

# CAVALIERS BOOST BENCH EFFORT AGAINST WARRIORS

**OAKLAND:** Attacking earlier, quickening the tempo and improving bench play were the biggest needs the Cleveland Cavaliers saw Friday in video reviews to decide changes for today's second game of the NBA Finals. Defending champion Golden State defeated the visiting Cavaliers 104-89 in Thursday's opener of the best-of-seven series, using defense and stellar reserve efforts to frustrate LeBron James and his teammates. "We're in a good place psychologically and mentally," Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. "We remain calm, but also know this next game is huge for us. We remain having a sense of urgency and we're going to continue to fight."

Cavs coach Tyrone Lue made his instructions clear. "I just told LeBron I need him to play faster, to pick up the pace for us offensively," Lue said. "We can definitely get out and run and attack this team. We missed nine point-blank layups when no one was around. We've got to be able to finish those shots." The Cavaliers hit a woeful 38.1 percent from the floor, hurrying rather

than imposing a pace. "It has to be more of a fast-paced controlled tempo. Our missed opportunities—we were just really rushing," Cavs guard Kyrie Irving said. "Everything is happening so quick. A couple times I got indecisive and it put my teammates in a bad way."

### 'Throw the first punch'

Think fast and attack first was the message. "We've just got to come out right away and throw the first punch," Cleveland's Tristan Thompson said. "We've got to set the tone early. I think that's the key." "We need to do a better job of being in attack mode," Love agreed. "We felt like we could play with a better pace. We need to find a way to really slow down their bench." Golden State reserves outscored Cleveland's bench 45-10, with James warning that Shaun Livingston, Leandro Barbosa and Andre Iguodala must be better contained when they enter to rest sharpshooters Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson.

"No other team has the two best shooters in the league and that many playmakers," James said. "We cannot

relax when those guys make their subs. Those guys come into the game and change tempo and play with confidence. We have to understand. We have to treat those guys like All-Stars. "It's not that we relax. It's just that when... they come out, your defense doesn't have to be so extended. Your defense is picked up a little bit lower so those guys get to their sweet spots. We may have to change that approach a little bit." And the Cavaliers bench needs to score more as well. "Our bench has been productive for us," James said. "They are going to have to have a great series in order for us to win it. We have a lot of pride from our bench. They are going to take that even better in game two."

### Aimed for arm, not groin

Cavs reserve guard Matthew Dellavedova faced accusations of dirty play for the second NBA Finals in a row after hitting Iguodala in the groin. The Australian said he was trying to foul Iguodala on the arm to halt a fast break. "I was trying to stop the break," Dellavedova said. "I definitely didn't



LeBron James

intend to hit him anywhere near that region. I was trying to get his arm and then he brought his arm in, and that's why I just grazed his arm." The Aussie admitted being "a little bit" bothered by the dirty player talk, but added, "You just don't pay any attention to it." What

he will focus on is trying to avoid another 15-0 run by Golden State reserves. "We need to perform a lot better as a group," Dellavedova said. "Their bench came in, did a really good job changing the tempo of the game. We need to do a few different things." — AFP

# WORRIES OVER CYCLING ARENA READINESS FOR RIO OLYMPICS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** The Rio Olympics are just two months away and as preparations head into their furious final straight, worries are mounting that delays to the cycling stadium have spun out of control. The building in the nerve center of the Olympic Park was supposed to have ended in late 2015. Not only did that not happen, but a test event scheduled for late April and early May was cancelled because of construction delays. Organizers of the Games running from August 5-21 have replaced these full-blown dress rehearsals with "training days" at the end of June. That means cycling competitors will not be able to test the track in real conditions, a failure which has angered the already nervous UCI, cycling's world governing body.

"The UCI remains extremely concerned by the repeated delays to the construction of the velodrome, and recently informed the Rio 2016 organizing committee and the International Olympic Committee of its concerns," UCI president Brian Cookson said in a statement to AFP. "It has been a very difficult project and the fact that these delays have repeatedly pushed back any kind of trial contest is very worrying," he added. "There is still a lot to do to ensure cyclists can compete in the best possible conditions," he said. "Time is really running out." Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games executive director at the International Olympic Committee said last week that "the timetable is very narrow." That's a diplomatic way of saying that IOC is very worried.

### Late June

But organizers—who say that the rest of the Olympic infrastructure is virtually ready—downplay the construction problems at the velodrome. "The track is already there. It was installed more than a month ago. What remains to be done are the finishing touches to the facilities," Rio organizing committee chairman Carlos Nuzman said in an interview.

He spoke in Lausanne, Switzerland as he prepared to present a report to the IOC on the state of readiness for the games. "City Hall is responsible for monitoring the construction, but I think it will be completed in late June. I do not know exactly which day," he added. "The workers are going at it intensely. A late June delivery is what we want and what we had spoken of with Cookson," Nuzman added. The cycling arena construction suffered a setback in March because of what were described as logistical problems in bringing in the pine wood from Siberia used to build the track. Organizers said it was 12 days late.

