April 7, 1982

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# Lakers 'stop' Malone in 12-point victory

What Rogers heard about over and over again was something he already knew — how, in

making his first relief appear-

ance in three years, he retired

the first two batters, then gave up the game-winner to Monday. They all saw it at the park or

on TV, and if they didn't actual-

ly see it, they read about it in the

hear it from the copyright own-er — Rogers himself.

pitch I threw him (Monday) as completely as I did, it might've

been different," Rogers says.

The pitch I wanted to throw, a

sinker low and away, was the

right one. The count was 3-and-

1, and if I missed, I wanted to miss for a ball, because I

wouldn't have been too upset

had I walked him. I just made a

physical error by getting the

pitch over the plate and up too

out the result or lie about what

happened, but I know I thought it through and that was all I could possibly do. I don't intend

to make that a guide post to my entry into 1982. I refuse to make

it the only thing I carry over from 1981. As bad as it was,

there were many other good things I can remember about

Rogers has the right idea.

He's a good pitcher, the best one

the Expos have ever had, and he

doesn't propose to let one pitch

ruin the rest of his career.

last season.

"I don't have to be happy ab-

"If I hadn't thought out the

papers, but they still wanted to

ne thing in mind as they traveled to Houston Tuesday night — stopping Moses Malone. They

Under a fierce attack by the Lakers, the Rockets' 6-10 center managed to sink 37 points and grab 21 rebounds.

"We did a good job keeping Malone from controlling the game," said Lakers' center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. "He is so hard for one man to defend all the time, but we did the job

7:00 p. In the fourth quarter, the team came to me and I took the shots that were there. Fortunately, Del Harris.

Jabbar scored 20 points in the Lakers' 108-96

dder Towe Even though the Lakers were successful Tuesday night, Coach Pat Riley said the struggle is not over yet. He said the Lakers might face Houston again in the playoffs.

"We were determined not to let Malone beat us onight by himself. And when they missed their perimeter, we were able to tack the middle on Malone and (Elvin) Hayes.

"They are a great team and we could see them again in the playoffs," Riley said.

United Press International Magic Johnson, who led the Lakers with 23 HOUSTON — The Los Angeles Lakers had points, said the key was keeping the running game

going.

"We just kept our running game going all night," Johnson said. "They almost caught us, they missed some key shots down the stretch. We hit ours and we won.

Houston, which had won seven games straight, fell to 43-33 in the Midwest Division, 1½ games behind San Antonio.

The Pacific Division leading Lakers are now 52-24 for the year.

"We were just beaten by one of the top two or three teams in the league," said Houston coach

We had been sharp for seven straight games, coming back in many of them. But because we didn't run our offense well and had too many turnovers, we just couldn't come back tonight. We only shot 29 percent in the second half and you can't win doing that. It will help if we can benefit from this loss, we have six tough games left and none of them will be easy

Los Angeles led at halftime 57-52 with Johnson out front with 17 points. The Lakers played their running game to perfection in the half, scoring 15 layups and shooting 52 percent from the field while holding the Rockets to 37 percent.

### Haywood, Ruland lead scoring

## Bullets stay alive with victory

United Press International
For most teams, defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers is nothing special. For Gene Shue, it was a

day night, when his Washington Bullets registered a sloppy 94-85 verdict over the Cavaliers, who now have lost 12 straight. "I can't remember a time this year we won with Kevin (Grevey) and Greg (Ballard) shooting that badly," he added.

Spencer Haywood scored 20 points and rookie Jeff Ruland added 19 for the Bullets, who snapped a three-game losing streak in their quest to hold on to the sixth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

'This is the time of the year when you want everything going great and it wasn't tonight," Shue said. "This wasn't a great confidence builder. Hopefully, things will work out."

The Cavaliers, who hit only 18 of their first 63 shots, were led by Cliff Robinson with 24 points and Phil Hubbard with 21

Haywood's 16-foot shot with three minutes left gave the Bullets their biggest lead of the last

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only 14-of-45 shots in the first half, trailed 45-37 at intermis-

'It wasn't pretty," said Rureligious experience. "It wasn't pretty," said Ru-"Thank God," he said, Tues-land, "but at this time of the year you take what you can get.

In other games, it was Atlanta 106, New York 104; Milwaukee 122, Boston 116; Philadelphia 117, Chicago 104; Utah 129, Dallas 114; Seattle 102, Phoenix 91; Portland 136, Denver 122, and Golden State 110, San

Hawks 106, Knicks 104
At Atlanta, Eddie Johnson

scored 32 points, including two free throws with four seconds left, to lift the Hawks. The Knicks lost a team-record 11th straight on the road.

Bucks 122, Celtics 116

At Milwaukee, Sidney Moncrief and Bob Lanier each scored 26 points and Marques Johnson added 20, enabling Milwaukee to register its sixth

straight victory.
76ers 117, Bulls 104

At Chicago, Julius Erving scored 23 points and Bobby



Jones added 18 to pace seven added 21 to power Utah, which Philadelphia players in double won for the third straight time. The victory was the 76ers' fourth straight while Chi-

cago dropped its sixth in a row.

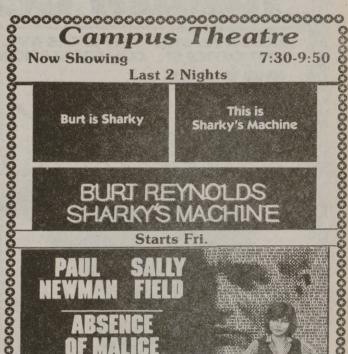
Jazz 129, Mavericks 114

SuperSonics 102, Suns 91 ers' fourth straight while Chito dropped its sixth in a row.

z 129, Mavericks 114

At Salt Lake City, Adrian

At Seattle, Gus Williams scored 27 points and Jack Sikma added 24 points and 21 rebounds as Seattle snapped Dantley poured in a game-high Phoenix's four-game winning 40 points and Darrell Griffith streak





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## Expos' Rogers has learned from past mistakes on field

United Press International As long as baseball records are kept Ralph Branca will be remembered as the pitcher who ave up the home run to Bobby homson that cost the Brooklyn Dødgers the National League pennant in 1951.

It was unfortunate for both Branca and the Dodgers, but he has long since learned how to ope with those who ask him about it. Calmly and patiently, he calls attention to the fact that vasn't the only game he ever pitched for the Dodgers. Indeed he had a fine run with the Dod-gers, winning 88 games for them, including 21 in 1947.

Which brings up the case of Steve Rogers, who was to have pitched Tuesday's opener for Montreal in Pittsburgh that was postponed by the weather.

Rogers is the ace of the Expos' staff and the biggest winner they've ever had. But in a way, he's like Branca, because forever more he's bound to run into someone who'll remind him that he was the pitcher who gave up the home run to Rick Monday that cost the Expos the pennant

Rogers isn't aware of how Branca handled his problem. Truthfully, he's not that interested. He's sorry what hap-pened, sure. But it's all over with and Rogers is all set for a brand

After the Expos lost that game to the Dodgers, and the pennant along with it, Rogers went back home to Broken Arrow, Okla.

"I love it there," he says. "What I like about it a lot is I don't think baseball when I'm there. Everybody back home really was positive about what happened to me and the ball dub. I honestly didn't get to hear anything about it until I came back to Montreal early in the year to go on that caravan we have. Then I heard about it con-

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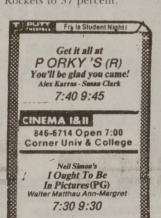
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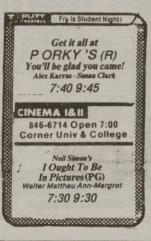
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