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Rockets cool Heat, Bulls down Dallas

Associated Press

Rockets 118, Heat 93
 Otis Thorpe scored six points and Purvis Short had five during a 19-4 scoring run by the Houston Rockets that powered the team to a 118-93 win over the Miami Heat Tuesday night in Houston.

Leading 74-73 with 1:30 left in the third quarter, Houston outscored the Heat 19-4 to take control of the game and gain a 92-77 lead with 7:45 minutes left to play.

The Heat was never closer than 13 again as the Rockets dominated the remaining minutes.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for Houston, while the loss was Miami's 11th straight on the road. The Heat's road record now stands at 1-19.

Sleepy Floyd led the Rockets with 22 points, followed by Akeem Olajuwon with 20 points and 12 rebounds and Short with 15 points.

The Heat was led by Billy Thompson, who had 20 points. Kevin Edwards had 18 points and Grant Long had 15.

With Miami leading 50-47, Houston went on a 13-4 scoring run to lead 60-54 with 6:33 left in the third quarter.

The Rockets led 74-67 before the Heat scored six straight points to cut its deficit to one point, 74-73, with 1:30 remaining.

Neither team led by more than two points until the Heat scored six straight points to take a 20-16 lead with 3:08 left in the first quarter.

Bulls 109, Mavericks 91

Michael Jordan scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter after sitting out seven minutes with a knee bruise and the Chicago Bulls handed the Dallas Mavericks their 10th straight road defeat 109-91 Tuesday night in Chicago.

Dallas, which trailed by 13 at the half, closed the gap to 65-59 a minute after Jordan fell to the floor attempting to block a shot by Mark Aguirre with 5:21 to go in the third quarter.

He lay on the court for several minutes before limping to the sidelines.

Jordan came back with 10:14 left in the game and the Bulls leading 82-73. Two three-points plays by Dave Corzine and five points by Jordan gave Chicago a 93-77 lead with 7:12 left and the Mavericks didn't threaten again.

Bill Cartwright scored 13 of his 23 points in the third quarter for Chicago, which has won seven of its last eight games.

Aguirre and Rolando Blackman each scored 22 for the Mavericks, who are 6-11 on the road after a 6-1 start.

Jordan, who has played 302 NBA games, needs 33 points to reach 10,000 for his career faster than any other player except Wilt Chamberlain. The Bulls' next game is Wednesday night at Philadelphia.

With Jordan on the bench, the Bulls went on a 14-4 spurt in the second quarter for a 44-34 lead.

Jordan scored Chicago's last four baskets of the first half, giving the Bulls a 54-41 halftime lead.

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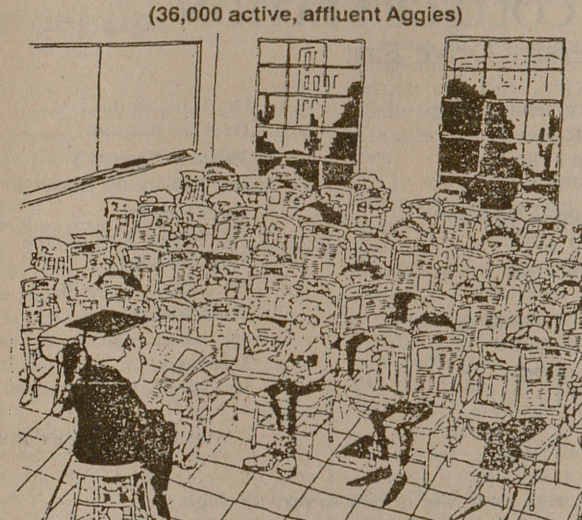
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Reads The Battalion

Sukova bumps Martina from Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Helena Sukova, who halted Martina Navratilova's 74-match winning streak at the 1984 Australian Open, knocked the three-time champion out of the Grand Slam tournament again Tuesday night.

The big-serving Czech beat Navratilova 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 in a dramatic quarterfinal before a packed center-court crowd at the National Tennis Stadium.

"The last time I beat her here, I was just trying to win a set," Sukova said. "This time, I thought I had a chance to win."

Navratilova twice served for the match in the seesaw final set, but Sukova held her off with a series of sizzling backhand winners.

