

Thunder trail in series for second time

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Game 1, a loss on the opposition’s final shot. Game 2, an easy win. Game 3, another loss to fall behind in the series again.

This formula is not the one that would be considered optimal by the Oklahoma City Thunder, especially in the NBA Finals. But if there is some consolation for the overall No. 1 seed in these playoffs, it’s this: the Thunder have been in this exact spot before and found a way to prevail.

That resiliency will be tested yet again, after the Indiana Pacers beat the Thunder 116-107 on Wednesday night to take a 2-1 series lead in these finals. Game 4 is in Indianapolis on Friday night.

“I thought it was an uncharacteristic night in a lot of ways for us,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. “We got to learn from it and then tap back into being who we are in Game 4. If we do that, I think we’ll have a much better chance to win.”

It was not very Thunder-like in Game 3. They blew a fourth quarter lead for the second time in the series, gave up 21 points off turnovers and let the Pacers’ bench run wild — outscoring the OKC reserves 49-18.

“We’ll watch it.



Indiana Pacers forward Pascal Siakam and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams battle for the loose ball during their NBA Finals game Wednesday night in Indianapolis. (AP PHOTO/MICHAEL CONROY)

It wasn’t all bad,” Daigneault said. “But we definitely have to play our style and impose our will for more of the 48 minutes if we want to come on the road and get a win.”

There are uncanny similarities between the first three games of this series and the first three games of the Western Conference semifinal matchup between Oklahoma City and Denver.

— In Game 1 of the West semifinals, Aaron Gordon hit a 3-pointer with about 3 seconds left to give the Nuggets a win in Oklahoma City. In Game 1 of the NBA Finals, Tyrese Haliburton hit a jump-

er with 0.3 seconds left to give the Pacers a win in Oklahoma City.

— In Game 2 of the West semifinals, the Thunder evened things up with an easy win. In Game 2 of the NBA Finals, the Thunder evened things up with an easy win.

— In Game 3 of the West semifinals, Denver — at home for the first time in that series — played from behind most of the night before fighting into overtime and eventually getting a win for a 2-1 series lead. In Game 3 of the NBA Finals, Indiana — at home for the first time in the series — trailed for much of the first half before even-

tually getting a win for a 2-1 series lead.

The Thunder dug their way out of that hole against the Nuggets. And now, the same task awaits — with an NBA title at stake.

“I wouldn’t say that now is the time for emotions, to be thinking about how you’re feeling, emotional this, emotional that,” Thunder forward Chet Holmgren said. “You kind of have to cut that out and look at the substance of what it is. We have a great opportunity here and the great thing is we have another game coming up, Game 4.”

Pacers’ bench play keys Game 3 victory

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — TJ McConnell stole inbound passes not once, not twice, but three times in Game 3 of the NBA Finals. He waved his arms, pumped his fists and shouted at an already delirious crowd to make more noise.

Bennedict Mathurin made just about every shot, calm and cool, always coming up with the bucket that Indiana needed.

Separately, they couldn’t seem more different. Together, they were a two-man bench wrecking crew for the Pacers in Game 3 of the NBA Finals — two of the biggest reasons why Indiana has a 2-1 lead over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the title series.

McConnell became the first reserve in finals history to have five assists and five steals in a game. Mathurin — who couldn’t play in Indiana’s playoff run last year because of a shoulder injury — scored 27 points, the most by a reserve in a finals game in 14 years. Sure, Tyrese Haliburton nearly had a triple-double and Pascal Siakam scored 21 points and Myles Turner battled through illness to have a pair of huge blocks



Indiana Pacers guard Bennedict Mathurin passes the ball under pressure from Oklahoma City Thunder players during Wednesday night’s game in the NBA Finals in Indianapolis. (AP PHOTO/MICHAEL CONROY)

late in Indiana’s 116-107 victory Wednesday night, but McConnell and Mathurin were the story.

“Just getting a win in general in the playoffs and in the finals, it’s really hard,” McConnell said. “So, obviously, happy about this one, but have to move on. Have to still correct some stuff and make some adjustments.”

Game 4 is Friday night. And McConnell was looking ahead to Friday almost immediately after Wednesday night’s game ended.

Haliburton says McConnell is like a big brother to him, always knowing what needs to be done, always knowing what needs to be said. He delivered on both counts in Game 3.

“He does a great job

of giving us energy plays consistently and getting downhill and operating. I mean, nobody operates on the baseline like that guy,” Haliburton said. “I thought did he a great job of consistently getting there and making hustle play after hustle play, and sticking with it, and I thought we did a great job of just feeding off of what he was doing.”

McConnell was the scrappy energy. Mathurin, he was just smooth.

Before Mathurin did it in Game 3, the last player who scored 27 points off the bench in a finals game was Jason Terry for Dallas in 2011 — doing so in the Game 6 title-clinching win over Miami.

