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Game 7: Cavaliers 93, Warriors 89

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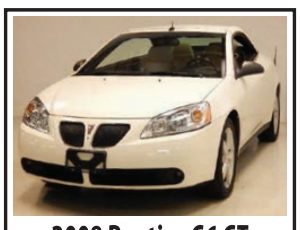
LeBron James delivers on his promise to bring championship to Cleveland



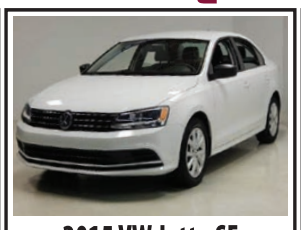
INSIDE

■ Four pages of Cavs championship coverage

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SPECIAL SECTION ON NBA TITLE GAME

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CLEVELAND DROPS GOLDEN STATE IN SEVEN GAMES

NBA Finals

GAME 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

CAVALIERS 93, WARRIORS 89

G1 (L) June 2	G2 (L) June 5	G3 (W) June 8	G4 (L) June 10	G5 (W) Monday	G6 (W) Thursday	G7 (W) Sunday
WARRIORS 104	WARRIORS 110	**CAVALIERS 120**	WARRIORS 108	**CAVALIERS 112**	**CAVALIERS 115**	**CAVALIERS 93**
CAVALIERS 89	**CAVALIERS 77**	WARRIORS 90	**CAVALIERS 97**	WARRIORS 97	WARRIORS 101	WARRIORS 89

Mission accomplished

LeBron proves to be man of his word in delivering title to Northeast Ohio

OAKLAND, CALIF.

Forty-eight minutes for 52 years.

And every one of them excruciating.

Every one of them exhausting.

Every one of them needed.

Josh **WEIR**



josh.weir @cantonrep.com

A game that lacked aesthetic beauty was filled with teeth-grinding pressure and drama. It was a struggle. Making history should be.

A 93-89 Game 7 win in Oracle Arena on Sunday night against the defending champion Warriors handed the Cavaliers their first championship in 46 years of existence and the city of Cleveland its first major professional sports title since 1964.

"I'm home," LeBron James said on the podium. "This is what I came back for."

James, always acting so cool, always acting like nothing fazes him, broke down in tears when handed the Larry O'Brien trophy. Later, in the postgame press conference, he recited Cleveland's list of sports mishaps.

The Byner fumble. The Elway drive. The Mesa gag job.

"So many more stories," he said.

James knows it. He returned to Cleveland two summers ago knowing full well the burden he would carry.

And he was man enough to do it.

The MVP chants rained down on him Sunday from a contingent of Cleveland fans that made the long trip to the Bay Area. He totaled 27 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds in 47 minutes as he was named the Bill Russell Finals Most Valuable Player and earned his third championship personally.

James, who shot just 9-for-24 from the floor and committed five turnovers, wasn't at his best Sunday, especially compared to his masterful performances in Games 5 and 6. But he kept plowing ahead in a game that begged for a hero.

His young sidekick was up for the moment.

Kyrie Irving's 3-pointer from the right wing — with Stephen Curry in his face — broke an 89-89 tie with 53 seconds left. It snapped a string of 12 straight misses by the two teams. Irving finished with 26 points, 17 of them coming in the second half.

"It's not a good feeling turning around and watching it go in," Curry said.

Golden State went scoreless for the final 4:38, with Curry's fingerprints all over the carnage. The two-time reigning NBA MVP missed four 3s down the stretch, a couple of them ill-advised. He also threw a silly behind-the-back pass for a turnover.

"I was aggressive in the wrong ways," Curry said. "It will haunt me for a while."

Curry couldn't shake Kevin Love on a switch after Irving's big 3 and badly missed, constituting the final true chance for a Golden State team that won an NBA-record 73 games in the regular season but failed to punctuate it with a championship.

Much of a crowd of 19,596 stayed to watch the Cavs celebrate. Some were cursing. Some stood in stunned silence. It's a feeling fans back in Northeast Ohio know all too well.

