

Favored Mavs to take on Sonics in opening-round playoff action

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks are 10-point favorites to bounce the Seattle SuperSonics in the first round of NBA Playoffs after whipping them five times in the regular season, but they are wary of former Maverick Dale Ellis.

Dallas, the Midwest Division champions, hosts the Sonics today and Saturday night in Reunion Arena before traveling to the West Coast in the best-of-five series.

Game three is set for Seattle on Tuesday night with game four on Thursday if needed. The Mavs would have the homecourt advantage on Saturday, May 2 should it come down to a fifth game.

Ellis, buried deep on Dallas' bench, was obtained by the Sonics in exchange for guard Al Wood.

Ellis averaged almost 25 points per game to the 7 points with the Mavs. Wood has played sparingly for Dallas.

"I knew I was good enough," Ellis said. "Last year I was watching the guys who were averaging 20 points per game and now I'm one of them."

The 6-foot-7 Ellis was a first round draft pick in 1983.

"In Dallas most people thought my game was shooting from the perimeter but I've proved this year I can do other things," he said.

Ellis shot 51 per cent from the

field and also was deadly from 3-point range.

Dallas Coach Dick Motta said, "I know Dale would love to have a great game against us in Reunion. It will be a challenge to stop him."

Motta said he knew Sonics' Coach Bernie Bickerstaff had to love the underdog role coming into Reunion.

"They don't have anything to lose because there is no pressure on them," Motta said. "The pressure is on us. We have to be very careful we don't look past them."

Guard Derek Harper said "We dominated Seattle during the regular season, but we know we can't take them for granted."

Bases-loaded walk gives Orioles win over Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Ray Knight, the leading hitter in the American League, drew a bases-loaded walk from Texas reliever Greg Harris in the 10th inning Wednesday night, giving Baltimore a 3-2 victory over the Rangers and ending the Orioles' three-game losing streak.

Alan Wiggins led off the 10th with a single and Rick Burleson drew a walk from Matt Williams, 0-1. Harris retired Cal Ripken Jr. on a line drive, but walked Eddie Murray, leading the bases.

After Fred Lynn struck out, Knight, batting .423 and 3-for-7 in his career against Harris, walked on a 2-1 pitch.

Texas' Pete Incaviglia tied the score 2-2 with a solo home run, his sixth of the season, with one out in

the ninth against Mark Williamson.

Dave Schmidt, 2-0, pitched 1 1/2 innings for the victory.

Terry Kennedy's solo homer put Baltimore ahead 2-1 in the seventh. Kennedy's home run, his second, came off starter Edwin Correa.

Mike Boddicker, 7-0 in his career against Texas, allowed one run on seven hits in 7 1/2 innings. He left the game after hurting a finger on his pitching hand.

The Orioles took a 1-0 lead in the first after loading the bases with no outs on a single by Wiggins, a hit by pitch and a walk. Wiggins scored as Murray grounded into a double play.

The Rangers tied it in the third when Scott Fletcher walked and later scored on Incaviglia's RBI grounder.

L.A. Clippers fire Chaney

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Don Chaney was fired Wednesday as coach of the Los Angeles Clippers following the club's 12-70 record this season, second worst in NBA history.

Clippers General Manager Elgin Baylor made the announcement, noting that Chaney would not be rehired as coach after Chaney's contract expires on June 30.

Chaney, who had a 52-133 record since replacing Jim Lynam on March 6, 1985, plans to remain with the organization in a front office capacity.

The Clippers were hard hit by injuries, including the loss of two of their best players. Norm Nixon missed the entire season and Marques Johnson was out for most of it.

Considered among the candidates for the Clippers' coaching job are John MacLeod, Hubie Brown and Gene Shue.

Navratilova advances in Virginia Slims

HOUSTON (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova had four first-set aces on the way to her 6-3, 6-4 victory over Peruvian Laura Gildemeister Wednesday in the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Houston women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova, 30, of Fort Worth advances to the third round with her victory.

A second-game service break enabled Navratilova to jump to a 3-0 lead. Gildemeister, 23, who held serve the rest of the first set, couldn't break Navratilova's serve.

Navratilova broke in the first and fifth games of the second set to forge a 4-1 lead. But Gildemeister battled back to tie the set 4-4.

