

The Sportier

NBA Finals 2016

This year, the NBA Finals were highly electrifying. The Golden State Warriors were facing the Cleveland Cavaliers for the second year in a row. The Warriors were favored since Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson, the Splash Brothers, are always there to score tons of points. But it wasn't as distant of a series as most thought it would be. It was actually extremely intense. In Game 1, Stephen Curry wasn't on his game, only scoring for a total of 11 points. The Cavaliers were making the score tight, going up by 1 point late in the 3rd quarter. But the Warriors were in luck, because the Golden State bench were able to put up enough points to pass the Cavaliers, led by Shaun Livingston's 20 points off the bench. The Warriors had a 1-0 series lead going into Game 2 in Oakland. Game 2 was just not that great. Cavaliers Power Forward Kevin Love was elbowed in the head, and was able to last the rest of the first half after the incident, but had to be taken to the locker room and was diagnosed with a concussion. After the first half, the score was 42-44, a tight game, but then the Warriors offense soared, scoring more than 50 second half points, and the Cavaliers barely scraped up 30. That gave the Warriors a Game 2 win, a 2-0 series lead, and a trip to the Buckeye State, where Game 3 would be played in Cleveland. Cleveland needed a win so that they weren't down 3-0. The Cavaliers started the game of great, with 33 points in the opening quarter, but then they quieted down with 18 in the next quarter. Luckily for the Cavaliers, the Warriors scored 8 less points than the Cavs, which gave the Cavs a 51-43 halftime lead. Again, the Cavaliers out on too many points for the Warriors to handle, led by LeBron James and his 32 points over the course of the whole game. The Cavs took 1 game, which turned the series into a 2-1 series lead for the Warriors. Game 4 would again be played in Cleveland, but this game would turn out to be very close. Both teams scored in the 20's each quarter, but in the end, Stephen Curry, with 38 points, led the Warriors to victory. Now the Cavaliers had an immense problem on their hands: They were playing on the Warriors home court, where in the regular season, the Warriors had only 2 losses. That's real scary. The Cavaliers needed to win in order to keep on playing, so they left all they had on the court. After the half of Game 5, the score was tied. The 3rd quarter was very close, but the Cavaliers won that quarter by 9 points. The Cavaliers were able to come out on top by only 15, and they forced a Game 6. The game was in Cleveland, an advantage for the Cavaliers. The Cavaliers were led to a victory by 41 points by LeBron James, the most in a single game for a single game so far in the series. Near the end of the game, Stephen Curry fouled out, and was so frustrated at the call, he threw his mouth guard, which hit a spectator. The spectator happened to be Andrew Forbes, the son of Cavaliers part-owner Nate Forbes. Oops! The Cavaliers forced a Game 7, but it might have been a smart loss for the Warriors because they were going back home, where they have exceptional stats. Going into Game 7, the Warriors were looking to join the Boston Celtics, Minneapolis Lakers, and Chicago Bulls as the 4th team to beat the same team in back-to-back titles one or more times. The Cavaliers were looking to be the first team in NBA history to come back and win a NBA Finals series. And the way it looked, it was like

they would die if they didn't win. The game was tied after one half and the Warriors had a 1 point lead after 3 quarters. The fourth quarter was extremely intense. The lead was in favor of the Warriors, then changed to the Cavaliers, then changed to tied. With 4 minutes left, the game was tied. With 3 minutes left, the score was tied. With 2 minutes left, the score was tied. Nobody was making baskets. Not even Stephen Curry could. With a minute left, the Cavaliers took a 3 point lead. With 10.6 second left, LeBron hurt his wrist. He took his foul shots. He missed one, and made the other. A four point play had to be made to just tie the game. The clock started ticking down. 10...9...8...7...6...5...Curry misses a 3 pointer...3...2... A desperation shot... MISSED! The Cavaliers won in one of the best and most intense NBA Final games EVER. The Cavaliers are now the first team ever to come back from a 3-1 deficit and win an NBA Title. The first title in Cleveland in 52 years is on it's way back!

Source: [ESPN](#), [Basketball Reference](#)