

NBA playoffs

Hawks not sharing Braves' success

United Press International
Two professional sports franchises in Atlanta made headlines Sunday, but only one looked good doing so.

The Atlanta Braves have won 11 straight games for a modern National League record. The Atlanta Hawks just needed to win one game Sunday to make their NBA playoff chances easier, and they didn't.

Because of an inopportune 99-96 loss to the Washington Bullets as the NBA regular season ended Sunday, the Atlanta Hawks must bump heads with the powerful Philadelphia 76ers while the luckier Bullets will play the New Jersey Nets in the best-of-three preliminary round.

"Naturally, we wanted to play New Jersey," said Washington Coach Gene Shue. "We haven't beaten Philadelphia this season (in six tries). If we had to play Philly, I think the law of averages would be on our side, but regardless, we're peaking right now and playing very well."

Though there should be pretty heated competition starting this Wednesday and Thursday, things will be quiet in Boston, Milwaukee, San Antonio and Los Angeles. As the winners in their respective divisions,

the four teams have a bye in the first round and can arrive fashionably late at the playoff party.

But wait: the Bullets-Nets winner has the "pleasure" of meeting the defending NBA champions Boston Celtics in the second round while the Hawks-Sixers victor faces the Milwaukee Bucks.

The other two first-round matchups will feature the Seattle SuperSonics and the Houston Rockets — the winner will play the Spurs — and the Denver Nuggets against the Phoenix Suns with that winner advancing to face the Lakers.

In other regular season-ending contests, Boston routed New York 119-99, Philadelphia beat Milwaukee 110-86, Chicago downed Indiana 112-104, Kansas City nipped Houston 106-104, Utah topped San Antonio 128-120, Los Angeles trimmed Phoenix 120-115, Portland downed Seattle 119-114 and Detroit topped Cleveland in overtime 116-113.

At Boston, Robert Parish scored a game-high 31 points to pace the Celtics to a 119-99 victory in what likely was Red Holzman's final game as Knicks' coach. The Knicks,

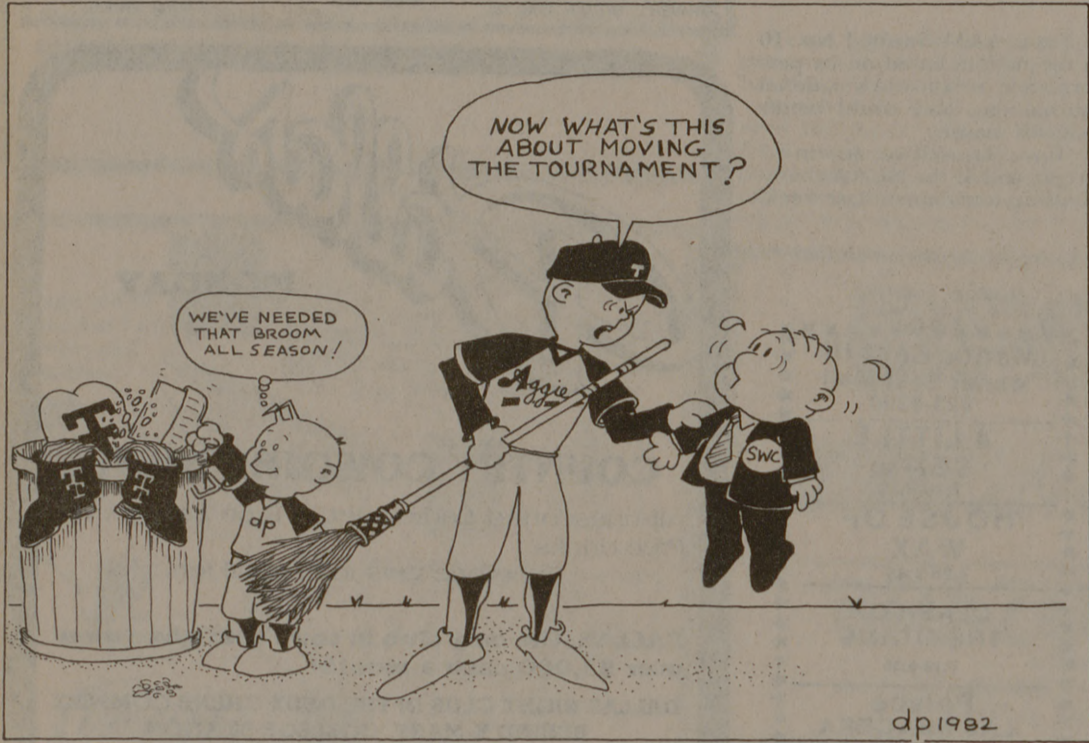
who won 50 games last year, finished their worst season since 1978-79 when they went 31-51.

