

Must stop fastbreak

Celts face slowdown

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Three games into the NBA championship series with the Los Angeles Lakers, the Boston Celtics have shifted thoughts from showdown to slowdown.

"They just speed by you like cabs, and you're standing there, with no one stopping," Boston forward Cedric Maxwell said of the Lakers, who lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 after a romp last Sunday in Game 3.

The fourth game is Wednesday night at the Forum. The series then switches back to Boston Garden. "They run on every situation you give them," said Boston's Larry Bird, whose 30 points weren't much of a factor in Game 3. "They beat us at their own game. What can you do when they're scoring 3 1/2 points every minute?"

Something you can do is hope the Lakers get swelled heads. Los Angeles coach Pat Riley admits it's a possibility.

"I'm concerned about us feeling too good about our game," Riley said. "It goes back to (Dave) Cowens and (Bill) Russell. To play the Bos-

ton Celtics, we have to be ready physically and emotionally. If you get caught half-stepping with them, you're in trouble."

Riley knows his team's fast break is something special.

"It happens all of a sudden," he said. "For example, if James Worthy gets the ball, bang! It happens."

It happened Sunday when the Lakers ran to a championship series game record of 47 points in the third period. Los Angeles went on to give the Celtics the worst beating in NBA finals history, 137-104.

"The key to the fast break is not to make it fancy," said Magic Johnson, whose record 21 assists in Game 3 attests that he's a man in the know. "It's the basic pass, one that just gets it to the man and lets him carry it in."

"I really don't know its impact on Boston, but it gives us a great feeling. It brings everybody up to another level. You want the ball back again so you can continue and keep it going."

Boston center Robert Parish, held to 9 points Sunday, said his team can't keep up with the Laker sprinters.

"The difference is they've got more foot speed and more people who can run the court," Parish said.

Riley said the teams think alike. "The philosophy is the same as Boston's: try to get the ball out and then go," he said. "You want to get as quick and easy a shot as you can, an opportunity shot."

He said the Lakers' break is based upon the players "not confusing the outlet passer with who is coming to the ball. It's structured, which sometimes inhibits the break, for a fast break is usually rebounding and spraying the ball to the first outlet guard."

"We are inhibited some (by always using Johnson to control the break) but it keeps us organized enough to get the ball into Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) and the other scorers," said Riley.

Worthy said running can help the Lakers psychologically.

"The fast break is the most exciting part of a game, and if your transition game is good, it helps a team's morale," Worthy said.

TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Aggies revive old rivalry

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Writer

Texas A&M University and Louisiana State University announced Tuesday an agreement to play a seven-game series between 1986 and 1997.

The first game will be on Sept. 6, 1986, in Baton Rouge, La. The second meeting will be in Kyle Field on Sept. 5, 1987. The remaining five games scheduled will be played at undetermined sites.

Officials with LSU and Texas A&M are negotiating with representatives of the Superdome in New Or-

leans, the Astrodome in Houston, the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.

Texas A&M Associate Athletic Director John David Crow said the five games played after 1987 should be played at neutral stadiums large enough to accommodate the tremendous followings of the universities.

"We're trying to negotiate for a neutral benefiting the fans of both schools," Crow said. "It's possible that all the games could be played at one spot. But we'll definitely have the fans in mind when the final decision is made."

Texas A&M Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill

said he's excited about renewing the old rivalry with the LSU. The Ags and the Tigers met every season from 1960 to 1975.

"It should never have been stopped," Sherrill said. "There were a lot of crushed hearts when it was. It will bring back a lot of people and exciting times for both schools."

"Both schools are so similar with great tradition, proud alumni, outstanding students, and goals of excellence that it didn't take much talking for us to decide on playing dates."

Texas A&M has a 14-22-3 overall record against LSU, dating back to the first meeting in 1899.

OSU coach gets position at Miami

United Press International

MIAMI — Jimmy Johnson, who turned Oklahoma State into a winner in just five years, accepted a million-dollar deal Tuesday to coach the national champion University of Miami Hurricanes.

Johnson, 40, resigned from Oklahoma State to accept the reported 5-year, \$200,000-a-year contract to replace Howard Schnellenberger, who jumped ship last month to join the ranks of the United States Football League.

Johnson compiled 30-25-2 record in five seasons at Oklahoma State, his first head coaching job, and guided the Cowboys to two post-season bowl games. Oklahoma State went 8-4 last season, including a victory over Baylor in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Johnson told a packed news conference he was thrilled with the opportunity to coach the defending national champions.

"I think it's a very exciting time for me and for the university," Johnson said. "It's an honor for me and my wife to be at the University of Miami. I'm happy to be here and excited about getting to work."

"I plead with everyone to be patient and to approach it with a positive attitude. It's going to take time."

Johnson replaces Schnellenberger, one of the most popular athletic figures in Miami.

Schnellenberger, whose resurrection of the Miami football program culminated Jan. 2 when the

Hurricanes shocked previously unbeaten Nebraska in the Orange Bowl to win the NCAA championship, announced last month he was leaving UM to accept a lucrative contract to coach the USFL Washington/Federals.

"It is a happy day for the University of Miami, its athletic program, its athletic department and the football program," said an elated UM President Edward T. Foote.

Athletic Director Sam Jankovich, who was responsible for the coaching search after Schnellenberger quit on May 25, said he talked to many national figures in college football and Johnson's name surfaced more than any other.

"He is not only a great on-the-field coach, but he will fulfill his responsibilities under the NCAA guidelines and fulfill the commitment to his student athletes," Jankovich said.

Johnson was named Big Eight coach of the year in 1979. He led Oklahoma State to the Independence Bowl in 1981.