This win doesn't erase all the past pain Cleveland fans have endured. That always will be there, a permanent scar.

No, this is a reward for staying the course, for not jumping onto the bandwagon of other teams and other cities. It is the moment that makes all the past travails worth it.

"Our fans, they ride or die, no matter what's been going on, no matter the Browns, the Indians, the Cavs and so on, ... they continue to support us," James said. "And for us to be able to end this, end this drought, our fans deserve it. They deserve it. And it was for them."

Call it what you want. The stars aligning. A cosmic force. God not hating Cleveland after all.

The breaks of the game finally broke Cleveland's way as the series progressed.

Draymond Green, who single-handedly kept Golden State in the game with 22 of his 32 points in the first half, lacked composure and was baited into a suspension for Game 5 by James. Then Andrew Bogut was lost in Game 5 and Andre Iguodala started moving around like Fred Sanford in Game 6.

But it wasn't about breaks in Sunday's second half.

The Cavs struggled, but they fought, overcoming 1-for-14 3-point shooting in the first half.

In a series in which none of the first six games were decided by single digits, Game 7 changed things.

The magnitude of the moment seemed to weigh on both teams. The game grinded along, totaling 20 lead changes and 11 ties.

It was like James' words in his famous Sports Illustrated essay announcing his return to Cleveland in July 2014 were ringing true: "In Northeast Ohio, nothing is given. Everything is earned. You work for what you have."

It had to be like this, right?

The Cavs are the first team to rally from a 3-1 hole in the Finals and win the title. They are the first road team to win a Game 7 in the Finals since 1978.

The beat the Warriors three straight times, something that hadn't happened to Golden State since November 2013.

James made his way to the postgame news conference with cigar in mouth, a net around his neck and his three children in tow.

"What's going through my mind is I'm ready to get back to Cleveland," James said.

"I can't wait to get off that plane and hold that trophy up and see all our fans at the terminal."

Reach Josh at 330-580-8426 or josh.weir@cantonrep.com
On Twitter: @jweirREP



AP **ERIC RISBERG**

■ **LeBron James blocks a shot by Warriors guard Stephen Curry during the first half of Game 7 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night in Oakland, Calif. "This is what I came back for," James said after hoisting the Larry O'Brien trophy after the dramatic victory.**

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BAY AREA NEWS GROUP VIA AP **JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO**

■ **Kyrie Irving hits the go-ahead 3-pointer over the Warriors' Stephen Curry during the final minute of Game 7 of NBA Finals on Sunday night in Oakland, Calif.**

KINGDOM COME

By Janie McCauley
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, CALIF. LeBron James cradled the shiny gold trophy and struggled to sum up what might be his sweetest championship yet, the one he is so proudly bringing home to his native Northeast Ohio, just as he promised to do when he returned to the Cavaliers two summers ago.

Later, flanked by his three children on Father's Day, a cigar between his lips and winning net as a necklace with the lingering stench of champagne, James began to understand the magnitude of his accomplishment for Cleveland after a half-century wait.

"I'm coming home with what I said I was going to do," he said, adding, "I can't wait to get off that plane, hold that trophy up and see all our fans at the terminal."

James and his relentless, never-count-them-out Cavs pulled off an improbable NBA Finals comeback, and Cleveland is title town again at long last.

James delivered on a vow to his home state and brought the Cavs back from the brink as they became the first team to rally from a 3-1 finals deficit, beating the defending champion Golden State Warriors 93-89 on Sunday night to end a 52-year major sports championship drought in Cleveland.

"I've never seen a man in my life tell an entire state: 'Get on my back, I got you. Get on my back and I'm going to carry you. I don't care if we fail, I'm going to wake up the next morning and I'm going to start working out and prepare for the next year,'" Richard Jefferson said.

"... He was like, 'I'm going to come back home because I promised them that I would do something.' And he carried us the whole way."

In a testy series of blowouts — and a few blowups — the winner-take-all Game 7 provided the thrilling finale with James as the finals MVP disarming two-time reigning MVP Stephen Curry and his record-setting Warriors.

