

sports

Washington wins 105-99

Bullets are NBA champs

United Press International
SEATTLE — The Washington Bullets, behind Charles Johnson and Mitch Kupchak's strong effort on the bench, ended years of frustration and erased a reputation as the National Basketball Association's choke artists when they defeated the Seattle SuperSonics 105-99 Wednesday night to win the NBA title.

Two weeks before the Bullets had gone to the NBA finals, in 1971 and 1975, and been blown out each time, 4-0. Kupchak and Johnson were not on those teams, and neither was Coach Dick Motta. This time, thanks to Kupchak and Johnson's efforts and two crucial free throws by Wes Unseld with 12 seconds remaining, the "Fat Lady" finally sang for Motta and his crew.

The loss ended what many thought was an impossible dream for Seattle, which early in the season was floundering with a 5-17 record before Lenny Wilkens took over as coach and turned the club into a contender. The victory, which came in seven games, was especially gratifying for Washington because the final triumph came in the Seattle Coliseum, where the Sonics had not lost in 22 games, including 10 in the playoffs.

Unseld, a veteran of the Bullets' two previous appearances in the finals, captured the most valuable player award for this series. Despite being criticized by Elvin Hayes and Bob Dandridge after the Bullets lost in the first game of the finals, Unseld impressed with his steady play at center, strong rebounding and calm leadership.

Johnson and Dandridge led the Bullets' scoring with 19 points each. Unseld and Paul Henderson had 15 each, Kupchak 13 and Hayes 12. Marvin Webster, playing his finest game against Washington, led Seattle with 27 points and 19 rebounds. Fred Brown and Jack Sikma each scored 21 points.

Aggie notes and quotes

The longest baseball season in Texas A&M history ended last week in Ann Arbor, Mich., when the Aggies lost in the finals of the NCAA Midwest Regional to Big Ten champion Michigan.

A&M lost to the Wolverines 8-1 in the opening game, then came back to eliminate Missouri 5-1 on a four-hitter by Mark Thurmond and Eastern Michigan 6-1 on a 5-hitter by Mark Ross before losing to Michigan again 3-0.

"This team has been a great joy to work with," coach Tom Chandler said. "They came back all year, and they deserved to go to the College World Series. We just ran into a hot Michigan team. In all my 20 years of coaching, I've never seen a team make so many great defensive plays in one game. But we played well, and I'm very proud of our players. They never quit trying."

The Wolverines made seven plays which robbed the Aggies of basehits in the final game. A&M finished the season with a 39-16 record and with its second straight Southwest Conference title. The team is losing five seniors — shortstop Robert Bonner, third baseman Robert Verde, left fielder Tim Feickert and pitchers David Pieczynski and Jim McWilliams—but will return a strong nucleus for next year. Bonner closed out a fantastic career as the team's leading hitter at .343. He holds 12 school records.

Leading the returnees will be pitchers Thurmond and Ross. Thurmond posted a 13-1 record while Ross was 11-4. Over the last two years, Thurmond is 23-3 while Ross is 22-7. First baseman Kyle Hawthorne set records with 14 homeruns, 53 RBIs and 109 total bases.

In voting by the team, Verde was elected captain for the 1978 season. Bonner and Thurmond shared MVP honors while Feickert and second baseman Randy Woodruff shared the Wally Moon Award for the most improved player.

Chandler has announced the signing of four outstanding prospects for the 1979 season. Shortstop Bryan Little is a transfer from Louisiana Junior College in North Carolina. He was drafted in the fifth round by

the Los Angeles Dodgers. Infielder Chris Rupp is a transfer from Angelina Junior College in Lufkin. Outfielder Simon Glenn is an All-America candidate from Blinn Junior College in Brenham who hit .424 and stole 22 bases. Bobby Taylor is a righthanded pitcher from Port Arthur Jefferson. Taylor had an 11-1 record. In 80 1/3 innings, he allowed only 24 hits and four earned runs while walking 29 and striking out 118.

Disaster struck Texas A&M's SWC track championships in Eugene, Ore., recently and the Aggies wound up only with Curtis Dickey's second-place finish in the 100-meter dash.

After winning the SWC title, A&M looked for NCAA meet points from Dickey in the 100, Ray Brooks in the 200, Randy Hall in the pole vault and from both relay teams. Coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson figured A&M could finish as high as fifth in that prestigious meet.

But, in an AAU meet in Houston shortly before the NCAA, Brooks suffered a pulled hamstring muscle. That put him out of the 200 meters and forced a substitution on the 400-meter relay unit. A foursome of Mike Mosley, Leslie Kerr, Charles Butler and Dickey ran a 40.23 for second in their prelim heat. Then they ran a 40.33 for fifth in the their semifinal heat and failed to qualify for the finals.

Intent on doing well in the 1600-meter relay, Kerr passed the open 400-meter dash to concentrate on the relay race. Then, on the morning of competition, Arthur Williams phoned his mother in Dallas and learned that an uncle who lived with the family had drowned. His mother requested he fly home for the funeral and that forced A&M to scratch its 1600-meter relay team. And, it was too late for Kerr to get in the open 400-meter dash.

Hall vaulted 16-8 and was above the bar all three times at 17-0 but brushed it off coming down and didn't get to the finals. Pat Ruehle vaulted 16-4. Both Tim Scott and Steve Stewart failed to advance in the discus.

Dickey won his prelim heat of the 100-meter dash in 10.28 and

won his semifinal heat in 10.11. He was leading the pack in the finals until the last few yards when USC's Clancy Edwards roared by to win in 10.07. Dickey was second at 10.11 and Harvey Glance of Auburn was third at 10.19.

