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Democracy Dies in Darkness

Steve Kerr destroyed a clipboard and went ballistic over a flagrant foul call on Draymond Green

By Cindy Boren

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The outburst included a Belichickian spike of his clipboard and required the assistance of Kevin Durant, who escorted Steve Kerr from the court late in the Golden State Warriors' loss Wednesday night to the Trail Blazers in Portland.

What on earth had so ignited the coach of the team with the best record in the Western Conference in its final game before All-Star Weekend? Draymond Green — but not in the way you might think. It was the fact that, upon review, Green's foul of Zach Collins with four minutes left in the game was deemed flagrant.

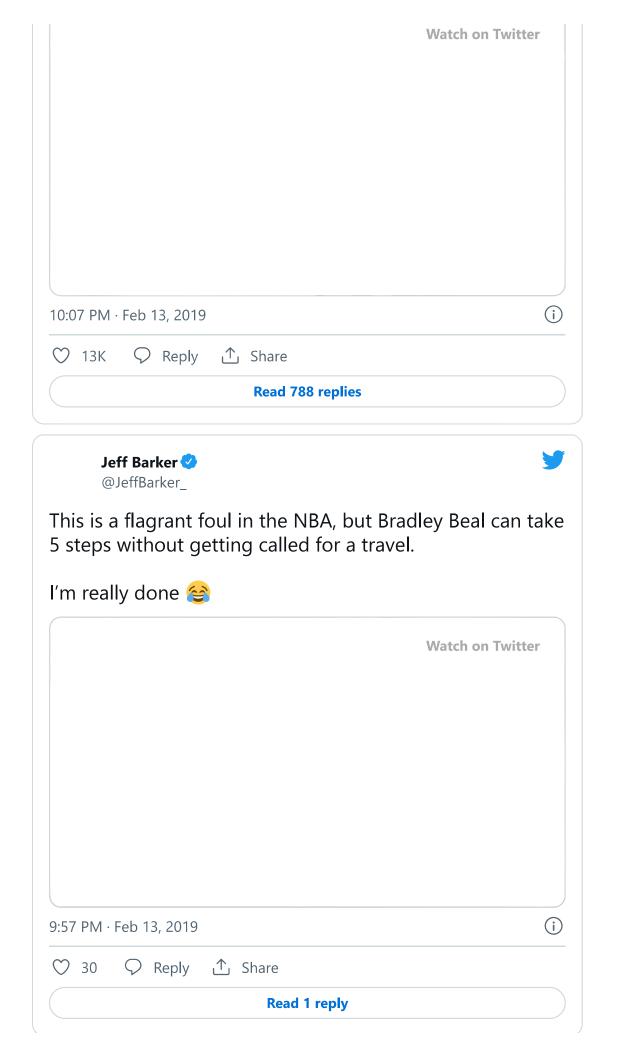
Kerr erupted, threw his clipboard and started yelling at an official, who instantly slapped him with a technical. He wasn't finished, though, and choice words led to his ejection. So angry was he that Durant stepped in as a buffer and escort, with Stephen Curry trailing as Durant, with a small smile, walked Kerr off the court.

"I was just shocked that it was called a flagrant foul. That was head-scratching that that could be called a flagrant foul," Kerr told reporters afterward. "The guy's gonna go in for a dunk, you've got to make sure he doesn't dunk it. So I told Kenny [referee Ken Mauer] that I begged to differ."

As for the clipboard spike, "I forgot about that one. There might have been a couple of other words in there, too."

Undoubtedly. So let's look at the call. How bad was it?





Kerr said he thought it was "a good, hard foul" and he wasn't alone. "If that Draymond Green foul was flagrant, then the NBA needs to rethink flagrant fouls altogether," the Athletic's Michael Lee tweeted. "Steve Kerr had every right to go bonkers on referee Ken Mauer because that call was weak sauce." ESPN's Stephen A. Smith chimed in: "That was a B.S. flagrant foul called on @Money23Green. That was a basketball play. Steve Kerr has every right to go ballistic. The @NBA is great, except in moments like this. I could question what they'll start handing out to officiate these games, but I don't want any trouble."

Green expressed some frustration, saying, "I got a lot of ball" on it (<u>via ESPN</u>). "I don't know. It's the Draymond rule."

Kerr didn't say whether he erupted to keep Green from doing so and Green was just happy that Kerr had gone to bat for him. "That was amazing, he was great," Green said. "I enjoyed that."

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