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NBA PLAYOFFS: DETROIT AT CLEVELAND, 3 P.M. SATURDAY



Pistons guard Cade Cunningham celebrates the 107-97 win over Cleveland with his father, Keith Cunningham, in the second round of the NBA playoffs at Little Caesars Arena. PHOTOS BY JUNFU HAN/DFP

Cunningham already a closer for the ages

Impressive Game 2 showing powers Pistons to win



Mitch Albom
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Inside

- Windsor: Pistons take it all in stride, keep winning, **1C**
- Bickerstaff's approach is working, **1C**



Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham blocks Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dennis Schroder during the second half of Game 2 of the second round of the NBA playoffs at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit on May 7.

In any long-distance race, you need a kick. In any IndyCar show-down, you need a final lap. And in any tight NBA playoff game, you need a closer.

Here were the Detroit Pistons, straight-arming the Cavaliers all night long, holding the wolves at bay — a 12-point cushion, 10 points, 11 points. Whenever the Cleveland Cavaliers drew close, the Pistons would get a Daniss Jenkins spurt of energy, or a Duncan Robinson 3-point bomb, or a Tobias Harris back-in, back-in, turnaround jumper.

Noticeably absent from that list, early on, was Cade Cunningham. By Superman standards, his first half was Clark Kent.

He had just five points, four shots, and three turnovers. He didn't attempt a free throw. Had you only heard of — but never seen — Cunningham before, you might have thought he was fighting the flu.

But Detroit has now witnessed enough of this young man to know that pace is a relative thing in his world. He's faster than he appears and craftier than you think. And like lava just under the volcano's crater, his talent is always bubbling, red-hot, ready to explode.

Thar she blows.

In the fourth quarter of the Pistons' 107-97 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday, May 7, when the Cavs erased their 11-

point halftime deficit and actually took a brief lead, the 24-year-old Cunningham erupted, shedding his suit and pulling on a red, white and blue cape. He stole the ball. He grabbed a flying rebound. He took James Harden down the lane, then lost him, as he pulled up for a jumper. He made a crossover move that would break your ankles, then stepped back for a killer 3-pointer. He drew fouls and hit all his free throws. He pumped in 12 points, and even went flying into the corner to block a 3-point attempt by Max Strus.

"Cade is just fabulous," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said after Cunningham's total effort — 25 points, 10 assists, three rebounds and big-play defense — kept pushing the Cavs farther back on the treadmill, until they were finally whisked off it. "He's the killer. [The] closer. All the adjectives you want to talk about, he's it."

"And in the fourth quarter, he does his best work."

Cunningham is like the Pistons' personal Mariano Rivera, only with longer hours.

The closer closes.

'You gotta make plays'

"It's high stakes at the end of the game," Cunningham admitted after this one was over. "You gotta

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Carhartt, Ford want to help you get a 6-figure job

Companies aim to attract workers to vacant skilled worker positions

Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Inside Ford Motor Co. and workwear company Carhartt there is a growing sense of urgency over the feeling the country is close to a crisis when it comes to filling the pipeline for skilled trades jobs.

For both companies, a dearth in skilled trades workers stings because those are the people who wear Carhartt's clothes and buy Ford's commercial trucks.

So in January, Ford and Carhartt formed an alliance to find ways to encourage young people to consider a career in skilled trades and get the tools and training to pursue it. The partnership includes plans to attract new workers through incentives such as Ford- and Carhartt-branded clothing, a special Carhartt Super Duty pickup launching next year and investing in a Detroit-based ToolBank USA location.

Both companies also have invested money in training programs and scholarships to pique

BELOW: The service area at Szott Ford in Holly as technician Rob Kemp works on a vehicle. Dealer Thad Szott said he, like many car dealers, struggles to hire service technicians. Ford Motor and Carhartt are doing their part to attract people to the profession through scholarships and other initiatives. KEITH CUNNINGHAM/PROVIDED BY THAD SZOTT

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New suspected hantavirus case ID'd on island

Sara Moniuszko, Eve Chen, Natalie Neysa Alund and Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

A suspected new case of hantavirus was identified by authorities May 8 on a remote island where the MV Hondius made a stop in April.

An islander on Tristan da Cunha has been hospitalized and his wife is self-isolating, Stephen Doughty, the U.K. minister for the overseas territories, said in a statement posted on the island's local government website.

No further details about the case were made public.

The British territory is often considered the most remote inhabited island in the world. As of this month, 216 people lived in its only settlement.

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Cruise ship tied to outbreak stopped there

Inside

- Can you catch hantavirus in Michigan? **3A**

Trump says Iran ceasefire still on

Both sides launch strikes amid talks

Bart Jansen and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump is brushing away concerns that the U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement is finished after the two sides launched strikes on each other that he called a "trifle."

"They trifled with us today. We blew them away. I call that a trifle," Trump told reporters May 7. "I'll let you know when there's no ceasefire."

His comments came after U.S. destroyers were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz by missiles, drones and small ships. The U.S. military also struck targets at two ports near the Strait of Hormuz. Iran said the attack was in response to the United States trying

to seize an Iranian tanker after U.S. forces disabled the vessel on May 6.

Trump said peace negotiations to end the war that began Feb. 28 continue but need to be resolved or Iran will face more military action. U.S. demands include Iran agreeing not to develop nuclear weapons and allowing commercial traffic through the Strait of

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