

Mets edge Astros, Scott by 2-1 margin

NEW YORK (AP) — Keith Hernandez continued his career success against Mike Scott with a home run and RBI single, and Sid Fernandez pitched seven scoreless innings, leading the New York Mets past the Houston Astros 2-1 Wednesday night.

The Mets ended a three-game losing streak by pinning Scott, the 1986 National League Cy Young winner, with his first loss in four decisions. Scott was the Most Valuable Player in last year's NL playoffs when he beat the Mets twice and allowed just one run in 18 innings.

Hernandez, with a .393 lifetime average against Scott, connected for his sixth career homer against the Houston right-hander. No other batter has more than three home runs against Scott.

Fernandez, 4-0, became the NL's first four-game winner. He left for a pinch hitter after giving up five hits in seven innings, striking out eight and walking two. He gave up singles to the first two Houston batters and, after a 1:42 rain delay in the bottom of the first, never allowed more than one runner on base in the same inning.

Doug Sisk pitched the eighth and Jesse Orosco came for his sixth save.

Ellis happy with job of starter with Sonics

From the Associated Press
Dale Ellis doesn't want to go back to Dallas.

Considering he spent three unhappy years there as a bench warmer with the Mavericks, the feeling is understandable. But the Seattle guard has another reason, too.

If the SuperSonics beat the Mavericks tonight in Seattle, Ellis and his teammates will win their best-of-five playoff series 3-1 and avoid a fifth and deciding game in Dallas.

"There's still one more game to go," Ellis said after scoring a career-high 43 points in Seattle's 117-107 victory over the Mavericks Tuesday night. "I just want to send those guys home."

The Houston Rockets can also wrap up their series against Portland with a victory tonight in Houston. The Rockets lead the series, 2-1.

On Wednesday night, Milwaukee defeated Philadelphia 121-120 to take a 2-1 lead in the series; Detroit edged Washington 97-96 to wrap up their series; and Indiana downed Atlanta 96-87 to bring the series to a 2-1 count; the Los Angeles Lakers are at Denver; and Utah is at Golden State.

The winner of the Milwaukee-Philadelphia series will play Boston, which swept Chicago 3-0 in their opening-round series.

Ellis, who was traded to Seattle in July for Al Wood, has come back to haunt the Mavericks with 75 points in the first two games of their playoff series.

"I don't think (Dallas Coach) Dick Motta really knew what he had in me," he said. "He never really turned me loose to prove what I can do."

Ellis averaged 8.2 points in his three seasons with Dallas. As a starter with Seattle this season, he tripled that average to 24.9, eighth best in the NBA.

Although they lost all five of their regular-season games with Dallas, the SuperSonics are confident they can win the playoff series.

"I've taken somewhat of a role in convincing the team that we're as good as they are," Ellis said. "Dallas is the only team that outplayed us during the regular season. All we wanted to do is get them in a close game."

Motta thinks the Mavericks will rebound from two straight losses to the SuperSonics.

Ex-UTEP standout Brewster was destined for greatness before devastating injury

WACO (AP) — It seemed like a normal fall at the time. Little did Texas-El Paso forward Gary Brewster realize his basketball career had, for all intents and purposes, ended that night against Arizona a decade ago.

That didn't keep the Buffalo Braves from selecting Brewster with their first pick in the 1976 NBA draft at the very moment he was undergoing a back operation.

Brewster never played a minute for Buffalo, and he bounced around to leagues in Italy, Austria and Mexico for seven years, trying to keep his lifelong dream of a basketball career alive. A bad back never let him realize that dream.

"It was tragic," says Baylor basketball coach Gene Iba, who was an assistant at UTEP at the time. "He is

simply the best basketball player I've ever coached and the best defensive player I've ever seen."

Brewster now is a paint contractor living in Midland. He was inducted last week into the Texas High School Hall of Fame at Waco.

"I thought it was friends pulling a prank on me when I got the call telling me about the selection," Brewster said. "This erases some of the pain I've gone through over the years. This lets me forget a little bit about the days I couldn't bend down and touch my toes."

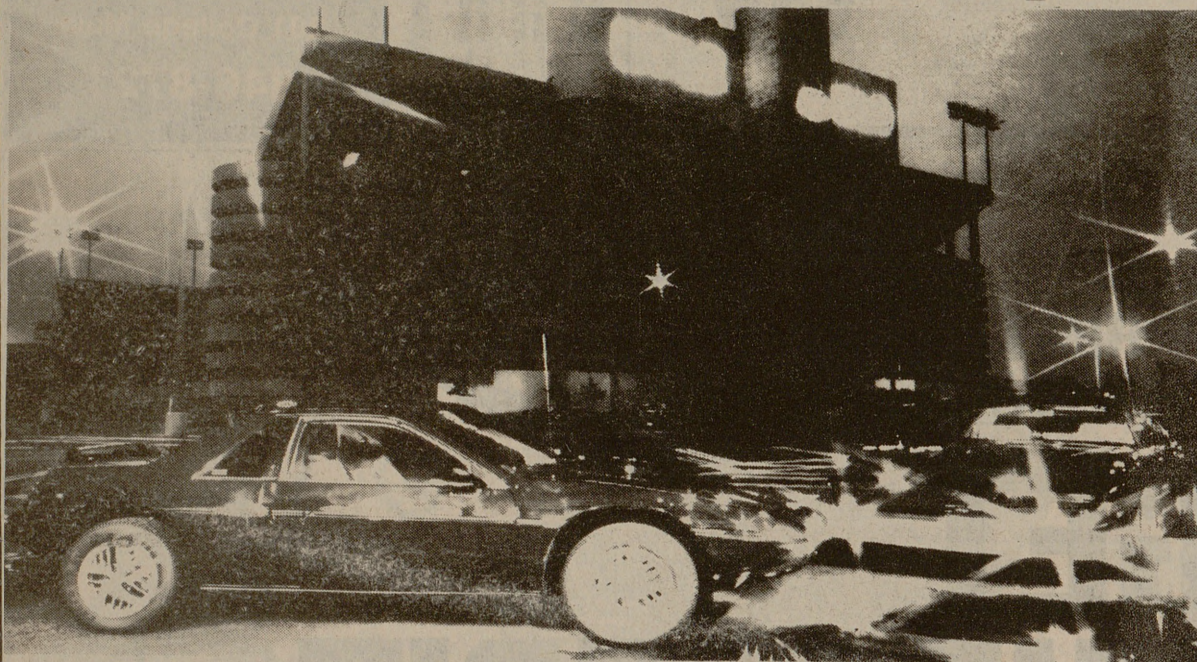
The 6-foot-9 Brewster averaged 24.1 points in leading Midland to the high school state tournament his senior year in 1972. Midland lost to San Antonio Roosevelt when future Texas Tech star Rick Bullock hit two free throws in the final 10 seconds.

Brewster signed with Texas-El Paso and then made his mark as a defensive whiz. In one game, Brewster guarded Utah guard Tickey Burden. Burden was averaging almost 30 points, but he got only four against Brewster. In a game against Southwestern Louisiana's Bo Lamar, he held Lamar to one shot.

"Coach (Don) Haskins always told me to grab the hot dog," said Brewster. "I enjoyed guarding big name people like (SMU's) Ira Terrell or Burden and shutting them down. I enjoyed defense."

Boston Celtics general manager Red Auerbach called Brewster "the finest defensive player I've ever seen." In 25 games his senior season, Brewster shut out the man he was guarding eight times.

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