

Sports

Game seven Friday night

San Antonio evens series

United Press International
HOUSTON — San Antonio's bench has emerged as a positive factor in a strung out playoff series against the Houston Rockets and the development may have come just in time for the Spurs.

Game seven in the best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final series became necessary as the Spurs averted elimination by beating the Rockets before a hostile crowd, 101-96, and if precedent means anything the underdog Rockets must be a favorite

Friday night in San Antonio. In each of the last two seasons and in each of the playoff series following those seasons, the Spurs and Rockets have neither one won two games in a row.

"The home court means nothing," Spurs captain James Silas said after watching his teammates coolly score the final five points of the game Wednesday. The Rockets missed their final five shots.

Key for the Spurs in the tense closing minutes and during a 31-12 roll in the second quarter,

which forced the Rockets to play catch-up, were reserves Dave Corzine, Johnny Moore and Paul Griffin.

"In addition to our starters," Spurs coach Stan Albeck said, "the play of Paul Griffin and Johnny Moore was very important. Moore penetrated to open our offense. Griffin has the toughest job in basketball. He comes in to guard Moses Malone when somebody gets in foul trouble and everybody is watching him."

Several of Corzine's team leading eight rebounds were in critical situations.

Meanwhile, Houston played with only five men supporting Malone due to the jammed thumb suffered by forward Bill Willoughby.

Spurs forward Mark Olberding said Malone, who scored 36 points, was tired at the end.

"Sometimes during the game the Rockets missed some shots and we'd take off with our running game to get them mentally and

physically tired. It paid off tonight," Olberding said. Seven Spurs scored nine points or more.

Rockets coach Del Harris said he did not anticipate Willoughby playing Friday or Malone getting any rest.

"It's academic. What's the difference between 48 and 44 minutes? It's like a heavyweight fighter. What's the difference between 13 rounds and 15 rounds? After you stood in there getting pounded on for so long, you don't notice it," Harris said.

The Rockets coach said that in his mind the key factor in the series now was rebounding. The Spurs have controlled the boards in their three wins.

"I feel good about the series because I feel both teams have played hard and well," Harris said.

In game six, the five Rockets supporting Malone made less than 50 percent of their shots from the field. Malone was 15 of 25.

Calvin Murphey's 20-foot jump shot with 2:25 to play gave Houston a 96-95 lead, but the Rockets failed to score thereafter as Mike Dunleavy missed two shots and three other players missed one. George Gervin, who scored 26 points with 12 of 25 field goals, tied the game at the 2:13 mark and in the final seconds Griffin canned a free throw and Corzine and Gervin each scored a field goal.



Raising a racquet!

Arkansas tennis player Chip Hooper, reigning indoor NCAA champion, strains as he lunges for a volley in Saturday's tennis match with Texas A&M. Hooper, who defeated Aggie Reid Freeman

Saturday, 6-4, 6-0, is the odds-on-favorite to take the 1981 outdoor title in the NCAA championships. The Razorbacks beat the Aggies 8-1.

Staff photo by Greg Gamm

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Ag track team in Waco Friday

By RITCHIE PRIDDY Sports Editor
The Texas A&M men's track team returns to competition this week in the Baylor Invitational track meet in Waco Friday. Head track coach Charlie Thomas will take a 26-man squad to the meet, the team's first competition since the Texas Relays two weeks ago. Last week's home

meet with Lamar was canceled because of injuries. Those injuries, for the most part, have had time to heal and the Aggies are close to being back at full strength. "Our injury situation is getting better. (James) Howard's foot is still sore but he will still compete in the high jump. (Rod) Richardson's leg is getting better. He's

ready to run," Thomas said. Howard had a sore heel and Richardson had a sore hamstring. Thomas said that Richardson will run in three events in Waco, the 100-meter dash, the mile relay and the sprint relay. Howard will compete in the high jump. Sprinter Floyd Furlow is still recuperating from a hamstring injury he suffered earlier and will not run.

The meet features 16 teams from Texas and Louisiana competing in one of the biggest track events in the Southwest. The date, April 24-25, was set for those schools in the South that could not financially compete in the prestigious Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa the same weekend.

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The Aggies will compete in 15 events Friday including several relays. Preliminary competition begins at 2 p.m. with the 110 and 400-meter hurdles and the 100 and 400-meter dashes. The field events begin at 2:30 p.m. with the javelin, followed by the discus, pole vault, shot put and high jump. The 400-meter relay is scheduled at 6:10 p.m. James Washington, Leslie Kerr, Mike Claspie and Richardson make up the sprint team. Following the relay are the finals in the sprints and hurdles and closing out the meet is the mile relay. Washington, Rick Thomas, Richardson and Kerr will make up the mile team. Baylor, Missouri and Texas are three of the top teams competing in the meet. Next week the Aggies return to College Station to host the First Annual Texas A&M Relays. LSU is co-hosting the meet, which is scheduled to alternate sites between the two schools each year.

Texas A&M competitors in the Baylor Invitational:
110-meter hurdles — Craig Moody, Billy Busch, Mike Claspie, Rick Thomas
400-meter dash — Eddie Guillen, Daniel Busch, Thomas, Moody
100-meter dash — Larry Kerr
400-meter hurdles — Richard Lamb, Randall Hall
Discus — Kevin McGinnis, Mark Isenmann, Hall
Pole vault — Hall, Rob Montgomery, Mike Mullin
Shot put — McGinnis, Robert Windsor, Isenmann
High jump — Howard, Dan Jones, Scott Roberson
400-meter relay — Washington, Kerr, Richardson, Thomas
Sprint medley relay — Kerr (Lamar), Washington, Richardson and Darryl Shoemaker
Two-mile relay — Kyle Beck, John Sexton, Bill Roberts, Shoemaker
5,000-meter run — Jim Bolles, Andy Elliott
Mile relay — Washington, Thomas, Richardson, Kerr

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