### Design flaws?

But there are other problems, too. The Rio City Hall recently decided to sever the contract it had with Tecnosolo, the contractor in charge of the project and reportedly on the verge of bankruptcy, and give it solely to a subcontractor, Engetecnica, which had been involved in the project for months. City Hall said the goal was to wind up a project that it said was 88 percent completed. — AFP



**GEORGETOWN, Guyana:** Sunil Narine celebrates dismissing South Africa's Farhaan Behardien by a leg before wicket (LBW) during the first One-Day International (ODI) cricket match between the West Indies and South Africa in the Tri-Nation Series in Georgetown, Guyana on June 3, 2016. — AFP

# NARINE SINKS PROTEAS IN WEST INDIES ROMP

**PROVIDENCE:** Sunil Narine snared career-best figures of six for 27 on his return to West Indies colors as the hosts defeated South Africa by four wickets in the opening match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series at the Guyana National Stadium on Friday. Forced to remodel his action after it was deemed illegal during the Caribbean side's last ODI campaign in Sri Lanka last November, the 28-year-old mystery spinner was at his mesmerizing best on a turgid surface where the South Africans were dismissed for 188 off 46.5 overs. They found it difficult to establish any sort of momentum despite two useful partnerships at the top of the order.

Narine's returns were not only a personal milestone but also the best-ever by any opponents in one-day cricket against South Africa. "I've had to change my bowling action almost 80 percent and it's great to see how it has worked out," said Man of the Match Narine. "I really hope I can keep on playing for the West Indies for the rest of my career." Kieron Pollard, back in the good graces of West Indies selectors after 20 months in the ODI wilderness following the shock abandonment of the tour of India in October of 2014, then lifted his team to the target with a robust unbeaten 67 that included six sixes.

"I had my plans going out to bat and it came off tonight," he said. "I really missed being part of that successful World T20 squad but I have recovered from injury faster than I thought and it's great to be back in the West Indies team." It was the first time in 15 years that the Caribbean side had defeated the South Africans in a one-day on home soil. Rilee Rossouw top scored with 61 and featured in a 78-run third-wicket partnership with skipper AB de Villiers. That effort followed an opening stand of 52 between Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla. However the Proteas collapsed from the comparative comfort of 160 for three, their last seven wickets falling for just 28 runs.

Rossouw was one of the spinner's scalps, falling to a good low catch by Carlos Brathwaite at first slip. Brathwaite had earlier broken the opening stand of de Kock and Amla, de Kock attempting an injudicious heave to be comprehensively bowled. Narine then made his first strike by trapping Amla leg-before in the very next over. Yet it was the demise of de Villiers that proved to be the most crucial. Playing well within himself and mindful of the challenging batting conditions, he compiled 31 off 49 deliveries without a single boundary but fell to a good catch off his own bowling by pacer Jerome Taylor at the start of the 31st over.

South Africa had just ended a period of 23 overs without finding the boundary rope and it appeared de Villiers and Rossouw were on the cusp of acceleration before the captain's departure. From then on it was the Narine show as he

scythed through the rest of the visitors' batting. "It's the slowest pitch I have come across for some," de Villiers said. But we've got no excuses." Set a relatively modest target, the West Indies opening pair of Johnson Charles and Andre Fletcher rode their luck in a 37-run stand before the introduction of the spinners changed the complexion of the chase.

Imran Tahir bowled both with googlies while Aaron Phangiso and part-timer J.P. Duminy removed Marlon Samuels and Denesh Ramdin respectively to have the hosts wobbling at 76 for

four. But Pollard, whose first three scoring shots were towering sixes, dominated a 74-run fourth-wicket stand with Darren Bravo to take the West Indies closer to the target. Bravo fell to Phangiso for 30 and Carlos Brathwaite perished attempting a bit hit of Phangiso. But captain Jason Holder joined Pollard to ensure there were no more alarms on the way to a morale-boosting victory for a team classified as underdogs alongside the South Africans and ahead of Sunday's meeting with World Cup holders Australia at the same venue. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**PROVIDENCE, Guyana:** Scoreboard from opening match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series between the West Indies and South Africa at the Guyana National Stadium on Friday:

