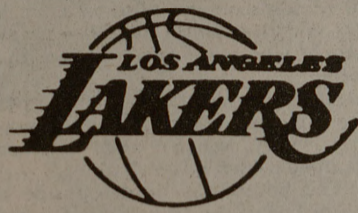


# Sports

## Lakers defend title with 3-point win over Detroit

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers, led by James Worthy's 36 points, held off the Detroit Pistons 108-105 Tuesday night and became the first team in 19 years to repeat as NBA champions.



The Lakers, who trailed 52-47 at halftime, hit their first 10 shots of the third quarter on the way to a 15-point lead, then held off a furious rally by the Pistons in the final 12 minutes.

Byron Scott scored 12 of his 21 points during the Lakers' 23-7 rally in the third period, which spanned the first 6:25 of the second half and gave Los Angeles a 70-59 lead. Scott capped the spurt with a 3-point goal.

The Lakers led 94-79 with 7:24 left before the Pistons rallied.

Vinnie Johnson had three baskets and John Salley five points as Detroit used a 17-4 spurt to close within 98-96 with 2:50 left.

The Pistons got within two on two other occasions before Magic Johnson hit a free throw with 1:16 to go to make it 103-100. Bill Laimbeer then missed a 3-point attempt and was unable to save the rebound. The ball went out of bounds with 1:05 to go.

After a missed shot by Los Angeles, Dennis Rodman missed a jumper with 39 seconds left.

With a sellout Forum crowd of 17,505 screaming, "Repeat, repeat," during every timeout, Scott hit two free throws to make it 105-100. The Lakers missed three of their next four attempts at the line, however, and the Pistons then trailed by only 106-105 when Laimbeer hit a 3-pointer with six seconds remaining.

But A.C. Green clinched it with a layup with two seconds on the clock.

Worthy was the series' Most Valuable Player.

When the game ended, delirious fans swarmed over the court, celebrating the first successful defense by an NBA champion since the Boston Celtics in 1969.

Magic Johnson added 19 points for Los Angeles. Joe Dumars had 25 points for the Pistons, Salley 17 and Adrian Dantley 16.

Isiah Thomas, despite a badly sprained ankle that had him on crutches just an hour before the game, played 19 minutes and scored 10 points in the first half, including consecutive jumpers in the final 27 seconds of the second quarter. Those shots gave Detroit the half-time lead.

But Thomas failed to score in the second half and saw only spot duty in the final minutes.

It was the fifth title this decade for the Lakers. By successfully defending last year's crown, the Lakers fulfilled a guarantee by Coach Pat Riley.

"I'm going to guarantee everyone we're going to repeat," Riley said minutes after the Lakers beat the Celtics a year ago.

The Lakers also became the first

team to win three seven-game series in one year. They beat Utah and Dallas 4-3 in the Western Conference playoffs.

The Lakers led 83-73 after three quarters and quickly extended the margin as Johnson scored, then Michael Cooper — 1-for-14 from 3-point range going into the game — hit his second of the second half for an 88-73 lead with 10:49 left.

In the first six games, Worthy outscored Dantley in games won by the Lakers, with the Pistons' forward outscoring his Laker counterpart in the three Detroit victories. They began the game as if their personal duel would once again be reflected in the final score, each scoring 11 points in the first quarter. The Pistons led 23-21 at the end of the period.

Detroit scored just two points in the first 3:50, but persisted in pushing the ball inside and ran off eight consecutive points, including six by Dantley, for a 10-7 edge.

The lead changed four more times and the score was tied twice before Dumars hit a 3-pointer and Dantley converted a three-point play for a 23-19 Detroit advantage with 1:31 left in the first period.

The Pistons led 26-23 early in the second quarter before Worthy, who scored nine points in the period, started an 11-2 run with a turnaround move in the lane. His three-point play capped the spurt, giving Los Angeles a 34-28 lead.

Detroit responded with a 16-7 rally for a 44-41 edge with 2:46 left. Rodman scored six of his eight second-quarter points during the run, but he missed four of six free throws.

