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KOHLI AND YUVRAJ LEAD INDIA ROUT OF PAKISTAN

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OAKLAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson, center, is defended by Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green, right, and Klay Thompson during the second half in Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals Sunday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

CURRY, DURANT LEAD WARRIORS TO 2-0 LEAD

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry dribbled every which way and ran a circle around LeBron James, then drove left through the paint and beat him to the rim for a right-handed layup over the star's outstretched arm in a move reminiscent of his recent MVP magic.

Steve Kerr got a front-row seat again for the show, delighted to be back on the bench witnessing those signature moments he has seen so many times before.

Kerr watched his Golden State Warriors grab a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals by downing the Cleveland Cavaliers 132-113 Sunday night in another rout, returning to the sideline with a warm welcome from the sellout crowd after a six-week absence.

Their leader and reigning NBA Coach of the Year assuming his usual courtside seat, Curry received a special request from Kerr: "to play with passion and play with joy," Curry shared. "That's what everyone wants to see, some of the best players in the world go against each other," Klay Thompson said. "Steph made a great move, got by him and finished. That's what he does."

Curry and Kevin Durant tag-teamed the Warriors within two victories of another championship. Curry recorded his

first career postseason triple-double with 32 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, while Durant contributed 33 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and five blocks and is suddenly on the cusp of his first ring.

"It seemed like it's personal for both of them," Draymond Green said. "And you are talking two of the greatest players that we got in this world locked in the way they are, that's why we're up 2-0." Golden State improved to 14-0 this postseason and is trying to become the first group to go unbeaten all the way to a title.

James was equally spectacular with his own triple-double of 29 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds, but yet again didn't get nearly enough help to keep up with the Warriors' depth. Kevin Love had 27 points and Kyrie Irving 19.

TRIPLE-DOUBLE

James tied Magic Johnson for most NBA Finals triple-doubles with eight, and this marked the first time in NBA history more than one player had a triple-double in the same Finals game.

"I thought for the most part with the game plan that we had we tried to execute it as close as possible," James said.

"Much more physical today than we were in Game 1. And we forced them to 20 turnovers and they still beat us pretty good, so we've got to be much better, too."

Thompson emerged from a postseason-long shooting funk to score 22 points with four 3-pointers while playing more stellar defense and pulling down seven rebounds for the Warriors, who shot 18 for 43 from deep.

The best-of-seven series now shifts to Cleveland for two games, with Game 3 tomorrow. Kerr returned to the bench to a rousing ovation, waving to the fans while back on the sideline for the first time since Game 2 of the first round against Portland on April 19 because of pain issues stemming from complications after 2015 back surgery.

Curry provided Kerr more than a glimpse of his greatness from up close after the coach had been watching games from the locker room while speaking to his players beforehand and at halftime.

On that third-quarter drive, James had little help as Love got there late. "At that point I was a little bit more composed than earlier in that possession," Curry said. "I was just kind of like a chicken with my head cut off, just running circles." Curry wore his emotions for everybody to see,

willing the unblemished Warriors even when Cleveland went on a third-quarter run after that play.

Now, Golden State is headed to Northeast Ohio needing just two more - yet don't count on anybody considering this series close to done. The Warriors squandered a 3-1 lead to the Cavs a year ago to miss a repeat.

"Well, it's been a great run but none of that matters unless we can finish the job with this series," Kerr said. "Trust me, we know. It was 2-0 last year, we lost."

Curry made all 14 of his free throws. He and Durant combined for 66 points and 18 assists in the opener, then dominated again while the supporting cast shined.

Curry was upset by his eight turnovers as Cleveland vowed to put more pressure on the ball and keep Durant from driving and dunking untouched as he did so many times in Game 1.

It didn't matter in the end.

Having Kerr there sure did - the Warriors felt whole again. "We love his presence. We love his voice," Curry said. "And we're a full group when he's out here, so that means a lot." — AP

PREVIEW

UNBEATEN WARRIORS LIVING UP TO 'SUPERTEAM' LABEL

CLEVELAND: Two wins from completing the first unbeaten playoff championship run in NBA history, the Golden State Warriors are realizing the "Superteam" expectations they shouldered since signing Kevin Durant last July.

The Warriors ripped defending champion Cleveland 132-113 Sunday to seize a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, which now shift to Cleveland for games tomorrow and Friday.

Golden State became the first club in NBA history to win 14 consecutive playoff games and the Warriors could be in the early years of a dynasty run to match legendary Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers teams. "They're the best I've ever seen," Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said. "I mean, no other team has done this, right? And they constantly break records every year." The Warriors won their first title in 40 years in 2015, downing an injury-hit Cleveland squad, and won a record 73 regular-season games the following campaign. Golden State came within one win of a title repeat before LeBron James sparked the Cavaliers to the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history, rallying from 3-1 down to claim the 2016 crown.

The Warriors answered by signing former Most Valuable Player Durant, adding a powerful forward to 3-point sharpshooters Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry, a two-time NBA MVP, and top rebounder Draymond Green.

"You take one of the best teams that we had ever assembled last year, that we saw in the regular season and in the post-season, and then in the off-season you add a high-powered offensive talent like (Durant) and a great basketball IQ like that, that's what stands out," James said. "I've seen a lot of great teams and they rank right up there. They work well together. They have some guys that can actually lead a franchise without anybody else." Durant complements his teammates, his inside play giving them outside shots and their work opening room for him to attack.

"We all got better and we have worked well together throughout the season," Durant said. "One day it may be me, one day it may be Steph, Klay, Draymond. You never know who will come up and show up for us."

'TRY TO BUILD A DYNASTY'

Golden State won a league-best 67 games this season. Since the playoffs began, the Warriors have been unbeatable, sweeping Portland, San Antonio and Utah. Warriors reserve Andre Iguodala shrugs off the notion of needing an unbeaten title run.

"I don't really care about history too much. I try not to focus on that," he said. "Just handle business the way you're supposed to handle business and that's the way you make history."

"If you're trying to chase something, that kind of

deters what you're trying to do. So for us, it's just handling business." But make no mistake, beyond winning titles is a level of greatness the Warriors aspire to reach, a place among the all-time best.

"For us, that's the goal, to try to build a dynasty and be great each and every time we step on the floor. That's all the motivation we need," Green said.

"It's not Kevin came here, you have to win the championship. That's the goal. He wants to be great... with that comes pressure from yourself more than anybody can ever put on you."

'Makes it look really easy'

Durant has taken a great team and perhaps made it one for the ages. "I knew he was a special talent," Thompson said. "It does surprise me, though, how effortless it looks for him. He makes it look really easy, and the stuff he does is incredibly hard. "His length, his versatility to guard five positions, his ability to rebound the ball and block shots-he does everything. He's a very complete player."

The Warriors, however, know from last year that no matter how momentum swings, it's not over until it's over. "We've been in this position before," said Thompson. "There are a lot of people who take it to the extreme, whether it's, 'Oh, the Cavs don't have a chance,' or 'The Warriors, it's over.' Can't listen to that. Got to shut it off." — AFP



OAKLAND: Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors speaks at a postgame press conference following their 132-113 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 2 of the 2017 NBA Finals at ORACLE Arena on Sunday in Oakland, California. — AFP