Sports

Forum, Thomas injury 10:30-1007, Forum, Thomas injury give Lakers advantage

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) —The Angeles Lakers, already armed th the homecourt advantage in the final game of the NBA Finals, found n even bigger edge Monday: The etroit Pistons' Isiah Thomas was on utches and, according to the team ainer, almost certainly out of the

Thomas, who scored 43 points in unday's sixth game against the akers, sprained his ankle during he third quarter. He scored an (BA-finals-record 25 points in that

"I don't think he is going to play," troit trainer Mike Abdenour said onday. "If this was regular season would be out a minimum of 10 vs to two weeks. Abdenour said Thomas has a "se-

rely sprained right ankle and can't it any weight on it. The trainer said Thomas was be-

g treated with ice at the Los Anles Raiders' training facility and old not practice Monday.

"The pressure is on both teams w, but I give us the advantage beise we're home," said Lakers cenr Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who will making his 222nd career playoff

ll England Lawn Tennis Club.

owers caused a one-hour rain delay.

and the Att

s with

ppearance in Game 7.
"It's worth something," Lakers

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Defending cham-

n Pat Cash, top-seeded Ivan Lendl and two-time

ampion Boris Becker overpowered their first-round ponents Monday at the Wimbledon tennis cham-

Lendl and Becker each served 20 aces, while Cash

ed a strong service return to win their matches at the

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

Lendl, runner-up at Wimbledon the past two years,

eezed past Felgate in 84 minutes before early evening

"I just couldn't pick his serves up," said Felgate, nked 362nd in the world. "I couldn't figure where

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 into the offense.

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

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 re-

peat as champions.

Thomas said the Pistons need to get forward Adrian Dantley back

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 In the Pistons' favor, however, is three losses in the series.

op seeds win at Wimbledon

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

Cash had only one ace against Woodbridge, but his

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 com-fortable on grass, was pleased with his opening-round

"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.

Strange captures Open in playoff

tis 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

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Cur-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 sea-son, 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 conmarched up the 18th fairway at The cerned what had been a gap in his Country Club, the smiling Strange record, the lack of a victory in one of saluted a cheering gallery with a golf's Big Four, the Masters, the U.S.

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 reg-ulation. 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 fight-

ing 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 base-

The Cubs' owner, media con-glomerate 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 neigborhood's once-formidable community opposition, coordinated by a group called Citizens United for Baseball in the Sunshine (CUBS), were visible Mon-

Reds coast past Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Tom Browning allowed five hits in 73/3 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 Par-rish. 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.

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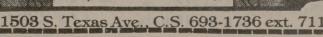
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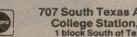
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