

Spurs notch two victories over LA as Banks scores career-high of 44

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio forward Gene Banks says the key to playing the Lakers is to get off to a good start. Banks started out with 22 points in the first half Wednesday night and ended the game with a total of 44, a career high, to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 114-109 victory over Los Angeles.

Earlier Wednesday night, San Antonio made use of three seconds to gain another win for its record and hand the Lakers a 117-114 defeat in a replay of a Nov. 30 game. "The key against L.A. is to get out to a good start. L.A. will always keep coming back at you so you have to be ready to make the big plays," said Banks who connected on 19 of his 22 shots from the floor to break his previous career high of 32 points. The second-year forward from Duke scored 22 points in

each half, including 14 in the fourth quarter. "Banks played like a man possessed," San Antonio coach Stan Albeck said. "It's great to have someone come in and do the job when everyone seems to be concentrating on the three big men." The victory gave the Midwest Division champion Spurs a 51-29 record and a 4-1 advantage over the Pacific Division champion Lakers in the season series.

Worthy was also out with a broken leg. "In the second game," he said, "I think the Spurs had something to prove. Gene Banks played the game of his career and has really improved as a player." Led by Banks and George Gervin, San Antonio built a 15-point, 101-86 lead midway through the fourth quarter. The Lakers scored 11 straight to cut the Spurs' lead to 101-97, but could come no closer.

Gervin, who had only six points over the first three quarters, added 10 in the final period. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar led Los Angeles, now 57-23, with 38 points. Norm Nixon agreed the absence of key players made a difference. "We have a lot of key people missing and it's hard to compensate when you're in that position. I think if we would have had Jamaal tonight we would have been fine. Watch for the Lakers in the playoffs."

Mavericks defeat Utah Jazz, 106-99

United Press International
DALLAS — With the playoffs put off until at least next year for the Dallas Mavericks, coach Dick Motta is spending the last few games of the season looking toward the future. And Elston Turner's future seems awfully bright. Turner, who began the season with an assortment of injuries, has been only an occasional contributor this season — averaging a modest 14 minutes a game and just 3.5 points per contest.

But on Wednesday night Turner demonstrated the attributes the Mavericks expect of him. Turner played 24 minutes against the Utah Jazz, and in the fourth quarter scored nine points and put at least a partial stop to the streak shooting of Darrell Griffith.

In addition, the second-year guard pulled down six rebounds and came up with five steals in helping the Mavericks to a 106-99 win over Utah. It was only the second time in six tries Dallas had managed to whip Utah this season. "All you can do against Darrell is to overplay him and deny him the ball," said Turner. "That's what I tried to do. A lot of times they didn't set

real good picks and helped me get to him. It was awfully tough to stop Griffith, in fact, was impossible to stop in the quarter when he scored his 28 points and led Utah back from 14 points behind to only a four-point deficit in the final minutes of the period. But Dallas' Pat Cummings scored the last basket in the third period to put the Mavericks in front by six, then scored the first of four points of the fourth quarter (four by Turner) to lead the Mavericks to a 106-99 win over Utah.

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Los Angeles coach Pat Riley said the Lakers were undermanned Wednesday night, playing without forward Jamaal Wilkes, whose wife gave birth to a child in Los Angeles Tuesday. James

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