

Stephen Curry brings his best, Warriors beat Raptors to go to 21-0

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By Israel Fehr

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TORONTO – Much to the dismay of the Raptors and their fans, the Golden State Warriors came to Toronto and didn't disappoint, despite Kyle Lowry's best efforts to wreck their perfect record. Stephen Curry was just a little bit better.

By no means was win No. 21 a masterpiece by the Warriors – the road to 21-0 can't be majestic the whole way through – but Curry's master class was enough for Golden State to edge the Raptors 112-109 in a rare Saturday night home game for Toronto.

"That's our 11th win on the road this year so you have to give the guys in there so much credit for even on the games where we really don't have it, finding ways to win," said Warriors interim head coach Luke Walton, who has yet to lose as the lead decision-maker on an NBA bench.

Lowry's career-high 41 points and seven assists were obscured by Curry's 44 points and seven assists. How the two All-Star point guards get to those similar results couldn't be any more different. While Curry glides with the ball in his hands, Lowry crashes and bangs. The juxtaposition of styles gave character to a great game between the defending NBA champions and a [worthy adversary](#) in the Raptors.

Curry dropped in four three-pointers in the first quarter for 12 of his 16 points in the opening frame and scored 15 in the fourth for his seventh 40-point game this season. As absurd as it sounds, it seems even more of Curry's impossible shots are falling than ever before. Get a glimpse of his rigorous pregame shooting routine and it becomes slightly more understandable. He was the MVP last season and is the early favourite to do it again. The list of guards to win multiple MVPs is a short one: Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Steve Nash. Curry appears poised to join them soon.

"It's just the way he makes it look so easy," said Curry's backcourt mate Klay Thompson, who scored 26 points of his own. "It seems like he gets 40 points quietly. The times I've gotten 40 I've been very happy with it, and he just seems to not be content. His skill level and ability to shoot are unparalleled. He's a true, special talent we might never see again."

Lowry wasn't backing down, though. He went shot-for-shot with Curry from start to finish. A second straight All-Star nod for Lowry seems to be a given at this point.

"Kyle's one of the best point guards in the league," said DeMar DeRozan. "When he's doing things like that, it carries us and it just picks up everybody else."

It was an off night offensively for DeRozan – 16 points on 5-for-19 shooting – but he, DeMarre Carroll and Cory Joseph battled exceptionally hard defensively. Terrence Ross showed some life offensively and Patrick Patterson was active on the boards, grabbing 10 rebounds. Most encouragingly, Lucas "Bebe" Nogueira scored 14 points in 25 minutes and has absolutely earned himself more playing time as Jonas Valanciunas recovers from his hand injury.

"They're 21-0 for a reason. I thought our effort was there," said Casey. "To beat a great team like that their can't be any 'oh crap' moments, and we had a couple of those."

And who was there to take advantage of those mistakes Casey referenced? Curry, of course. Every time the Raptors took a lead or threatened to go on a run, Curry would hit an off-balanced jumper from well beyond the three-point arc or help force a turnover to discombobulate Toronto's offence. In a game his team won by three, the Warriors outscored the Raptors by 17 with Curry on the floor.

"It's tough when you have that opportunity," said Lowry. "But at the end of the day they still won and we lost."

Golden State's stunning streak continues – the Warriors are now one win shy of equaling the 2007-08 Houston Rockets' run of 22 straight – and Curry continues to leave everyone in his wake in awe.

"This 21-game winning streak is surreal because it doesn't make sense. It doesn't sound right when you say it out loud," said Curry. "But when we're out there on the floor, we're very confident and very comfortable. I think we expect to win every night."

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