

Sports

LA gives Celts dose of own medicine

By Loyd Brumfield

Assistant Sports Editor

This NBA championship series is over.

Forget Celtic Mystique, forget the so-called ghosts of the Boston Garden and forget about the luck of the Irish. The media wore those terms out, anyway. Besides, after Game four of the best-of-seven series, the lack of the Irish belongs to the Lakers from Los Angeles.

Analysis

Los Angeles' 107-106 victory over Boston in the Garden Tuesday night was decidedly un-Lakerlike. Instead of pummeling its foe mercilessly to the tune of a 25- or 30-point win, L.A. had to, get this, come back from a 16-point deficit to win. How often are the Lakers in that position?

In fact, the Lakers' win bore a close resemblance to a typical Boston victory. The Celtics have become pros at getting beaten into submission early, only to roar back with a

late surge to bury their opponent. Tuesday night, the Lakers impersonated the Celtics perfectly.

L.A. got off to a miserable start, shooting only at a .392 clip for the first half. The Celtics didn't have that grand of a first half, either, and they still jumped on L.A. for a 55-47 lead at halftime.

It didn't get any better in the second half for the Lakers, as Larry Bird came to life for Boston, killing L.A. with outside shots to propel the Celtics to a 70-55 point lead early in the third quarter.

As the fourth period loomed large, the sold-out Garden crowd sat back, forgot about the 80-degree-plus indoor temperature, and rejoiced in the fact that the Celtics were doing something they don't often do in the playoffs — blow out a top-caliber team.

Okay, so the Celtics actually did destroy the Rockets a couple of times in the finals last year, but they were facing the 1986-87 Lakers this year — a team some prognosticators had

picked as the greatest team in the history of the game — and the Celtics were destroying them.

Apparently, L.A. wasn't too thrilled about the prospect of having the series tied at 2-2 with yet another game remaining in the haunted Garden where, until Tuesday, the Celtics had an uncanny ability of coming back from every deficit to win. They did it against the Bucks, and they did it against the Pistons.

Boston's taming of the Pistons in the Eastern Conference Final was especially surprising since the Celtics, riddled with injuries, looked like the walking dead as they methodically ran up and down their homecourt to miraculously dispatch the Pistons, while getting torn apart on the road.

It was proof that the Boston Garden was possessed by the spirits of past Celtic greats.

The Lakers, not wanting to become the umpteenth victim of the "Boston Mystique," took the Celtics' magic away from them and shoved it in their collective faces. The result

was a frantic, yet magnificent comeback to tie the game at 93 with about four minutes left.

But not even that was enough, as the Celtics discovered the Lakers' clever scheme and recaptured their mystique, hitting six shots in a row to put the Lakers in a very deep hole.

Usually, when the Celtics are that far down in an important game, they can never be counted out. This time the Lakers played the role of the seemingly beaten team and, in Celtic fashion, they rose up to pull within one at 103-102, and took the lead with 29 seconds left on a slam by the elder statesman of the NBA, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. They sealed the win with two seconds left when Magic Johnson hit a Kareem-like skyhook.

The Lakers comeback may have proved that they are the best team in basketball, and they should win the series. But don't write off the pesky Celtics just yet; There is still one game left in Boston.

They still have a little mystique left.

Ag golfers stand 12th in NCAA tournament

By Ed Bodde

Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M golf team stands 12th in the NCAA Men's Golf Championship after a first round total of 302. The Aggies are among 33 teams competing for the title on the Ohio State University Scarlet Course in Columbus, Ohio.

Oklahoma State and Houston Baptist are tied for first at 291.

"We didn't play that well, but we're still not out of it," A&M Coach Bob Ellis said. "We need to come back Thursday and play solid golf. There's still three rounds left."

Individually, Randy Wylie led A&M with an opening round 75. Neil Hickerson and pre-tournament All-America selection Roy McKenzie had 76s. Glen Joiner, of Houston Baptist, led all golfers as he fired a 69.

"It will take two solid rounds

for us to be in the top five," McKenzie said. "This course is really tough. It's U.S. Open stuff. If you miss the greens or the fairway by a foot, you're dead."

The fourth Aggie golfer, Randy Lee, finished with an 82.

