

'Old' Celtics Do It Again

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By JACK STEVENSON
 Associated Press Sports Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Boston's Celtics built a 17-point lead and held off a gallant rally by Los Angeles to beat the Lakers 108-106 Monday night and retain their National Basketball Association title by capturing the final playoff four games to three.

John Havlicek with 26 points and retiring Sam Jones with 24 led the Boston assault which took advantage of a third quarter Laker lapse for the victory.

THE CELTICS thus won their

11th NBA crown in 13 seasons since player-coach Bill Russell came on the scene.

Never were the Celtics headed in this finale before 17,568 in the Forum. When the Lakers did tie the count at 60-60, the Celtics exploded and ran their lead to 91-74 shortly before the end of the third period.

With less than 10 minutes to play, the Celtics again led by 17 at 100-83 before the Lakers staged their heroic but futile rally.

Jerry West, who ran up a 42-point total despite playing with a pulled hamstring muscle in his left leg, paced the comeback which saw the Lakers close within a point at 103-102.

Don Nelson, a former Laker, widened the gap with a shot which bounced high off the rim and through the nets.

The Lakers surged back until Russell neatly blocked a Mel Counts shot.

WHEN KEITH ERICKSON committed his sixth personal foul, Larry Siegfried added two free throws and Havlicek tossed in another to put the game out of reach.

At that, Elgin Baylor and John Egan sank field goals before the buzzer.

Jones, retiring to go into collegiate coaching, fouled out with seven minutes five seconds remaining and both Wilt Chamberlain and Russell were in the five-foul category.

Chamberlain went out with 5:19 remaining when he injured his right knee.

Wilt scored 18 while Baylor tallied 20 for the losers. Chamberlain grabbed 27 rebounds and Russell 21.

From the floor, the Celtics shot 46 per cent in successfully defending their title despite finishing but fourth in the Eastern Division during the regular season. Then they dispatched Phil-

adelphia, New York and now Los Angeles.

THE CELTIC SQUAD collects \$48,000 from the playoff.

The Lakers got \$32,000.

In addition to the largest crowd ever to watch professional basketball in the Forum, the game was shown nationally on television with the local area blocked out.

Boston led through the entire first half, holding a 28-25 margin at the quarter and 59-56 at intermission. At one point, with 3:15 left in the first period, the defending champs built a 12-point bulge at 24-12. But Baylor and West combined for 14 points in narrowing the gap.

STALLINGS

(Continued From Page 5)

"To my knowledge, no football players have ever accused me of discrimination," he continued. "We had two colored athletes on the football team last year and one this year. They knew, and the boy this year knows, that if he is the best man at his position that he will play regardless of his color."

With the Maroon and White game scheduled for Saturday, May 17, on Kyle Field, Stallings has not decided yet whether to divide the squad after this Saturday's scrimmage and let the two teams practice apart for a week or for just three days.

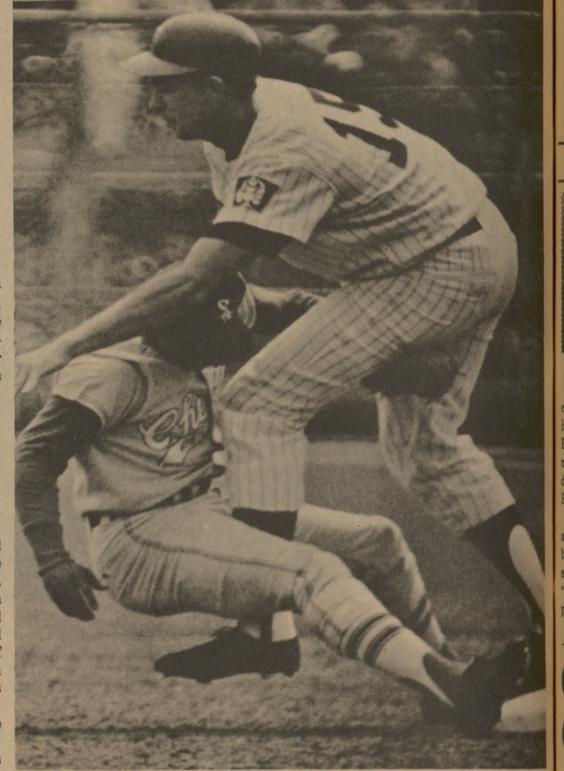
Tickets for the 2:30 p.m. contest are available at the A&M athletic business office in G. Rolie White Coliseum. Reserve seat tickets will be \$2.50 and A&M student date tickets will be \$1.50. General admission tickets for adults will be \$1.50 but are available only on the day of the game. Aggie students will be admitted free on their student activity cards.

