

The Legend of Game 6 Klay

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Recency Bias

In the fallout of the 2024 Play-In game between the Warriors and the Kings, Klay Thompson gained a paradoxical label. Klay, a man with 4 rings and a nickname gained after a legendary playoff performance, was now the subject of ruthless online slander. How can a man dubbed “Game 6 Klay” be considered a choker? Is he worthy of the moniker? Let’s talk about it.

To reiterate, Klay Thompson has 4 championship rings. I point that out because he doesn’t like to mention it. Jokes aside, Klay was an indispensable part of four title teams. One of the years where the Warriors didn’t win was where he earned the nickname “Game 6 Klay.” It must be true if it’s on his basketball reference page.



Klay Thompson

Klay Alexander Thompson • [Twitter: KlayThompson](#) • [Instagram: klaythompson](#)

(Big Smokey, Killa Klay, Game 6 Klay, The Electrician, Sea Captain)

Position: Shooting Guard and Small Forward • **Shoots:** Right

6-6, 215lb (198cm, 97kg)

Team: [Dallas Mavericks](#)

Born: [February 8, 1990](#) (Age: 34-273d) in Los Angeles, [California](#) 🇺🇸

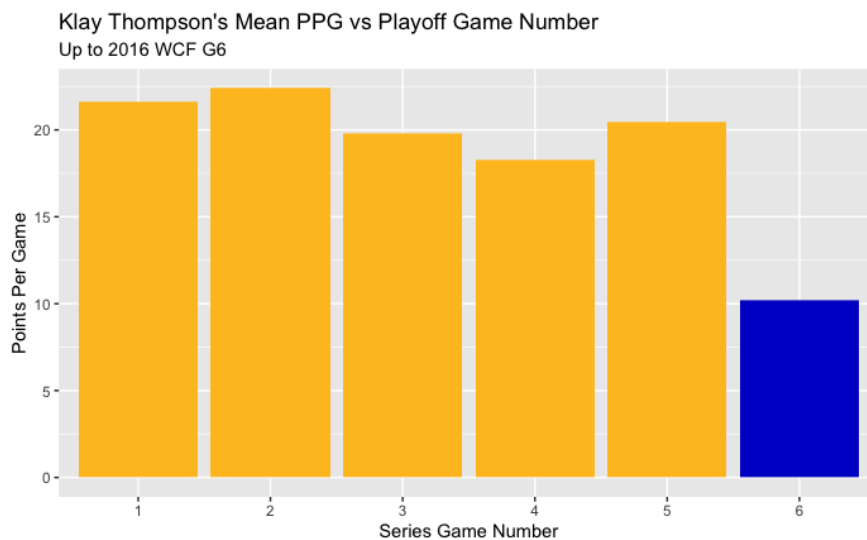
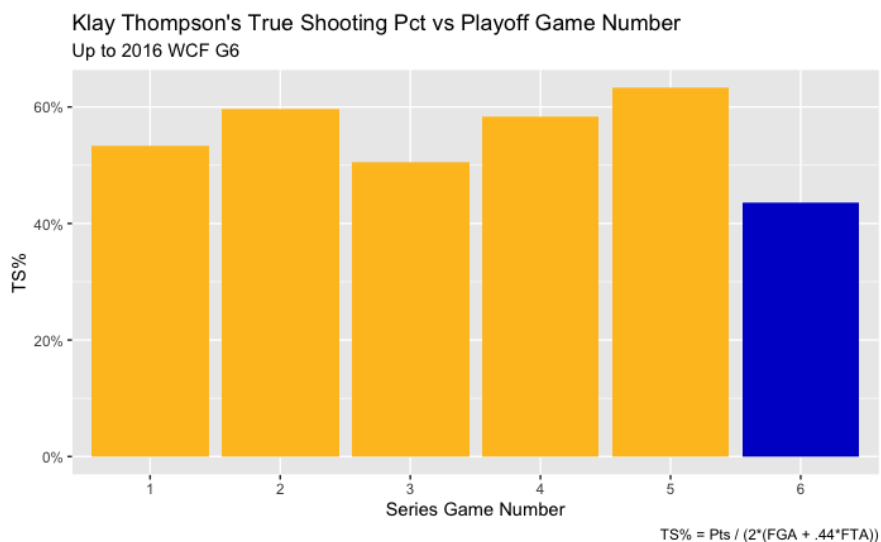
Down 3-2, Game 6 in OKC: Klay [scores 41 points with 11 threes](#), including 19 in the 4th to outscore OKC as a team. Each three was more demoralizing than the last. Considering the offseason that followed, one could argue that Klay had one of the most consequential performances in recent NBA history.