The native of Akron rattled off moments from the lengthy list of Cleveland sports heartbreak and said what it meant for him to personally bring the Cavaliers their first championship.

Playing his sixth straight finals, James almost single-handedly carried the Cavs back into this series and finished with 27 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds as the Cavs gave their city its first major sports winner since the Browns won the NFL title in 1964. He also had three blocked shots and two steals, overcoming five turnovers.

An emotional James fell to the floor when this one ended with a second win in a week on Golden State's imposing home floor, surrounded by his teammates. Only moments earlier, he went down in pain with 10.6 seconds left after being fouled by Draymond Green while going for a dunk, then came back out to make the second of two free throws.

After four successful seasons in Miami and two titles with the Heat, James came back to the Cavs in hopes of winning the title this franchise and championship-starved city so coveted. It took a second try against Golden State after Cleveland lost to the Warriors in six games last year.

"I was calm. I was focused. I was locked in," James said.

Cleveland did it after a coaching change, with Tyronn Lue taking over in January for the fired David Blatt.

"We made history tonight," Lue said. "Cleveland, Ohio, we're coming back, baby!"

Kyrie Irving scored 26 points to cap his brilliant finals, including a 3-pointer over Curry with 53 seconds left.

Curry sat briefly on the bench to take in the scene after the Warriors made their last basket with 4:39 left.

"It hurts, man," Curry said. "Just proud of every single guy that stepped foot on the floor for our team this year. ... Hopefully we'll have many more opportunities to fight for championships and be on this stage because this is what it's all about."

Green had 32 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists, but the Warriors' record-setting season ended without the only prize this close-knit "Strength In Numbers" crew cared about from way back in the beginning — through the record 24-0 start as Coach of the Year Steve Kerr was out, Curry's second consecutive MVP campaign, and the 73 regular-season wins to break the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls' mark.

As Cleveland celebrated in the trophy ceremony, Green returned to the floor to congratulate the Cavs. He stopped by the winning locker room, too, and Warriors general manager Bob Myers brought in the freshly cut nets.

Golden State might always be remembered as one of the best teams ever that couldn't close it out, and Green is taking at least a good share of the blame after he sat out Game 5 on Monday night suspended for flagrant fouls.

The Cavs staved off elimination twice to force Game 7 back at Oracle Arena, where the Warriors went up 2-0 with a pair of lopsided wins to start this series.

Cleveland became just the fourth team to win an NBA Finals Game 7 on the road.

Curry — who said beforehand he needed the best game of his career — scored 17 points on 6-for-19 shooting, while Splash Brother Klay Thompson added 14 points while making 6 of 17 shots.

"I didn't do enough to help my team win," Curry said. "It will haunt me for a while."

This time, it will be Cleveland hosting the victory parade Wednesday. A year ago at home, the Cavs had to watch Golden State win its first title in 40 years.

"Now we have our own parade," Irving said, "and we'll celebrate it the way it's supposed to be celebrated in Cleveland."

All hail the King

LeBron James earned MVP honors for the 2016 NBA Finals after leading all players in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks. Here's a look at the game-by-game stat lines for James in during the series against the Golden State Warriors:

Game	Pts	Reb	Ast	Stl	Blk
7	27	11	11	2	3
6	41	8	11	4	3
5	41	16	7	3	3
4	25	13	9	2	3
3	32	11	6	1	2
2	19	8	9	4	1
1	23	12	9	2	1
Totals	**208**	**79**	**62**	**18**	**16**



AP **MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ**

■ **NBA Finals MVP LeBron James shoots between the Warriors' Marreese Speights and Andre Iguodala on Sunday night.**

