

# NBA playoffs

## Motta's Mavericks have finally made it

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Dick Motta had a message for his team as it took the bus ride to the Seattle Kingdome Tuesday night for what would have been the Dallas Mavericks' last game of the season.  
"Practice tomorrow is 4 p.m.," the Mavericks' coach said.  
He apparently knew something because the team did indeed practice at 4 p.m. Wednesday, and tonight the Mavericks will meet the Seattle SuperSonics in the deciding game of their first-round playoff series.  
Each team has won one game in the opposition's home court in this series that has had almost as many stops as it has games.

Seattle and Dallas will play in Moody Coliseum tonight, the home floor of the SMU Mustangs. Dallas' regular home base — Reunion Arena — is booked this week by the World Championship of Tennis finals.  
The Sonics were forced to use two different arenas to host the two games played in the Seattle — the second of which was won by the Mavericks Tuesday night, 107-96.  
That victory not only kept the Mavericks alive in the series but dramatically lifted Motta's spirits.  
"We shot well, we executed well, we hustled and we played adequate defense," said Motta, who had given his team a vocal thrashing after it had lost the

third game of the series Saturday afternoon.  
"For a young team like ours to come through like that in that situation, well, it makes me proud. No matter what happens from here on we have had a nice season."  
The winner of tonight's game will move into a best-of-seven meeting with the Los Angeles Lakers, who disposed of the Kansas City Kings in three straight contests.  
The Sonics, who let a large lead get away in the series' first game and who almost did the same in Game 2, sounded about as disgruntled as the Mavericks did after their dismal second-half showing in the third game. Dallas owned as much as a

19-point advantage Tuesday night.  
"We were terrible," said veteran guard Fred Brown. "It was a disgusting way to play."  
"When you get a team down you are supposed to bury them, not open the door and say come on."  
The chief keys to the final game of the series will be just as they have been all along — how well Seattle defends Mark Aguirre and Rolando Blackman

and how well Dallas defends Gus Williams and Jack Sikma.  
But the faceoff between Dallas' Jay Vincent and Seattle's Tom Chambers could ultimately decide the issue.  
Chambers, for instance, scored 30 points in the second game, but did not score a single point until the fourth quarter Tuesday night.  
Vincent, meanwhile, produced 21 points and hauled in 11 rebounds in 37 minutes.

## Going the distance for championships

**United Press International**  
Mother never said it would be easy. Five series in the opening round of the National Basketball Association playoffs were forced into a final game tonight.  
Boston and Los Angeles recovered some additional rest by becoming the first teams to get past the conference quarterfinals but tied at 2-2 are New Jersey-Philadelphia, Seattle-Dallas, Milwaukee-Atlanta, Denver-Utah, and Phoenix-Portland.  
The defending champion Philadelphia 76ers recovered nicely from losses in the first two games with sweeping effect in the series and put the deciding game on their home court.  
"We didn't come back from 24 to go back to Philadelphia and cough it up," says Sixers inspiration Julius Erving. "They

had success in Philadelphia, but they're not going to win in Philadelphia."  
A fourth quarter surge saved Atlanta from elimination.  
"We're just excited we've got another chance to go back to Milwaukee," said Hawks coach Mike Fratello.  
Utah coach Frank Layden called the Jazz victory over Denver "the biggest game in our franchise history."  
"To go out and win like this gives us a lot of credibility," Layden said.  
Calvin Natt led Portland to victory over Phoenix.  
"There was no tomorrow and it was now or never," said Natt. "You have to have confidence in this game."  
Suns coach John MacLeod said Portland's domination of the offensive boards was a big factor.

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