

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

DAILY PLAYOFF GLANCE

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

SECOND ROUND

Sunday, April 30

Boston 123, Washington 111

Monday, May 1

Cleveland 116, Toronto 105
Houston 126, San Antonio 99

Tuesday, May 2

Boston 129, Washington 119, OT
Golden State 106, Utah 94

Wednesday, May 3

Cleveland 125, Toronto 103
San Antonio 121, Houston 96

Thursday, May 4

Washington 116, Boston 89, Boston leads series 2-1
Golden State 115, Utah 104, Golden State leads series 2-0

Friday, May 5

Cleveland 115, Toronto 94, Cleveland leads series 3-0
San Antonio 103, Houston 92, San Antonio leads series 2-1

Saturday, May 6

Golden State at Utah, late

Sunday, May 7

Cleveland at Toronto, 2:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 5:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 8 p.m.

Monday, May 8

Golden State at Utah, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9

x-Toronto at Cleveland, TBD
x-Houston at San Antonio, TBD

Wednesday, May 10

x-Washington at Boston, TBD
x-Utah at Golden State, TBD

Thursday, May 11

x-Cleveland at Toronto, TBD
x-San Antonio at Houston, TBD

Friday, May 12

x-Boston at Washington, TBD
x-Golden State at Utah, TBD

Saturday, May 13

x-Toronto at Cleveland, TBD
x-Houston at San Antonio, TBD
x-Utah at Golden State, TBD

Monday, May 15

x-Washington at Boston, 8 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS ROUNDUP

LATE FRIDAY

Spurs 103, Rockets 92: Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points apiece to help San Antonio, now without Tony Parker, beat Houston to take a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinals. Aldridge had managed just 19 points combined in the first two games, but stepped up in the wake of Parker's season-ending leg injury in Game 2, scoring nine points in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs pull away. Game 4 is Sunday night in Houston. James Harden led the Rockets with 43 points after scoring just 13 in Game 2. But he had just five assists and complained about the officiating all night. The Spurs were playing in the postseason without Parker for the first time since 2001,

ending an NBA record of 221 straight playoff appearances for the Frenchman.

Cavaliers 115, Raptors 94: LeBron James scored 35 points, Kevin Love had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Toronto Raptors 115-94 on Friday night and take a 3-0 lead in their second-round playoff series. DeMar DeRozan scored 37 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 19 for the Raptors, who were without three-time All-Star Kyle Lowry. They trailed by only two after three quarters before the Cavaliers quickly blew open the game. Game 4 is Sunday in Toronto. The Cavaliers are the only team since the Minneapolis Lakers in 1949 and 1950 to win their first seven playoff games in consecutive seasons.

NBA PLAYOFFS

For LeBron, Cavaliers' sweep just within reach

TIM REYNOLDS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James doesn't prolong the inevitable.

The last seven times that James' teams have had a 3-0 lead in a playoff series, the matchup has ended in the most humane fashion — a sweep. He gets a chance at another Sunday, when Cleveland can oust Toronto and advance to the Eastern Conference finals.

That's one of three Game 4s on Sunday's NBA playoff slate: Boston and Washington continue their bruising series with the Celtics leading that East semifinal matchup 2-1, and San Antonio — which proved on Friday that it won't buckle easily after losing Tony Parker for the season — will look to go up 3-1 in its West semifinal series against Houston.

Those Celtics-Wizards and Spurs-Rockets matchups look like they might last a while.

The Cavaliers-Raptors one, not so much.

History says it's over: No NBA team has wasted a 3-0 series lead, James has never coughed up as much as a 2-0 series lead, and even if the Raptors get injured point guard Kyle Lowry (ankle) back for Sunday he surely won't be anywhere near his best. Going back to last season's rally in the NBA Finals the Cavs have won 10 consecutive playoff games, three shy of the NBA's record set by the Los Angeles Lakers over the 1988 and 1989 seasons.

And James is making it look easy — 34.3 points, 9.0 rebounds and 7.3 assists per game so far in these playoffs, on 57 percent shooting. Such a stat line has never been done by anyone over the course of an entire postseason.

Here's some of what to know going into Sunday:

Cavaliers at Raptors, Cleveland leads 3-0.

NEED TO KNOW: James' teams are 79-20 vs. the East over the last seven seasons, and he's now just 176 points shy of passing Michael Jordan for the NBA's all-time playoff scoring record. Cleveland has won every game in the series by double digits, and even though DeMar DeRozan was great in Game 3 (37 points), the Raptors just didn't have enough to keep close.

