

Denver-SA series now 3-1

# Celtics bow out; Spurs lose

**United Press International**  
The Boston Celtics, like most champions in the history of the NBA, kept telling themselves it couldn't happen to them. But it did.

Before a raucous crowd of 11,052 in Milwaukee Monday

night, the Celtics' season came to a crashing end when the Bucks completed a four-game sweep with a 107-93 rout. While the Bucks go on to meet Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference finals beginning Sunday, the stunned Celtics — whose gloried past includes 14 titles — will be doing some soul-searching.

It was the first time Boston had been swept in a series since 1951.

"It's sickening," said Larry Bird. "It's something I won't forget for a long time. It was embarrassing and I won't forget it."

Celtics' guard Danny Ainge, who was booed loudly throughout the game because fans were upset over his alleged rough play in the series, gave more credit to the Bucks.

"I just think the Milwaukee players outplayed us," Ainge said. "Milwaukee got good play from everyone on the team. That's what it takes to win. And we just didn't have it on all five cylinders in any game."

Bird led the Celtics with 18 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Bucks, who were paced by Marques Johnson with 33 points and Sidney Moncrief with 25.

The triumph was particularly

sweet for Milwaukee Coach Don Nelson, who spent most of his playing career with Boston.

"This is my biggest win as a coach," Nelson said. "I'm just so tickled. I usually come in second."

In the Western Conference, Denver staged off elimination with a 124-114 victory over San Antonio.

At Denver, Kiki Vandeweghe scored 37 points and reserve Mike Evans got the Nuggets off to a quick start with 17 in the first half as Denver moved within 3-1 of the Spurs. Game 5 will be played Wednesday night in San Antonio.

Evans finished with a career-high 23 points and the Nuggets survived rare off-night performances by Dan Issel and Alex English, who, playing with minor injuries, totaled 35 points. Johnny Moore, who has led the Spurs throughout the series, scored 22 of his 26 points in the second half and Gene Banks added 24.

The Nuggets opened up a 26-14 lead after seven minutes as Evans hit his first three baskets after replacing Rob Williams. Denver led 40-29 after one quarter and increased its lead steadily, going up 72-50 at the half.

"I guess we're still buried alive," Denver coach Doug Moe said. "But we're coming back to life. We've actually had three pretty good performances in a row, and our players are getting healthier."

And Spurs coach Stan Albeck said: "How many points did Vandeweghe get? Seemed like he had a thousand. The hole we dug for ourselves in the first half was almost insurmountable. It surprised me that we came out so flat."

The winner of the series will meet the survivor of the Los Angeles-Portland semifinal, which resumes tonight with Game 5 in Inglewood, Calif., with the Lakers leading, 3-1.

With their victory Sunday in Game 4, the Trail Blazers showed they were not about to lie down and surrender to the powerful Lakers, but they also angered Los Angeles' Coach Pat Riley. Riley suggested Portland was intentionally roughing up Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — who nonetheless has scored more than 30 points in each game.

"I'm really annoyed at what's developing with Kareem," Riley said. "They're teeing off on him with four or five guys, and they're wasting fouls on him. It's gotten progressively worse."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



## Elway opts for football career with the Broncos

**United Press International**  
DENVER — John Elway of Stanford, potential game-breaker and "franchise maker" — the most sought-after athlete in the 1983 collegiate crop — now belongs to the Denver Broncos.

It all happened very quickly once the behind-the-scenes negotiations were completed. At approximately 3:30 p.m. Monday the 6-3, 210-pound quarterback left California for Seattle, where he was joined on an airliner by Denver Bronco owner Edgar Kaiser.

Later in the evening Denver reporters were notified a "major" news conference would take place at the unusual time of 10:30 p.m., and soon after Elway was presented as the newest member of the Denver Broncos.

About 30 minutes earlier, he had signed a series of five one-year contracts; money amounts were not made public.

"This hasn't been a one-day negotiation," Kaiser said. "It

started over a week ago, before and during the draft. We're glad we were able to make it."

Elway had been drafted by the Baltimore Colts, but prior to the draft he had not been shy about telling the world of his determination not to play on the East Coast.

If drafted by Baltimore, which had the No. 1 pick, he vowed to play baseball with the New York Yankees, for whom he had already played in their farm system.

In exchange for Elway, Denver traded to Baltimore the player the Broncos had selected as their No. 1 draft choice just a few days ago: offensive lineman Chris Hinton of Northwestern. Also in the deal were second-year backup quarterback Mark Herrmann, and Denver's No. 1 draft choice in 1984.

"So far not one thing that I expected to happen, happened," Elway said. "But I'll go out and give 100 percent."

"The Baltimore thing is a

dead issue and in the past Elway had said, unless drafted by a West Coast team, he would go to the east. In the news conference Monday, he said Denver been on his "list" of contenders.

Elway said a meeting had been set up for next week by a West Coast team. He said he would go to the east. In the news conference Monday, he said Denver been on his "list" of contenders.

Overall he had 9,349 passing and 77 touchdowns also set an all-time record for lowest percentage of passes intercepted in a career: 3.1 percent.

## Gretzky, Edmonton look for series sweep tonight

**United Press International**  
It's hard for a coach to admit his team played its best and still lost.

"If we played anybody else but Edmonton, we would have won," Chicago Coach Orval Tessier said Sunday night after Edmonton downed the Black Hawks, 3-2, to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven Campbell Conference finals.

Edmonton Coach Glen Sather was polite.

"Chicago won't change its style and neither will we. Tuesday's game will be tougher," he said.

It's hard to imagine any team being a tough one for the Oilers, who have used their speed, passing and goal-tending to move to within one victory of a berth in the Stanley Cup finals.

Sunday night in Chicago, they added outstanding work in the nets by goalie Andy Moog, who stopped 39 shots.

When the Hawks fell from a 2-0 deficit after periods to reach a 2-2 tie in the third period, he continued to do what the best — skate.

One Oiler, 21-year-old Wayne Gretzky, made assists on Sunday that got 31 points in 11 playoff games. Gretzky believes the Oilers not have a letdown before their three-game cushion.

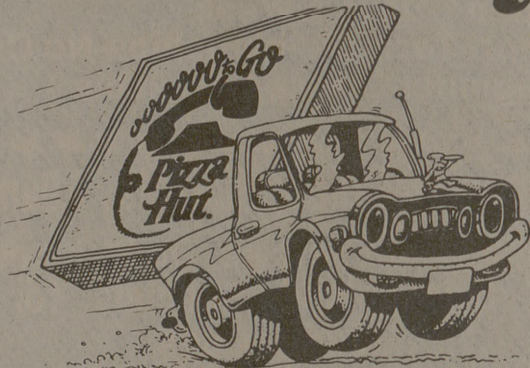
In the Wales Conference, the Bruins have enviously with goaltender Pete Peeters veterans Brad Park and Middleton as well as a young forward in Barry Pederson. But Coach Gerry Cheevers suspects some hard play bit of emotion might set NHL playoff series back to ton tied at two games each.

The Bruins trail, 2-1, Stanley Cup semifinal with Game 4 set for tomorrow at Nassau Coliseum on Long Island.

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