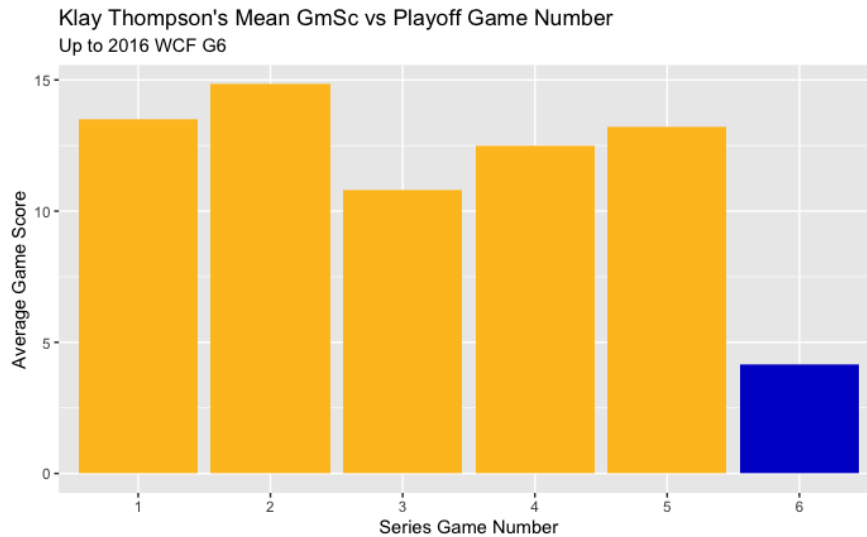
At this point, Klay was already established. He came into Game 6 averaging 25.5 pts on 45/42/89 shooting splits in the playoffs, keeping Golden State afloat with Curry missing time and clearly still hurting. In addition, he was a 2-time All-Star, 2-time All-NBA, and he even received an MVP vote in 2015.

				Voting					Per Game						Shooting			Advanced	
Rank	Player	Age	Tm	First	Pts Won	Pts Max	Share	G	MP	PTS	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	FG%	3P%	FT%	WS	WS/48
1	Stephen Curry	26	GSW	100	1198	1300	0.922	80	32.7	23.8	4.3	7.7	2.0	0.2	.487	.443	.914	15.7	.288
2	James Harden	25	HOU	25	936	1300	0.720	81	36.8	27.4	5.7	7.0	1.9	0.7	.440	.375	.868	16.4	.265
3	LeBron James	30	CLE	5	552	1300	0.425	69	36.1	25.3	6.0	7.4	1.6	0.7	.488	.354	.710	10.4	.199
4	Russell Westbrook	26	OKC	0	352	1300	0.271	67	34.4	28.1	7.3	8.6	2.1	0.2	.426	.299	.835	10.6	.222
5	Anthony Davis	21	NOP	0	203	1300	0.156	68	36.1	24.4	10.2	2.2	1.5	2.9	.535	.083	.805	14.0	.274
6	Chris Paul	29	LAC	0	124	1300	0.095	82	34.8	19.1	4.6	10.2	1.9	0.2	.485	.398	.900	16.1	.270
7	LaMarcus Aldridge	29	POR	0	6	1300	0.005	71	35.4	23.4	10.2	1.7	0.7	1.0	.466	.352	.845	8.6	.165
8T	Marc Gasol	30	MEM	0	3	1300	0.002	81	33.2	17.4	7.8	3.8	0.9	1.6	.494	.176	.795	10.2	.182
8T	Blake Griffin	25	LAC	0	3	1300	0.002	67	35.2	21.9	7.6	5.3	0.9	0.5	.502	.400	.728	9.0	.183
10T	Tim Duncan	38	SAS	0	1	1300	0.001	77	28.9	13.9	9.1	3.0	0.8	2.0	.512	.286	.740	9.6	.207
10T	Kawhi Leonard	23	SAS	0	1	1300	0.001	64	31.8	16.5	7.2	2.5	2.3	0.8	.479	.349	.802	8.6	.204
10T	Klay Thompson	24	GSW	0	1	1300	0.001	77	31.9	21.7	3.2	2.9	1.1	0.8	.463	.439	.879	8.8	.172

This game caused Klay's status to explode and he became known as "Game 6 Klay." He was already known for his heaters, he did score 37 in a quarter, but now he was something more. A boogeyman, a killer who could come into opposing arenas in the most high-stakes situations and rip a city's heart out.

Was Klay known for his Game 6 magic before? Not really. In the five Game 6's before, Klay averaged 10.2 pts and shot 33.9% and 31.8% from three. In fact, up until the OKC game, Game 6's were Klay's weakest playoff by several metrics (TS%, PPG, and Game Score).





Note: Klay played in Games 1-4 10 times, Game 5 9 times, and Game 6 5 times. He also averaged 37 minutes across all games. He played in only one Game 7 at that point, so it's excluded from the chart. In Klay's one game 7, he scored 15 points on 55 TS% and had a 12.3 Game Score, all still higher than his Game 6 averages.

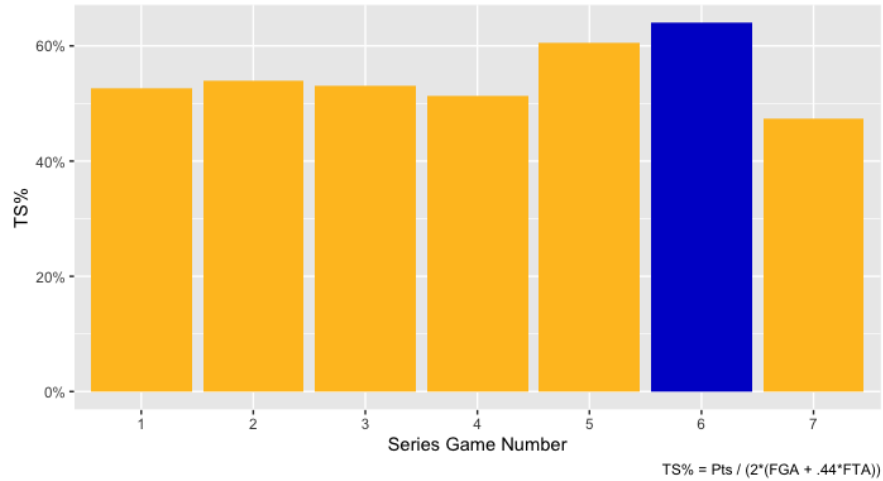
The combination of Klay's Game 6 performance and the Warriors' unfortunate Finals collapse paved the way for Kevin Durant to come to town, and thus there was no "Game 6 Klay" appearance for nearly two years. The Warriors lost one game in the entire 2017 postseason; such is the life of a team with Steph, Klay, KD, and Draymond all in their prime.

