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Dallas tries to escape L.A. sweet

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Mark Aguirre, the Dallas Mavericks' scoring machine, is having a hard time grasping the big picture.

As he returned to Dallas with his teammates Wednesday after being routed by the high-flying Los Angeles Lakers in the first two games of the NBA Western Conference semifinals, Aguirre clung to his belief that the Lakers can't be that good.

"It's a problem of making an adjustment," Aguirre replied when asked what the Mavericks could possibly do to slow the Lakers onslaught.

In the first game, the Lakers won by a whopping 43 points.

In Tuesday night's second game, they led by 22 before Dallas cut it to 117-101 during trash time.

An "adjustment?"

Sorry, Mark. We're talking miracles here.

Dallas coach Dick Motta, who has been around a bit more than Aguirre, was more realistic about the Mavericks' chances as they prepare for the third game of the series Friday night in Reunion Arena.

"We don't have any illusions of who we are," said Motta. "We're a step further than we belong. Let's face it, we're in over our heads here. The Lakers subs could beat us, talent-wise."

"But we'll show up Friday. We'll be there. I've been kicked before, but there's a way to get kicked with dignity. That's what we want to do."

In the first game, the Lakers blitzed Dallas from start to finish, piling up an enormous 68-38 halftime lead en route to a 134-91 trashing of the Mavericks. Tuesday night, the Mavericks played the Lakers on relatively even terms until the start of the second half, when Los Angeles delivered a lightning-fast knockout punch.

The key to the first L.A. win was the Lakers' aggressive, switching defense. Riley assigned center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to cover forward Jay

Vincent, put 6-foot-6 Magic Johnson on 6-foot-7 Pat Cummings and forward Kurt Rambis on high-scoring forward Mark Aguirre. Dallas faced a team that

Earvin Johnson, who scored 27 points, ignited a six-minute scoring blitz in the first half, turning the game into a blowout.

"I just play hard, as hard as I can," Johnson explained. "It was a close game and we made something happen."

With that kind of something happening, the Mavericks very well become nothing more than a footnote in the season.

NL stars honored for April exploits

United Press International

NEW YORK — San Diego Padres outfielder Tony Gwynn and Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Rick Honeycutt were named the outstanding players in the National League for the month of April Wednesday.

Gwynn, hitting .434 so far this season, has helped the Padres duel the Dodgers for the lead in the National League West.

Gwynn had 36 hits in 83 at-bats, drove in nine runs and stole seven bases, getting the "new look" Padres off to their best April start ever.

Other nominees for the outstanding player award included Montreal Expos third baseman Tim Lincecum (.325, five homers, 20 RBIs), Dodger first baseman Mike Marshall (seven homers, 21 RBIs) and Atlanta Braves outfielder Claudell

Washington, who ranked 27th in the league with seven home runs during April.

Honeycutt posted a 1.38 ERA in two shutouts in the month of April for the Dodgers.

In his first five starts, Honeycutt pitched three complete games and three shutouts of 1-0 against the Dodgers on April 17 and 18 and 19.

In his 39 innings pitched, Honeycutt yielded only 10 hits and 10 runs, including three home runs and 10 walks.

Other contenders for the award included San Diego Padres pitcher Tim Lincecum, who went 4-1 with a 1.38 ERA, and Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Seaver, who went 3-1 with a 1.38 ERA.

Tubbs shuns Spurs

United Press International

NORMAN, Okla. — University of Oklahoma basketball coach Billy Tubbs has asked the San Antonio Spurs to withdraw his name from consideration for that team's head coaching position.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Tubbs said although he had met with San Antonio Spurs officials about the opening, serious negotiations never took place.

"I want to put to rest all the rumors about the San Antonio Spurs," Tubbs said. "I am honored that the Spurs contacted me, but I am very happy at the University of Oklahoma."

"I believe that I have a commitment to keep to the ad-

ministration and the fans. I like the direction the program is heading and I intend to see to it that the success continues in the future," he said.

Tubbs led Oklahoma to a Big Eight Conference championship this year and a No. 8 ranking in the college poll. The Sooners won the school and conference titles by winning 29 games.

Tubbs was named Big Eight Coach of the Year.

In his four years at Oklahoma, Tubbs has won an 84-43 record and directed Oklahoma to three consecutive seasons with more wins and numerous season appearances.

Gamblers sued for fees

United Press International

HOUSTON — An advertising agency which helped promote the Houston Gamblers franchise with the United States Football League has sued the team and its owners for alleged breach of contract for failing to pay advertising fees, an attorney said Tuesday.

Taylor Brown & Barnhill Inc., of Houston, filed the lawsuit against the Gamblers in state district court Monday.

seeking \$62,488, said attorney Rand Dennis.

Dennis said the agency is seeking to recover the money it spent on the fee of television commercials and other ads which built the theme "Because we waited long enough."

Don Brown, president of Taylor Brown & Barnhill, said the agency has been attempting to collect the money since February.

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