

the sports

Suns try for third win

Ford fading for Kings

United Press International
KANSAS CITY — "There are very few guards who can dominate a game the way Phil Ford can," said Houston Rockets Coach Tom Nis-salke last December.

"It's great for a coach to have a kid like Phil who you can just hand the ball to and know the game will be under control," said then Denver Nuggets' Coach Larry Brown last January.

"Without a doubt, Ford gets my

vote for rookie of the year," said Milwaukee Bucks Coach Don Nelson last February. "He gets my vote for All-Pro."

That was a sample of the glowing praise heaped upon Ford during the regular season. That's when the North Carolina rookie was devastating the opposition with his slicing penetration and meticulous passing. That was when Ford was guiding the Kansas City Kings to their first divisional title in 27 years.

But it's playoff time now and Ford

has not played up to the high standard he set for himself during the regular season. He has bordered on dismal, in fact, as the Kings have fallen behind the Phoenix Suns 2-1 in the best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final series.

The two teams square off in Game 4 tonight in Kansas City.

Ford has hit only 8-of-35 shots in the series thus far because of a touch of defensive genius by Phoenix coach John MacLeod. The Suns are leaving Ford wide open in the 15-20

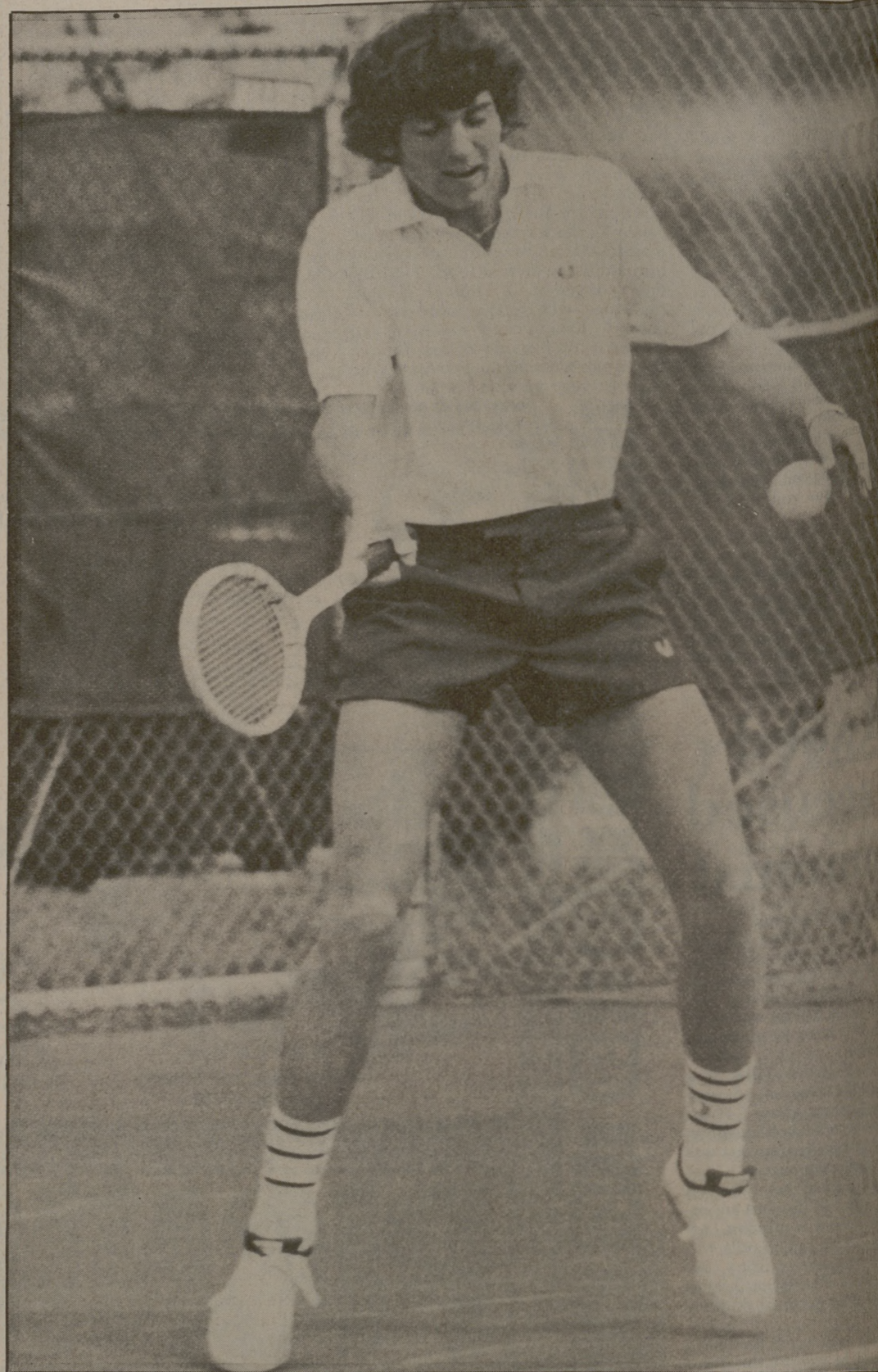
foot range, all but begging him to shoot.

MacLeod has obviously taken note of Ford's 46 percent regular season conversion rate from the field. Also, Ford chalked up 21 assists against the Suns in a February game and MacLeod wanted that type of penetration of his lane stopped. When Ford looks into the Phoenix lane now, it looks like the San Bernadino Freeway at rush hour.

"It kind of shocks you when you go down court and you're that wide open," said Ford. "I've never been played that way in my life. And when the shots don't go down, you start to think about it more."

"When you start out 3-of-17 like Phil did in the first game, it's like a golfer who begins bogey, bogey," added Kansas City Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons. "It gets very difficult to dig yourself out of a hole. Phil hasn't had a good game yet. And we're not the same team when Phil is off his game."

The only game the Kings won, in fact, was the second one in Kansas City when Ford played only 28 minutes. He collected eight points and nine assists during that span. His back-up, Billy McKinney, contributed 10 points and seven assists in 20 minutes of action as the Kings coasted to a 111-91 victory.



Keep your eye on the ball

Texas A&M's Reid Freeman watches the bouncing ball during a recent practice. The Aggies are also eyeing the SWC Tennis Championships which will be held in Christi this weekend.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Lech

Aggies select captains

United Press International
Running back Curtis Dickey, guard Ed Pustejovsky, defensive end Jacob Green and safety Carl Grulich have been elected captains of the Texas A&M football team for the 1979 season, Coach Tom Wilson announced Tuesday.

Wilson also said quarterback Mike Mosley, who had been hospitalized almost one week with a virus, was in shorts for the Aggies' drill Tuesday.

Mosley will play in the team's Maroon-White game Saturday.

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Borg top seed

United Press International
DALLAS — Jimmy Connors will play Gene Mayer of New York May 1 in his challenge for the 1979 World Championship of Tennis, said a WCT spokesman.

The spokesman said Connors was ranked second on a computer list released Monday and would take the second seed behind Bjorn Borg for the WCT finals.

The seeding list is: 1, Borg; 2, Connors; 3, John McEnroe; 4, Vitas Gerulaitis; 5, Brian Gottfried; 6, John Alexander; 7, Gene Mayer; 8, Geoff Masters.

In the computer rankings, Connors jumped from 55 to 31 and reached the final of the WCT tournament at River Oaks in Houston last week. That took the two-titled player from New York into the seventh seed — behind Borg — at the Masters of Australia. It assured Masters of Connors in the opening round instead of Borg. Upon hearing the switching partners from Borg to Connors, Masters remarked, "It's blaring from the frying pan to the fire."



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