In the 2018 postseason, Golden State cruised by a Kawhi-less Spurs team and a Pelicans team fresh off embarrassing Portland. They met their first real competition in the Rockets, where they had an intense, classic, yet infamous 7-game series. And when does Klay have the best game of the series?

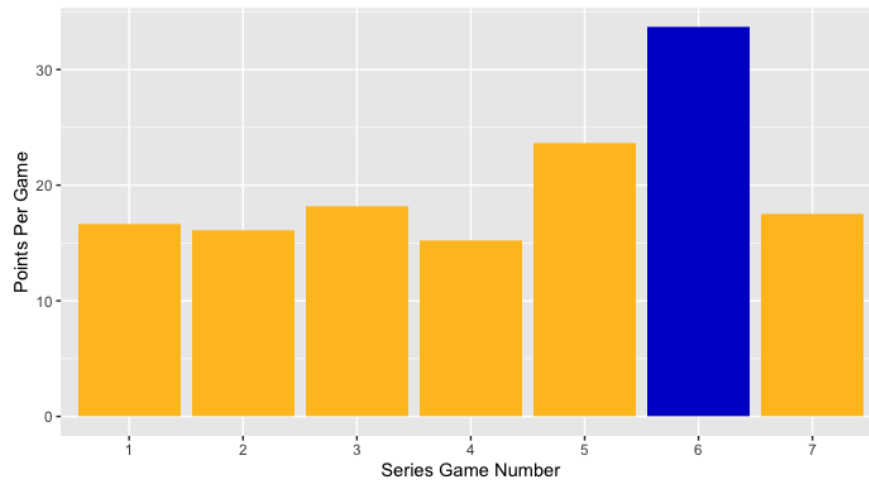
35 points. 9 threes. 4 steals. No Chris Paul. No chance. Well, the Rockets actually held an early 17-point lead, and were up 10 at halftime. But being outscored 64-25 in the second half quelled any chance of the Rockets clinching. Klay made 7 threes in the second half, as the Splash Bros took over.

At this point, "Game 6 Klay" was undeniable. This is the second occurrence when the Dubs were down 3-2 and he goes nuclear to bury a team's hopes of clinching. It was yet another game where Klay went unconscious in the second half. To show this new Game 6 dominance, here are the same graphs from before with this new time frame:

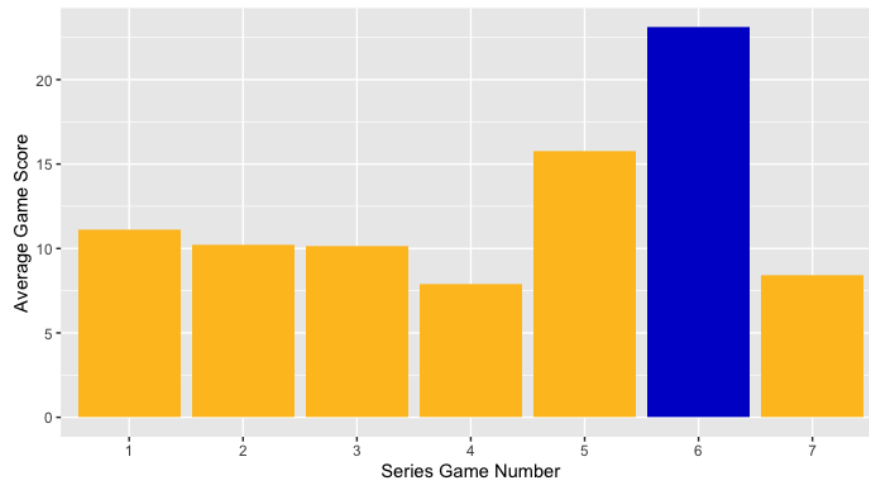
Klay Thompson's True Shooting Pct vs Playoff Game Number
From 2016 WCF G6 to 2018 WCF G6



Klay Thompson's Mean PPG vs Playoff Game Number
From 2016 WCF G6 to 2018 WCF G6



Klay Thompson's Mean GmSc vs Playoff Game Number
From 2016 WCF G6 to 2018 WCF G6



The 2019 Warriors were more of a soap opera and were also more vulnerable. The core was older and the depth was at its worst; this season had the potential to be the fifth consecutive year that the Warriors would play into June. This was the most resistance the Warriors had faced in the playoffs since 2016.

The Warriors played three Game 6s in the 2019 postseason. The first came in the first round against the pesky Clippers; Golden State had gone 16-2 in Round 1 from 2015-18, and yet they were entrenched in a dogfight with the 8th-seed Clippers. LA pushed the series to 6. What would Klay do against them on their home floor?

Well, here is the thing. That game was the Kevin Durant game. He had been hearing about Pat Beav getting “under his skin;” it’s amusing to think about now. Durant came out and scored 38 in the first half and 50 total. Klay only took 10 shots as the Warriors let KD cook. Mentioning this game is an excuse to watch the [highlights](#) and this [hilarious post-game interview](#).

