**2015 NBA Finals Preview**



This year’s NBA Finals matches up two of the best players in the world, however the story of who wins may come down to players not named LeBron James or Steph Curry. For the Cleveland Cavilers we all know that LeBron will be great, but in order for the Cavs to have any chance at all Kyrie Irving will need to be affective for the entirety of the finals. If Kyrie can give the Cavs quality minutes throughout then this title will be up for the taken for either team. The versatility of the Cavs on the perimeter defensively will be the strongest argument of why they could win. Showing Stephen Curry different looks throughout the game will be very important. Late in close games the Cavs can always switch LeBron and Shumpert on curry to make things tough on him. The X-factor for the Cavilers will be J.R. Smith, The Cavs will need J.R. to be a consistent threat to score in order to help keep up a good scoring pace with the Warriors.

Golden State are the odds on favorite to win the 2015 NBA title, and for good reason they have been the best team in the league all year. The key for Golden State winning the championship is quite simple, rebound. If Golden State can control the glass, they are far too good offensively for the Cavs to score with them. Keeping Tristan Thompson and Timofey Mozgov off of the offensive glass will be paramount, getting extra possessions has been huge for the Cavs during this post season run. The Warriors can create a lot of issues for the Cavs if and when they go to a small lineup, however that lineup may not be as valuable if they can’t secure rebounds. Defensively the Warriors has several different players that they can throw at LeBron James in order to make it tough on him; Green, Barnes and Iguodala will all get there shot on him at some point; the key is to make sure that The Cavs supporting cast doesn’t get going.

I fully expect this to be a good long series, both teams will be capable of winning games on the road. The Warriors are fairly young and haven’t been on this stage before, but will that matter? Ultimately I believe if they play their brand of ball, play loose and force a fast pace tempo, then they will be hoisting the trophy when it’s all said and done. If Cleveland can turn this series into a half court slug fest, that will favor them and LeBron will be on his way to a third NBA Title.