Curry and Durant lead Warriors past Heat despite Thompson's absence

Even without Klay Thompson, the Golden State Warriors continued their strong stretch with a victory over the Miami Heat, marking their eighth win in their last 10 games. Warriors head coach Steve Kerr gave Thompson the night off after he played through illness in each of their previous two games.

Without Stephen Curry's "Splash Brother," the Warriors struggled to find a rhythm offensively. Miami came out bringing the "Heat," keeping the game close early with physical defense that forced turnovers and low-percentage shots from Golden State. But the Warriors' depth and star power eventually overwhelmed a Miami team that had lost eight of its last nine games, as the Dubs took control through their strong ball movement, quick transition play, and reliable scoring from Curry and Kevin Durant.

Curry finished with 24 points, shooting just 4 for 11 from 3-point range, falling short of his fourth straight game with 30 or more points. He also added eight rebounds and nine assists. Durant tacked on 28 points and eight rebounds of his own.

Hasan Whiteside did everything in his power to keep the Heat in this game. The Heat led 54-53 at halftime, but were outscored 26-14 in the third quarter, creating a deficit they could not climb out of. Whiteside finished with 28 points and 20 rebounds and was named player of the game.

Despite Thompson's absence and Curry not looking quite like his MVP self, the Warriors still found a way to get the job done against a struggling Miami Heat team.

As we approach the midway point in the 2016-17 NBA season, the Warriors look to get back to their normal selves as they will host the Detroit Pistons on Jan. 12 before entering a challenging stretch where they will take on LeBron James and the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers, the Oklahoma City Thunder, and the Houston Rockets.