

Sports

Worthy propels Lakers over Celtics

L.A. fastbreak leads to convincing 126-113 win

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — James Worthy scored 33 points and Magic Johnson 29 as they fueled a near-flawless fastbreak attack Tuesday night that carried the Los Angeles Lakers to a 126-113 victory over the Boston Celtics in the opener of the NBA Championship series.

Los Angeles, which had an NBA-best 65-17 record in the regular season and have now won 12 of 13 playoff games, will be looking for a 2-0 lead Thursday night at The Forum.

The Lakers, playing for the first time in eight days after a four-game sweep of Seattle in the Western Conference finals, ran the ball upcourt on virtually every possession. The Celtics, who struggled to seventh-game victo-

ries over Detroit and Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference playoffs, are trying to become the first team to repeat as champions since Boston won two straight titles in 1968 and 1969.

Worthy, who averaged 30.5 points against the SuperSonics and was hitting 63 percent of his field goal attempts in the playoffs, hit 13 of his first 15 shots in the game as the Lakers raced to an 81-60 lead with 7:47 left in the third period. Johnson, who didn't commit a turnover in the first half as the Lakers led by as many as 21 points in the second period, also finished with 13 assists, while Worthy had 10.

Byron Scott had 20 points and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Larry Bird led the Celtics with

32 points, while Robert Parish had 16 and Kevin McHale 15.

Bird hit 11 consecutive shots during one stretch of the second and third periods and he and Danny Ainge led a short-lived Boston rally after Worthy hit two baskets in an 8-0 streak that gave the Lakers their 81-60 lead.

Bird was 7-for-7 in the third quarter and Ainge hit three 3-point goals as the Celtics cut the 21-point deficit to 95-83 with 1:59 left in the third quarter. But Worthy hit two baskets as the Lakers scored six of the final eight points of the period for a 101-85 advantage.

A 9-0 Los Angeles spurt early in the fourth quarter clinched the first game of the series, the third meeting in the finals between the two NBA titans since 1984.

The teams split their first two meetings in 1984 and 1985, and both have three titles in the 1980s.

The Lakers and Celtics are meeting for the 10th time in the finals, five more than any other NBA rivals. The Celtics won the first eight meetings before the Lakers won in six games in 1985.

Although the Lakers, led by Worthy and Johnson, the league's MVP, ran through the Boston defense almost at will, the Celtics could take heart in the solid play of their injured stars. McHale, Parish and Ainge all have missed playoff games with injuries, and Bill Walton, who had made only token appearances during the postseason, played six minutes in the first half.

Dawson, Cubs smash Astros 13-2

CHICAGO (AP) — Batting in the seventh inning, Andre Dawson had a shot at becoming the second player in major-league history to hit for the cycle twice in one season. He missed long.

Instead of getting a double to go along with his triple and single, Dawson hit his second homer of the game and drove in seven runs Tuesday to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 13-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

"Someone mentioned it in the dugout," said Dawson of hitting for the cycle again. "It was in the back of my mind. I was trying to hit the ball hard."

Dawson, who drove in five runs with two homers in a 6-5 loss to Houston on Monday, hit the ball too hard and lined it into the left-field bleachers for a two-run homer in the seventh for his 18th home run and fourth in two games.

Dawson, who signed as a free agent with the Cubs prior to the start of the season, hit for the cycle April 29 against San Francisco in an 8-4 victory. The only player to hit for the cycle twice in one season was Babe Herman of the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1931.

Dawson singled in a run in the first and hit a two-run homer in the third off Nolan Ryan, 2-5, before a rain delay of two hours and 46 minutes. He also tripled in two runs in the sixth.

It reminded him of his career-high eight RBI in 1985. That came against the Cubs when he was with Montreal.

"I haven't really thought about it but this might have been a better game," Dawson said. "In that game, I hit three home runs."

Dawson's feats overshadowed some other fine performances by the

Cubs including a home run and a single by Keith Moreland who drove in four runs; four hits by Shawn Dunston and three hits by Ryne Sandberg. In all, the Cubs had 18 hits.

Mike Mason, 2-0, made his first National League start a success by allowing three hits in the seven innings he worked.

Dawson tripled in two runs in the fifth and hit his 18th home run after Sandberg had doubled in the seventh, boosting his RBI total to 53. He has hit in 25 of his last 30 games with 16 homers and 46 RBI.

Ryan did not return after the rain delay and the Cubs added two runs in the third after play was resumed off Aurelio Lopez on a pair of walks, a sacrifice and a single by Moreland.

Dawson tripled in a pair in a three-run fifth and Moreland hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

Texas falls to Stanford

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Lee Plemel pitched a 12-hit complete game and second-ranked Stanford scored two runs on wild pitches and another on a balk Tuesday night for a 6-1 victory over No. 1 Texas in the College World Series.