The next round presented the Dubs with another Game 6, this one against a Rockets team weaker than the previous season’s. The Warriors would be forced to finish the series without KD after his scary injury in Game 5. Again, the Warriors marched into a raucous opposing arena. This game is also more defined by the performance of a teammate. Steph Curry exploded for 33 points, including some ridiculous threes to burn the Rockets.

However, what made this game so shocking to watch live was the first half. Steph had 0 points at the half, and yet it was a tie game. How? Klay Thompson. He had [21 points and 5 threes](#) to keep the Warriors in the game, and Steph took over in fourth quarter. Klay only had 3 points in the fourth quarter, but he picked the [most crucial moment](#) to score those three points.

After Portland participated in the conference finals, the Warriors entered the Finals matched against the Raptors. No KD, Cousins was back after a torn quad, and the Dubs did not have home court this time. The Warriors got desperate, rushing Durant back, who promptly tore his Achilles tendon in Game 5, but the team still forced Game 6.

The next game began like a [“Game 6 Klay” performance](#). The Warriors were down early, but had taken the lead in the third quarter. With more than three minutes left, Klay drilled a 3 to give the Dubs a 4-point lead. He now had 10 in the quarter and 28 in the game. The building was exploding.

Then it happened. Klay got fouled on a drive and his knee gave. He was helped off the floor by teammates and assisted down the tunnel, as a devastated Steph Curry paced on the court. Silence had swept over the usually raucous Golden State crowd. Until..

[He returned](#). Like Willis Reed in the 1970 Finals; like Paul Pierce with a fresh pair of pants¹. Klay returned to the floor to take his free throws, since he wouldn’t be eligible to continue playing if he was unable to shoot them. The crowd exploded; speculation of a torn ACL had already consumed everyone watching, and yet here he stood.

Klay was named “Game 6” because of a performance, but this act defines “Game 6 Klay.” He’s a paragon of accountability, a killer, an ever-reliable staple of a dynasty. When the Warriors’ backs were against the wall, or when Steph and KD were struggling or ailing, he always came through.

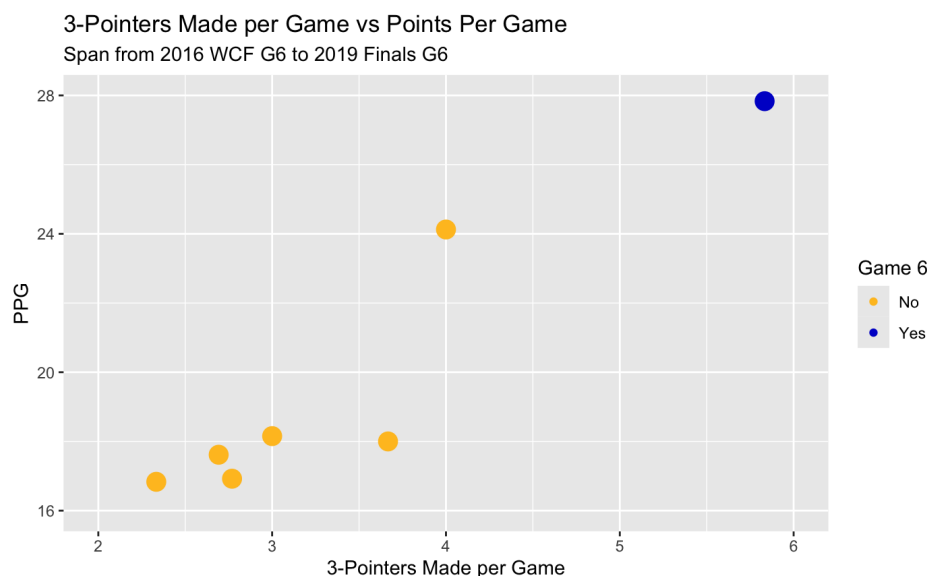
Klay wouldn’t return to the game, but this moment was still incredibly special. However, Klay’s injury, along with KD’s injury, plus his impending departure, signaled

¹Mark Jackson made that same joke, so it can’t be in poor taste.

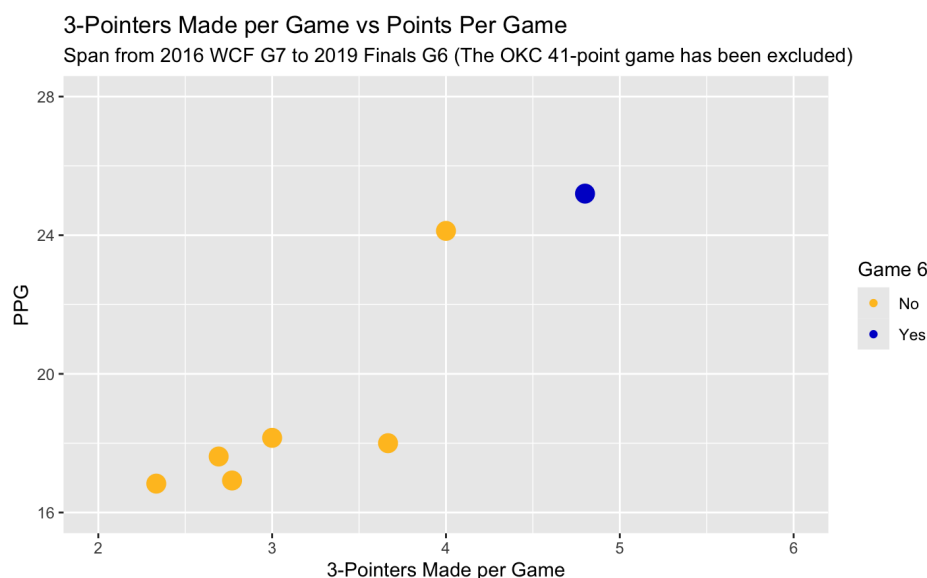
the end of this iteration of the Warriors. Doubt became common place. Could the Warriors recapture the magic of the 2015 core? Would Klay be the same?