At Philadelphia, Julius Erving scored 30 points and Andrew Toney added 18 to lead the 76ers to a 110-86 romp. The game broke open in the first 4:54 of the third quarter when they outscored the waukee 17-4 to take a 71-53 lead.

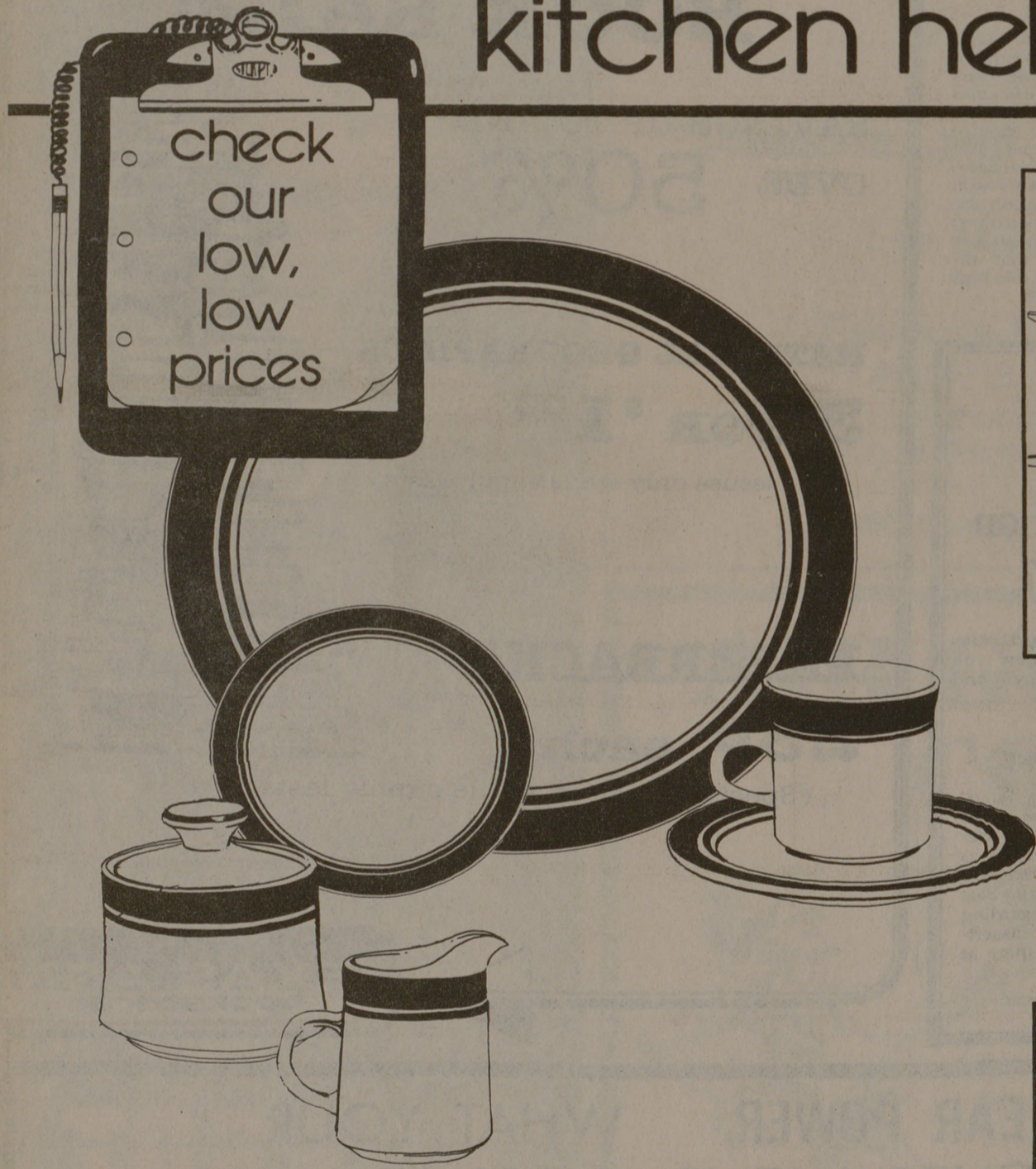
At Chicago, Larry Kenon scored 20 points in the fourth quarter as the Bulls held off the Pacers to win their first straight game, 112-104. The Bulls led by an 18-point lead in the third quarter behind Kenon.

