

Sports

Pistons ground soaring Jordan

Michael Jordan knows exactly why the Chicago Bulls have been held to less than 82 points in three of their four games with the Detroit Pistons and are just a game from being eliminated in the NBA playoffs.

"Any team that wants to stop a man from scoring can do it," Jordan said. "I'm not tired or frustrated. It's just very difficult to go out and do anything against three people. I've had to give up the ball.

"Detroit is making other players shoot and we're not taking advantage of it."

Except for the second game of the series, when Sam Vincent got 31 points as the Bulls beat the Pistons 105-95 at the Pontiac Silverdome, no other Chicago player has stepped forward to help Jordan. The Pistons held the NBA's leading scorer to 24 points Saturday and a career playoff low of 23 on Sunday and walked away with the two games in Chicago, 101-79 and 96-77.

That gave the Pistons a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

While Detroit is trying to clinch its second straight berth in the Eastern Conference finals Wednesday night at Pontiac, Mich., Atlanta and Boston, tied 2-2, will go back to Boston Garden for their fifth game. The Hawks,

who won both games in Atlanta, tied the series with a 118-109 victory Monday night.

There were two Western Conference games Tuesday night — Utah at the Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas at Denver. Both series are tied 2-2.

The story for Detroit so far has been defense, with Joe Dumars, aided by Isiah Thomas and Vinnie Johnson combining to smother Jordan.

While Jordan, who averaged a playoff-record 45.2 in the five-game Washington series, still has a 37.6 average, only one other Bull is averaging in double figures — Vincent, at 10.4.

But Detroit Coach Chuck Daly is aware Jordan can explode at any minute, as he did when he scored 59 in Chicago's 112-110 victory in their last regular-season game at the Silverdome. The Bulls have been more successful than most there — their second-game win broke an 11-game home winning streak for Detroit.

Boston-Atlanta remains a home-court series. The Celtics have beaten the Hawks 13 straight times at Garden. Atlanta, on the other hand, has now won eight of its last nine with Boston at the Omni. If it stays that way, Boston will win — it has two home games in what has become a best-of-three series.

Bliss ponders UNM job

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Southern Methodist's Dave Bliss was en route to Albuquerque Tuesday to begin talks with University of New Mexico officials that could make him the next Lobo basketball coach.

The Mustang coach became the prime candidate for the job Monday when Bob Knight announced that he had decided to remain at Indiana.

Bliss, once an assistant to Knight at Army and Indiana, said Monday that it was his interest in New Mexico and not an unhappiness at SMU that was bringing him to Albuquerque to discuss the Lobo job.

"I'm well aware of the basketball tradition at New Mexico," he said. "It is one of the fine jobs in the country as attested by Bob Knight's interest."

Bliss, 44, also cited family connections — his wife's parents and sister live in New Mexico. He said he had not been offered the job and declined to say whether he expected he would be the next Lobo coach.

John Koenig, New Mexico's athletic director, said Monday he expected to name a new coach either Wednesday or Thursday.

New Mexico is attempting to fill the vacancy created by the April 26 resignation of Gary Colson, who had been the Lobos' coach for eight seasons.

Bliss is coming off a season at SMU in which he led the Mustangs to their third berth in the NCAA Tournament in the last four seasons. His 28-7 club also finished first in the Southwest Conference regular season race and won the league tournament.

During eight seasons at SMU, his

teams have compiled a 142-101 record. His career mark, including five seasons at Oklahoma, is 219-163.

"I love SMU," Bliss said. "We've got a good group here and have for the last five years. I think we've won more games in that period than anyone in the league."

"It's nothing negative here. It's just that New Mexico is so attractive."

Bliss said he met late Monday with SMU athletic director Doug Single and university president Kenneth Pyle.

"I told them I'm very happy with the program here, but I'm professionally interested in going to Albuquerque," Bliss said.

Bliss said that last week's reports that he would take the New Mexico job should Knight decline it were not true.

