV!...

\$59.99
MONTH
for 24 months

190 Channels
America's Top 120

CALL TODAY
Save 20%!
Expires 6/30/19

1-866-373-9175

Subject to credit review. Service available in select areas only. Taxes and equipment fees extra. *E-rate discounts apply. Service available in select areas only. ©2019 EarthLink. All rights reserved.

Add High Speed Internet

\$14.95
/mo.

Subject to credit review. Service available in select areas only. Taxes and equipment fees extra. *E-rate discounts apply. Service available in select areas only. ©2019 EarthLink. All rights reserved.

EARTHLINK INTERNET

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Engage, don't just watch. High speeds without spending big bucks.

Get Connected for as low as 14.95/mo. Unlimited 100Mbps HyperLink™ Download speeds up to 100Mbps *E-rate discounts apply. Service available in select areas only.	Get Connected for as low as \$49.99/mo. Unlimited 100Mbps Satellite Internet Download speeds up to 10Mbps *E-rate discounts apply. Service available in select areas only.	CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER
--	---	--

855-977-9436

Authorized Dealer

EarthLink

©2019 EarthLink. All rights reserved. Service available in select areas only. Taxes and equipment fees extra. *E-rate discounts apply. Service available in select areas only. ©2019 EarthLink. All rights reserved.