GAME 7 BOX

CAVALIERS 93, WARRIORS 89

CLEVELAND	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	PF	PTS
James	46:49	9-24	8-10	1-11	11	1	27
Love	30:02	3-9	3-4	4-14	3	2	9
T.Thompson	31:49	3-3	3-4	0-3	0	3	9
Irving	43:00	10-23	4-4	3-6	1	4	26
Smith	38:55	5-13	0-0	0-4	2	3	12
Jefferson	25:30	1-4	0-0	1-9	0	1	2
Shumpert	19:10	1-3	3-3	0-1	0	0	6
Williams	4:45	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Totals	**240:00**	**33-82**	**21-25**	**9-48**	**17**	**15**	**93**

Percentages: FG .402, FT .840. **3-Point Goals:** 6-25, .240 (Irving 2-5, Smith 2-8, Shumpert 1-3, James 1-5, Williams 0-1, Love 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 11. **Team Turnovers:** 11. **Blocked Shots:** 6 (James 3, T.Thompson 2, Irving). **Turnovers:** 11 (James 5, Irving 2, Smith 2, Love, Williams). **Steals:** 7 (James 2, Love 2, Irving, Jefferson, Smith). **Technical Fouls:** None.

GOLDEN ST.	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	PF	PTS
Barnes	29:24	3-10	2-2	0-2	1	4	10
Green	46:54	11-15	4-4	1-15	9	3	32
Ezeli	10:45	0-4	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Curry	39:16	6-19	1-1	0-5	2	4	17
K.Thompson	42:17	6-17	0-0	1-2	2	2	14
Iguodala	37:53	2-6	0-2	2-9	4	3	4
Livingston	16:04	3-7	2-2	1-1	2	1	8
Varejao	8:29	0-1	1-2	0-0	1	3	1
Speights	4:34	0-3	0-0	2-4	0	0	0
Barbosa	4:24	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	3
Totals	**240:00**	**32-84**	**10-13**	**7-39**	**22**	**23**	**89**

Percentages: FG .381, FT .769. **3-Point Goals:** 15-41, .366 (Green 6-8, Curry 4-14, Barnes 2-4, K.Thompson 2-10, Barbosa 1-1, Speights 0-1, Iguodala 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 10. **Team Turnovers:** 10. **Blocked Shots:** 5 (Iguodala 2, Speights 2, Curry). **Turnovers:** 10 (Curry 4, K.Thompson 3, Green 2, Livingston). **Steals:** 7 (Green 2, Iguodala 2, Barnes, Curry, K.Thompson). **Technical Fouls:** None.

Cleveland	**23**	**19**	**33**	**18**	**—**	**93**
Golden State	**22**	**27**	**27**	**13**	**—**	**89**

A—19,596 (19,596). **T**—2:26.
Officials—Mike Callahan, Monty McCutchen, Dan Crawford

GAME 7 BREAKDOWN

THE CAVS WON IT HERE

Kyrie 3, Love D

A scoreless stretch of 3:37 by both teams in the final quarter ended with 53 seconds left when Kyrie Irving buried a 3-pointer over Stephen Curry from the right wing. That gave the Cavs a 92-89 lead. Kevin Love's defense helped make that lead stand up. The 6-foot-10 Love got isolated on the 6-3 Curry and played strong enough defense to force the two-time reigning MVP into missing a wild 3-pointer with 30 seconds left. LeBron James split two free throws with 10.6 seconds left to seal an NBA championship.

LEBRON'S LINE

Triple-double for The King

LeBron James put together the third triple-double all-time in an NBA Finals Game 7 — joining a pair of Lakers, Jerry West (1969) and James Worthy (1988). James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. He shot just 9-of-24 from the floor, as his jumper was shaky all night. But he hit a huge step-back 3 with 4:53 left to give the Cavs an 89-87 lead to erase Golden State's last lead of the game. James wasn't done making big plays, though. Perhaps his most impressive was blocking an Andre Iguodala fast-break layup attempt with 1:05 left to keep the game tied 89-89. James led everyone in the Finals in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks.

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

LeBron James & Kyrie Irving

The Cavs All-Star duo combined for 53 points, including the team's final 14 over the last 9:07 of Game 7.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

1 Number of teams to come back from a 3-1 deficit in the NBA Finals and win the championship after the Cavs completed their comeback to win the franchise's first title and the city's first in a major pro sport since 1964.

