

Riley can't forget Jazz

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — While Coach Pat Riley wants his Los Angeles Lakers to forget about Utah, he doesn't want them to forget what happened against the Jazz when they play Dallas Wednesday night.

"Our objective is not to get full of our ourselves because we won Game 1 like we did against Utah," Riley said after his team beat the Mavericks 113-98 Monday night in Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference finals.

The victory came two days after the defending NBA champion Lakers beat the Jazz 109-98 in the seventh and deciding game of a surprisingly difficult second-round series.

"I wanted to purge Utah out of them so we didn't work out (Sunday)," Riley said. "We are familiar with Dallas. I like the way we played defense. We were active and coordinated."

"Dallas will be better in Game 2. I want my players to get some rest and then to be disciplined and only think about Dallas. It's easy to get distracted. We can't assume it will be easy at home. We really have to take care of business on our own floor."

After rolling past Utah 110-91 in the opener of their series against the Jazz, the Lakers dropped a 101-97 decision at the Forum in Game 2. Los Angeles then lost the third game before winning three of the final four.

"We won't take them too lightly," guard Magic Johnson said of the Mavericks after a 19-point, 12-assist performance Monday night. "Only five minutes after the game, Riley already had reminded us of Game 2 in the Utah series."

James Worthy scored 28 points and Byron Scott 23 for the Lakers, who are trying to become the first team to repeat as NBA champion since the 1969 Boston Celtics.

For the Mavericks, who beat Denver 4-2 to advance to the conference finals for the first time, Roy Tarpley had 18 points and 20 rebounds, and Mark Aguirre and Rolando Blackman had 18 points apiece.

"It says something about the Lakers that they just finished a tough series against Utah and were able to come back and play as well as they did in this game," Dallas coach John MacLeod said. "We didn't execute our half-court offense the way Utah did during their series."

"We also lost the first game to Denver," Tarpley said. "We'll have to come out and be aggressive. We saw how Utah pounded and ran, and we feel we can do the same."

"They've always said they wanted to play us in a series like this," Scott said. "They wanted us, they've got us. Now let's see what they can do with us."

Bird: Celts' age no factor

BOSTON (AP) — In basketball years, the Celtics are elderly. But the Detroit Pistons don't see them as Boston's declining years.

Four starters have passed their 30th birthdays, but advancing age hasn't stopped the Celtics from advancing to the NBA's Eastern Conference finals for the fifth straight year thanks to full-time performances from aging stars.

"I think it's part of their psych," said Detroit's 27-year-old guard Isiah Thomas, who is two years younger than Boston's youngest starter, Danny Ainge.

"If you look at the way they exercise, take care of their bodies, they're probably in better shape than we

are," he added. "They're used to playing 45-46 minutes while their opponents are used to playing 35-36."

The teams' physical conditions should be a big factor in the best-of-seven conference final. The first two games will be on consecutive nights, Wednesday and Thursday, in Boston, where Detroit has lost 21 consecutive games.

"I never like to play back-to-back games at home, but we have to," Larry Bird said. The Boston Bruins used Boston Garden for the fourth game of their Stanley Cup final against Edmonton Tuesday night.

In the seven-game conference semifinal against Atlanta, four Bos-

ton starters averaged at least 40 minutes per game. After the Hawks took a 3-2 lead, the 31-year-old Bird played 46 minutes in Game 6 and 47 in Game 7 when the Celtics couldn't afford to lose. He had 20 points in the final quarter of the 118-116 seventh-game victory.

"The Hawks tried to run us and make our starters tired for the fourth quarter," Boston Coach K.C. Jones said. "That strategy didn't work."

"The more you work out, the more you stay in shape, the better you feel," said Bird, who has increased his offseason activity in recent years. "I feel fine. I'm still young."

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