The torn ACL kept Klay out for 2020, and a brutal torn achilles kept him out for all of 2021 and more than half of the 2022 season. There was now even more doubt if Klay would be anywhere near the same player.

From the original Game 6 game to the clinching game of the 2019 Finals, Klay played in six Game 6's. It always felt that when that game approached, Klay had a barrage of backbreaking 3s loaded and ready (if not him, then one of his teammates). Here's a graph showing Klay's points and 3s per game during that span.



If there's any question that the OKC game is really skewing the averages, here's the same graph without that game included. The other dot that nears the Game 6 point is Game 5, Klay's Game 5 averages were the only ones that touched his Game 6 efforts, but the level of notoriety isn't close.



With Klay hurt, the Warriors' future became unclear. However, with Durant on the

way out and with Klay reaching mythic status within the Warriors franchise, there wasn't much deciding to be done. In the 2019 offseason, the Warriors gave Thompson a 5-year max contract despite his current ACL injury. They reinforced their belief in a player who had contributed to bringing their franchise so much glory and so many unforgettable moments over the past five years.

However, after the Achilles tear, concern started looming over the decision to give an aging and injury-ravaged player a max contract and if the Warriors were paying him for the future or rather for what he had done with the team. The 2020 Warriors struggled without Thompson, having a miserable campaign in which Curry missed nearly the entire season after Aron Baynes fell on his hand ². 2021 was another snakebitten season, in which Curry and a ragtag core couldn't break through the play-in tournament.

When Klay Day³ came in the 2022 season, something strange happened. The Warriors weren't struggling without Thompson, they were thriving. The Warriors were 29-9 on the eve of Klay Day, and there was a point in the season where they had an 18-2 record. Wiggins was having an All-Star campaign, Jordan Poole had developed into a microwave off the bench, and there were invaluable contributions from role players like Gary Payton II, the long-tenured Kevon Looney, Otto Porter Jr., and the return of elder statesman Andre Iguodala.

With Klay back and the Warriors once again having title aspirations, attention turned to how Klay could contribute in the playoffs. He clearly was trying to get his rhythm and legs back on a team that was winning without him, but if he could channel some of that pre-injury magic in the playoffs, perhaps all the suffering wouldn't be for nothing.

Golden State completed a gentleman's sweep against the Nuggets sans Jamal Murray in 5 games, and a matchup with the two-seed Grizzlies was in order. Nothing would come easy, although the Warriors jumped out to a 3-1 lead with Klay posting modest stats outside of an efficient 21-point effort in a Game 3 Warriors blowout. However, the Grizzlies trounced Golden State by 39 to force Game 6.

In Klay Thompson's first Game 6 since the 2019 Finals, [he buried Memphis](#). He had 30 points, 8 threes, 8 boards, and 3 blocks on 50% shooting. It was beautiful, as if the Game 6 magic had never left. He hit three after three to get the fans going, including a dagger with about three minutes remaining. Three years separated from his last playoff appearance, "Game 6 Klay" didn't go anywhere, and the Warriors were on to the conference finals. Klay Thompson has six career playoff games with 30+ points and 8+ threes; half of them are in Game 6's.

In the conference finals, The Warriors discarded the Mavs in five games and faced the Celtics in the NBA Finals, where the series was pushed to Game 6 in Boston. Klay's last Game 6 in the Finals was a beautiful display, and with a chance to put the Celtics away, another big day was sure to happen.

Not this time. Klay had a rough showing, very much uncharacteristic of the excellence we had come to expect. Klay shot 5-20 and 2-8 from downtown. It was Klay's lowest FG% (25%) in a Game 6 since the 2013 first round series against the Nuggets. It was also Klay's second-worst shooting performance in a playoff game in which he took at least 20 field goals. The Warriors still won the championship due to great performances from Steph, Draymond, and Wiggins.

The 2023 playoffs featured two Game 6s and neither was particularly efficient. The

²Warriors fans were forced to endure watching a team lead by Eric Paschall, Ky Bowman, and Nico Mannion among others. Truly a ghastly fate

