

# Sports

## Forum, Thomas injury give Lakers advantage

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers, already armed with the homecourt advantage in the final game of the NBA Finals, found an even bigger edge Monday: The Detroit Pistons' Isiah Thomas was on crutches and, according to the team trainer, almost certainly out of the game.



Thomas, who scored 43 points in Sunday's sixth game against the Lakers, sprained his ankle during the third quarter. He scored an NBA-finals-record 25 points in that period.

"I don't think he is going to play," Detroit trainer Mike Abdou said Monday. "If this was regular season he would be out a minimum of 10 days to two weeks."

Abdou said Thomas has a "severely sprained right ankle and can't put any weight on it."

The trainer said Thomas was being treated with ice at the Los Angeles Raiders' training facility and would not practice Monday.

"The pressure is on both teams now, but I give us the advantage because we're home," said Lakers center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who will be making his 222nd career playoff appearance in Game 7.

"It's worth something," Lakers

point guard Magic Johnson said of playing the game at the Forum. "But you've got to make it worth a lot. It's worth something, but you've got to make it worth more than that by coming out here ready to play and make it a real advantage."

The Lakers forced the seventh game by winning 103-102 Sunday. They trailed 102-99 going into the final minute, but a jumper by Byron Scott and two free throws by Abdul-Jabbar with 14 seconds left kept Los Angeles alive.

"We want the championship bad, and in order to get it you've got to overcome things like this," the Pistons' John Salley said. "We'll be all right."

Thirteen NBA finals have gone the seven-game limit, and the home team has won 10 of them.

In the Pistons' favor, however, is

the knowledge that two of the last three seventh games have been won on the road. Boston beat the Lakers in Game 7 at Boston in 1984, but before that Washington won at Seattle in 1978 and Boston won at Milwaukee in 1974.

Thomas, who scored 31 of his 43 points in the second half, isn't concerned about the Lakers' supposed homecourt advantage. He even admitted that the Pistons came to Los Angeles believing they would need two games to win.

"The best team will end up the winner," Thomas said. "We know it's going to be tough. We were expecting to play two hard basketball games, and so were they. That's what we're going to do."

The Lakers have won 10 championships, five of them before moving to California from Minneapolis, and are seeking to become the first team since the Celtics in 1969 to repeat as champions.

Thomas said the Pistons need to get forward Adrian Dantley back into the offense.

Dantley scored 14 points Sunday and was only 3-for-10 from the field. He averaged 28.6 points in the Pistons' three victories and 15.7 in their three losses in the series.

## Strange captures Open in playoff

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)—Curtis Strange achieved a personal goal Monday with a par 71 that provided him with a four-stroke victory over Nick Faldo in their 18-hole playoff for the U.S. Open Golf Championship.

Faldo, the stolid Englishman who owns the British Open title, struggled to a 75 in the 28th playoff for the American national championship.

The victory was the first of Strange's career in one of the game's recognized major championships.

With three strokes in hand as he marched up the 18th fairway at The Country Club, the smiling Strange saluted a cheering gallery with a

raised, clenched-fist salute, first with his left hand then with his right.

His wife, Sarah, tears of happiness streaming down her face, hugged Strange's twin brother, Allan, and then embraced Faldo's wife, Gill.

The 15th victory of Strange's 11-season career, and his third this season, was worth \$180,000 from the total purse of \$1 million, lifting his season's earnings to \$548,525.

More importantly, it answered a nagging question and confirmed his stature in the game. The question Strange no longer has to answer concerned what had been a gap in his record, the lack of a victory in one of golf's Big Four, the Masters, the U.S.

and British Opens and the PGA.

He recognized that shortcoming after winning the Memorial tournament last week.

"I want to win a major," the 33-year-old Strange said.

He got it in his next attempt. But it was far from easy.

It was, in fact, a scramble throughout a warm afternoon in the Boston suburbs. Strange, prematurely at age 33, may have added a few more by hitting only seven fairways and as many greens in regulation. Yet he never trailed Faldo in the playoff which was set up when both finished regulation play on Sunday at 6-under-par 278.

## Cub fans to see the light at night

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Cubs said Monday the lights will go on at Wrigley Field on Aug. 8 and opponents vowed to continue fighting to keep them off.

The first night game ever at Wrigley will be against the Philadelphia Phillies—more than five decades after baseball debuted under the lights and 40 years after the Detroit Tigers became the last team to join the "enlightenment."