Dickey said later that he felt Glance was the man to beat. "He was in the lane next to me and I knew I had him beat and I didn't see Edwards coming up at the finish."

The outlook for next year is bright for A&M's track. The SWC champs lose only three point makers—sprinters Brooks, and Butler and distance runner Manfred Kohrs.

And, Thomas and Nelson already have signed eight new recruits.

They include a pair of 7-foot high jumpers—James Howard of Alvin, Tex. and James Aggers of Pasadena Rayburn; tow pole vaulters—Rick Hailey of Tuloso-Midway, the 3A champion who has cleared 16-8 and Mike Mullins of Arlington, Tex., the 4A runner-up who has cleared 15-4. Sprinter Mike Finley from Mesa, Ariz. Junior College who was National JC champ in the 100-meters (10.23) and 220-yard dash (20.3); quarter-miler Steve Willis from Waco Connally, 46.9 for 400 meters and 45.7 relay leg; Mike Stewart from Baytown Sterling, a 1:53.2 for 880-yards and Richard Thomas from Amarillo Tascosa, a 14.2 in the 120-yard high hurdles and 37.9 in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles.

Here's how A&M's women fared in the 1978 AIAW National Track Meet at Knoxville, Tenn., recently:

Linda Cornelius, second in the pentathlon with 4,052 points. Her marks: 5-5 in high jump, 14.2 in hurdles, 33-8 in shot put, 19-2 in long jump and 2:15.5 in 800-meter run. Sande Lambert, 17th in pentathlon with 3,653 points. Donna Branch, 7th in javelin at 142-0. Cindy Bartlett, 14th in 400-meter hurdles at 62.7. Jan Chesbro, 15th in high jump at 5-7. Martha Sartain, 15th in 5,000-meter run at 17:12.52. Ileana Hocking, 20th in the 800-meter run at 2:12.24 and 18th in the 1,500-meter run at 4:34.0. Iris Tipton, 27th in the shot put at 42-3 1/2.

Young Puhl helps Astros at the plate

If there has ever been a ballplayer who walked softly but carried a big stick, it has got to be Astros leftfielder Terry Puhl.

Not yet 22-years old, the native of Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada, has already hit .301 in his rookie year in the majors and seems destined to reach the .300 mark again this year and for many to come.

After getting off to a fair start in 1978—batting .276—Terry went wild in May, hitting safely in 20 of 22 games for the month, including an 18-game hitting streak; a career high and club high for 1978.

For the month, Puhl batted .367, with 33 hits, 15 runs scored and six runs batted in. His performance was good enough to earn him a nomination and several votes for National League Player of the Month honors. He was also named Astros "Champion of the Month" by the Houston broadcasters and beat writers.

"I've always been a streak hitter," Puhl said of his accomplishments. "At times I just go crazy on one of those hot streaks. And I try to avoid slumps through my bunting. That's the key for me, and so far it's kept me from any bad slumps."

'Old horse' Jenkins wins again

ARLINGTON — They played racehorse baseball at Arlington Stadium Tuesday night and the leading thoroughbred turned out to be one of the oldest horses in the stable — Ferguson Jenkins.

Jenkins allowed four hits, walked one, struck out eight and dashed through the Kansas City Royals in 1 hour, 54 minutes in leading Texas to a 2-1 victory.

"I had good control," said Jenkins, "and good control is worth an extra 10 miles an hour on your fastball."

It was another chapter in the surprising comeback for Jenkins, 34, and has boosted his record to 6-3 to become the top Rangers pitcher in a season that started with him battling just to secure a spot in the bullpen.

"Yes, I'm surprised at what he's done," said Texas Manager Billy Hunter. "I didn't think he'd even be in the rotation at this time of year but Fergie intimidated to me in spring training that he thought he would be in the rotation."

That just shows you that old heads are better than bald ones. Jenkins outpitched Dennis Leonard, who is finding the groove after a miserable start.

\$19 million offered for a share of the Jets

United Press International
WEST HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets Chairman of the Board Leon Hess Tuesday confirmed reports he had received a \$19-million offer for the team, but denied his share of the National Football League club was for sale.

A five-man group made the \$19 million offer, headed by James Aufiero, a land developer in Italy. Team President Jim Kensil released a statement Tuesday saying, "An unsolicited offer has been received by Leon Hess, chairman of the New York Jets, for the purchase of the team. Mr. Hess said he would submit the offer to his two partners but Mr. Hess' personal interest was not

for sale." The other members of the group are T.P. Johnson, co-owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates; John Brunetti, owner of Hialeah Race Course in Florida; Martin Fife, a New York industrialist, and Bernard Kalstein, a fabric manufacturer. The group also indicated it was willing to spend another \$4 million to turn the 3-11 Jets of last season into a contender.

"We haven't had any talks with them before," said Aufiero from his New York restaurant. "But we are a bonafide group. We've got some substantial people and we think they're ready to sell. We're not interested in buying a piece of the team. We want to buy the whole thing."

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Herrmann heads home

United Press International
HOUSTON — Disgruntled Houston Astros catcher Ed Herrmann has left the team and traveled to his home in San Diego with the approval of management.

With the team playing in Chicago Tuesday, Herrmann flew to Houston and met with Astros' President Tal Smith. Smith said the catcher had personal problems to resolve before rejoining the team in St.

Louis Friday. Reportedly, the Astros are trying to trade Herrmann before the June 15 inter-league trading deadline. The nine-year veteran has told the club he wanted to go to a team on the West Coast.

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