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## Bleacher report cavs warriors preview

In the 2018 NBA Finals, LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers will face Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and the Golden State Warriors. Who will win the fourth edition of this NBA Finals rivalry? Watch above. Bleacher Report is the destination for basketball fans everywhere. B/R's NBA coverage delivers must-see on-court analysis and highlights on a daily basis. Connect to the NBA stories, teams, athletes, and highlights that make the game more than a game. Download the free Bleacher Report app to capture all the moments that matter in one place. Download the app to get the game. David Phillip/Associated PressThe Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers meet for the fourth consecutive season in the 2018 NBA Finals, with the former listed as major home favorites over the latter on the sportsbooks for Game 1 on Thursday and the championship series overall. The Warriors and Cavaliers each made it back here after winning Game 7 on the road in their respective conference championship series. NBA point spread: The Warriors opened as 11.5-point favorites; the total is at 215.5, according to sportsbooks reviewed by OddsShark. (Line updates and matchup report) NBA betting pick, via OddsShark computer: 106.9-96.9. Warriors (NBA picks on every game) Watch the OddsShark podcast on iTunes or on OddsShark.libsyn.com for more odds information, betting picks and a breakdown of this week's top sports betting news. Why the Cavaliers can cover the spreadCleveland is only as good as LeBron James, and that's pretty good right now. James has enjoyed arguably the greatest postseason of his individual career and will do everything he can to beat one of the greatest teams of all time for the second time in three years. Few thought the Cavaliers could come back from a 3-1 series deficit in the 2016 NBA Finals, but they did just that to earn their first national title. James is averaging 34 points, 9.2 rebounds and 8.8 assists per game during Cleveland's current playoff run, and he will do his best to continue posting those numbers in this series. Why the Warriors can cover the spreadJames is only one player, and that clearly works in Golden State's favor. The Warriors have four players capable of stepping up and delivering outstanding performances, with Kevin Durant's goal to make James work defense in an effort to tire him out like he did a year ago in the NBA Finals. Durant was brought to Golden State for that reason, tying James and allowing Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green to be the difference-makers. While the Warriors struggled offensively against the Houston Rockets in the Western Conference Finals, they overcame double-digit leads in the last two games to win in routs. Smart betting pickGolden State is right up and 6-1-1 against the spread in the past eight meetings, according to the OddsShark NBA Database, including the 2017 NBA Finals. The Warriors beat the Cavaliers 4-1 last year. 4-1. two games at home with an average of 20.5 points, and punters should expect a similar result. While James is better than Houston's James Harden, he won't be enough if Golden State wins and covers. NBA betting trendsCleveland is 4-1 ATS in the last five games. The total has gone down in four of Golden State's last five games at home. Golden State is 4-0-1 ATS in its last five games at home against Cleveland.All NBA odds and betting trends according to official odds partner Bleacher Report, OddsShark. Check out OddsShark on Twitter and Instagram or go to YouTube for more betting picks and analysis on this week's top games. You also download the free odds tracker app. Nathaniel S. Butler/Getty ImagesA seven-game series for the 2014-15 NBA championship is now a three-game battle for the title between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors. Both teams earned splits on the road, bringing home-court advantage back to the Warriors ahead of Game 5 on Sunday night. Golden State is coming off the most convincing performance of the NBA Finals from either side. Stephen Curry and Co. rediscovered their outside shooting strokes to grab a seven-point lead after the first quarter of Game 4 and never looked back en route to a 103-82 win Thursday. Now the question is whether the CAVs can bounce back on the road or the Warriors can get on a roll to capture the Larry O'Brien Trophy. Let's check out all the important information for watching Game 5, followed by a preview and prediction for the game. Game 5 DetailsWhere: Oracle Arena in Oakland, CaliforniaAt: Sunday, June 14, at 8 p.m. ETWatch: ABCLive Stream: