

Rockets even series with 109-94 win over Warriors

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Jalen Green made eight 3-pointers and scored 38 points to lead the Houston Rockets to a 109-94 win over the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night in a testy matchup to even the first-round Western Conference series at one game apiece.

The seventh-seeded Warriors never led and played short-handed for most of the night after Jimmy Butler left with a pelvis contusion after a hard fall on a foul late in the first quarter.

Green, the No. 2 pick in the 2021 draft, rebounded from a flop in his playoff debut, when he scored just seven points on 3-of-15 shooting, with a dominant Game 2.

His eight 3-pointers were two more than the No. 2-seeded Rockets made on 6-of-29 shooting in a 95-85 Game 1 loss.

Alperen Sengun had 17 points and 16 rebounds for the Rockets. Tari Eason had 14 points off the bench.

Game 2 is Saturday night at Golden State.

Stephen Curry had 20 points and nine assists for the Warriors and become the 11th player in NBA history to reach 4,000 career playoff points with 4,017.

Houston led by 20 with



Karen Warren | Associated Press
Houston Rockets center Alperen Sengun (28) shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) during the first half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Houston Rockets in Houston on Wednesday.

about 10 minutes left before the Warriors used a 9-0 run, with two 3s from Quinten Post, run to get within 11. Jalen Green was called for a flagrant foul on Draymond Green at the end of that run after he flailed an arm into his face.

CAVALIERS 121, HEAT 112
CLEVELAND — Donovan Mitchell delivered when the Cleveland Cavaliers needed him most. After the Miami Heat

seized momentum and appeared on the verge of possibly tying the series, Mitchell took over. He scored Cleveland's next eight points and the Cavaliers held on for a 121-112 victory on Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

"I love the fact the game happened like this. We had to really find a way as a group and then we responded," said Mitchell, who led Cleveland with 30 points, including 17 in the

fourth quarter. "I kept trying to find the mismatch and make a play."

It was the 27th career playoff game with at least 30 points for Mitchell, who also had six rebounds and six assists.

"He's a superstar for a reason. It's kind of like there is nothing you can do in the NBA sometimes when someone is hitting tough shots like that," said Miami's Davion Mitchell, who scored 18 points.

The Cavaliers had a

19-point lead with under 3 minutes remaining in the third quarter before the Heat made their run to get within 105-103 lead with 3:11 left.

Mitchell responded on the ensuing trip by driving and making a step-back floater to put the Cavs up by four.

CELTICS 109, MAGIC 100
BOSTON — As it became evident that All-Star Jayson Tatum would have to sit out Game 2 of the Celtics' first-round playoff series against the Orlando Magic, Jaylen Brown wanted Boston coach Joe Mazzulla to know something.

"He came in saying he was going to do everything it takes to win," Mazzulla said.

Brown came through on that promise. And his teammates followed his lead.

Brown had 36 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Kristaps Porzingis returned to the game after getting a bloody gash to the forehead and finished with 20 points, and the Celtics beat the Magic 109-100 on Wednesday night.

Boston took a 2-0 series lead while playing without Tatum, who has a bone bruise in his right wrist and missed a playoff game

for the first time in his career.

"Obviously, JT is the offensive leader, and we play off of him," Brown said. "But any given night I can rise to the occasion."

Boston led by 15 points in the second half, then held off a late push by Orlando. The Celtics hit 12 3-pointers and went 25 of 33 from the free-throw line. Derrick White and Brown had 17 of Boston's 28 points in the final period; White finished with 17.

"He was leading us on both ends," Porzingis said of Brown. "He was being JB."

"You just trust that mindset, really the warrior mentality that he has," Mazzulla said. "He can take it to another level mentally and physically."

Paolo Banchero led the Magic with 32 points and nine rebounds. Franz Wagner scored 25 points.

"They came out of the locker room and went on a run. We had trouble coming back from that," Banchero said.

Game 3 is Friday night at Orlando.

Tatum had not missed a playoff game in his eight seasons with Boston. He injured his wrist in Game 1 after landing awkwardly following a flagrant foul by Kentavious Caldwell-Pope.

Fredette, 2024 US Olympian, retires from basketball

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Jimmer Fredette, the 2011 Associated Press men's college basketball player of the year at BYU, who went on to become an NBA lottery pick and then played for the U.S. in 3x3 at last year's Paris Olympics, announced his retirement on Wednesday.

Fredette, 36, was the No. 10 pick by Milwaukee in that 2011 draft. He spent parts of six seasons in the NBA with Sacramento, New Orleans, Chicago, Phoenix and New York. He also played professionally in China and Greece, winning the MVP award in the

Chinese Basketball Association in 2017.

The native of Glens Falls, New York, had games of 70 and 75 points during his career in China, including one where he scored 60 points after half-time.

He averaged 28.9 points per game for BYU in the 2010-11 college season, leading the country on his way to the AP player of the year award. And in 2023, he was USA Basketball's 3x3 male athlete of the year.

"Basketball has taken me all around this world: from Glens Falls NY, to BYU, the NBA, China,



AP Photo/Lynne Sladky
Jimmer Fredette speaks during an interview after practice for the USA Basketball 3x3 national team on Oct. 31, 2022, in Miami Lakes, Fla.

Greece, and even Team USA at the Olympics!" Fredette wrote in a social

media post. "This game and my love for it has shaped me into the person

I am today and for that I am forever grateful. So many memories and amazing moments. It wasn't always easy, but it was always worth it! The next journey starts now."

The best years of his playing career may have been his final ones, when he turned his attention to 3x3.

