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TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



Rockets defeat Cavs behind Sampson's 33

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Ralph Sampson scored a season-high 33 points, nine of them during a 19-point Houston run in the third quarter, as the Rockets defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 127-103 Monday.

Houston, which won for the sixth time in seven games, trailed 68-64 after Cleveland rookie Ron Harper made a 20-foot jump shot with 11 minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Rockets then scored 19 straight points, including six on Sampson dunks, for an 83-68 advantage. Cleveland got no closer than 13 the rest of the way.

The 7-foot-4 Sampson also grabbed 16 rebounds for Houston. The Cavaliers have lost seven straight to the Rockets and have lost nine of their last 11 games overall.

Cleveland led by as many as seven in the first half and held a 62-60 lead at halftime before going scoreless for a 6½-minute span early in the third period.

John "Hot Rod" Williams scored

23 points and Keith Lee had a season-high 20 for the Cavaliers.

Akeem Olajuwon scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Rockets comfortably ahead.

"In every game on the road, we've been trying to come out with our best in the third quarter," said Houston Coach Bill Fitch, whose team has won five of its last seven road games. "We played very good tonight. In the second half, we bordered on being great."

Sampson, who scored 16 of his points in the first quarter, attributed the Rockets' strong third quarter to their defense.

"Anybody can run effectively if you rebound and get the ball out," Sampson said. "We played some good defense and got the running game unleashed."

Harper said the Cavaliers became discouraged during the Houston surge.

"We were playing good defense, but they started hitting their shots, and we lost heart," he said.

TCU guard Lott breaks hand, to miss 6 weeks

FORT WORTH (AP) — Texas Christian has lost its co-leading scorer, senior guard Carl Lott, for at least six weeks because of a broken shooting hand, school officials say.

Lott suffered the injury in a Saturday practice, but at first it was believed he had only bruised his right hand. The extent of the damage was revealed by X-rays on Monday.

An orthopedic surgeon determined that Lott should not play for six to eight weeks, said Charlie Dierker, TCU's associate sports information director.

It is not known whether Lott will

be lost to the Horned Frogs for the rest of the season, Dierker said.

Post-season play in the Southwest Conference begins March 6.

"This is really a blow," TCU Coach Jim Killingsworth said. "But we've got two good young players who have just been waiting for playing time and we'll do the best we can without him."

Jamie Dixon, the Frogs' sixth man, will move into the starting lineup to replace Lott. Sophomore guards Rod Jacques and Randy Parker move into prominent backup roles.

Scalpers descend upon Dallas to profit from winning Mavericks

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks are such a hot item that an unprecedented number of ticket scalpers are descending on Reunion Arena, cluding law officers and generating a flood of complaints from irritated fans.

Up to 200 scalpers are showing up at each game, seeking illegally-inflated prices for tickets and harassing fans from the time they leave their cars until they reach the arena, team officials said.

Although a record 100 people were arrested last month on scalping charges, police said they lack the manpower to curb a problem that is now far worse than at any time since the Mavericks began play in October 1980.

"I think it's just not representative of what Dallas is all about, a clean, well-run city, to be hounded — literally hounded — by people when you're winding your way to the game from the parking lots," Mavericks General Manager Norm Sonju said.

The scalpers are capitalizing on the success of a National Basketball Association team which has led its division for most of the season and created a record demand for tickets, Sonju said.

Concerts still draw scalpers, but the most regular action is now aimed at Mavericks home game, officials said. With only 17,007 seats available for each home game and 14,000 of those sold to season ticket-holders, supply can't meet demand when a big-name opponent comes to town, Sonju said.

That's where scalpers step in. Price quotes for the Mavericks-Los Angeles Lakers game on Jan. 24 are now ranging from \$30 to \$150 at ticket brokers, the Dallas Times Herald reported. The face value of the tickets ranges from \$5 to \$16.

Sonju said he will approach City Council about an ordinance to ban sales of tickets by individuals at Reunion Arena. The current ordinance prohibits the sale of tickets for more than face value on public property and carries a \$210 fine.

Police have received several reports from fans who said they were trying to buy tickets from scalpers when the salesman grabbed their money and ran off, said Dallas police Lt. Cliff Maccas, who oversees security at Reunion.

At least two of those arrested for scalping also were carrying drugs

Harrah retires from majors after 18 years

ARLINGTON (AP) — Fielder Toby Harrah, a three-time American League All-Star, announced his retirement Monday and said he will manage the Texas Rangers rookie league farm club.

Harrah, 38, who played for two years with the Rangers, managed the Gulf Coast League team at Port Charlotte, Fla., since 1985.

"We feel he will make a great contribution in his new working with our young players," Rangers General Manager Grieve said.

Harrah completed his league career with 195 runs, 918 RBI and 264 home runs in 2,060 games.

After playing for the Washington Senators-Texas Rangers from 1969-78, he spent seasons at Cleveland and the New York Yankees before turning to the Rangers in 1985.

Harrah hit .218 with 218 homers and 41 RBI in 95 games for the Rangers in 1986. He came a free agent at the end of the season when Texas did not pick up the option on his contract for 1987.

Harrah is the Rangers' all-time leader in several categories — runs, 122 home runs, 546 317 extra-base hits, 1,666 bases and 668 walks.

He was selected three times to the American League All-Star team while playing various positions at shortstop, third base and second base.

Spurs down lowly Clippers to grab 2nd straight win

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Alvin Robertson scored 27 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 113-106 NBA win over the Los Angeles Clippers Monday night.

The Spurs held off a fourth period charge by Los Angeles when the Clippers closed to within six points, 98-92, with 7:00 left.

Robertson scored with four quick baskets and rookie forward Walter Berry contributed two baskets himself to pull San Antonio ahead 107-96.

Berry scored 22 for the Spurs and guard Jon Sundvold added 20. Since Sundvold, a fourth-year player from Missouri became a starter six games ago, San Antonio has gone 3-3.

The win was the Spurs' second in a row and lifted them to 11-28. The loss was the Clippers' third straight and drops them to 5-34, the worst in the NBA.

Los Angeles was led by Michael

Cage with 29, and Mike Woodson with 23.

San Antonio held a 56-50 advantage at the half, primarily behind the shooting of Sundvold and Robertson. Sundvold had 14 and Robertson had 11.

Cage led all first-half scorers with 18 points and Woodson contributed 14.

Cage, a third-year forward from San Diego St., kept the Clippers close for the first three quarters as teammates found him open underneath the basket for numerous layups and tips.

"I never thought playing this well would happen this quick," Berry said. "Playing more minutes makes me feel comfortable and that is the whole key."

Berry was acquired in a trade with the Portland Trailblazers for Kevin Duckworth in December.

AP Top 20

The Top Twenty teams in the AP Press college basketball poll, with votes in parentheses, total points per game and last week's ranking.

Rank	Team	Points per game	Last week's ranking
1	Iowa (34)	16-0	16-0
2	N. Carolina (28)	15-1	15-1
3	Indiana	14-1	14-1
4	UNLV (3)	15-1	15-1
5	Purdue	14-1	14-1
6	DePaul	14-0	14-0
7	Syracuse	15-1	15-1
8	Temple	16-2	16-2
9	Illinois	13-3	13-3
10	Clemson	16-0	16-0
11	Oklahoma	12-3	12-3
12	Alabama	13-2	13-2
13	Duke	13-2	13-2
14	St. John's	12-2	12-2
15	Georgetown	12-2	12-2
16	Pittsburgh	13-3	13-3
17	Auburn	10-3	10-3
18	Navy	11-3	11-3
19	TCU	13-3	13-3
20	N. Carolina St.	11-4	11-4

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