1-for-14 Cleveland's 3-point shooting in the first half, as they were minus-27 points from beyond the arc in the first half since Golden State shot 10-for-21.

3 The number of times LeBron James has been the MVP of the NBA Finals.

5-for-5 Draymond Green's 3-point shooting in the first half, as he hurt the Cavs time after time throughout Sunday's game in scoring a game-high 32 points.

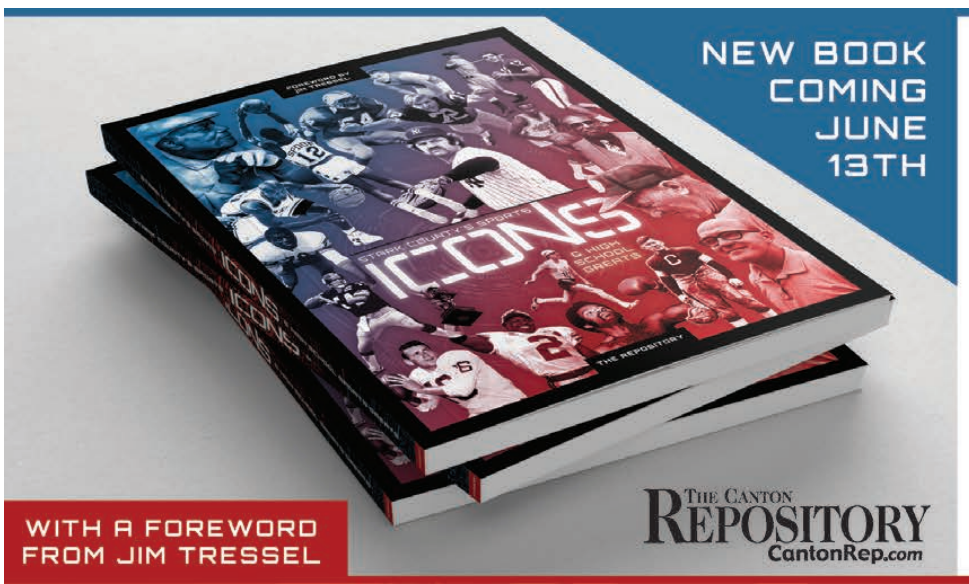
14 Kevin Love's rebound total, his most in the Finals and one shy of his highest in any playoff game this year.

20 Number of lead changes Sunday night, including 13 in the first half. The game also was tied 11 times.

30.8 Kyrie Irving's scoring average over the last five games of the Finals on 50.8 percent shooting from the floor. He also hit 14 of 30 3-pointers in the final five games, including the game-winner Sunday. Through the first two games, Irving averaged just 18 points, shooting 12-of-36 from the floor. He was just 1-for-4 on 3s in those two games.

1978 The last time the road team won a Game 7 in the Finals was 1978, when the Washington Bullets defeated the Seattle SuperSonics, before Cleveland's win Sunday. The home team had won six straight Game 7s in the Finals. The road team is now 4-15 in Game 7s in the Finals.

REPOSITORY STAFF REPORT



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AP **TONY DEJAK**

■ **Cavaliers fans cheer following the NBA Finals Game 7 outside Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland on Sunday.**

WATCH PARTY COMMENTARY

Wait is worth it

Fans, writer see 52 years of frustration end

So this is what it really feels like?

Men, women, young, and old celebrating the long-awaited moment, the long-awaited hour that was so elusive for 52 years.

Mike **POPOVICH**



mike.popovich @cantonrep.com

On Sunday night, a Cleveland sports team won a world championship.

At 49 years old, I can't believe I just typed those words.

And you know what? Future Cleveland champions will have a tough time topping what the 2015-16 Cavaliers just did.