KEEP AN EYE ON: Cavaliers PG Kyrie Irving has the scoring numbers in these playoffs (23.3 per game), but his shooting is just under 40 percent. Confidence isn't exactly an issue for Uncle Drew, but the Cavs wouldn't mind seeing him improve on the 7-for-20 performance that he's averaged over the last five games.

INJURY UPDATE: Lowry is questionable.

PRESSURE IS ON: Nobody. Toronto is playing for pride. Cleveland is playing for a longer rest.

Celtics at Wizards, Boston leads 2-1.

NEED TO KNOW: The NBA suspended the Wizards' Kelly Oubre Jr. for Sunday "for charging and making forceful and unwarranted contact" with the Celtics' Kelly Olynyk in Game 3. Cel-



JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS
Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) comes down with a rebound in front of Raptors forward PJ Tucker during Friday's Game 3 in the second round of the NBA Playoffs. Cleveland can finish a sweep with a victory on Sunday.

ics G Isaiah Thomas has been all over the scoring map in the first three games, with 33, 53 and 13 points, respectively. The Celtics averaged 126 points in the first two games, then managed only 89 in Game 3. John Wall has been super for Washington, averaging 28 points and 12.3 assists.

KEEP AN EYE ON: The physicality. There were eight technicals and three ejections in Game 3, both teams are proudly talking about how much they don't like the other side, and the Oubre-Olynyk dustup — while tame by past NBA playoff altercation standards — is surely going to have some carry over into Sunday, especially now with Oubre out.

INJURY UPDATE: Thomas (teeth issues) will play with a temporary bridge, one the Celtics are prepared to replace on the fly if necessary.

PRESSURE IS ON: The referees. Expect Sunday's crew to set the tone by not letting either side get away with too much extra-curricular activity in the first few minutes, perhaps sending a message that everyone would prefer to see a series decided by scoring instead of shoving.

Spurs at Rockets, San Antonio leads 2-1.

NEED TO KNOW: The Spurs haven't lost in Houston since Christmas 2015, going 4-0 since that day. James Harden had 43 points in Game 3, but the Spurs clamped down on Houston's other shooters — Lou Williams, Eric Gordon, Ryan Anderson and Patrick Beverley shot a combined 6 for 31.

KEEP AN EYE ON: What Houston changes defensively, if anything. Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge each scored 26 for San Antonio in Game 3, and Danny Green had his 3-point stroke working when the Spurs needed it most. The Spurs had the Rockets guessing all night, and by crunch time Houston clearly looked frustrated.

INJURY UPDATE: Parker (left leg) is out for the playoffs.

PRESSURE IS ON: A bit more on San Antonio. Houston has won twice in San Antonio this season, and going back to the Spurs' house in a 2-2 tie won't strike much fear in the Rockets. The Spurs can take complete control on Sunday.

ALL-METRO BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Meet the semifinalists for The Commercial Appeal's boys



basketball player of the year. The winners will be announced the inaugural Commercial Appeal

Sports Awards at the Opheum on June 9. The semifinalists and their two guests are invited to attend the ESPY-type awards show for free.

Tickets are on sale for the event are also available for \$31.50 at sportsawards.commercialappeal.com. More than 100 Memphis-area athletes and coaches will be honored at the event, which will also feature guest speaker Archie Manning.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR SEMIFINALISTS



Josh Conrad, W.E.B. DuBois, senior: Conrad averaged 20.7 points per game and shot well over 50 percent from beyond the 3-point line as the Lions had their most successful year ever, finishing 26-5. The Class A Mr. Basketball finalist had season-highs of 48 points and 12 3-pointers in a game against GRAD Academy.



Mark Freeman, Southwind, junior: After making the all-Metro team as a sophomore, Freeman starred as the Jaguars went 32-7 and lost to East in the AAA state championship. The lightning-quick point guard averaged nearly 19 points per game while combining great court vision with excellent long-range shooting.



Tyler Harris, Cordova, junior: Speaking of long-range shooters, Harris averaged 24 points, 4 assists and 3.3 rebounds per game while winning Gatorade's player of the year award for Tennessee. He was a finalist as a sophomore last year under the old Best of the Preps format.



Chase Hayden, St. George's, senior: Hayden won his second straight Division 2-A Mr. Basketball award this season, averaging 24.4 points and 6.5 assists as the Gryphons advanced to the state semifinals. The University of Arkansas football signee finished his career with over 2,000 points.



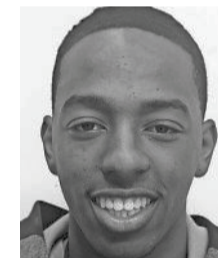
Parrish Hewitt, Douglass, senior: Hewitt was an all-metro performer as a junior at Melrose and made a huge impact after transferring. The Tennessee-Martin signee led the city in scoring at just under 26 points per game while being named a AA Mr. Basketball finalist.