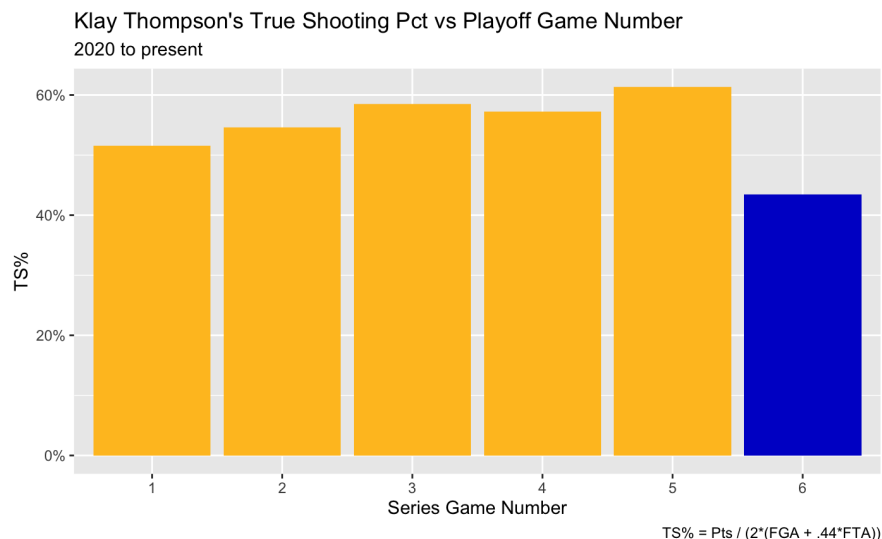
³Klay Day [kleI del]: the Warriors' game against in the Cavaliers in the 2021-22 NBA season featuring the return of Klay Thompson

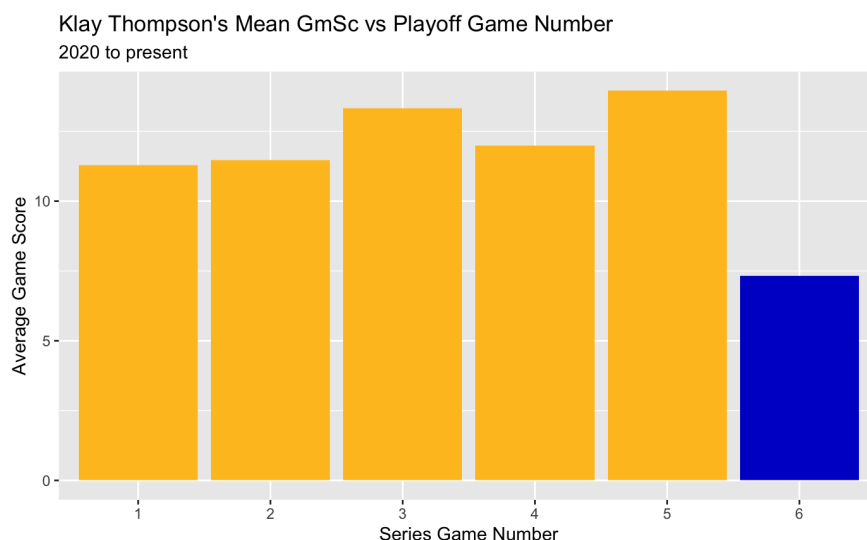
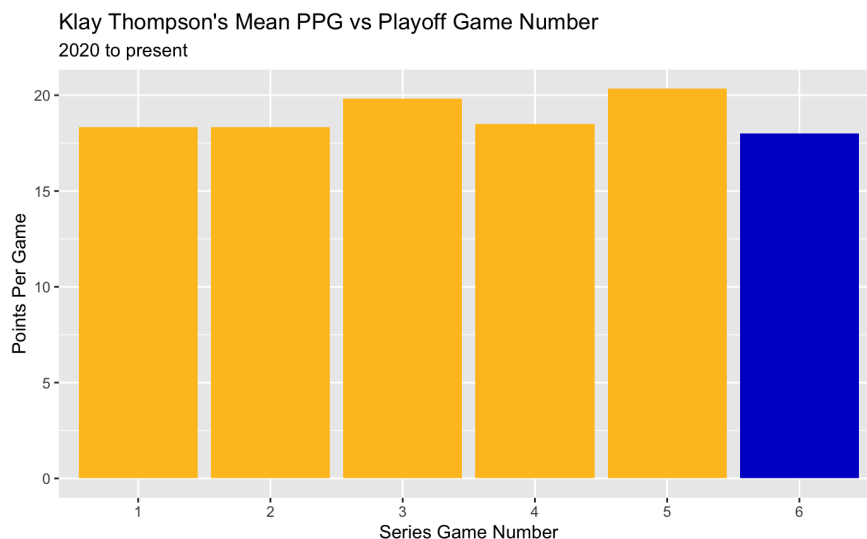
Warriors' first round series against Sacramento went all the way after Golden State dropped Game 6 at home. Klay scored 22 points on 8-20 shooting, including 2-9 from downtown. The Warriors advanced after Steph had a 50-piece in the win-or-go-home Game 7. This was the second game in a row that Klay did not slam the door shut in Game 6. 22 points on 50.6 TS% isn't terrible, but it is certainly not on par with the "Game 6 Klay" moniker.

The second round featured another Game 6 against the Lakers. The Warriors got stomped again and Klay played very poorly. He scored 8 points on 3-19 shooting and 2-12 from the promised land. It was one of Klay's worst playoff games ever:

Game 6 Klay?	Ranks among	
Stat	Game 6s	All PO Games
FG%	Worst	2nd worst
3P%	2nd worst	t-13th worst
eFG%	Worst	3rd worst
TS%	Worst	2nd worst
PTS	3rd worst	t-9th worst
GmSc	2nd worst	5th worst

"Game 6 Klay" has now played three mediocre to terrible Game 6's in a row. He had not struggled like this in Game 6's since the OKC explosion occurred. Perhaps the nickname existed from 2016-19 and the 2022 game against Memphis was a brief return to glory.





Just a note: Thompson has only played in a single Game 7 since 2020: The one against Sacramento where Steph scored 50 points. It was ugly; Thompson scored 16 points on 4-19 shooting and 2-10 from three. It would easily dwarf the other bars on the graph, but since it was only one game, I decided to leave it off and just mention it.