Fredette was a star in that fast-paced, half-court-game sport for the U.S., helping the Americans win gold medals at the 2022 FIBA 3x3 American Cup and 2023 Pan American Games along with a silver at the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

He entered the Paris Olympics as the top-ranked 3x3 men's player in the world, with the Americans ranked No. 2 worldwide.

He suffered an adductor muscle injury early in the tournament and the U.S. by rule could not replace him on its four-man roster for the Paris Games, so the Americans had to play the rest of the Olympics with three players and no substitutes.

"I owe a lot of who I am today to this game and it's not easy to say goodbye as a player," Fredette wrote.

"But the time has come."

Every team will enter the NFL draft with its 1st-round pick

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

This year's NFL draft is on target to achieve a first.

Barring a last-minute trade, every team will go into the draft with its original first-round pick for the first time in the common draft era that began in 1967.

That's in stark contrast to recent years when teams were much more willing to trade away or swap first-round picks, with an average of more than seven teams entering the last five drafts without their original first-round picks.

That peaked in 2022 when 11 teams entered draft day without their own first-round pick thanks in part to previous deals for players like Deshaun Watson, Russell Wilson, Trey Lance, Tyreek Hill and Davante Adams.

The closest the league has come in the common draft era with every team holding its own first-round pick, according to research by ESPN, came in 1993 when Kansas City dealt its first-rounder to San Francisco for Joe Montana five days before the draft.

The static picks are unlikely to hold through the first round on Thursday night as teams are likely to make moves up or down the board depending on which players are available. Just last year there were five draft-day trades



AP Photo/Jason Allen
Miami quarterback Cam Ward (1) looks for an open receiver during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Georgia Tech on Nov. 9, 2024, in Atlanta.

involving first-round picks, that saw picks change hands eight times.

NO PASSING FANCY
It looks like a quarterback once again will be taken first in the draft, with the odds that Cam Ward goes No. 1 to Tennessee exceeding 99%, according to the latest odds from BetMGM Sportsbook.

That would mark the seventh time in eight years that a QB went first, with Jacksonville's pick of Travon Walker in 2022 as the only exception. That's been part of a long trend as the NFL has prioritized passing. Quarterbacks have been taken first overall in 20 of the previous 27 drafts.

But that wasn't always the case.

Drew Bledsoe (1993 to New England) was the only quarterback from

1991-97 to be taken first, and there was an 11-year stretch from 1972-82 that had only one QB taken with the No. 1 pick: Steve Bartkowski to Atlanta in 1975.

Almost every team has taken a shot on a first-round quarterback in recent years, but the team with the longest drought could snap it on Thursday.

New Orleans hasn't drafted a quarterback with its first-round pick in the common draft since taking Archie Manning in 1971, but it could snap that streak this year given the uncertainty surrounding the status of Derek Carr.

The only other teams that haven't drafted a QB in the first round in the past 15 drafts are the Cowboys (1989), Seahawks (1993), Raiders (2007) and Lions (2009).

DIVISION DOINGS

The Tennessee Titans are set to pick first in the draft for the first time since the franchise took Earl Campbell in 1978 when the team was known as the Houston Oilers.

The Titans traded away the top pick in 2016 to the Rams but now have a chance, marking the seventh time that the top pick has gone to an AFC South team since the start of the eight-division era in 2002.

The AFC South will be the first division in that span with every team making the No. 1 pick, with Houston having done it three times since 2002, Jacksonville twice and Indianapolis once.

Next up on the list is the AFC North, where Cleveland and Cincinnati have both had the top pick twice, and the NFC West, with the Rams having the top pick twice and Arizona and San Francisco once each since 2002.

The AFC West and NFC South have each made the top pick three times in that span, with the NFC North doing it twice and AFC East doing it once.

The only division that hasn't made the top pick since 2002 is the NFC

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East, although that comes with a bit of a caveat.

In 2004, the Chargers drafted Eli Manning first overall but traded him during the draft to the

LEGAL NOTICE

GASOLINE/ DIESEL FUEL BID
Quotations will be accepted on supplying unleaded gasoline, unleaded plus gasoline and diesel fuel to the Hancock County School district for all its vehicles including buses, maintenance vehicles, driver training cars, and staff cars until 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 9, 2025 at the Hancock County Board of Education. Bid packets are available on our website under Quick Links/Forms & Links/Invitation to Bid. Mail or deliver your sealed bid to Nick Boling at the Hancock County Board of Education. The bid must be clearly marked "FUEL BID". The Hancock County Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

New York Giants.

The last time a team in the NFC East made the No. 1 pick was in 1991, when Dallas drafted Russell Maryland.

LEGAL NOTICE

HANCOCK COUNTY BUS MAINTENANCE BID
The Hancock County Board of Education will receive sealed bids on bus maintenance supplies, parts and equipment until 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 9, 2025, 2024. Please direct any questions about the specifications to Nick Boling at (270) 927-6914. Bid packets are available on our website under Quick Links/Forms & Links/Invitation to Bid. The sealed bids must be clearly marked "BUS MAINTENANCE BIDS". Mail or deliver your sealed bid to Nick Boling at the Hancock County Board of Education. The Hancock County Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE

BID ADVERTISEMENT
The Hancock County Board of Education will accept sealed bids for Custodial Supplies for 2025-26 school year until 1 0:00 a.m., Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Board of Education Office in Hawesville, Kentucky. For specifications or other information, contact Dr. Joshua Scherrer at the Board of Education Office at 270- 922-0621 or 270-927-6914. The Hancock County Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to accept irregularities in the bidding process.

Bid packets may be obtained at the Hancock County Board of Education office between office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or on the Hancock County Board of Education website. (www.hancock.kyschools.us) Information pertaining to any item or conditions in this bid request may be obtained by calling Dr. Joshua Scherrer at 270-922-0621 or 270-927-6914.