

Mavs derail Rockets 113-107

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas-Houston "Lone Star War" NBA showdown lived up to its billing Wednesday night with fisticuffs and a career scoring performance from Mavericks guard Derek Harper.

Harper scored a career-high 31 points to carry the Mavericks to a 113-107 victory.

It was the first meeting between the two teams since Dallas Coach Dick Motta accused Houston Coach Al Fitch of tanking games to avoid the Los Angeles Lakers as long as possible in the playoffs. Motta was

suspended a game for the statement. "It was a crazy game," Harper said. "The intensity came from the words the coaches exchanged. That's why we were so emotional."

Harper said he was proud of Al Wood for standing his ground in an exchange of punches with Houston's Steve Harris.

"I told Al Wood he did a good job," Harper said. "I like to see that kind of stuff. I wished I had been in it."

Wood and Harris were ejected from the game at 5:22 in the second

period for exchanging punches. Both benches emptied but none of the blows landed. Both players will get automatic fines from the NBA office.

Motta downplayed the incident. "I thought it was a very dull game," Motta said. "I expected some real excitement."

Fitch said little about the flying punches.

"There were a few short tempers out there but it wasn't much," Fitch said.

NAACP wants more blacks hired in top sports positions

NEW YORK (AP) — The NAACP announced Wednesday a national campaign to pressure professional sports franchises to hire more blacks in management, and promised "massive demonstrations" against any that refuse.

"We have millions of black young people who need to see blacks in these front offices. . . . Most newspapers devote more space to sports than to business," said Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director.

Hooks said local branches of his organization would seek meetings with their nearest teams, starting with baseball and then extending their efforts to football and basketball franchises and to college sports.

They will first seek information about the teams' minorities and then will try to work with each team to develop affirmative action programs.

In addition to field managers and executives, the NAACP will look at hiring of vendors, ushers, receptionists and all other employees.

Hooks said if the teams refuse to cooperate — a possibility that Hooks said was remote, because "I expect they are embarrassed" by the lack of blacks they employ — protests will follow.

"We will demonstrate on the inside and on the outside" of sports

arenas, he said. "We will do whatever is necessary."

Among the possible tactics, Hooks said, are boycotts. He said it is possible that athletes from the teams would be asked to take part.

Hooks made his remarks at a news conference a little more than a week after Al Campanis, a vice president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, set off a furor by telling a national television audience that blacks "may not have some of the necessities" to become managers or general managers.

It was also 40 years to the day that Jackie Robinson broke the color line in baseball by making his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Hooks said the NAACP had no hard-and-fast goal of filling any set percentage of front office jobs with blacks. Nor did the organization have a timetable in mind for completion of its effort.

The national NAACP staff will seek meetings with the baseball, football and basketball commissioners to talk about hiring in their offices. And Hooks said a committee of former baseball players and representatives of the media and the public will advise the NAACP in its campaign.

The campaign announced at the news conference was mapped out at a meeting of representatives from

more than 20 local branches.

Hooks said he had talked with former Atlanta Braves slugger Hank Aaron, now an executive in the Braves organization, weeks ago about taking some action against baseball — even before Campanis made the comments that led to his forced resignation.

Hooks said Campanis "probably did those of us concerned with equity and fair play an unwitting favor" by calling attention to the fact that "the ranks of managers, coaches and front office personnel remain virtually all-white male preserves."

In an initial look, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People found that:

- In baseball, 25 percent of the players are black, but only 17 of the 879 administrative positions are held by blacks and 13 by Hispanics and Asians. Fifteen of the 26 teams have no minorities in management positions.
- In the NFL, more than 40 percent of the players are black, but only five blacks are employed in the league office and there has never been a black head coach.
- In the NBA, where nearly 80 percent of the players are black, 25 of the 85 employees of the league office are black and the coaches of four of the 23 teams are black.

Zoeller to break in new putter at Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Fuzzy Zoeller will take a new putter into the defense of his title this week in the \$650,000 Heritage Classic.

The old one, something of a problem for Zoeller this season, met a sudden demise last weekend at Augusta, Ga.

"I had just 3-putted from 10 feet on No. 18" at the Masters, Zoeller recalled.

"I'm walking off the green and some guy in the gallery says, 'Hey, Fuzzy, how about giving me that putter. It's not doing you any good.' I figured, 'what the hell.' So I broke it across my knee and handed it to him in two pieces," Zoeller said.

"So now I've got a new one, a junior. It's the same kind of putter. Same thing. But it's new. It looks different. You look at it and you think, 'hey, it's got all those good puts still in it. They haven't been used up.'"

Zoeller, a two-time winner of this invitational event, said he is "hitting the ball well enough to win. It's just the putting."

"I've been working harder on my putting than I ever have. And I'm putting worse. Maybe I'm working too hard. I don't know. I just don't have the rhythm," Zoeller said Wednesday before a final practice round on the Harbour Town Golf

Links for the tournament that begins Thursday.

Among his chief challengers for the \$117,000 first prize are the newly crowned Masters champion Larry Mize, and the man he beat in a playoff last weekend, Greg Norman, the current British Open champion and the outstanding figure in world golf the past year.

Other leading figures in the invitational 120-man field include U.S. Open champ Ray Floyd, PGA titleholder Bob Tway and 1987 leading money-winner Corey Pavin.

The final two rounds Saturday and Sunday will be televised nationally by CBS.

America remembers Robinson

NEW YORK (AP) — The hand-scrawled letters stood out among the Jackie Robinson bats, gloves, uniform and computer-generated statistics displayed at the New York Historical Society.

"We have already got rid of several like you. One was found in the river just recently," read one, written during Robinson's rookie season in 1947.

"We are going to kill you if you attempt to enter a ball game at Crosley Field," said another, written on the occasion of Robinson's first trip to Cincinnati.

America commemorated the 40th anniversary of Robinson's first game as the first black player in baseball's major leagues Wednesday, a commemoration that in some instances seemed less aimed at the threatening letters and racial bias of 1947 than indications of the subtle bias that exists today.

It came a week after Al Campanis, vice president of the Los Angeles Dodgers — Robinson's Brooklyn team, transplanted west after the 1957 season — was forced to resign after suggesting on national television that blacks "may not have some of the necessities" for baseball management positions.

Indeed, at ceremonies at the New York Historical Society and at Ebbets Field Homes in Brooklyn, the housing project that replaced the site of Robinson's exploits, the name "Campanis" was uttered nearly as much as "Robinson."

Rachel Robinson, Robinson's widow, was on hand at the Historical Society to officially open "Jackie Robinson: An American Journey," an exhibit on her husband's life that will run from Saturday until July 15 in New York, then move to Los Angeles, Washington, Atlanta and Chicago over the next two years.

Mrs. Robinson said she vividly recalled April 15, 1947 as she prepared to go to the ballpark with her husband, who died at 53 in 1972, 10 years after becoming the first black elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

Robinson went hitless in three at-bats but reached on an errant throw after bunting down the first base line and scored one of the go-ahead runs in the Dodgers' 5-3 win over the Boston Braves.

"That first day was a tense day, but it was also a very exhilarating day," Mrs. Robinson said. "People think of Jack as a martyr, but he was also a pioneer."

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