Chandler Lawson, East, sophomore: K.J. and Dedic's younger brother came into his own in 2017, winning AAA tournament MVP honors as East won its second state title in a row. He averaged a double-double in three tournament games, a nationally-ranked player in the class of 2019 and a USA Today first-team all-state selection.



Alex Lomax, East, junior: Last year's Commercial Appeal player of the year, Lomax won his second straight AAA Mr. Basketball after leading East to a 33-3 mark and another title. He averaged 16.1 points, 7.5 assists and 6.1 rebounds as the Mustangs ended the year second in the USA Today national poll.



T.J. Moss, East, junior: Like his backcourt mate Lomax, Moss has been a part of three state tournament teams and two AAA winners during his East career. He averaged 14.6 points while earning all-tournament honors for the second straight season.

AAA ALL-METRO TEAM

Kelvin Allen Jr., Olive Branch; Tradarius Bailey, Lake Cormorant; Antwan Beans, Ridgeway; Ryan Boyce, Houston; Robert Boyd, Southwind; Martrell Brooks, Hamilton; Brandon Brown, Overton; Rodgerick Brown, Cordova; Trae Buchan, DeSoto Central; Jalen Crutcher, Ridgeway; Malcolm Dandridge, East; Mark Freeman, Southwind; Taelyr Gatlin, Brighton; Garrett Goiday, Arlington; Jitarius Gordon, Horn Lake; Bruce Guy Jr., Houston; Tyler Harris, Cordova; Allen Hatchett, White Station; Justin Hill, Whitehaven; Josh Jackson, Center Hill; D.J. Jeffries, Olive Branch; Desmond Johnson, Kirby; Cameron A. Jones, Whitehaven; Decorian Kelly, Bolton; Brien Kimmons, Center Hill; Chandler Lawson, East; Zach Lewis, Brighton; Alex Lomax, East; Jaylen Lynn, Collierville; Carlos Marshall, Southwind; Demarcus Mitchell, Germantown; Tay Morris, Collierville; T.J. Moss, East; Jefferson Walker, Bartlett; Ahmad Webster, Melrose; Luke Wiseman, Arlington

A-AA ALL-METRO TEAM

Darrius Austin, Westwood; Brandon Bailey, Craigmont; Neil Blanchard, Craigmont; Josh Conrad, W.E.B. DuBois; Deshun Davis, MLK Prep; Tyran Davis, Mitchell; Daven Dyson, Power Center Academy; William Edwards, Sheffield; Jordan Fairman, GRAD Academy; Kevon Ferguson, Middle College; Arecko Gipson, MASE; Kavion Hancock, Sheffield; Parrish Hewitt, Douglass; D.J. Jackson, Fayette-Ware; Joe Johnson, Mitchell; Ethan Jones, BTW; Nikkia Jones, City University; Leland Kirkendoll, KIPP; Hunter Klutts, Millington; Tomonique Marion, Mitchell; Chris Mitchell, W.E.B. DuBois; Demetrick Murphy, Oakhaven; Tyrell Partee, MAHS; Benjamin Perkins, Mansass; Brian Price, Memphis School of Excellence; Antonio Suttle, Memphis Business Academy; M.J. Taylor, Covington; Jadakiss Williams, Raleigh-Egypt; Tim Williams, Sheffield; Rameek Wooten, W.E.B. DuBois; Quinterrius York, Fayette-Ware

COACH OF THE YEAR

Marvis Davis, Lausanne: In his second season with the Lynx, Davis and his players overcame a terrible run of injuries early in the year to finish 23-8 and win the Division 2-A state championship. It's the second in program history.

DIVISION 2 ALL-METRO TEAM

Amani Alderson, ECS; Calvin Austin, Harding; James Babb, Lausanne; Avent Blueitt, St. Benedict; Trey Davis, St. Benedict; Lance Diaz, Northport; William Douglas, CBHS; Schyler Forest, Lausanne; Josh Gray, MUS; Trey Harrington, Briarcrest; Chase Hayden, St. George's; Cedric Henderson, Briarcrest; Caleb London, MUS; Bryant Lee, Harding; Jacob Lyons, CBHS; John McBride, MUS; Caleb Milofsky, Margolin Hebrew Academy; Jacob Morgan, Memphis Nighthawks; Jesse Neloms, Lausanne; Jeffrey Owen, Margolin Hebrew Academy; Noah Pope, St. George's; Anterrius Rhyon, Rossville; Malik Riddle, Rossville; Ben Spence, CBHS; Kendall Thomas, Harding

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Reach John Varlas at john.varlas@commercialappeal.com or on Twitter @johnvarlas.