Deshaies four-hitter lifts Astros to 6-0 win

HOUSTON (AP) — Left-hander Jim Deshaies gave up four hits and struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings Wednesday night as the Houston Astros defeated the Atlanta Braves 6-0 to remain undefeated at home this season.

Deshaies, 1-0, walked two in his first start of the season. Larry Anderson and Dave Smith finished up.

David Palmer, 0-3, went 5 1/2 innings to take the loss.

Houston took a 1-0 lead in the first when Bill Doran led off with an inside-the-park home run. Doran lined the ball into the gap in right-center between the outstretched gloves of center fielder Al Hall and right fielder Dale Murphy, both of whom dove for the ball. It was the first inside-the-park home run in the Astrodome since July 3, 1983, when Terry Puhl hit one.

Glenn Davis led off the Astros' two-run fourth with his second homer of the season. Singles by Kevin Bass and Jose Cruz, and a walk to Craig Reynolds loaded the bases. Palmer then walked Deshaies, forcing in Bass.

Houston increased its lead to 4-0 in the sixth on a double by Bass and an RBI single by Alan Ashby, then added two more in the seventh on an RBI single by Bass and an RBI groundball by Ashby.

The Braves failed to score in the eighth inning despite getting four hits, including a double. Hall doubled to left but was thrown out attempting to stretch it into a single. Three more hits, all singles, loaded the bases, but Houston was able to get out of the jam without allowing a run to score.

Red Wings confident despite trailing 1-0

From the Associated Press

The dreaming is over for the Detroit Red Wings. Now the work begins.

The Red Wings, most often spectators during the NHL playoffs, enter tonight's game against Toronto already having lost the home-ice advantage in the Norris Division finals by losing 4-2 to the Maple Leafs Tuesday night.

But Detroit doesn't look at it that way.

"It's one game. It's over," Detroit defenseman Mike O'Connell said. "In the playoffs, you can't dwell on one game whether you win or lose."

"It's a seven-game series," said Red Wings goalie Greg Stefan, who was lifted for Glen Hanlon after surrendering three quick second-period goals that erased a 2-1 first period lead. "You can't get down after one game."

Also on Tuesday night, Edmonton beat Winnipeg 3-2 in overtime to take a 1-0 lead in their Smythe series.

William Windom as "Thurber I", the one-man play.

The playoffs continued Wednesday night with the New York Islanders defeating Philadelphia 2-1, and Quebec knocking Montreal 2-1. The Flyers and Nordiques each lead its series 2-0.

The Red Wings, who finished first in the Norris, not only must win today to tie their series at 1-1. They have to win a game in Maple Leaf Gardens when the best-of-seven Stanley Cup series shifts to Toronto for Games 3 and 4 Saturday and Monday against a team that held a 5-2-1 advantage over them in the regular season.

"The home ice advantage isn't that big a deal in the playoffs because you're so intense," Stefan said. "You can't win every game in the playoffs. We lost one and that's the way you have to look at it."

Toronto Coach John Brophy agreed.

"One game doesn't mean anything in a seven-game series, (except) we have to win three games now, instead of four," Brophy said.

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William Windom as "Thurber I", the one-man play.



For 15 years, William Windom has delighted audiences with his one-man showcase of James Thurber. *New Yorker* magazine's most famous writer and sketch artist.

MSC Town Hall Broadway presents William Windom in "Thurber I" Thursday, April 23 in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Windom is one of America's best loved stage and television actors. He is best known for his Emmy Award winning role in NBC-TV's 1969-70 series, "My World and Welcome to It", based on the work of James Thurber. Most recently, he has played Doc Seth Hazlitt in CBS-TV's "Murder, She Wrote".

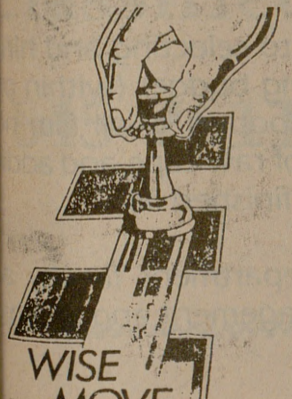
As Thurber, Windom is Thurber. He is at once light, bright and very right in his musings about the world as seen from a cartoonist's pad. Make plans to enjoy this evening of unique wit and comic art.

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