WEATHER

Wednesday — Cloudy. Intermittent rain and thunderstorms. Wind Southerly 10 to 20 mph. High 80, low 71.

Thursday — Cloudy. Intermittent thunderstorms. Wind Southerly 15 to 25 mph. High low 72.

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MEETING PLACE

Chicago White Sox second baseman Sandy Alomar is knocked to the ground after being run into by Minnesota 'Twins' George Mitterwald at second after he tried to stretch a single into a double. Alomar managed to tag him out. (AP Wirephoto)

Aggies And Steers Try Again Today

Once again this afternoon the Aggies and Texas were to challenge the weather and attempt to get in a baseball game.

This has been a major challenge for the two old rivals in recent years. The last time A&M played Texas in baseball was on March 2, 1968 when the Aggies carved out a 1-0 victory on the pitching of Rocky Thompson.

If the rain held up, the teams were to play a double header on Kyle Field today at 1:30. Any more rain, however, would have cancelled the series completely

for another year.

The games were originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday of last week. Rain forced the games to be reset for a doubleheader Monday and a single game today but yesterday's rain brought up either today's doubleheader or nothing.

The Longhorns have already sacked up the conference crown legitimately this season. Texas has compiled a 24-3 season and 13-1 SWC record while climbing to the number two spot in the national rankings.

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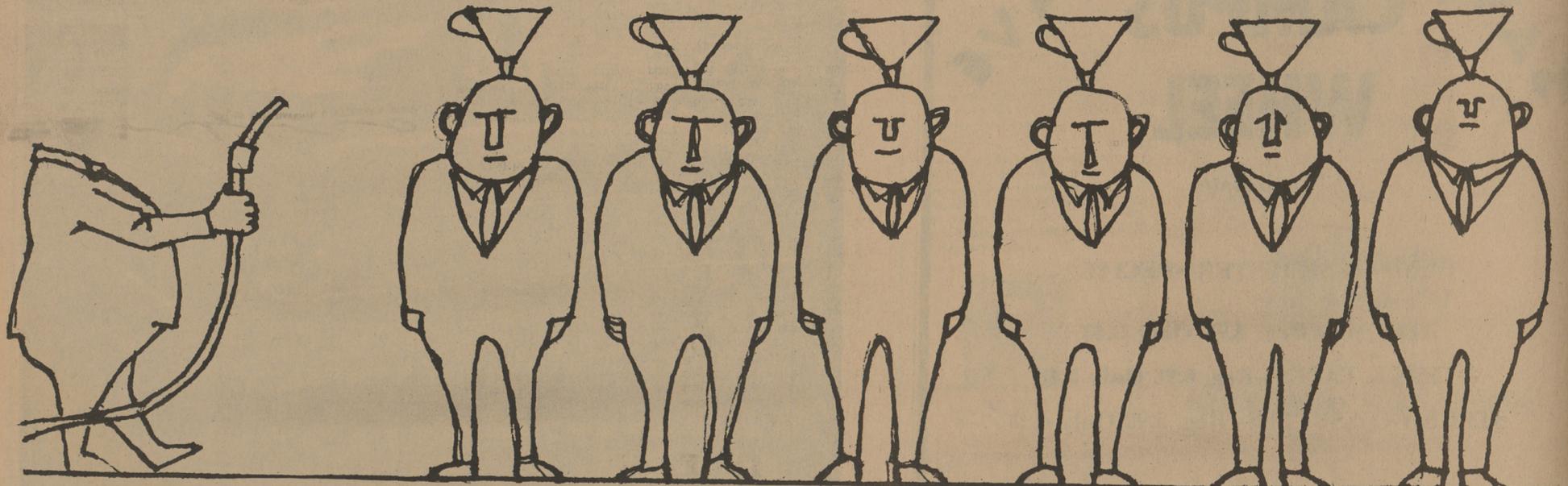
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