The coach of that

Mavs team: Rick Carlisle. The coach of this Pacers team: Rick Carlisle.

And when it was all over Wednesday, Carlisle told the story of how Mathurin — after getting his shoulder surgically repaired last spring — got one of those calendars that counted down the number of days he had to wait before being cleared to play again. It was in the Pacers’ training room and part of Mathurin’s routine was to tear off a page each day.

“He was counting the days down to being cleared sometime in August and then be able to begin training camp, begin 5-on-5 with our guys in September and then be in training camp, really, with his eyes firmly set on an opportunity in the playoffs,” Carlisle said. “And so, he’s putting a lot of work to be ready for these moments.”

Mathurin said he learned a lot as well from just watching last year’s playoff run, when Indiana made the East finals.

“Just being on the bench and being next to the coaches who were able to run me through the game and stuff like that ... I was fortunate enough to learn a lot and be ready for this year,” Mathurin said.

Bengals rookie leaves team minicamp

By CHARLIE GOLDSMITH
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals first-round pick Shemar Stewart’s hold-in escalated to a holdout on Thursday as he did not attend the final day of the team’s mandatory minicamp.

Stewart has expressed concern over language in the contract that the Bengals have presented him and hasn’t signed his rookie deal yet. He had been participating in meetings and off-field activities with the team but was just a spectator at practices. On Thursday, he went a step further and left the team facility before the end of the summer program.

“He wasn’t here today, so we just focus on the guys who are here,” Bengals coach Zac Taylor said.

The Bengals selected Stewart with the 17th overall pick in the draft. The Bengals’ pass rush was a weak area last season even though Trey Hendrickson led the NFL in sacks, and Stewart has the opportunity to step in as a Week 1 starter on Sept. 7 at Cleveland.

But that can’t happen unless this contract dilemma gets sorted out.

“I think for all the rookies, you’d like them to be on the field,” Taylor said. “But certainly there’s things that happen over the course of an NFL career, and this is one of them right now. So he’s been in the meetings, he’s been positive, and we look forward to getting (him) back on the field.”

Taylor said that he has communicated with Stewart but declined to share specifics. During Taylor’s coaching career, he hasn’t seen a rookie hold out in this way.

“There’s a first for everything,” Taylor said.

“Every year, you kind of learn something new in this position. And this is one of those things that the players have managed really well. We keep the team moving, and when he jumps on the field, that’ll be great for our team.”

Hendrickson hasn’t been present at team workouts all offseason aside from one day where he attended a practice specifically to speak with reporters about his desire for a new contract. Without Hendrickson and Stewart, the Bengals have been missing two potential starting defensive ends on the practice field this summer.

Bengals defensive coordinator Al Golden described the processes that Hendrickson and Stewart are going through as very different.

“Our concern (with Stewart) is teaching him and making sure he’s learning,” Golden said. “He’s engaged, he’s on time. He’s had a great attitude in the meetings. That’s all we can control right now. I think it’s a lesson for him in the NFL — control what you can control. From our standpoint he’s done a good job in terms of the learning. We are as excited as anybody to get him out there.”

With Hendrickson, the Bengals will build their defense around the 2024 All-Pro whenever Hendrickson is back in the mix.

“Trey brings a developed skill set already to the pass game,” Golden said. “In a lot of ways, we have cultivate the defense around him, and we will. Trey’s intellect and his approach as a pro he’ll get caught up in those 47 days (of training camp) before the opener. I’m confident of that. Just looking forward to seeing him again and coaching him.”

LEGALS

(First published in The Morning Sun on May 30th, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS
SITTING AT PITTSBURG

In the Matter of the Estate of
Sherwin Earl Patton, Deceased

No.. CRP-2024-PR-000043

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this court by Glenda K. Patton, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Sherwin Earl Patton, deceased, requesting that Petitioner’s acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; that the requested fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed, the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before June 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court of Crawford County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Glenda K. Patton
Petitioner

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ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

FRANKLIN

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jump at 37-0.25, clipped by Lakin sophomore Aryn Michaels who hit 37-9.50. She also competed in the long jump, placing 15th at 15-10.

“She embraced the big stage at state,” Murray said. “She at-

tempted 5-10.25 for the state meet record. The whole stadium did a slow clap for her. It was such a huge moment for her. Her father was an all-state high jumper, so that moment had to be extra special for her family.”

Franklin also won CNC League titles in the

high jump at 5-2 and the triple jump at 35-3. She won regional titles at 5-6 in the high jump and 36-0.50 in the triple jump.

“Reece had an amazing season,” Murray said. “She deserves the honor as the top track and field female athlete in the area. She is a very wonderful young

lady and our whole community is very proud of her.”

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