

Blues shake Leafs 7-4 to even series

TORONTO (AP) — Doug Gilmour, who had a key short-handed goal, and Rick Meagher scored two goals each to lead the St. Louis Blues to a 7-4 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs Thursday night and tie their NHL playoff series at two games apiece.

Game 5 in the best-of-seven Norris Division **NHL Playoffs** final will be played Saturday night in St. Louis.

Toronto goaltender Ken Wregget was pulled in favor of an extra attacker with 53 seconds remaining, and Meagher scored into the empty net with 24 seconds left. Greg Millen was the winning goaltender.

Oilers 7, Flames 4

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Wayne Gretzky scored three goals, two while Edmonton was shorthanded, as the Oilers beat the Calgary Flames 7-4 Thursday night and tied their NHL playoff series at two games apiece.

Game 5 of their best-of-seven Smythe Division final will be played Saturday night in Edmonton.

The Flames, trying to take an unexpected 3-1 lead in the series, were unable to achieve the consistently aggressive pace that triggered them to two earlier wins against the two-time Stanley Cup champions.

Dineen a Whaler hero

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — When the Hartford Whalers needed a hero in the NHL playoffs, Kevin Dineen was the one who stepped forward.

Dineen's goal in overtime lifted the Whalers to a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday night at a time when a loss would have left his team with the near impossible task of coming back from a 3-1 series deficit.

"Somebody's got to win two out of the next three games," Dineen said. "The good thing is we've played well in clutch situations all year and hopefully we can keep it up."

Bullets clip 76ers 116-111 to force deciding game

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — A smart play by reserve guard Dudley Bradley set up the go-ahead basket by Jeff Malone with 43 seconds remaining to give the Washington Bullets a 116-111 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers Thursday night, tying their NBA **NBA Playoffs** playoff series at 2-2.

The deciding game of the best-of-five series will be played at Philadelphia Sunday night.

The 76ers, who rallied to win the previous two games, overcame a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter and took a 111-109 lead with 1:31 remaining.

But after a blocked shot by Cliff Robinson, Jeff Ruland scored to make it 111-111. Ruland was fouled on the play, but missed his ensuing foul shot.

Bradley grabbed the rebound and

threw the ball off the shins of Philadelphia's Charles Barkley. Washington retained possession out of bounds and Malone scored the tiebreaking basket.

After Bradley scored on one of two free throws to make it 114-111, Barkley missed a three-point try. Robinson rebounded and was fouled.

Robinson missed both free throws with eight seconds remaining, but he wrested the ball from Julius Erving and sank an insurance basket.

Both Robinson with 31 points and Malone with 32, posted playoff career-high totals for the Bullets.

Guard Maurice Cheeks led Philadelphia with 30 points, Erving added 25 and Barkley 22.

Both Detroit and Utah will have the home court advantage when their first-round, best-of-five series

NBA playoff series resume Friday night.

Nuggets 116, Trail Blazers 112
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Alex English hit the decisive basket with 1:10 remaining and Lafayette Lever scored 30 points as the Denver Nuggets defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 116-112 Thursday night to take the best-of-five NBA playoff series in four games.

The Nuggets won two in a row in Portland and open their Western Conference semifinal series on Saturday in Houston.

Portland tied the score at 110-110 on Jim Paxson's three-pointer with 1:23 to go, but English put the Nuggets on top for good at 112-110 with a rebound basket with 1:10 left.

Clyde Drexler was called for an offensive foul on Portland's next possession. Two free throws apiece by English and Mike Evans sealed the Nuggets' victory.

National

(continued from page 8)

went to Bryn Smith, 1-2.

Phillies 4, Pirates 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Schmidt drove in all of Philadelphia's runs with two home runs and a sacrifice fly and the Phillies edged the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2 Thursday night behind Shane Rawley's five-hitter.

Loser Rick Rhoden, 2-1, pitched a complete game, allowing six hits.

Rawley improved his record to 2-1 as he struck out five and walked four.

The loss was the third straight for Pittsburgh.

The Pirates' Johnny Ray singled in the fifth to extend his National League season-best hitting streak to 11. Ray has hit safely in every game the Pirates have played, including a suspended game last Sunday in Chicago.

Mets 5, Cardinals 4 (10)

ST. LOUIS (AP) — George Foster singled home Wally Backman from second base with two outs in the 10th inning Thursday night, and the New York Mets extended their winning streak to six games with a 5-4 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

The defeat marked the first time the Cardinals had lost a regular-season game in which they led going into the ninth inning since the final contest of 1984, a span of 90 such games.

The Mets trailed 4-2 entering the ninth, but tied it on Howard Johnson's two-run homer with one out off Todd Worrell, 0-1.

Wally Backman led off the New York 10th with a walk and then stole second. Worrell retired Keith Hernandez and Gary Carter, and intentionally walked Darryl Strawberry. Foster then lined his game-winning single to left.

Roger McDowell, the fifth New York pitcher, worked the final two innings and raised his record to 2-0.

Dodgers 6, Braves 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Marshall and Greg Brock hit solo homers and Mariano Duncan ended a 2-for-21 drought with a two-run double Thursday night to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Brock's second homer of the season, a towering drive to center field with one out, ignited a three-run fourth inning that snapped a 1-1 tie. Rick Mahler, 1-4, then hit Mike Scioscia with an 0-2 pitch with two outs.

Franklin Stubbs followed with a single and Duncan stroked an opposite-field double to left to score Scioscia and Stubbs.

Orel Hershiser, 2-2, pitched five innings for the victory.

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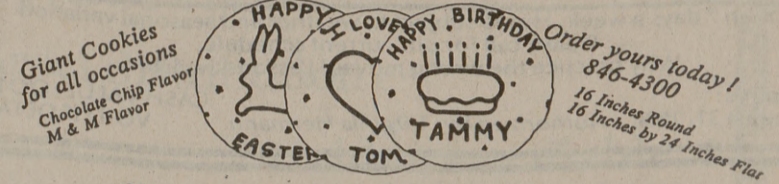
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