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By DAVID BOGGAN

Series off to a surprising start

If the first game of the National Basketball Association championship was any indication of what can be expected during the rest of the best-of-seven series, then grab a six pack and sit back and enjoy.

Any fan of professional basketball who missed Sunday's opening confrontation between the two Cinderella teams in the finals—the Washington Bullets and the Seattle SuperSonics—truly missed a treat. If anyone thought that the cham-

ampionship series would be less than entertaining once Portland and Philadelphia had been eliminated, the Sonics and the Bullets did much to dispel that notion Sunday afternoon. Indeed, semifinal action should have put to rest any such idea.

Even with Dick Motta's Bullets leading by a seeming insurmountable margin of 19 points late in the third period, the game to that point was rarely a lull between commer-

cials. The first three quarters of the contest were accentuated by the physical play of both teams in general and of the Bullets' Elvin Hayes in particular, as well as a technical foul on Hayes and one on the Sonics' coach, Lenny Wilkens.

"It wasn't all that physical out there, nothing like the Philadelphia series," commented Washington's Wes Unseld after Sunday's game. No, a team would be hard pressed to play more physical than the Bul-

lets and the Sixers did in their semifinal series. Even one of the players' wives got into a fight during Game 3 of that series.

Sunday's opener was even slightly reminiscent of Southwest Conference basketball.

In the closing minutes of the third quarter, with shades of what Houston Cougar coach Guy Lewis did with Kenny Williams in Hofheinz Pavilion against Texas A&M last February, Wilkens went to his

bench and called on Freddie "Downtown" Brown to provide juice that Seattle needed.

The Sonic team captain, a reserve guard, pumped in 16 points in the last 9½ minutes of the game to give a SuperSonic comeback. Brown, who had 14 points to his credit earlier in the game.

The defensive work of Paul Silas, who also came off the Sonic bench held Hayes in check through much of the second half. Silas added 12 rebounds to Seattle's efforts.

On a layup by Brown with 1:15 remaining in the game, Seattle's first lead of the game and was to win, 106-102. The Sonics outscored the Bullets 33-18 in the last period.

"If we had lost that game, I'd be in a bad mood," Silas said after playing in front of a hometown crowd of 14,088. "I would have been out of the state far as I'm concerned."

Like an Alfred Hitchcock movie, Game 1 of the NBA championship series had a very surprising ending. And, true to Hitchcock form, basketball fans are now left with a cliff-hanger. When the series returns to Landover, Md. tomorrow night, what will happen if Seattle wins either Game 2 or Game 3?

"All they (the Sonics) are looking for is a split of the next two games," Motta said. "And if they get that, they'll be in the driver's seat."

So it remains to be seen if the Cinderella team will fit into the glass slipper. One thing is certain: both teams worked hard to get where they are and both are determined to win. Don't be surprised if the series lasts till past the stroke of midnight.

Aggie notes

Texas A&M coaches announced the signing of four athletes to scholarships, including a Texas jumper, an Arizona sprinter and New York basketball players.

The Aggies, defending South Conference track champions, signed Jim Howard, a 611 high jumper from Alvin, Texas, and Michaelley, a 9.2 sprinter from Mesa Junior College.

Basketball coach Shelby McMillen announced the signing of Ty Ladson, 6-1, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native who attended Kansas State as a freshman but sat out last year to his transfer eligibility. His high school team was undefeated in games his senior year. McMillen signed David Britton, 6-4, who transferred to A&M as a junior from Potomac (W.Va.) State College. Britton, from New York City, averaged 18 points per game and 10 rebounds last year.

Cowboy QB speaks out on new rule

NEW YORK — Roger Staubach said Monday he does not agree with the NFL Players Association league owners are failing to act in good faith under the new agent rule.

The veteran quarterback of the world champion Dallas Cowboys said he thinks million dollar contracts for players jumping from team to team would be damaging to football.

Last week the NFLPA filed a general appeals court in Minnesota that NFL owners are under the new system by agreeing to a budget themselves not to compete with players. Union lawyers, seeking to have the case reopened, said six out of 93 free agents this season received offers.

"I don't understand what the complaint is," said Staubach, who was in New York to accept an offer as quarterback of the year from football magazine. "I don't think owners are conspiring against me. Those are the rules we bargained for. We agreed to it."

Staubach, who could command a multi-million dollar contract under a less restricted agent system similar to baseball, said he supports the controls of the collective bargaining agreement signed on March 1, 1977.

"I don't think we should have a system like baseball's," Staubach said. "I don't think it's good for the game. There should be some freedom and that's what we want. It's better than it used to be."

"But without controls where does it end? You have the loyalty involved; they don't like seeing jumping around every year. The prices go up. Someone's got to pay for it. And you have the problem of high-priced players coming in causing resentment on a team. I wouldn't like it if the Cowboys picked up some guy for \$3 million."

"I think each individual player could do better paying his own way but complete freedom wouldn't be good," he said. "I wish I knew the answer."

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