

Sports

Detroit blows out L.A.

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Adrian Dantley scored 27 points and Detroit outscored the Los Angeles Lakers 25-8 during a second-half spurt that gave the Pistons a 111-86 victory in Game 4 and evened the NBA championship series.

night, increasing the tempo and drawing fouls, something they could not do in losing Game 3 on Sunday.

Detroit had 46 foul shots Tuesday, compared to 12 in Sunday's defeat. Dantley alone was 13-for-15 from the line.

The Pistons, 8-3 at home in the playoffs, will host one more game

at the Silverdome on Thursday night before returning to California for Game 6 Sunday and, if necessary, a seventh game two nights later.

Isiah Thomas, who missed practice Monday and Tuesday with a sore back, had 10 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds to lead the Pistons, while Vinnie Johnson added 16 points.

Major tournaments intrigue Australian golfer Norman

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Greg Norman admits to a fascination with golf's major championships, so many of which have been snatched from his eager grasp.

"They are the majors," Norman said. "Everybody's dream when they turn professional is to win the major championships. They're what success is all about on our tour. We strive for them, work hard for them."

Norman made his comments after a practice round for 88th United States Open, which begins Thursday at The Country Club.

The white-haired Australian, who has been installed by Britain's legal bookies as a co-favorite with Spain's Seve Ballesteros, said past disappointments "only make me more determined."

Norman, regarded by many as golf's finest player, has had many flirtations with golf's majors, the U.S. and British Opens, the Masters and the PGA. He has won only one, the 1986 British Open.

He lost a playoff to Fuzzy Zoeller for the 1984 U.S. Open. He led through 54 holes of all four of the 1986 majors and lost three of them, one to Bob Tway's last-hole birdie from a bunker.

He lost a playoff to Larry Mize's historic playoff birdie in the 1987 Masters.

Those near-misses serve as a spur to his ambitions, said Norman.

"I've been close," he said. "The closer you get, the more you want to go out and win as many as you can. That all happened in the past. I can't think about that now. It's gone. There's nothing I can do about it."

"All I can do is try to win the next one, and the next one, and the next one."

His recent record insists he is a threat to do that.

Norman, who went into a slump after his 1987 Masters loss, is rebounding this year. He won three times in Australia early in the season, added the Italian Open and also won the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head Island, S.C.

"I feel I could have won six of the nine tournaments I've played in the States this year," Norman said.

Norman has lost two playoffs, the latest last Sunday in the Westchester Classic. He also has recorded finishes of third, fifth and sixth.

"I'm enjoying my game more now than ever have done," he said. "I enjoy my life more now than ever. I feel much more at peace with myself. I know my game getting better."

"I feel like the momentum is just building now, like I'm just catching a big wave and starting to ride it."

"I don't feel as if my prime years have even started yet. I look forward to playing good, solid golf for another 15-16 years and winning as many championships as I can."

Tatu finishing rehabilitation, eagerly awaits 1989 season

DALLAS (AP) — All rehabilitation and no play made Dallas Sidekicks star Tatu a dull boy during the 1987-88 Major Indoor Soccer League season.

But the spark to Dallas' electricity will be back at full speed, possibly as soon as this week.

And as far as the Sidekicks are concerned, it's better late than never.

"It's been a long, long wait," Tatu said at a recent early morning workout. "This is something that has taught me a lot. But I wouldn't want to go through it again."

Tatu, the league's most valuable player in the 1986-87 season, sat and watched as his teammates played a .500 (28-28) regular season and were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. When he was playing for the Sidekicks, the crowd-pleasing forward was known for taking off his shirt and throwing it to the crowd after each goal he scored.

A season-ending knee injury kept the shirt on his back this year.

Now, as most of Dallas' players retreat to their homes for summer vacations, Tatu continues to work. And that work appears to finally be paying off.

Tatu went down 45 seconds into the season opener in Tacoma with cartilage and ligament damage in his right knee. Reconstructive surgery was performed six days later, on Nov. 10, by team physician Dr. Howard Moore.

Since then, Tatu's life has been anything but glamorous — up at 6 a.m. for stretching exercises, followed by weightlifting and various painful, yet helpful rehabilitation steps.

Now, Tatu can see the final hill on his road to recovery.

Recently, he underwent an Omnitron test, a series of strength and flexibility measures on his right knee. With good results, Moore said, Tatu could begin uninhibited scrimmages. With bad results, two to three more weeks under supervised rehabilitation would be necessary.

"He's been backpedaling, running at full speed and cutting for about two, two and a half weeks," said Moore, who supervised Tatu's rehab regimen. "We've

now got him passing and kicking the ball. Soon he can start working on his own individual moves.

"He's still ahead of schedule, but the tests will tell us a lot more."

It has been more than six months since Tatu went down in Tacoma. During that time, he said he has experienced emotions and had his fortitude tested enough to make it "the longest short period of time in my life."

The hardest part was feeling forgotten during the season, he said.

"The fans and players were great about sending me cards and stuff," he said. "But despite how many times they tell you you're part of the team, you're really not."

"I felt terrible many days because I wasn't contributing to the team. It's a sickening feeling."

The toughest time came in the playoffs, when Tatu watched from behind the bench as his team wilted on offense against Cleveland.

"That was torture, because I knew I could have made a difference," Tatu said. "The guys were doing everything right except scoring goals. I know I could have helped in that area and we would've won the series."

Tatu was gone but not forgotten during the regular season. He constantly was hounded by autograph seekers at his customary seat four rows behind Dallas' bench.

He also received several standing ovations — the most heart-warming on his birthday — and was interviewed by visiting television crews at almost every game.

"That kept me in the games, sort of, but it's nothing like playing," Tatu said. "You know, I love this sport and I realized this year how much."

"It's like a kid not being able to eat his favorite candy. It's no fun just watching. I had to keep convincing myself I shouldn't be playing because my heart wanted to."

Finally, the watching is all but over.

Moore said he expects a more muscular, stronger Tatu to open preseason training in September — a soothing sight to Dallas Sidekicks fans and officials' sore eyes.

"You saw what a difference he makes," defender Wes McLeod said.

"This year, I think everybody realized he's even more important than we thought last year."

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