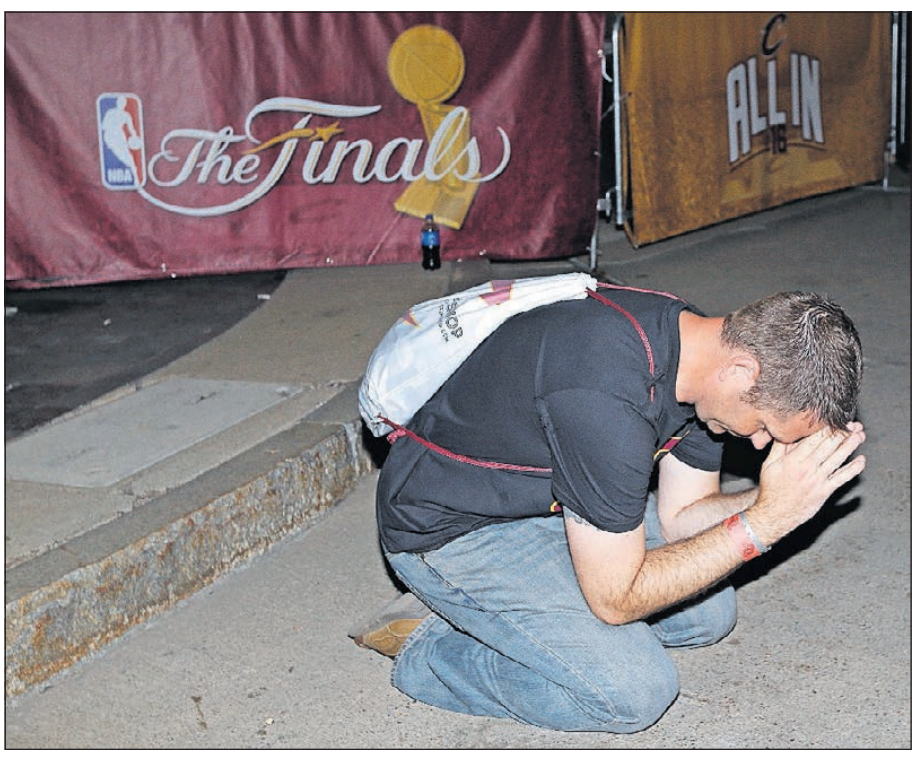
The Cavs came from behind to dethrone the 73-win Warriors 93-89 in Game 7 and give this loyal, long-suffering sports fanbase a championship to finally call their own.

Thousands of them poured into downtown hours before tip-off, hoping to be a part of the biggest celebration this city has seen since Dec. 27, 1964 when the Browns won the last major league title.

Almost 20,000 filled Quicken Loans Arena, where the stage for the Republican National Convention already was constructed. Many more packed Gateway Plaza for the outdoor watch party. Those who couldn't get outdoor watch party tickets filled every open viewing space at a nearby parking garage.

How many fans filled downtown? In the second half, word circulated the Ohio State Highway Patrol blocked off entrances into Cleveland.

They stayed in town well into the night after witnessing history.



AP **TONY DEJAK**

■ **(Above) Brian Wilson prays during the final minutes of Game 7 of the NBA Finals outside of Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.**

They saw the Cavs become the first team to win the NBA championship after being down 3-1 in the finals. They saw the Cavs become the first road team in 38 years to win Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

They saw hometown hero LeBron James become the third player to have a triple-double in the finals and become series MVP.

They also saw the Cavs write the best possible final chapter to this historic season. They saw them beat a 73-win team many thought was unbeatable.

You couldn't end a 52-year drought any better.

Before I headed to The Q, I thought about the day I attended the Cavs' final game of the 1981-82 season. They lost their 19th game in a row in front of a few thousand fans at the old Richfield Coliseum.

Thirty-eight years later, with the team almost 3,000 miles away, I watched them win a championship with 20,000 rabid fans.

The wait was worth it.

Enjoy this Stark County, Cleveland and all of Northeast Ohio.

You deserve it.