Before going to Oklahoma State, Johnson was an assistant at Pittsburgh, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Iowa State, Wichita State and Louisiana Tech.

Schnellenberger took over the lowly Hurricane program in 1979 and immediately began his rebuilding job. He compiled a 41-16 record, including an 11-1 mark last year that resulted in Miami's first-ever national football championship.

McEnroe and Connors make French semi's

United Press International

PARIS — Arch-rivals John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, the two top American southpaws, scored straight set victories Tuesday to set up a semifinal clash in the \$1 million French Open Tennis Championships.

McEnroe, the 25-year-old world No. 1, claimed his 41st straight victory this year in defeating fifth-seeded compatriot Jimmy Arias, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, to make the semis for the first time in four attempts, while the 31-year-old Connors ended a run of three quarterfinal defeats here by beating ninth-seeded Swede Henrik Sundstrom, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, 6-4, in 2 hours 11 minutes.

McEnroe and Connors are tied 12-12 since they first met in 1977 and they have not faced each other on clay for five years. But McEnroe admitted: "Every time we play on clay I lose to him. He returns a serve so well that I can't count on my serve to attack him. I shall just stick to my game."

Connors, running out of time in chasing the only major crown to have eluded him, would make no forecast about Friday's confrontation on the slow soft red clay of Roland Garros.

"We have both beaten each other on everything, but we have never played in a major clay court event like this in the past. It is a matter of going out and doing it," he said.

Connors had to be close to his best to win his match, which was halted by rain at 4-4 in the first set after both had gained service breaks.

Neither gave any ground when

the match resumed before Connors reeled off three successive points to take the tie-breaking 13th game with a forehand pass, a double-fisted backhand crosscourt drive and a punched volley.

Sundstrom lost his touch in the second set, which Connors won easily, and the American broke in the opening game of the third, only to lose his own service three games later.

Connors responded to the challenge by breaking the Swede again to lead 3-2, and he held on for the victory.

Sweden's fourth-seeded Mats Wilander, champion in 1982 and runner-up last year, swept aside Spaniard Juan Aguilera, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3, in earlier fourth round action to earn a revenge quarterfinal date with titleholder Yannick Noah. The Frenchman edged Hungarian Balasz Taroczy, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-3).

The other quarterfinal in the bottom half of the draw features second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia against Andres Gomez, the No. 7 seed from Ecuador.

Women's action Tuesday saw favorite Martina Navratilova avenge her only defeat of last year by dispatching fellow American Kathy Horvath, 6-4, 6-2, to earn a semifinal spot in her pursuit of a grand slam \$1 million bonus.

The Prague-born left-hander faces her former ballgirl, 1981 champion Hana Mandlikova and defending champion Chris Everet Lloyd, who is chasing her sixth French crown, will play 16-year old Carling Bassett.

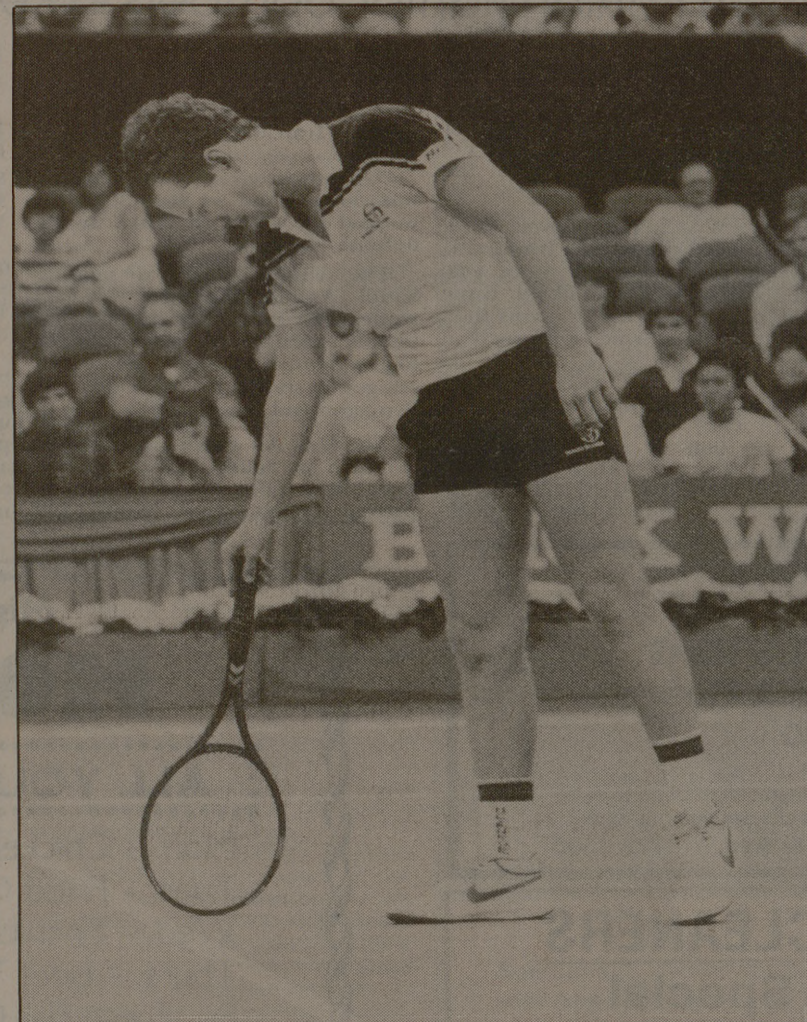


Photo by DAVE SCOTT

John McEnroe disputes a call during the WCT tournament held in Dallas in April. McEnroe won the tournament by defeating Jimmy Connors in the finals, but the two players square off again in the semi-finals of the French Open.

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