WatchESPNGame 5 PreviewThe extra day off between games came at a perfect time for Cleveland. The Cavaliers looked like they were running on empty after their brief surge in the third quarter of Game 4 ended. Golden State took advantage to pull away and level the series. Afterward, Joe Vardon of the Northeast Ohio Media Group passed along comments from LeBron James, who admitted he had little left to give late in the game. I was pretty much gassed, either of driving, creating opportunities for my teammates, getting to the free throw line, getting (to the) offensive glass, just trying to push that, James said. A few days off won't be enough to get him all the way back to full strength. That said, the rest should at least give him a chance to charge enough to carry the load for another collision. At this stage, there is no doubt that both sides are taking it one game at a time, as cliché as it can be. NBA History highlighted the importance of Game 5 in these situations: NBA History @NBABHistoryOf the previous 28 times in which the #NBAFinals is tied 2-2, winner of Game 5 has gone on to win the series 71.4% of the time (20/28) ESPN Stats and Info explained a loss doesn't mean Cleveland should lose hope, though: ESPN Stats & Info @ESPNStatsInfoNBA Finals history, home team is 19-9 in Game 5 in 2-2 series Last to overcome 3-2 deficit to 3-2 deficit to Final? 2012-13 Heat, led by JamesThe biggest key for the CAVs, aside from a revitalized James, is better perimeter defense. Fatigue limited sudden sensation Matthew Dellavedova to just 33 minutes in Game 4, and he wasn't as reliable defensively even when he was on the floor. Given the number of three-point attempts Golden State makes each game, there's little chance for the Cavaliers to keep up if the Warriors click at 40 percent. In Cleveland's two wins, it held the Western Conference champs to 23 percent and 35 percent from deep. If that means selling the three stop and forcing the post players to make more plays against drivers, so be it. But the CAVs can't let the Warriors get many long-range open looks. On the other hand, Golden State needs to attack. It's been a long playoff run for both sides, but the Warriors were the fresher group in Game 4 and need to test the CAVs' fitness. If they feel Cleveland is still tired, they should push the pace for all 48 minutes. Not only will that put Cleveland on its heels, but the chaotic nature it would likely create should also open up more looks of three-point land. All put together, while this series is likely to have a few twists and turns on the horizon, the Warriors need confidence after Game 4. They got back to playing their brand of basketball, and their opponents began to show signs of physical weakness. If they need an extra boost Sunday, the always raucous Oracle Arena crowd should bid as Golden State regains control of the championship series. Prediction: Warriors 101, Cavaliers 95 McCollum and the Blazers Snapped Postseason Losing Streak for JenniferStars Investing in Plant-Based Food as Vegetarianism Sweeps NBAThe NBA Got Some Wild Techs This SeasonJarrett Allen Is One of the NBA's Hottest Rim ProtectorsWade's Jersey Swaps Created Epic Moments This SeasonWestbrook Makes History While Honoring Nipsey HussleDevin Booker History Makes With Scoring Tear29 Years Ago, Jordan Dropped Career-High 69 Points Bosh Is Getting His Jersey Raised to the rafters in MiamiSteph Returns to Houston for 1st Time Since His Moon Landing Traillou Williams Is Coming for a Repeat of Sixth Man of the YearPat Rewesaving NBA Record BooksYoung's Hot Streak Is Warming Up the ROY Race with LukaLeBron and 2 Chainz Form a Superteam to Create a New AlbumWade's #OneLastDance Dominated februaryWarriors Fans Go Wild Release After Unforgettable Moments With StephEight Years Ago , the Nuggets traded Melo to the KnicksTwo years ago, the Kings Shipped Boogie to the PelicansASG will be competitive again if the NBA raises the StakesWe might look at an NBA rivalry that transcends time, space and all logic. With the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers set to be in the NBA Finals for the fourth consecutive year, Bleacher Report thought what it would be like if the trend continues over the next three decades. In B/R's imagined future, the line man and machine fades considerably for LeBron James. And will Riley Curry take over the Warriors dynasty? For now, it will be the Warriors' Big Four of Curry, Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green seeking Golden State its third title in four years against LeBron and Co. in the 2018 Finals, which begin Thursday with Game 1 at 9 p.m. Is this just the beginning? Beginning?

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