Reach Mike at 330-580-8341 or mike.popovich@cantonrep.com
On Twitter: @mpopovichREP



AP **TONY DEJAK**

■ **Cleveland Cavaliers fans congregate outside Quicken Loans Arena during Sunday's NBA Finals watch party.**



REPOSITORY **SCOTT HECKEL**

■ **Rosetta Taylor and Mike Teis cheer during the NBA Finals watch party at Game Time Bar & Grille in Perry Township on Sunday.**

Celebrating Cavs' history

Game Time patrons watch Cleveland curse finally end

By Kelly Byer
Repository staff writer

PERRY TWP. A bartender glanced back at the TV screen before popping a cap off a beer.

Not long after, fans at the Game Time Bar & Grill applauded when the Cleveland Cavaliers sunk their first basket.

People turned in their seats to see one of the 28 screens showing the Game 7 of the NBA Finals. One hung above the table where Lisa Miku, of Perry Township, sat with a group of friends. She watched most of the NBA Finals at home, but said she wanted to "be part of the excitement" for this one.

"It's history in the making," Miku said.

It marked the Cavs' third appearance in the NBA Finals, and many fans hoped it would result in team's first title. The San Antonio Spurs defeated the Cavs in 2007, and the Warriors defeated the Cavs in six games last year.

Miku said she felt this year would be different, though. She wasn't the only one.

The bar crowd chanted "let's go Cavs" as the night began and cheered and jeered as the score bounced back and forth.

Gus Nickolas, of Canton, said he predicted the Cavs would come back to win it all after being down 3-1. He critiqued the team's performance in the first half but remained hopeful they'd be successful after a close game.

"They're tight," he said aloud while watching. "You can see it."

Nickolas was at the Cleveland Browns and Oakland Raiders game in 1981 where an intercepted pass dashed hopes of a championship win and said, like any "die-hard Cleveland fan," he just wanted the team to triumph.

Cleveland hasn't had a major professional championship since the Browns won the NFL championship in 1964.

Game Time owner Amy Wilson said the roughly 200 people gathered Sunday night was an average turnout for a series game. After happy hour ends at 9 p.m., the bar offers half-off appetizers, which helps draw a crowd.

The wait staff was dressed in Cavs garb, and Wilson said she would be rooting along with patrons for a win.

"I'm a sports fan, period," she said.

Lori Schoenfelder, of Canton, said she was worried about the Cavs' chances after the third game but was hopeful going into the seventh. She watched most at home but said she wanted to watch Sunday's monumental game among other fans.

"That is why we're here," she said.

Austin Hoot, who wore a LeBron James jersey and Cavs socks, said he was there for the "energy." He watched with three other equally decked-out fans.

One of which, Tim Marks, of Perry Township, said he has been a fan since watching his first Cavs game in 1985. He wanted to be with his "fellow Ohioans" on such an occasion.

"It's all about the atmosphere," Marks said.

Reach Kelly at 330-580-8323 or kelly.byer@cantonrep.com
On Twitter: @kbyerREP



REPOSITORY **SCOTT HECKEL**

■ **Jeff Slomsky and Gus Nickolas cheer at the NBA Finals watch party at Game Time Bar & Grille in Perry Township on Sunday.**



REPOSITORY **SCOTT HECKEL**

■ **There were nail-biting moments for 10-year-old Kevin Bower during the NBA Finals watch party at Game Time Bar & Grille in Perry Township before the Cavaliers emerged with the victory.**



AP **ERIC RISBERG**

■ **The Cleveland Cavaliers celebrate with family and staff after Game 7 of the NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, Calif., on Sunday. The Cavaliers won 93-89 to capture their first NBA title**

WHERE WERE THESE IN ’64?



■ **Order of buffalo wings from Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y.**

Here are things that have been invented since a major Cleveland sports team last won a championship (Browns in 1964):





■ Buffalo wings were first served in Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y. (1964).
■ Snowboarding came along when someone decided to add a skateboard without wheels to snow (1965).
■ Kevlar is used in bike tires and body armor (1965).
■ Handheld calculator came in 1967, so we could calculate how many years it’s been since 1964.
■ Racquetball was invented in the Greenwich YMCA in 1968.
■ The laser printer came along in 1969 thanks to Xerox.
■ A NASA researcher invented the Taser in 1969.
■ Seven years after the mouse was invented, someone decided we needed a mousepad in 1969.
■ The card game Uno came along in 1971.
■ The personal computer (Kenbak-1 as it was called) was built in 1971
■ Believe it or not, the first email was sent in 1971
■ MRI imaging was invented in 1972
■ The mobile phone came along in 1973
■ The Heimlich maneuver was invented in 1973 to help those choking — not necessarily Cleveland sports teams.
■ Gore-tex, the waterproof clothing material, was invented in 1976.
■ The first space shuttle was built in 1981.
■ The Internet came around in 1983.



