

Sports

Friday, March 15, 2019

Warriors hold on, snap Houston Rockets' nine-game win streak

HOUSTON: DeMarcus Cousins served as a facilitator before thriving as a battering ram, leading the Golden State Warriors to a 106-104 victory over the host Houston Rockets on Wednesday. Cousins posted season-highs in points (27) and assists (seven) to help the Warriors avert a four-game, season-series sweep by the Rockets. The Warriors, 4-6 over their previous 10 games, snapped the Rockets' season-best, nine-game winning streak by striking an effective inside-out balance. Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson combined for 54 points on 20-of-43 shooting, with Thompson tallying 30 and five 3-pointers. James Harden paired 29 points with 10 assists but continued his recent struggles from deep, missing 10 of 12 3-point attempts. Clint Capela posted 13 points and 13 rebounds but struggled to defend Cousins on the block. Eric Gordon added 17 points for the Rockets.

THUNDER 108, NETS 96

Paul George and Russell Westbrook com-

binated for 56 points as Oklahoma City beat visiting Brooklyn after trailing by as much as 17 early in the second quarter and 10 early in the second half. It was the second time this season the Thunder came from a double-digit deficit in the second half to beat the Nets and the 14th game this season that Oklahoma City won after trailing by at least 10. Westbrook finished with 31 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double since Feb. 28. Spencer Dinwiddie led the Nets with 25 points.

WIZARDS 100, MAGIC 90

Bradley Beal scored 23 points, Thomas Bryant added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Washington defeated visiting Orlando. Jabari Parker added 19 points and nine rebounds for Washington, which is 2-0 on a crucial five-game homestand. Wizards reserves, led by Bryant, Parker and Chasson Randle (13 points), scored 59 points. Nikola Vucevic led the Magic with 20 points and 14 rebounds. D.J. Augustin scored 16 points, and



HOUSTON: Gerald Green #14 of the Houston Rockets shoots the ball against the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday at the Toyota Center in Houston, Texas. — AFP

NBA results/standings

Oklahoma City 108 Brooklyn 96; Washington 100 Orlando 90; Miami 108 Detroit 74; Atlanta 132 Memphis 111; Golden State 106 Houston 104; Utah 114 Phoenix 97.

	Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
x-Milwaukee	51	17	0.750	-	Golden State	46	21	0.687	-
x-Toronto	48	20	0.706	3	Denver	44	22	0.667	1.5
Philadelphia	43	25	0.632	8	Houston	42	26	0.618	4.5
Indiana	43	25	0.632	8	Oklahoma City	42	26	0.618	4.5
Boston	41	27	0.603	10	Portland	41	26	0.612	5
Brooklyn	36	34	0.514	16	San Antonio	39	29	0.574	7.5
Detroit	34	33	0.507	16.5	Utah	38	29	0.567	8
Miami	32	35	0.478	18.5	LA Clippers	39	30	0.565	8
Orlando	31	38	0.449	20.5	Sacramento	33	33	0.500	12.5
Charlotte	30	37	0.448	20.5	Minnesota	32	36	0.471	14.5
Washington	29	39	0.426	22	LA Lakers	31	36	0.463	15
Atlanta	24	45	0.348	27.5	New Orleans	30	40	0.429	17.5
Chicago	19	50	0.275	32.5	Memphis	28	41	0.406	19
Cleveland	17	51	0.250	34	Dallas	27	40	0.403	19
New York	13	55	0.191	38	Phoenix	16	53	0.232	31

x - clinched playoff spot

No World Cup panic for Kohli despite Aussie drubbing

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli said his team is not panicking about the World Cup despite India suffering their first one-day series loss at home since 2015 at the hands of a resurgent Australia.

Their collapse from 2-0 up to a 3-2 defeat earned his side some harsh criticism in the media on Thursday, with a Times of India headline declaring "The Bubble Bursts", while the Indian Express said "India lose grip, match, series". But Kohli, the Indian captain, said after Australia sealed the series on Wednesday: "None of the guys in the changing room are panicking, the support staff is not feeling down after this defeat.

"The XI is clear in our head. We just have to take better decisions in pressure situations to go far in the World Cup," he added.

But the skipper urged his players to manage their workload during the nearly two-month long Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament starting March 23, in their bid to stay fit for the 50-over World Cup in England and Wales beginning on May 30.

The series against Australia, who triumphed against the odds despite the absence of batsmen David Warner and Steve Smith, was the last time the Indian side will play together before then, with the players now due to join their IPL sides.

Kohli said there should be no pressure in the annual T20 extravaganza when top players earn millions of dollars. "Exactly what we spoke in the change room was, 'just go and enjoy these two months in the IPL. Don't think of performance or pressure,'" said Kohli. "All the workload will be monitored," he added. "Everyone knows that no one wants to miss the World Cup and cost the team good balance." — AFP

Blackhawks build big lead, hold off Leafs

TORONTO: Brendan Perlini had a goal and two assists, Brandon Saad added a goal and an assist, and the visiting Chicago Blackhawks held on to defeat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 Wednesday night. The Maple Leafs trailed 5-0 before scoring four consecutive goals, including three in the third period, when they took 30 shots. Duncan Keith, Dominik Kahun and Alex DeBrincat also scored for the Blackhawks, who have won four in a row. Dylan Strome contributed two assists. Corey Crawford saved 17 of the 18 shots he faced in the Chicago goal but left because of illness after the second period. Andreas Johansson, Auston Matthews and Morgan Rielly each had a goal and an assist for the Maple Leafs, who have lost two in a row. John Tavares also scored for Toronto, and William Nylander and Mitch Marner each added two assists.

had 18 points and 20 rebounds for the Jazz, who outscored Phoenix 36-22 during the fourth quarter. Derrick Favors added 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. Devin Booker scored 27 points for the Suns, who lost for just the third time in eight games. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 points.

HAWKS 132, GRIZZLIES 111

Atlanta continued its hot play on offense, with John Collins, Trae Young and Alex Len combining for 69 points in a win over visiting Memphis. The Hawks entered the game as the NBA's top offensive team since the All-Star Game, averaging 122.5 points. Collins finished with 27 points on 11-for-17 shooting and grabbed 12 rebounds for his 28th double-double of the season. Young scored 22 points and had eight rebounds. Len came off the bench to add 20 points and eight rebounds. CJ Miles sank eight 3-pointers and scored 33 points for the Grizzlies. Mike Conley added 20 points and seven assists. — Reuters

DEVILS 6, OILERS 3

Kenny Agostino, Damon Severson and Kevin Rooney each collected a goal and an assist, and six New Jersey players scored in snapping a seven-game losing streak to hand Edmonton a crushing loss. Devils goalie Cory Schneider stopped 36 shots in the win. Going into the game, the injury-riddled Devils had 18 skaters who had combined for 99 goals this season. Connor McDavid collected a pair of assists to give him three consecutive 100-point seasons, but the Oilers lost for the second time in three games. They sit six points out of a playoff spot with 12 games remaining.

CANUCKS 4, RANGERS 1

Tyler Motte scored two goals 11 seconds apart in the second period and host Vancouver beat New York as the Canucks posted only their fifth NHL win in the past 18 games (5-10-3), while the Rangers took their eighth loss in nine outings. Brock Boeser and Jake Virtanen, with an empty-netter in the final minute, also tallied for the Canucks. Pavel Buchnevich scored for the Rangers. Vancouver goaltender Jacob Markstrom stopped 21 of 22 shots. New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist recorded 24 saves on 27 shots in the loss. Lundqvist was denied a chance to become only the sixth goalie to record 450 all-time NHL wins. — Reuters