After Sukova saved two break points and held for an 8-7 lead, Navratilova appeared ready to even the match again, moving ahead 30-love with an ace. However, Sukova quickly gained a match point and watched a shaky Navratilova hand her the victory on a double fault.

"It was nerve-wracking out there," Sukova said. "I was trying very hard not to think about the score."

Navratilova, who hasn't won a Grand Slam title since the 1987 U.S. Open, was upset by her failure in the clutch.

"I gave her the match at the end," she said. "I wasn't outplayed. It was just a matter of a couple of points here and there."

The victory was Sukova's second in a row against Navratilova, but only her fourth in their 25-match series.

Sukova's semifinal opponent will

be unseeded Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand, who beat Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist 6-2, 2-6, 6-1. The other semifinal pits defending champion Steffi Graf of West Germany against archrival Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina.

Graf, who hasn't lost a set in the tournament, breezed past eighth-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany 6-2, 6-3 in 55 minutes, while Sabatini rallied from 1-3 down in the final set to beat sixth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

In men's play, longtime rivals Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe set up a quarterfinal showdown with straight-set victories.

Lendl recovered from a slow start to beat Israeli Amos Mansdorf 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 6-2, while McEnroe cruised to a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-3 victory over fellow American Aaron Krickstein.

"I've come a long way," said McEnroe, who is trying to regain the form that made him the world's No. 1 player in the early 1980s. "I feel more comfortable mentally, and my game is coming together."

Two-time champion Stefan Edberg is scheduled to play 11th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria in another quarterfinal Wednesday. Edberg injured his back near the end of his 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 win over hometown hero Pat Cash and may not be able to play.

Muster reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory over unseeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden.

Metcalf

(Continued from page 9)

margin of the loss. He hoped his team would regroup in time for their first round game against Oklahoma in the All-College Classic in Oklahoma City.

The Sooners were expected to win big—they won by a bigger margin (128-80) than anyone expected.

The effects of the big losses weren't realized until the Aggies lost their opening two conference games to Texas Christian and Southern Methodist.

"We had a little bit of a letdown defensively at some times, but we were competitive," Metcalf said.

"It's tough on me because I've got to keep (the team's) morale up," Metcalf said. "Donald is having a tough time with this because this is his last time around."

"He doesn't have too much patience with some of the younger guys. Those guys have a lot more time to learn."

One of the "young guys" who has become a story recently is sophomore guard Lynn Suber.

Suber, a junior college transfer, has stepped forward as a scorer for the Aggies since Metcalf made the decision to go to a quicker offense following the loss to TCU Jan. 4.

Suber has scored in double figures in every game since the TCU loss and is the Aggies' leading scorer from outside. He's provided some help for Thompson, the Aggies' leading scorer overall and the main inside threat.

"Lynn is a good shooter," Metcalf

said. "He's gettin' more points than he deserves because he doesn't concentrate enough on defense."

Metcalf feels Suber is indicative of most of the younger players on the team. Suber seems preoccupied with scoring while having the ability to be a good defensive player.

"I don't think he totally realizes the importance of playing at both ends," Metcalf said. "He's quick enough to be a better defensive player than he is. He loves to play and he's a scorer."

Thompson has been a constant source of points for the Aggies.

The senior forward has led the Aggies on and off the court while dealing with the frustration of the past few weeks.

Metcalf said Thompson has been affected by the slump.

"He's our captain," Metcalf said. "I think the adversity we've been through has affected him more than the others because he realizes this is it for him."

But this isn't it for Metcalf. He's got plans for the future and he hopes the future begins now.

"This is an important week for us," he said. "I'd sure like to get it turned around before we go to Austin (to play Texas)."

Metcalf feels the Aggies are close to putting it together.

"I do think we're gettin' closer. In the last two years we've been building a solid foundation for our program to return to where it was."

"I think we're coming together we just need to have some success because we're working too hard and the players are layin' it out on the court. We've got some guys that really want to win."

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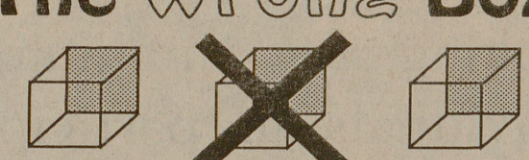
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