

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Lakers use trickery, poise to topple Spurs

United Press International  
Los Angeles combined the basic and the bizarre down the stretch Tuesday night to form the usual Laker victory.

"This game gave me a headache," Laker Coach Pat Riley said after Los Angeles used the traditional skyhooks of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and a freak play by Norm Nixon to beat San Antonio 137-132 in double overtime at HemisFair Arena. "Our poise in those overtimes makes this team very tough."

Nixon, who scored 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter — including the Lakers' last 5 — sent the game into overtime with some unplanned trickery. Los Angeles was trailing, 116-113, with 4 seconds left in regulation and Nixon at the free throw line.

Nixon hit the first foul shot then faked the second, causing players from both sides to enter the lane, and a double violation was called. Abdul-Jabbar controlled the jump ball and Nixon tied the score, 116-116, on an

18-foot jumper at the regulation buzzer.

"I faked the shot when I saw everyone jump into the lane because I wanted to wait while everybody was scrambling to get position, then throw the ball up off the rim for one of our players to get," said Nixon, who added 13 assists. "I wasn't even trying for a double violation."

San Antonio's Mike Mitchell, who led all scorers with 29 points, hit a layup with 32 seconds left.

# Tar Heels escape Tulane upset bid in triple OT

United Press International  
What's with North Carolina? The NCAA champions returned as the No. 2 team in the country this season and promptly proceeded to lose their first two games. Not since 1919 had a North Carolina team begun its season with such a record.

In the first overtime the Tar Heels could have won but Jordan missed a layup at the buzzer with the score 59-59. North Carolina was taken to the third overtime when Tulane guard Howard Jenkins hit a short jumper at the buzzer.

3 Georgetown routed Morgan State, 91-57. No. 14 Missouri pounded Augustana, 85-55 and No. 18 Oklahoma beat Auburn-Montgomery, 104-83.

At home Tuesday night, thanks to a fluke play, the Tar Heels escaped with a 70-68 victory over Tulane in triple overtime.

"We're obviously very happy to finally win a basketball game," said North Carolina Coach Dean Smith, whose team earlier lost to St. John's and Missouri. "We didn't shoot particularly well tonight but we played ... better than in our first two games."

With four seconds left in regulation, Tulane passed in bounds and bounced the ball off the back of its center, John Wil-

liams. Michael Jordan of North Carolina grabbed the ball and fired a 20-footer to tie the score at 53-53.

The third overtime belonged to North Carolina with the Tar Heels going to a slowdown and making their foul shots.

"We should have won the ballgame," Tulane Coach Ned Fowler said. "People who came to the game must realize North Carolina was very, very fortunate to win. It was a freak thing for them to get a desperation shot."

Elsewhere in the Top 20, No.

# Landry: Pokes must make playoff move

United Press International  
DALLAS — Because the Dallas Cowboys have missed the playoffs only once since 1966, there was every expectation before the 1982 season began that they would make them again.

And now that eight teams from each conference will be a part of the Super Bowl tourney, it is almost a foregone conclusion that Dallas will be there.

Even Cowboys' coach Tom Landry speaks of the playoffs in terms of "when" rather than "if."

And on Tuesday, he indicated that the games between now and early January were not much more than glorified exhibition games as far as Dallas was concerned.

"The fact that we won the two games (after the strike) is important," said Landry, whose team has a 3-1 record and needs only two wins to ensure a playoff bid.

"Now we are in a position to start making a move to the playoffs."

"Right now my main concern is how our team is playing. What you want to do is to try to reach a certain level going into the playoffs. That's what you are trying to do."

# Collins says pressure has been great

United Press International  
DALLAS — Bobby Collins and Foge Fazio shook hands for the first time this year Tuesday, and it's a little surprising that they hadn't run into each other before then. After all, they've been traveling along the same road all season.

Both coaches, whose teams meet Jan. 1 in the Cotton Bowl, are in their first year as head coach at their respective schools — Fazio at the University of Pittsburgh and Collins at Southern Methodist University.

Both moved in after their predecessors left to take high-profile jobs (Jackie Sherrill leaving Pittsburgh for the \$1 million contract offered him at Texas A&M and Ron Meyer leaving SMU to take the head job with the New England Patriots of the NFL). And both inherited teams that were predicted to do exceptionally well.

The two schools also just happen to be in the middle of metropolitan areas that are hotbeds of professional football and both found enough pressure riding on their shoulders this year to last an entire career.

Last week Collins admitted that once the Mustangs' last regular season game was over he finally realized how much pressure he had been under.

"It was like a weight being lifted off my back," he said.

Fazio, meanwhile, said he knew from the beginning that

the pressure would be intense. "The pressures were very great," said Fazio, who came to town Tuesday for an advance look at the facilities his team will use during its Cotton Bowl trip. "We had all these fellows who were supposed to be all-Americans and we had to play North Carolina right off and had a tough schedule."

"I tried to take as much pressure away from the players as I could. Our first game had so much hype to it that it was as bad as a political convention."

"But I knew all along it was going to be like that. If I didn't want the pressure I could go to Slippery Rock. There was plenty of pressure on Johnny Majors and Jackie Sherrill before I took over. In our town even (Pittsburgh Steelers coach) Chuck Noll gets a lot of heat."



photo by Mark Berrier

## It's on to sectionals

Joey Vrazel (right) and Jennifer Giese (beside Vrazel) of the Aggie women's volleyball team attempt to spike, a return by a member of the Sam Houston State squad. Texas A&M has been given a bid to take part in the NCAA sectionals this weekend when the Aggie Ladies play the 12th-seeded Arizona Wildcats Saturday in Tuscon, Ariz. Vrazel, an all-America transfer from Utah State, has had knee surgery and will not play.

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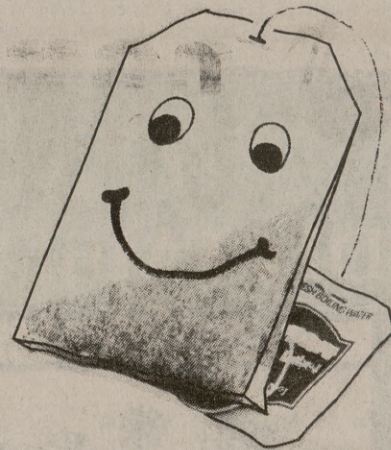
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