

## NBA FINALS GAME ONE

## Celtics rally in 4th to stun Warriors

## Golden State led by 15 points late in 3rd quarter

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Once Boston's balanced roster of NBA Finals first-timers found a groove from long range, the determined Celtics delivered a memorable comeback and rallied past Stephen Curry and the Golden State old guard.

Jaylen Brown fueled the late charge and scored 24 points, Al Horford hit six 3-pointers, and the Celtics rode the most lopsided fourth quarter in NBA Finals history to a 120-108 victory over the Warriors in Game 1 on Thursday night, June 2.

Horford finished with 26 points and the Celtics outscored the Warriors 40-16 in the final 12 minutes after trailing by 15 points late in the third quarter. The 15th-year big man, who turns 36 Friday, played in 141 previous postseason games, most ever before playing in the NBA Finals.

"I felt like the guys kept finding me time after time. Also Derrick White hit some tough shots there, too," Horford said. "I was just getting the looks, knocking them down. That's that."

Boston made its first seven tries from long distance in the fourth and wound up 9 of 12 beyond the arc in the period as almost everybody got involved in the 3-point flurry. Jayson Tatum was the lone Celtics regular who struggled offensively, finishing 3 for 17, though he did have 13 assists.

Curry scored 34 points in his return to the NBA's big stage for the first time in three years, but the Warriors couldn't sustain momentum from a 38-point third quarter that put them ahead 92-80.

"It's not ideal but I believe in who we are and how we deal with adversity, how we responded all year, how we respond in the playoffs after a loss," Curry said. "So learn a lot from that fourth quarter, obviously they made a lot of shots. It seemed like they didn't miss 'til deep into the fourth. When you have a team that just finds a little bit of momentum like they did and they keep making shots, it's tough to kind of regain that momentum."

Game 2 is Sunday night, June 5, back at Chase Center.

The Celtics were the first team to trail a finals game by 10 or more points after three quarters and win by 10 or more, according to Sportradar. They are 8-2 on the road in these playoffs.

"It's an unbelievable feeling just to be here and competing at this level against such a dynamic franchise the last couple years," Boston guard Payton Pritchard said. "I think we're all just looking forward to the challenge to go through the series and try to get it done."

White's 3-pointer over Curry with 5:40 remaining tied the game at 103, then Horford hit from deep the next time down



Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) gets fouled by Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) in the third quarter of Game 1 of the NBA Finals at the Chase Center in San Francisco, Calif., on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group-TNS

as the Celtics took their first lead since halftime.

Boston is looking to capture its record-breaking 18th title, which would move the Celtics past the Lakers — and now is just three wins away from doing it.

Brown, who starred at nearby California for one college season, made consecutive baskets that tied the game at 47 with 5:03 left before halftime and the Celtics led 56-54 at the break. Golden State then used a signature third-quarter spurt, pouring in 38 points to build a big lead.

Brown scored five quick points early in the fourth and assisted on an alley-oop dunk to Robert Williams III as the Celtics pulled back within 92-87 with 9:35 remaining. The lead was four midway through the fourth before Boston blew past Golden State with a 20-2 run that made it 117-103.

Andrew Wiggins scored 20 points in his finals debut and Draymond Green grabbed 11 rebounds before fouling out with 48.3 seconds left. Klay Thompson contributed 15 points as the Warriors began their sixth finals in eight years after making five straight trips from 2015-19 and winning three championships.

They'll have to win this one from behind after going 21-2 in their previous Game 1s under Steve Kerr.

"It's a different feeling. You obviously go into Game 2 with more of a sense of desperation. That's all part of this stuff. We've been in this position before," Kerr said. "Boston played a brilliant quarter. They came in and earned the win."

Curry scored a smooth 21 points in the opening period on 7-for-8 shooting, including

6 of 8 made 3s — missing a half-court heave at the buzzer. And Boston struggled to keep up with the Warriors' snappy ball movement and shooters at every spot on the floor.

Otto Porter Jr. returned from a two-game absence to score 12 points off the bench for the well-rested Warriors. Golden State ended its Western Conference final in Game 5 against Dallas a week earlier at home, while Boston was pushed to the limit with a Game 7 victory at Miami last Sunday.

Golden State dropped to 9-1 this postseason at home, where a sellout crowd in yellow finals T-shirts chanted "M-V-P!" for Curry at every chance.

Marcus Smart scored 18 points with four 3s for Boston. The Celtics star took criticism from Kerr for what the Golden State coach called "a dangerous play" lunging at Curry's left foot on March 16 in a 110-88 Boston rout that sidelined the 2021 scoring champion for a month before his return in Game 1 of the first round facing Denver.

## Curry's first quarter

Curry's six 3s in the opening 12 minutes were the most ever in any quarter of the NBA Finals. In addition, the 21 points were most since Michael Jordan's 22 in the fourth quarter of Game 4 vs. Phoenix in 1993.

The Celtics and Warriors combined for 20 3s by halftime, an NBA Finals first-half record.

## Tip-ins

Celtics: Williams started after being listed as questionable with soreness in his surgically repaired left knee and finished with eight points and four blocks while playing 24 minutes. Coach Ime Udoka

expected him to be limited to about 20 minutes as has been the recent pattern. ... Boston and the Warriors were even on the boards at 39. ... Tatum scored 12 points.