Scott strong again in win

HOUSTON (AP) — Mike Scott is feeling pressure. Not from the opposition, but from the other Houston Astros pitchers.

"When everybody's throwing good like we are, you want to keep up and it's tough to do," Scott said after pitching three-hit ball for seven innings Tuesday night in a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"You want to go out there and do as well as the guy before you," he said.

Scott, 5-0, gave up three hits in seven innings and struck out 10, raising his National League-leading total to 73.

Houston starters have given up three or less runs in six innings during 30 of the Astros' 36 games.

Juan Agosto pitched 1 2/3 innings and Dave Smith recorded the final out for his seventh save. Neither allowed a hit.

Loser John Smiley, 3-3, gave up three runs on seven hits in six innings.

Houston took a 1-0 lead in the first when Billy Hatcher singled, stole second and scored on Kevin Bass' double. Bass singled with two outs in the third, stole second and scored on a single by Rafael Ramirez.

The Astros made it 3-0 in the sixth when Ramirez singled, Alex Trevino walked and Chuck Jackson hit an RBI single.

Aguirre leads Mavs to victory

DENVER (AP) — Mark Aguirre scored 25 points, including a clinching 3-pointer with 19 seconds left, leading the Dallas Mavericks past the shorthanded Denver Nuggets 110-106 Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in their NBA playoff series.

Dallas can wrap up the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal in Game 6 Thursday night in Dallas.

Poor free-throw shooting by the Nuggets down the stretch was the difference. Denver, the NBA's top shooting team from the line this season, missed seven straight free throws in the final seven minutes.

Rolando Blackman had 18 of his 24 points in the second half. Blackman's 18-foot jumper gave Dallas a 106-102 lead with 40 seconds left. After a pair of free throws by Denver's Danny Schayes, Aguirre's long-range basket from the right side made it 109-104.

Roy Tarpley added 21 points for the Mavericks and Sam Perkins had 17.

Schayes had a career-high 33 points and Alex English got 30 for

Denver, which was without two key players. Lafayette Lever and Jay Vincent, the team's second- and third-leading scorers in the playoffs, missed their second straight game with injuries.

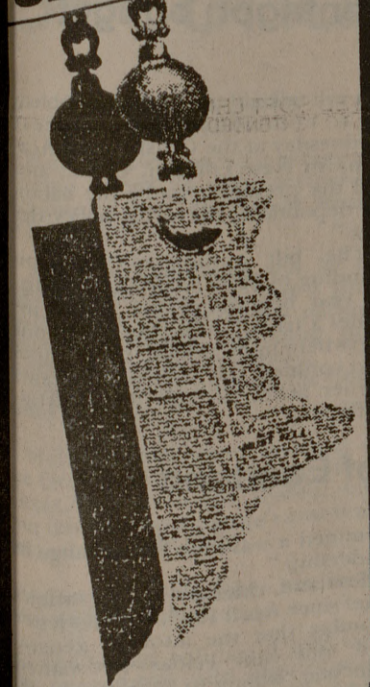
Dallas' bench outscored Denver's 40-14.

Despite falling behind 6-0 in the first two minutes, the Mavericks led 25-23 at the end of the first quarter.

Dallas capitalized on poor Denver shooting in the second quarter to open a nine-point lead, but Denver closed to 55-51 at halftime.

TEXAS • OKLAHOMA • ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO

CLASSIFIEDS



MINI ADS, BUT REAL HEAVYWEIGHTS WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT.

No matter what you've got to say or sell, our Classifieds can help you do the big job.

Battalion Classified
845-2611

SAVE 25% ON JUNIOR SEPARATES BY OCEAN PACIFIC®
12.-19.50



Find all the energetic styling you expect from Ocean Pacific® in this summertime collection of shorts, tanks, cropped tops and screen print tees. Available in an assortment of brights and pastels, cotton and polyester/cotton. Sizes S-M-L. Made in the U.S.A. Reg. 16.00-26.00. In Junior Activewear. Sale ends May 22.

FOLEY'S
...OF COURSE