

# Spurs, Lakers meet tonight to replay disputed three seconds

United Press International — SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio Spurs fans have the unusual opportunity to enjoy a double-header basketball game tonight — but the first game should be a quick one. Actually, the Spurs and the Los Angeles Lakers have three seconds of a disputed game to replay and will line up before tonight's regularly scheduled game to conclude a game begun Nov. 30.

Prior to their regular season game Wednesday, the two teams must play three seconds of an earlier game that does not yet exist in the record books because of a mis-ruling over a fake free throw by Laker Norm Nixon.

The game ended in a double overtime victory for the Lakers. But the Spurs protested a call on a fake free throw by Laker Norm Nixon.

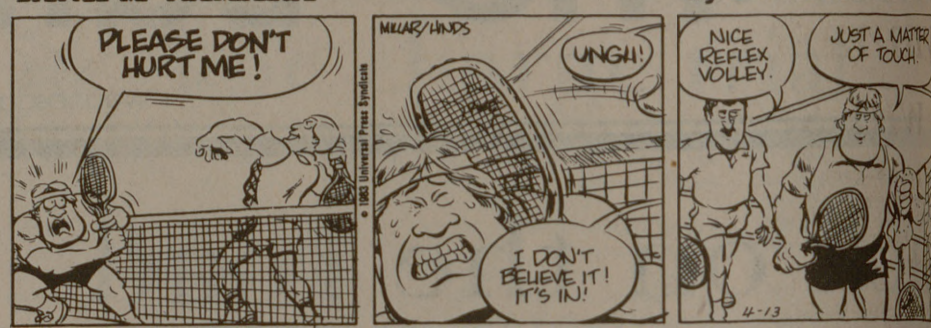
Leading 116-113 with four seconds left, the Spurs fouled Nixon, who made his first free shot, cutting the lead to 116-114. But Nixon pumped on the second free shot, sending both teams into the lane in anticipation of a rebound.

The referees called a double lane foul and a jump ball. The Lakers won the jump, scored and tied the game 116-116. By the end of double overtime, the Lakers took the game 137-132.

"He (Nixon) never released the ball," said Spurs' spokesman Wayne Witt. "That's the key (to our protest). The referee should have blown the whistle, lined everybody up and had him shoot (the second free throw)."

NBA league officials agreed, so tonight, with three seconds on the clock, Nixon will come to the foul line with the score 116-114 to shoot that second free throw.

## TANK McNAMARA



# Hawks closer to playoff with victory over Sixers

United Press International — Making the playoffs can be a very trying experience.

"We're playing for big stakes now and this game went down to the final seconds," said Atlanta Coach Kevin Loughery after the Hawks downed Philadelphia, 102-97, Tuesday night to move a step closer to the playoffs. "It was a draining, emotional win, but we've (still) got to get ready for Kansas City tomorrow."

Dominique Wilkins scored 26 points and Mike Glenn sank two free throws in the final seconds to lift Atlanta in the game in which 10 technical fouls were called and Philadelphia Coach Billy Cunningham was ejected.

Atlanta is now in the fifth playoff spot in the NBA's Eastern Conference. The Hawks, 42-38, are a half-game ahead of New York, which has three games remaining, and a full game ahead of Washington, with four games left.

"I would say it was the most important (game of the season)," Wilkins said. "It was one that determined whether we would be able to make the playoffs."

Billy Cunningham was angered when it was implied star center Moses Malone, who was sidelined with tendonitis of the right knee, did not play because of Cunningham's friendship with Loughery.

"That is questioning my integrity and the 76ers," Cunningham said.

Wilkins, who scored 19 points in the first half, put Atlanta ahead to stay, at 96-95, with a layup.

Rudy Macklin hit a layup with nine seconds left to lift Atlanta up 100-97 before Glenn sank two free throws to seal the triumph. Glenn finished with 19 points while Davis tossed in 20.

Toney led Philadelphia with 26 points while Julius Erving chipped in 18.

In other games, the Hawks downed New Jersey, 102-97, Tuesday night to spark Atlanta's victory. Phoenix defeated Golden State, 115-101, and Seattle bounced Portland, 101-91.

At East Rutherford, N.J., Kevin McHale scored 22 points and had 14 rebounds to lead Boston to a 101-97 victory over the Nets.

At Chicago, Mike Miller had 34 points and Larry Bird added 27 to lead Kansas City to its fourth consecutive victory.

At Houston, Magic Johnson hit three baskets in the final minutes and fed Karl Malone for a layup with six seconds left to spark the Hawks' Tuesday night victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

At Salt Lake City, Griffith scored 30 points and Ricky Green added 28 to lead Utah to its 29th victory.

At Oakland, Calif., Nance and Maurice Lucas scored 22 points each to lead Phoenix. Golden State's Carroll had a game-high 22 points.

At Seattle, Jack Sikma scored 34 points and reserve Hawes had 16 to lead the Sonics to their eighth victory.

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