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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Olajuwon has hot hand as Rockets cool Blazers

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's Akeem Olajuwon scored 27 of his game-high 41 points in the first half and guard John Lucas had a torrid fourth quarter as the Rockets defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 127-113 in a National Basketball Association game Tuesday night.

Olajuwon provided most of the scoring punch in the first half for the slow starting Rockets and Lucas hit 15 of his 22 points in the second half.

They led six Rockets who scored in double figures.

After struggling to a one-point 57-56 halftime lead, the 4-2 Rockets took advantage of Portland's slow start in the third quarter and jumped to an 86-73 advantage with three minutes to go in the period.

Portland, also 4-2, hit only three of its first 11 shots in the third quarter as the Blazers were outscored 18-7.

Nevertheless, Kiki Vandeweghe kept Portland within reach by scoring 14 points, and the score going into the final frame was 91-82. Vandeweghe finished with 28 to lead Blazer scorers. Sam Bowie added 15.

The Trail Blazers came out running in the first quarter and built a quick 18-8 lead, but the Rockets fought back to trail by only 31-30 at the end of the period on 15 points by Olajuwon.

Neither team led by more than four points in the see-saw second quarter as Olajuwon scored 12 more

points, including a free throw with 29 seconds remaining.

Bucks 126, Spurs 97

MILWAUKEE — Ricky Pierce scored 26 points and Craig Hodges added 16 as the Milwaukee Bucks rolled over the San Antonio Spurs 126-97 Tuesday night for their third straight National Basketball Association victory.

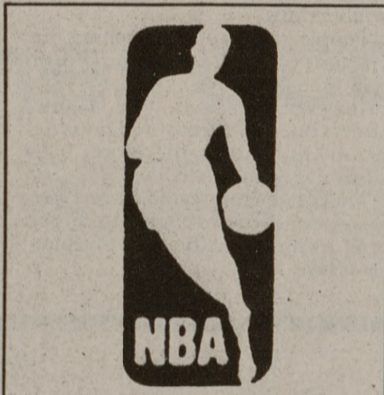
Milwaukee took control of the game at the beginning of the second quarter as they outscored the Spurs 18-7 to grab a 56-41 lead with 4:27 remaining as Pierce made one of two free throws.

The Bucks upped their lead to 68-49 at halftime when Jeff Lamp hit a jumper with 32 seconds remaining in the half.

At the start of the second half, the Bucks pushed the lead to 75-54 when Sidney Moncrief hit a jumper with 9:41 remaining in the third quarter. But the Spurs staged a little comeback, outscoring the Bucks 13-2 to cut the lead to nine with 5:09 remaining in the third as David Greenwood hit a jumper and was fouled by Kenny Fields.

Greenwood hit the free throw to make the score 77-68. But the Bucks proceeded to break the game open, building the lead back to 20 at 97-77 at the end of the third quarter as Hodges hit a three-point hook shot from half court at the buzzer.

The Bucks pushed the lead to 28 at 112-84 as Fields drove the lane with 5:31 remaining in the game to coast the rest of the way.



Other Tuesday NBA Scores:

(home team in capitals)

NEW JERSEY 112
Washington 106

DENVER 128
Atlanta 113

UTAH 118
Golden State 99

Cleveland 129
L.A. LAKERS 111

SEATTLE 84
New York 80

The Spurs were led by Mike Mitchell with 17 points. Artis Gilmore added 14.

Randy Breuer and Kenny Fields each had 15 points for the Bucks, who had six players in double figures.

Milwaukee improved its record to 5-2, while the Spurs dropped to 2-4.

Pokes fall into jam in NFC East

Landry not happy with loss to Cards

Associated Press

IRVING — Dallas Coach Tom Landry described himself as "badly disappointed" in his Cowboys after Monday night's 21-10 thumping in St. Louis, saying his team had blown "a great opportunity."

"I don't feel good about this one," Landry said Tuesday. "You can take a lot of defeats, but there are some I don't take too well."

Landry said the Cowboys could have been sitting pretty in the NFC Eastern Division with a victory.

"We came up against a team that hadn't been playing very well and let them get going," he said.

Dallas dropped to a 6-3 record, tied with the New York Giants atop the NFC East. The Cowboys travel to Washington Sunday for a rematch with the Redskins, who lost to Dallas 44-14 in the season opener.

"We still have as good a chance as anybody although we have a tough schedule," Landry said. "Washington has its confidence back. It's a mental game now in the league, much more mental than physical. I'm sure Washington hasn't forgotten what we did to them in the Monday night game."

Landry said the 1985 season was fast becoming a mystery to him.

"It's the most unusual season I've seen," said Landry, who is in his 26th year as the Cowboys' coach. "I don't understand the league this year."

Landry said he was also disappointed that the Cowboys got off to such a lousy start in the second half of the season.

"We wanted to start on a positive note," he said. "We really evened the division up. We made the other NFC teams happy."

Landry refused to blame Dallas quarterback Danny White for the St. Louis debacle.

"Danny was as off on his passes as much as I've seen him," he said. "But he was just part of the whole thing — the way the entire team played."

Landry said he didn't anticipate any lineup changes against Washington. Fullback Timmy Newsome and backup flanker Karl Powe aren't expected to play because of injuries, he said.

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