AP **ERIC RISBERG**

■ **(Above) Cavaliers fans hold up signs for Warriors guard Stephen Curry during the first half of Game 7 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., on Sunday. The same duo then lets Warrior fans know the result.**



NBA FINALS NOTEBOOK

Super Sunday

Josh **WEIR**



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With Game 7 falling on a Sunday and being a winner-take-all affair, there was a Super Bowl feel to it.

“It’s pretty cool,” LeBron James said. “... To put it into Super Bowl Sunday (context), it’s like one game. It’s one game, and you look forward to it.”

Sunday was the first Game 7 of the Finals in Cavs franchise history and their fifth overall Game 7, with the first one being the Miracle of Richfield win against the Bullets in 1976. North Canton’s own Dick Snyder hit the game-winning shot for the Cavs in that game to send them to their first conference finals.

Familiarity

Sunday’s game was the 13th Finals game between the Cavs and Warriors the past two seasons, equaling the highest total between the same two teams in NBA history over a two-year span. The Celtics and St. Louis Hawks met in 13 Finals games in 1957 and ’58. Also, the Celtics and Lakers did it three times (1962 and ’63, 1968 and ’69, 1984 and ’85).

Sweat it out

Warriors head coach Steve Kerr stuck to his typical pregame routine for Sunday’s game. He and assistant coach Luke Walton went to hot yoga earlier in the day.

“I’m guessing Bill Belichick and his staff don’t do that,” Kerr said. “Just throwing that out there.”

As for Cavs head coach Tyronn Lue, he stuck to his routine as well.

“Pregame we have breakfast and then we had a walkthrough in the (hotel) ballroom,” Lue said. “And I went back and took my nap like I always do.”

Under pressure

Game 7 comes with pressure, and that’s OK according to Kerr.

“If you don’t feel pressure in a Game 7, you’re probably not human,” he said Saturday. “I told our guys that. Of course they’re going to feel pressure. Of course there’s going to be some anxiety. But how lucky are we to feel that pressure? You could play on a lottery team your whole career and just make a bunch of money and go watch the playoffs every year.”

Tweet me

Kerr’s star player, Stephen Curry, took a lot of heat between Games 6 and 7 for his struggles. Even his wife, Ayesha, was in the news for her social media complaints about officiating.

Kerr was asked if he had been checking in with Curry between games to see if he was handling everything OK.

“We just tweet back and forth,” Kerr said, laughing.

‘The man’

Multiplatinum recording artist Aloe Blacc sang the national anthem before Game 7 and performed at halftime. Blacc, a Grammy-nominated soul singer/songwriter, experienced his biggest success with his 2013 single, “The Man,” which topped the charts and appeared in a series of Beats by Dre commercials.

Feel it

Speaking of music, Kyrie Irving showed up at Saturday’s media availability wearing a strange device that kind of looked like a backpack with headphones attached to it.

“It’s a SubPac,” Irving said. “You guys are going to be hearing about it very soon.”

According to its website, the SubPac is an audio technology that “transfers low frequencies directly to your body and provides you with a new physical dimension to the music experience.” Basically, you feel the bass and drums of what you’re listening to, not just hear it.

The device costs $329.

This and that

The Finals MVP award is named after Bill Russell, who went 5-0 in Finals Game 7s, averaging 20.4 points and 32.0 rebounds. ... A quick scan of Twitter on Sunday found courtside tickets for Game 7 being sold for more than $100,000 each.

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