At Kansas City, Eddie Johnson scored 20 points to pace six Kansas City players in double figures. It was a costly loss to the Rockets, who had would have had home-court advantage in the second round against Phoenix.

At San Antonio, Ricky Green scored 19 of his season-high 35 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Jazz to a 128-120 victory over the Lakers. Green scored eight straight points in the fourth period to give the Jazz a 110-99 lead and hit six free throws in the last 1:10 to preserve the win.



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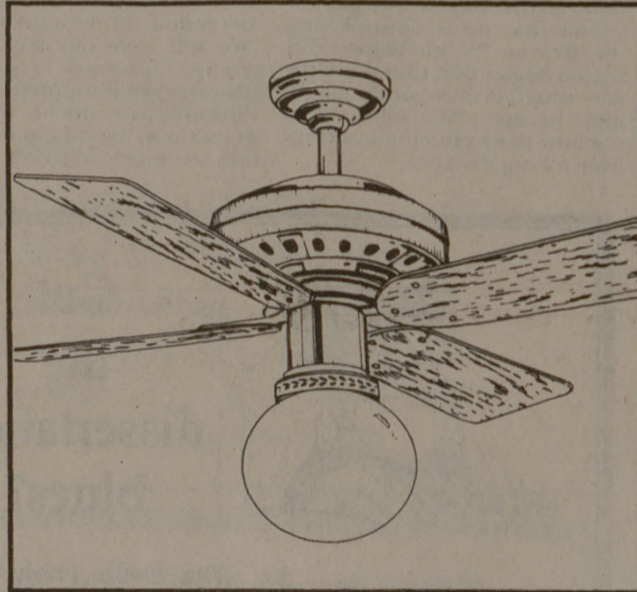
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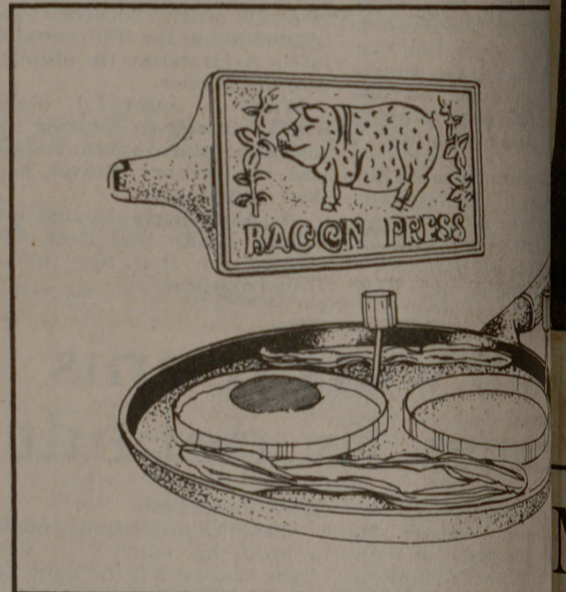
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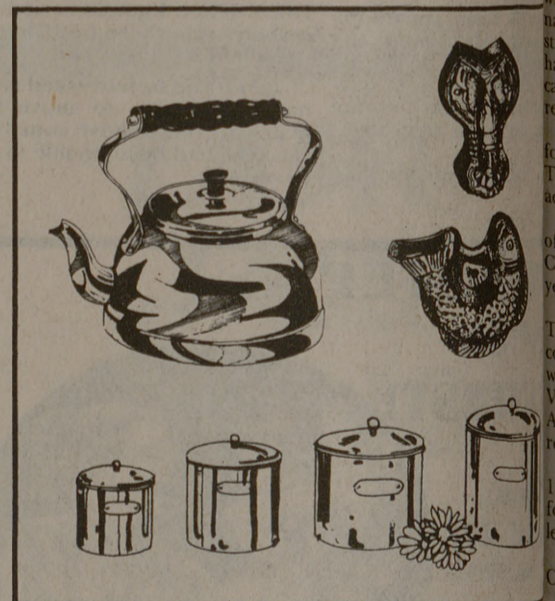
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