Brian Cisarik's leadoff homer in the eighth inning ended Plemel's shutout bid. Texas added three singles in the inning but left the bases loaded and stranded 12 runners in the game.

Losing pitcher Curt Krippner, 13-1, allowed only five hits but the Cardinal stole five bases, three by Toi Cook. Krippner walked four, each leading to a run.

Stanford, 50-16, will play Oklahoma State Thursday in a game between the only undefeated teams in the tournament.

French Open to see Evert-Navratilova duel

PARIS (AP) — Defending champions Ivan Lendl and Chris Evert swept into the semifinals of the French Open Tuesday, along with women's top seed Martina Navratilova, who reached top form after a winless start to the year.

The victories by Evert and Navratilova set up the 72nd meeting between the two powerhouses of women's tennis but their first in a tournament semifinal since the U.S. Open in 1981.

Lendl came from behind to beat Ecuador's Andres Gomez 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1, losing just three of the last 15 games, while Evert overpowered Raffaella Reggi of Italy, 6-2, 6-2.

"I did not come into this tournament in the same way as I have in the past," said Lendl, who has won only one Grand Prix event this year. "On the other hand, I feel much stronger physically than I ever have."

In Thursday's semifinals, Evert faces Navratilova, who scored a 6-1, 6-2 victory over West Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

The other semifinal will be between 17-year-olds Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, both going for their first major title.

Lendl's opponent in the last four of the men's event on Friday will be a fellow Czechoslovak, Miloslav Mecir, the No. 5 seed, led 4-2 in the opening set against unseeded Karel Novacek when rain ended their quarterfinal match for the day.

They will continue at the start of Wednesday's play and will be followed by the other two men's quarterfinal matches, Yannick Noah against Mats Wilander, and Jimmy Connors, the last American in the men's draw, against two-time defending Wimbledon titlist, Boris Becker.

Lendl, who was taken to five sets in his previous match, had early problems against Gomez, whom he was meeting for the third time in the French Open quarterfinals.

He had 11 break-points in the South American's first six service games but still managed to lose the opening set.

Gomez stayed with his opponent for another seven games. But just as in 1984 and last year, he faded badly in the latter part of the match.

"He can be like a madman at the start, but the chances are he's the one who'll tire out," Lendl said after beating the No. 10 seed for the 13th successive time. "Today was a carbon copy of our previous matches here."

Gomez said he had as good a forehand and backhand as Lendl, a strong serve and probably a better volley. But, he said, he was inferior in one vital way to the world's top-ranked player.

"He is in better shape. He's an athlete, and I'm not," the Ecuadorian said. "He's fitter, and he takes advantage of the situation. This is the hardest tournament to win because fitness counts as much as tennis."

Evert, the No. 3 seed, gave up only eight points against 14th-seeded Reggi after the Italian had won the first two games of the second set.

Reggi, in a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time, clenched her fist and shouted encouragement to herself whenever she won a big point. But she was blown away by Evert's superior groundstrokes.

The match opened the day on center court and Evert said of her opponent: "She's hyper at 11 o'clock in the morning, that's for sure. . . . She was jumping up and down and was very eager."

Evert and Navratilova have met only four times in the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament. Most of their clashes have been in the final.

"I shall go in and hope to hit well, hard and deep. I shall hope to serve well. All these things are important against her. I'm in good shape physically," Evert said.

Navratilova took only 65 minutes to whip eighth-seeded Kohde-Kilsch, taking a 4-0 lead in both sets and dropping her serve just once.

The tall West German several times led 30-0 on serve but could not finish off the games as Navratilova pressured her into errors.

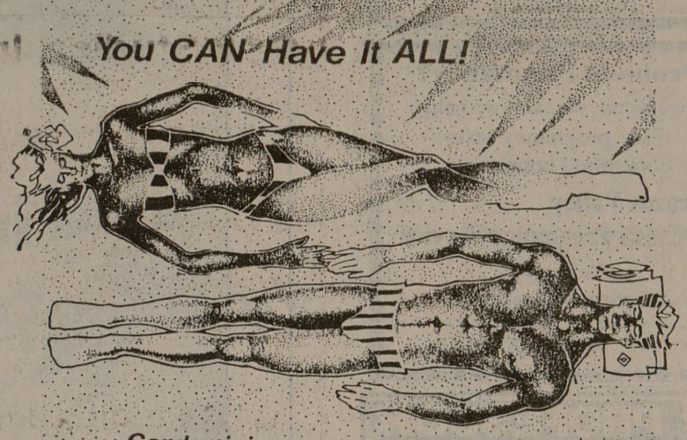
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