Cavaliers v Warriors: How they stack up

POSITION: SMALL FORWARD

Numbers according to 2017 play-offs stats per game



POWER FORWARD

KEVIN LOVE		DRAYMOND GREEN			
PPG	RPG	APG	PPG	RPG	APG
17.2	10.4	1.9	13.9	8.7	7.2

One is a triple-double threat, the other is a doubledouble machine. If Green keeps his emotions in control, he is an awesome defensive stalwart. Love, on the other hand, needs to step up his intensity to counter Green.

EDGE: WARRIORS

KEY BENCH PLAYERS

DERON WILLIAMS	ANDRE IGUODALA	
KYLE KORVER	DAVID WEST	
CHANNING FRYE	SHAUN LIVINGSTON	

POINT GUARD

KYRIE IRVING		STEPHEN CURRY			
PPG	RPG	APG	PPG	RPG	APG
24.5	2.4	5.6	28.6	5.5	5.6

Curry is the heart and soul of the Warriors, and the supreme sharpshooter will be desperate to erase his injury-hampered, sub-par Finals outing last season. Irving is no pushover, and usually raises his performances in big games. The Cavs need at least four of those from him.

EDGE: WARRIORS

Both benches are dominated by veterans, all of whom are armed with enough savvy to keep the team ticking when the starters take their breaks. The Warriors bench has better firepower, but the Cavaliers are stacked with three-point shooters.

EDGE: WARRIORS

SHOOTING GUARD

J.R. SMITH		KLAY THOMPSON			
PPG	RPG	APG	PPG	RPG	APG
6.6	2.6	0.8	14.4	3.5	2.0

Two shooters who can pour in points in a hurry, but both are struggling for form in the play-offs. Thompson looks the better defender though.

EDGE: WARRIORS

COACH

APG PPG RPG APG RPG 9.3 1.0 3.2 7.0 0.1 Once the laughing stock of the NBA with his error-prone

JAVALE MCGEE

performances, McGee has improved his decision-making after joining the Warriors this season. Thompson will punish defences who leave him open to double-team James, with his consistent shot-making.

EDGE: CAVALIERS

TRISTAN THOMPSON

TYRONN LUE

MIKE BROWN (STEVE KERR)

Who would have thought the Warriors would be hit by injury — to coach Kerr, who is still out after complications from back surgery. Brown has deputised capably, but would be hard-pressed to come up with great plans to stop his former protege James. Lue, meanwhile, has kept the Cavaliers going despite some periods of poor form this season.

EDGE: CAVALIERS (if Kerr stays unfit)

PHOTOS: AFF STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

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