## Ranger pitcher eyes All-Star Game

ARLINGTON (AP)—Six weeks ago, Texas Rangers pitcher Jeff Russell's only shot at getting inside Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium for the All-Star Game was to buy a ticket, sit where people who watch the game do, and root for the American League.

Now he's 7-0 and sees the game, to be played in his hometown, in a different light.

"I always wanted to go home," the 26-year-old Russell said. "It was my goal all along, but I knew it was out

of range starting the season in the bullpen. Now, it's possible."

It's possible because he's done everything but bat to keep the Rangers within ten games of the American League West's first-place Oakland A's.

Russell is 6-0 as a starter and has one win out of the bullpen. He has pitched three consecutive complete games, has a 2.36 ERA and a happy, but cautious boss.

"It (the All-Star Game) is a legitimate goal," Rangers manager Bobby

Valentine said. "But I don't want him to stop there in setting his goals. There aren't too many pitchers in this league who can stay with him."

Russell's victory Monday over the Seattle Mariners was no exception. He gave up only four hits in nine innings, allowing three earned runs, and helped the Rangers beat the Mariners 4-3.

Pitching coach Tom House added, "That's what big-league pitching is all about. He has shown it. It's there."

## Spurs could be interested in high-scoring Chambers

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs might make a bid for Seattle Supersonics free-agent forward Tom Chambers next month if the Sonics are unable to sign him to a new contract, sources said.

"They (the Spurs) are definitely interested," a source close to the Sonics told the San Antonio Light in Tuesday's editions.

Bob Bass, administrative assistant to Spurs owner Red McCombs, wouldn't say if the team would try to sign Chambers, but he didn't deny the club is interested.

"There's not going to be much conversation about free agents," Bass said. "I think we're going to be extremely tight-lipped about talking about them. Nothing happens on free agents until July 1 anyway."

League rules forbid teams from bidding on other team's free agents for the next 10 days, but there are four factors that make Chambers attractive to the Spurs:



1. He is an unrestricted free agent. Because Chambers has been in the league seven years and has completed two contracts, Seattle does not have the right to match offers he receives.

2. He is a proven point producer, averaging 20.4 points per game this past season. In three of the last four years, he has exceeded 20 points per game.

3. He knows new Spurs coach Larry Brown well. Chambers attended Boulder (Colo.) Fairview

High School when Brown was the head coach at nearby Denver. "I've known Tom for a long time," Brown said. "He used to come to my basketball camp. That's where we got friendly."

4. His age. Chambers turned 29 Tuesday.

Like the Spurs, the Utah Jazz and Houston Rockets are considering bidding for Chambers. He has been offered \$5 million for the next four years by the Sonics, but wants a \$7 million pact over the same time span.

"The figure \$1.7 million (per year) is being bandied about," the Seattle source said. "That would lock him up."

"Talk from other teams isn't supposed to start until July 1, but already we're hearing more interest in me than I ever expected," Chambers said. "There have been some phone calls to us. Things are definitely happening."

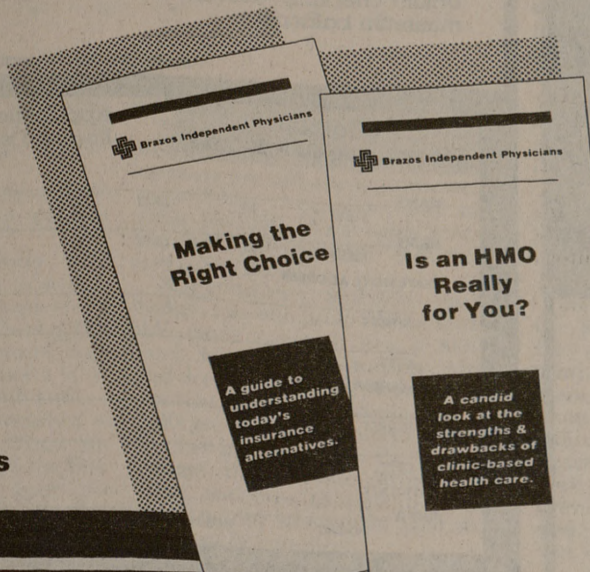
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