Since that miserable Game 6 against Los Angeles, Klay has not played in another recognized playoff game since⁴. He has played in three play-in games. The 0-for-10 affair against Sacramento in 2024 marked the end of his time as a Warrior. If it was considered a playoff game, it would be Klay's worst by points scored, any shooting percentage, and Game Score. This past season, Klay once again faced the Kings in a play-in game on a Mavs team without Luka⁵ and Kyrie Irving. Thompson scored 23 points on just 11 shots! He shot 8-11 and 5-7 from deep and had a team-high +31 plus-minus. If it was considered a playoff game, it ranks as Klay's second-highest by TS% and fourth-highest by plus-minus. Klay got even against the Kings. The following

⁴Play-in games are not considered playoff games. They are also not considered regular season games. Makes sense, right?

⁵Still doesn't feel real

play-in game was a loss against the Grizzlies; Klay had a decent game: 18 pts, 7-15 FG, 4-11 3PT, 3 ast. It wasn't terrible and it wasn't fantastic. Klay had the second-most shots taken by a Maverick behind AD's 29 attempts. That's where we are left as of right now.

"Game 6 Klay" has not been a consistent force in the 2020s, but perhaps the nickname is more metaphorical rather than literal. Maybe the nickname simply means that Klay has the ability to go ballistic at any crucial moment. Some of Klay's most remarkable playoff moments took place in Game 6, and that includes his most iconic performance: the game against Oklahoma City. He will always be defined by those highs; poor shooting in a few playoff games or a play-in game is not enough to dispel that label.

However, after intently researching Klay's playoff record, I feel that "Game 5 Klay" is an overlooked playoff performer:

Season	Series	Opponent	W/L	PTS	Threes	TS%	Game Score
2016	Finals	Cleveland	L	37	6	77.2%	27.2
2016	Semis	Portland	W	33	6	94.6%	25.7
2022	Conf. Finals	Dallas	W	32	8	64.0%	21.2
2016	1st Round	Houston	W	27	7	93.5%	21.0
2019	Semis	Houston	W	27	5	67.5%	20.9

Figure 1: Klay's Top-Five Game 5 performances (by Gmsc)

Season	Series	Opponent	W/L	PTS	Threes	TS%	Game Score
2018	Conf. Finals	Houston	W	35	9	76.1%	30.7
2016	Conf. Finals	Oklahoma City	W	41	11	64.3%	25.6
2019	Finals	Toronto	L	30	4	91.5%	25.5
2022	Semis	Memphis	W	30	8	68.2%	21.5
2019	Semis	Houston	W	27	7	67.5%	16.6

Figure 2: Klay's Top-Five Game 6 performances (by Gmsc)

Why does "Game 6 Klay" receive all this love when "Game 5 Klay" has a similarly spectacular set of performances? In my opinion, it's due to the weight of the Game 6 performances. Three of the Game 5 performances ('16 vs HOU, '16 vs POR, '19 vs HOU) are overlooked. The Warriors spent part of the first two rounds without a healthy Steph Curry; Klay came up huge in both series, including their Game 5's. In the 2019 semifinals, Durant injured his calf, and Klay spearheaded a gut check performance to still win Game 5 with that injury hanging over the Warriors' heads. This sounds like "Game 6 Klay"; showing up in huge games when he's needed due to struggles or injury. However, the first two rounds of the 2016 playoffs and the 2022 series against Dallas are missing a key factor. Was Golden State ever seriously in danger of losing to any of those three teams? I don't think so, and I doubt anyone does. All five of the highlighted "Game 6 Klay" games came in vulnerable situations. There's a factor of "back against the wall" present in those games that is missing in some of the five highlighted Game 5 performances. The only Game 5 example that meets that criteria is the one against Houston in 2019. Obviously, Golden State went on to lose the Finals in 2016, but their back was not against the wall in Game 5 at the Oracle. I believe that the gravity and the stage of Klay's Game 6 performances moved the needle from great to unforgettable.

Statistical Analysis

Using qualitative and graphical analysis, the conclusion I came to was that “Game 6 Klay” was developed for Klay’s performances in Game 6 from 2016-19. Before his 41-point game against OKC, Game 6 was not a time when Klay played great. Since the 2019 Finals, Klay has struggled mightily in Game 6’s except for the one against Memphis in 2022. I believe the performances and the visuals speak for themselves, but I was curious to prove whether Klay’s scoring, shooting, and overall performance were stronger in Game 6 than in other playoff games.

Considering that Klay’s Game 6 performances were not always spectacular, I decided to perform tests across three different stretches:

- Klay’s entire playoff career
- 2016 WCF Game 6 to present (2016-)
- 2016 WCF Game 6 to 2019 Finals Game 6 (referred to as 2016-19)

I chose five parameters of interest: Median Three Pointers Made (3PM), Points (PTS), Game Score (GmSc), Effective Field Goal % (eFG%), and True Shooting % (TS%). I’ll set $H_0: \theta_6 = \theta_{other}$ and $H_1: \theta_6 > \theta_{other}$, where θ = the median of one of the five parameters. There are a couple of issues: The third stretch (2016-19) is very short; it contains only six Game 6’s. Such a small sample size makes it not feasible to use Welch’s Test or even a Rank Sum Test. Second, through experimenting, I found that the many of these different stretches failed Levene’s Test, meaning there’s a significant difference in variance among the parameter of interest in Game 6 as opposed to other playoff games. This makes sense considering the disparities in sample size among the two groups. With both of these issues present, I’m going to use 5000 bootstrapping iterations to generate a 95% confidence interval for the difference of medians ($\theta_6 - \theta_{other}$).

