

# Bruised Nuggets to test luck against SA tonight

United Press International  
Injuries did little to deter the Philadelphia 76ers from taking the first two games of their Eastern Conference playoff series against the New York Knicks.

Now, the Denver Nuggets, down 2-0 to the San Antonio Spurs in their Western Conference series, hope to emulate the 76ers.

The 76ers, despite injuries to Moses Malone and Andrew Toney, were able to beat the

Knicks twice in Philadelphia and now the Nuggets are facing the prospects of playing without Alex English, the league's leading scorer, and center Dan Issel.

English sat out the second game of the series Wednesday night, and Issel left the game in the fourth period with a knee injury. X-rays at a Denver hospital Thursday showed no structural damage to Issel's knee, but doctors said there was a strained kneecap that made it doubtful

he would play tonight in Game 3 at Denver.

English had treatment on his strained left ankle Thursday, but was listed as questionable for the third game.

"Hopefully we can get at least one of them back for part of the game," a Nuggets' spokesman said. "If it is at all humanly possible, Issel will make it. You get the feeling Dan is indestructible because he misses so few games. But he has missed some."

In other matchups tonight, Los Angeles is at Portland looking to take its third straight from the Trail Blazers and Milwaukee is at Boston hoping to take a 2-0 lead over the Celtics. Saturday, Philadelphia is at New York for Game 3 of their series.

Denver guard T.R. Dunn says his team must forget about the two losses to the Spurs.

"The big thing is not to tell yourself, 'Oh, my God, we're two down,'" Dunn said. "We know it's not a cakewalk, but hopefully,

we can go back home and win a couple."

For San Antonio, point guard Johnny Moore has been a big factor in the playoffs. Moore set a playoff record with 20 assists and added 26 points Wednesday night in leading the Spurs to a 126-109 triumph. He has scored 50 points, collected 37 assists and had only one turnover in the first two games of the best-of-seven series.

In the 76ers-Knicks series, Maurice Cheeks had 26 points and four steals as the 76ers beat New York, 98-91, Wednesday night. The Knicks, who led by as many as 20 points in the third period, scored just 32 points in the second half.

"Maurice seemed to be everywhere," Philadelphia Coach Billy Cunningham said.

Milwaukee's Bob Lanier, who had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Sidney Moncrief, who had 22 points, did the most damage as the Bucks embarrassed the Celtics in Boston Garden, 116-95, Wednesday night.

Lanier hit on 10-of-12 from the floor and got 16 points in the first half, which ended with Milwaukee ahead, 54-48. A 10-2 run early in the third quarter, with Lanier scoring four points, buried Boston for good.

"This was just one of those abnormal days," said Lanier, who hit on 10-of-12 shots from the floor. "Even at 34, you have abnormal days."

The Trail Blazers, who posted a 31-10 mark at home, are hoping a Memorial Coliseum sellout crowd of 12,666 will help slow down the Lakers. Los Angeles center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has been the dominant figure in the series.



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JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Promoters are trying to salvage the Davey Moore-Roberto Duran World Boxing Association junior middleweight title bout scheduled for May 27.

The status of the bout was jeopardized after the cofeature, a matchup between WBA lightweight champion Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and Kenny Bogner, was postponed due to a fractured collar bone suffered by Mancini while sparring.

The injury occurred Wednesday night, forcing at least a 4½-month postponement of his title defense at Sun City, Bophuthatswana.

As an added feature on the program, Frank Sinatra was scheduled to perform a 30-minute concert, then do ring-side commentary for television during both bouts.

Sol Kerzner, chairman of Southern Sun Property, the copromoter with Bob Arum of Top Rank, Inc., said Sinatra would not perform but the card was not canceled.

Kerzner said he was hopeful negotiations could be completed with representatives of Moore and Duran to put on their title fight on May 27 without being shown on a pay-per-view basis.

If those negotiations fall through, Kerzner said he would bring back both title fights in October.

He said there was also a possibility Bogner would be matched against a local fighter and a decision on the fate of the card would be announced within 48 hours.

Mancini said he would fly back to the United States tonight.

The WBA lightweight champion was into the first round of sparring with junior welterweight Teddy Hatfield when the

# Mancini's injury puts delay on Duran bout

accident occurred. Hatfield, Mancini with a right hand on right shoulder and Mancini's pain when he attempted a counter. The champion was and dropped his right hand on his side.

His trainer, Murphy Griffin, immediately called time on Mancini kept complaining pain in his shoulder. He then resume sparring but was in severe pain he could not continue workout was called off.

An hour later, the 22-year-old champion was examined in the office of Dr. Clive Noble, an orthopedic surgeon and examining physician of the South African Boxing Board of Control. Afterward, Noble said Mancini's right arm in a sling as a precautionary measure and gave him medication to relieve muscle-spasm pain.

After examining the boxer early Thursday while Mancini was in his office, Noble told Youngstown, Ohio, boxer's collarbone was broken. Noble said the injury was "the most freakish thing" he had ever seen caused by a punch. He told Mancini that he would have to be completely for at least 18 weeks before he could even think of resuming boxing.

Mancini was close to tears when he called his family in Youngstown to inform them of the injury. Later, at a news conference, he apologized to the people of South Africa, thanking them for their hospitality and promised to make his title defense against Bogner in September later this year.

Boxer Ray Mancini in 'freak' sparring accident



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