Warriors: F Andre Iguodala (injured disc in neck), G Gary Payton II (broken left elbow) and Porter (left foot soreness) all were back though Payton didn't play. 2015 NBA Finals MVP Iguodala checked in with 2:36 left in the first to huge cheers after he missed 12 games. ... Golden State is 21-3 in postseason Game 1s dating to the 2014-15 season when the Warriors captured the franchise's first championship in 40 years — and they had won 13 straight playoff series openers at home, third-longest streak in NBA history, before this.

## Teams that eliminated Baker softball, baseball teams to play for state title

The teams that eliminated Baker's softball and baseball squads from the Class 4A playoffs last month will both play for a state championship on Saturday, June 4.

The Hidden Valley baseball team, which beat Baker 7-0 in a first-round game on May 25 at Grants Pass, will take on La Grande Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer.

In softball, Marist Catholic of Eugene, which eliminated Baker 10-0 on May 25, will play Cascade at 2 p.m. Saturday in Jane Sanders Stadium in Eugene.

Both Marist and Hidden Valley were dominant in the playoffs, including their shutout wins over Baker.

Marist hasn't allowed a run, beating Henley 8-0 in the quarterfinals on May 27 and Stayton 6-0 in a semifinal game on May 31. Hidden Valley also routed all of its playoff foes. The Warriors beat Junction City 17-0 in a quarterfinal game May 27, and beat Mazama 10-1 in a May 31 semifinal.

The baseball championship game pitting La Grande against Hidden Valley features teams that have yielded only a few runs in the past month.

La Grande, 27-1 on the season, won 12 straight games by shut-out, including four wins over Baker, a Greater Oregon League rival. The Tigers beat Pendleton/Griswold 4-3 in their final regular season game, May 20, then blanked Marshfield 10-0 in a first-round playoff game May 25. La Grande beat Marist 10-4 in the quarterfinals May 27 and shut out Philomath 8-0 in the semifinals May 31.

## FRENCH OPEN TENNIS

## Nadal returns to finals after Zverev injured

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS — Rafael Nadal has become the second-oldest men's finalist in French Open history after his semifinal opponent, Alexander Zverev, stopped playing Friday, June 3 because of an injured right leg. Now Nadal will try to become the oldest champion at a tournament he's already won a record 13 times.

Playing on his 36th birthday at an event he first won at 19, Nadal emerged to claim a tight-as-can-be, draining first set that lasted 1 1/2 hours by a 7-6 (8) score. The second set also was headed to a tiebreaker after another 1 1/2 hours when Zverev tumbled behind the baseline while chasing a ball to his right.

Zverev's black outfit was covered in rust-colored clay,

as were his legs and arms, and he immediately grabbed his right ankle, screaming in pain.

A trainer came out to attend to him, and Nadal walked around the net to check on Zverev, too.

Zverev then was taken off the court in a wheelchair. Several minutes later, he came back out using crutches and said he needed to retire from the match. He shook the chair umpire's hand and then hugged Nadal.

Nadal has been dealing with chronic pain in his left foot and was coming off a pair of victories that each lasted more than 4 hours — including against defending champion Novak Djokovic on May 31 — but showed no signs of age, injury or fatigue against the 25-year-old Zverev.

## Blazers 'not for sale' though Phil Knight did make offer, team says

oregonlive.com

PORTLAND — News came Thursday, June 2 that Nike co-founder Phil Knight and Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Alan Smolinisky have submitted an offer to buy the Portland Trail Blazers for more than \$2 billion.

But the Trail Blazers franchise is "not for sale" the team said in a statement to The Oregonian/OregonLive on Thursday afternoon.

"An offer was made by Phil Knight," the Blazers said in the statement. "The team remains not for sale."

ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski was the first to report the offer from Knight and Smolinisky.

Here is what we know so far about Knight and Smolinisky's bid to buy the Blazers:

- The Blazers are owned by the Paul G. Allen Trust, which is managing the estate of the billionaire co-founder of Mi-

crosoft, who died in October 2018 at age 65.

- Allen's sister, Jody Allen, is the executor of his estate and currently serves as chair of the Blazers, but it had been expected that the team would be sold at some point following Allen's death.

- Knight was born in Portland, ran track at the University of Oregon and went on to co-found sportswear giant Nike. He and wife Penny have donated hundreds of millions of dollars to the University of Oregon, and millions more around the Northwest. Forbes lists Knight as one of the richest people in the United States, with a net worth of about \$43.7 billion.

- Smolinisky, who made his fortune in real estate, became a part owner of the Dodgers in 2019.

- Forbes listed the Blazers' value at \$2.05 billion as of Oc-

tober 2021. That ranks No. 13 among NBA franchises, behind the No. 12 Miami Heat (\$2.3 billion) and ahead of the No. 14 Sacramento Kings (\$2 billion).

- The Blazers have been in Portland since 1970, with their lone NBA championship coming in 1977. They made the playoffs for eight consecutive years from 2014-21, but the 2021-22 season became a transitional year for the franchise, with a new coach and general manager as well as the departure via trade of CJ McCollum, Norman Powell and Robert Covington. Now led by new GM Joe Cronin, second-year coach Chauncey Billups and superstar veteran guard Damian Lillard, the Blazers are hoping to turn things around after a 27-55 season to become a playoff team in 2022-23.



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