Results

Part I: Klay’s Entire Playoff Career. Recall that Klay has five incredible Game 6 performances, and the rest are not great. I’m expecting this set of intervals to not be significant and to be centered about 0.

- 3PM: $[-2, 1]$
- PTS: $[-11, 9]$
- GmSc: $[-9.9, 5.3]$
- eFG%: $[-0.2, 0.1538]$
- TS%: $[-0.1879, 0.1378]$

0 out of 5 significant

This is not surprising. Klay’s stats for Game 6’s in his entire career are not distinctly higher than the other games, given the mix of great and terrible games.

Part II: 2016 WCF Game 6 to present. This period includes five fantastic games and several below-average games. The immortality of Game 6 against Oklahoma City

clearly outweighs one of the poor games in 2022 or '23, but statistics does not recognize that. An elite performance will be “canceled out” by a poor performance; these intervals might be statistically significant.

- 3PM: $[-1, 5]$
- PTS: $[-7, 14.5]$
- GmSc: $[-6.85, 13.8]$
- eFG%: $[-0.1955, 0.1877]$
- TS%: $[-0.1586, 0.1693]$

0 out of 5 significant

The shooting percentage intervals are centered about 0 and the other three are centered about a positive number, but still not significant.

Part III: 2016 WCF Game 6 to 2019 Finals Game 6 This will surely be significant. It's catered to Thompson's most dominant stretch.

- 3PM: $[-1, 7]$
- PTS: $[-1, 20]$
- GmSc: $[-1.1, 17.2]$
- eFG%: $[-0.0864, 0.2832]$
- TS%: $[-0.0699, 0.3]$

0 out of 5 significant

All of these intervals are very close to being statistically significant, but they all contain 0. Again, Klay's performances against OKC and Toronto outweigh the pedestrian Game 6 performances. Statistics doesn't recognize legacy-defining performances...or does it?

Asking the Right Questions

This piece isn't about the average Game 6 performance; it's about his greatest games. The parameters of interest need to be focused on those performances, too. The parameters of interest will be:

- Games with 25+ GmSc
- 30-point games
- Games with 7+ threes

H_o : Klay has an equal rate of games with ___ in Game 6's vs. other games. H_1 : Klay has a higher rate of games with ___ in Game 6's vs. other games. The ratio being tested is

$$\frac{\theta_6}{\theta_{other}} = \frac{\# \text{ of games that meet criteria} / \text{Total Game 6's}}{\# \text{ of games that meet criteria} / \text{Total Non-Game 6's}}$$

Using 30-point Game 6's as an example,

$$\theta_6 = \frac{\sum \Psi(PTS_i - 29)}{m}$$

where PTS_i represents the point scored in a given game and m represents the total number of Game 6's.

Part I: Klay's Entire Playoff Career.

- Games with 25+ GmSc: $[0, 47.67]$
- 30-point games: $[0.6356, 7.15]$
- Games with 7+ threes: **$[1.0593, 15.2533]$**

1 out of 3 significant

Finally, a significant interval! I'm able to reject H_o for the last one, suggesting that Klay has more three-point explosions (7+ threes) in Game 6's. These intervals will only become more significant as the time span is filtered and reduced.

Part II: 2016 WCF Game 6 to present. As stated before, this stretch includes five incredible Game 6's, and since the question has changed, the bad performances don't mean as much; just as I intended.

- Games with 25+ GmSc: **$[3.1, \infty]$**
- 30-point games: **$[1.3286, 18.6]$**
- Games with 7+ threes: **$[2.325, 55.8]$**

3 out of 3 significant

Three significant intervals. This is "Game 6 Klay" translated into statistical language: Using bootstrap intervals to show a significantly increased rate of fantastic games.

Part III: 2016 WCF Game 6 to 2019 Finals Game 6 "Game 6 Klay" at the height of his powers; this is not needed, but for curiosity's sake:

- Games with 25+ GmSc: **$[5.167, \infty]$**
- 30-point games: **$[1.722, 51.67]$**
- Games with 7+ threes: **$[5.167, \infty]$**

3 out of 3 significant

Note: infinity indicates a particular bootstrap sample featured zero occurrences of a non-Game 6 game reaching a particular threshold. The confidence intervals that have infinity as an upper bound suggest strong statistical evidence that Klay's rate of reaching a particular threshold is much higher in Game 6's.

Conclusion

The statistics and visualizations arrive at the same conclusion on the verity of “Game 6 Klay”. First, it was not a phenomenon prior to the fabled OKC game. He was actually poor in Game 6’s relative to other games. Second, at the height of “Game 6 Klay” (2016-19), he saved his best performances for those pivotal games; the only other game of a series that even came close to rivaling Game 6 was Game 5. Third, “Game 6 Klay” has been in decline ever since the new decade, except for one great performance against the Grizzlies. It diminishes Klay’s Game 6 averages, but not the greatness he displayed and the heights he reached. If there was any doubt before, “Game 6 Klay” is indeed very real and not a mere narrative.

References

- [1] All referenced highlight videos are linked when mentioned.
- [2] Statistics were taken from Basketball Reference.
- [3] Data manipulation was done using R.
- [4] Visualizations were made in R and Excel.