The Cubs' announcement ended weeks of suspense over when the lights atop the left- and right-field upper decks would be turned on.

At least one night-time practice session is scheduled before the Aug. 8 game against the Phillies. The game itself will end a 72-year tradition of playing baseball only in the sunshine at the major league's second-oldest park.

"It is an historic event for our club and fans," said Don Grenesko, executive vice president for business operations. "This is an opportunity for more fans to experience Cubs baseball."

The Cubs' owner, media conglomerate Tribune Co., have fought heated battles with Chicago alderman over ordinances, with state legislators over statutes and with neighborhood groups in court since acquiring the club and the North Side park in 1981.

A City Council vote in February

removed the final roadblock, even while limiting the team to eight regular-season night games in 1988—although the Cubs will play just seven this season—and 18 games each season for the next 14 years.

Few signs of the neighborhood's once-formidable community opposition, coordinated by a group called Citizens United for Baseball in the Sunshine (CUBS), were visible Monday.

## Reds coast past Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—Tom Browning allowed five hits in 7½ innings to win his fourth straight game and Nick Esasky's sacrifice fly in the sixth inning scored the go-ahead run as the Cincinnati Reds defeated the Houston Astros 2-1 Monday night.

Browning, 6-3, defeated Houston starter Jim Deshaies, his former teammate at LeMoyne College, for the second time in a week.

Browning struck out six, walked three and gave up Kevin Bass' sixth homer in the fourth inning for Houston's only run. John Franco earned his ninth save.

Deshaies, 4-5, allowed eight hits in eight innings, walking four and striking out five.

## Kunkel propels Rangers to win

ARLINGTON (AP)—Jeff Kunkel's one-out RBI double in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted the Texas Rangers over the Seattle Mariners 4-3 Monday night.

Leadoff batter Larry Parrish walked and Cecil Espy ran for Parrish. Mike Stanley also walked and Espy scored one out later on Kunkel's second RBI of the game, making a winner of Jeff Russell, 7-0.

Russell's start matches the best in Rangers' history—Jim Kern did it in 1979.

Mike Schooler, 0-1, took the loss as the Mariners' winless streak on the road stretched to 13. They've lost their last eight games overall.

Mariners starter Mark Langston continued to pitch well against Texas, allowing only two earned runs and four hits in 7½ innings.

Langston struck out seven, raising his season total to 114, second in the league to Roger Clemens.

Seattle's Mike Kingery snapped a 2-2 tie in the seventh with a two-out RBI single. The Rangers tied it in the eighth on Kunkel's first homer.

Alvin Davis' two-run homer in the fourth gave the Mariners a 2-1 lead.

Switch-hitter Ruben Sierra tied it 2-2 in the sixth with a solo homer, his 11th and first homer this season batting right-handed.

Sierra also drove in a run in the first with a sacrifice fly.

## Top seeds win at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Defending champion Pat Cash, top-seeded Ivan Lendl and two-time champion Boris Becker overpowered their first-round opponents Monday at the Wimbledon tennis championships.

Lendl and Becker each served 20 aces, while Cash used a strong service return to win their matches at the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Cash, playing the first match on Centre Court, defeated 17-year-old Todd Woodbridge of Australia 6-1, 6-1, 6-2. Lendl beat David Felgate of Britain 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 and Becker defeated John Frawley of Australia 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

Lendl, runner-up at Wimbledon the past two years, breezed past Felgate in 84 minutes before early evening showers caused a one-hour rain delay.

"I just couldn't pick his serves up," said Felgate, ranked 362nd in the world. "I couldn't figure where they were going. I tried everything, but it didn't make any difference. He was just pounding them down."

Cash had only one ace against Woodbridge, but his service returns were deadly.

"I just returned so well today and that set everything up," Cash said. "The court is pretty slow, so you have some time to get the ball back."

Becker, the champion in 1985 and 1986, overcame three break points in the final game against Frawley and closed out the match with an ace.

"The way it started today, I think I should be very satisfied," said Becker, who was upset in the second round last year by Peter Doohan. "It could not get any better than that."

Lendl, a natural baseliner who has never felt comfortable on grass, was pleased with his opening-round play.

"I served quite well, which I didn't do in practice," said Lendl, who appeared to be recovered from a shoulder strain suffered during a quarterfinal loss at the French Open.

"I didn't have to hit many volleys and the few times that I did, they were pretty easy," Lendl said.

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