Other Southwest Conference schools in the tournament are Houston at 303 and Arkansas at 304.

"We (A&M) have an inexperienced group," Ellis said. "They feel bad, but they know they can do better. If they didn't feel bad, I'd be worried."

The field will be cut to the low 20 teams and ties or all teams within 10 shots of third place after Friday's round. The low 25 individuals and ties, or any player within five shots of 15th place will also advance to the final round.

The 72-hole tournament will conclude Saturday.

Lakers to battle complacency with 3-1 series lead over Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers might be facing a tougher opponent than the Boston Celtics tonight.

"We have a cushion and as soon as you start thinking that way, you're going to lose," Lakers Coach Pat Riley said after practice Wednesday. "We have to fight that feeling of security and fight it hard."

The Lakers lead the best-of-seven NBA championship series 3-1 thanks to Magic Johnson's hook shot with two seconds remaining that beat the Celtics 107-106 Tuesday night. Game 5 will be played in Boston tonight, but the sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be at the Inglewood Forum, where the Lakers easily won the first two games.

"We celebrated Tuesday night because we broke through at Bos-

ton Garden," Riley said, referring to the Celtics' third loss in 88 games there. "We took a second to savor what we had done, but now we have to realize we still haven't won it yet."

The Laker players are less concerned than Riley about a let-down.

"We haven't accomplished what we want yet," Johnson said.

"I think we're mentally tough enough to overcome those feelings of security," Lakers sixth man Michael Cooper said. "I think we'll play hard Thursday night. It would be nice to win it on the parquet floor."

"I hope they'll get complacent, but I'm not counting on it," Boston Coach K.C. Jones said. "I doubt it will be a problem for them. If I were them, I would rather take the title away from us

on our own floor."

Tuesday's game-winning basket by Johnson followed a 9-0 spurt by Los Angeles, wiping out a 103-95 Boston lead with 3:30 left. The Celtics, who had blown a 16-point lead earlier, went scoreless for the next 3:18, but a 3-point basket by Larry Bird put them Celtics back in front, 106-104.

Then Kareem Abdul-Jabbar missed the second of two free throws, but Boston's Kevin McHale fumbled the rebound out of bounds, setting up Johnson's hook.

"That's the greatest miss Kareem ever had in his life," Riley said. "It gave us an opportunity to win. Then Larry missed a wide-open shot. It was just our day. It wasn't a masterpiece, but we came away with a big 'W'."

SMU's Mustang club musters \$1.5 million

DALLAS (AP) — Fund-raisers for a Southern Methodist booster club exceeded their goal by \$200,000 when they raised \$1.5 million for athletic scholarships and say they're pleased, in light of the university's troubles and Texas' economic woes.

"When the drive started, there were many people that doubted we could raise even half our goal, what with the economic situation and the football program," said John Bauer, chairman of the fund drive. "To not

only meet our goal, but to surpass it is just tremendous."

The SMU Mustang Club conducted the seven-week effort and announced the results Tuesday.

The Mustang Club, a major source of income for the athletic department, delayed this year's fundraiser after the NCAA suspended SMU's 1987 football season because of a pay-for-play scandal.

"Considering everything that has happened, we're extremely

pleased," interim associate athletic director Rob Kingsbury said. "I think Dallas has said it likes the Olympic sports at the university and will stand behind them. I think we will have even more success when we hire an athletic director and football coach."

SMU has been without an athletic director since Bob Hitch and football coach Bobby Collins resigned Dec. 7, 1986.

Jackson impressed with owner's plan

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, declaring he had let some fresh air into the closed-door meetings of major-league baseball owners, said Wednesday each team promised to implement a front-office affirmative action program.

"Owners are making up for lost time," Jackson told a news conference after meeting with owners from both the National League and

American League. "The movement that has begun to take place is impressive."

Jackson appeared with baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth after meeting privately with owners from each league in separate, chandeliered rooms of a downtown hotel.

"Every team in major-league baseball will have a strong and positive affirmative action program in place

within the next 30 days," Ueberroth said.

Last month, Jackson gave baseball until June 29 to devise an affirmative-action plan to get minorities in front-office positions or potentially face boycotts or other economic measures by civil-rights activists.

He said Wednesday the situation would be reviewed June 29, but played down prospects of a boycott.

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