South Africa Innings		West Indies Innings	
Q. de Kock b Brathwaite	30	J. Charles b Tahir	31
H. Amla lbw Narine	20	A. Fletcher b Tahir	11
R. Rossouw c Brathwaite b Narine	61	D. Bravo lbw Phangiso	30
A.B. de Villiers c and b Taylor	31	M. Samuels lbw Phangiso	1
J.P. Duminy b Holder	23	D. Ramdin c de Villiers b Duminy	10
F. Behardien lbw Narine	0	K. Pollard not out	67
C. Morris lbw Narine	9	C. Brathwaite c Behardien b Phangiso	8
K. Abbott b Brathwaite	5	J. Holder not out	10
A. Phangiso c Holder b Narine	3	Extras (lb-13, nb-1, w-9)	23
K. Rabada not out	1	Total (48.1 overs, 6 wickets)	191
I. Tahir lbw Narine	0	Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Fletcher), 2-52 (Charles), 3-53 (Samuels), 4-76 (Ramdin), 5-150 (Bravo), 6-174 (Brathwaite).	
Extras (lb-1, w-4)	5	Did not bat: S. Benn, S. Narine, J. Taylor.	
Total (46.5 overs, all out)	188	Bowling: K. Abbott 10-1-26-0, K. Rabada 9-1-34-0 (1nb, 2w), C. Morris 7-0-22-0 (2w), I. Tahir 10-0-41-2 (3w), A. Phangiso 10-1-40-3 (2w), J.P. Duminy 1.1-0-12-1, F. Behardien 1-0-3-0.	
Fall of wickets: 1-52 (de Kock), 2-52 (Amla), 3-130 (de Villiers), 4-160 (Rossouw), 5-160 (Behardien), 6-172 (Duminy), 7-181 (Morris), 8-181 (Abbott), 9-185 (Phangiso), 10-188 (Tahir).		Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets.	

# BIG NAMES STALK STEELE, KUCHAR AT MEMORIAL

**WASHINGTON:** Brendan Steele and Matt Kuchar made the most of calm conditions on Friday to share the halfway lead at the Memorial, where Jason Day, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth remained in the hunt heading into the weekend. Steele backed up a first-round 65 with a five-under-par 67 at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. Kuchar carded a second straight 66 to share the lead on 12-under 132. They were one stroke in front of Argentina's Emiliano Grillo, who posted a 66, and American Gary Woodland, whose 65 was the low round of the day and included six birdies and an eagle. "A lot of things are going right," Steele said. "Obviously, conditions are really good. So there are a lot of good scores out there." A wet weekend forecast—the norm at the rain-plagued Memorial—could keep scores low on a receptive course.

"The conditions are still there for the taking," said Kuchar, who won the tournament hosted by Jack Nicklaus in 2013. "It's as easy as I remember this place playing, even though greens still fast." "You can get in the wrong spot, but you don't have to worry too much about the wind. It's fun to be out there playing and making some birdies around this place." In a marquee duel, McIlroy and Spieth elicited roars throughout the afternoon, combining for 14 birdies. Northern Ireland's

McIlroy carded a 66 to finish five shots behind the leaders in a tie for 12th, while Spieth had a 68 and was another stroke back in a tie for 22nd.

"I felt like I putted nicely," said McIlroy, who tied for the second-lowest round of the day. "I feel like my pace has been a little bit better, which was something I wanted to work on. That's an improvement, and I'm happy with that." World number one Day of Australia, a Muirfield Village member, was in the group with McIlroy on 137 after a 71 that included five birdies and four bogeys. "If I didn't have a short game, I probably would have shot high 70s. It would have been close to 80," said Day, who is seven-for-seven in sand saves this week and hit four fewer fairways and five fewer greens compared to Thursday. Phil Mickelson was also on 137 after a 69 that included seven birdies. "I feel like I'm playing better than I'm scoring, but I had a lot of fun today and I was able to finish up with three birdies, which kept me within striking distance," said Mickelson, a five-time major winner who has not won since the 2013 Open Championship. "I feel like there's a hot round out there, and I hit a lot of good iron shots these past two days, and I hit a lot of good iron shots this past week. I feel like I'm going to give myself a lot more birdie opportunities on the weekend." — AFP



**OHIO:** Matt Kuchar hits his tee shot on the 14th hole during the second round of The Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club on June 3, 2016 in Dublin, Ohio. — AFP

# GULF BANK SPONSORS THE 33RD JASSIM AL-SHARHAN RAMADAN TOURNAMENT

**KUWAIT:** In line with its strategy to develop youth skills and as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives during the month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank has announced its sponsorship of the 33rd late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament. The late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament, which is traditionally run throughout the month of Ramadan, is one of the most prominent sports activities that take place in Kuwait during the Holy Month. The tournament is played each year in the memory of the late Jassim Al-Sharhan, and it has become very popular among foot-

ball fans and players in Kuwait, providing a vibrant and competitive atmosphere enjoyed by the teams and the fans. Gulf Bank is firmly committed to supporting all segments of Kuwait society and it is particularly focused on youth programs, giving young people the best possible start and as many opportunities as possible to help them achieve their full potential.

