

# Portland outlasts Detroit

## 'Blazers 106-105 win evens series

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Clyde Drexler's two free throws with 2.1 seconds left Thursday night climaxed a dramatic series of turn-arounds in overtime and gave the Portland Trail Blazers a 106-105 victory over the Detroit Pistons and tied the NBA Finals at 1-1.

Portland survived an onslaught of six 3-pointers by Detroit's Bill Laimbeer, including three in the first overtime in the championship series since 1984.

There were three lead changes in the final 9.6 seconds.

Buck Williams gave the Trail Blazers a 104-102 lead with two free throws before Laimbeer, who scored 26 points, came back with his sixth 3-point field goal with 4.1 seconds remaining for a 105-104 Pistons lead.

Dennis Rodman then fouled Drexler with 2.1 seconds left and he swished both to give him 33 points for the game.

The Trail Blazers had a foul to give and they used it with 1.2 seconds remaining, forcing another inbounds play by the Pistons.

Detroit's James Edwards, who scored 26 points, missed a hurried baseline shot as time expired.

The best-of-7 series moves to Portland for the next three games, giving the Trail Blazers a chance to

win their second NBA title without returning to the Palace.

The Trail Blazers, who won their only title in 1977 with Bill Walton at center, are 9-0 at home in the playoffs.

The loss was Detroit's first in 11 home playoff games and the Trail Blazers have beaten the Pistons 20 consecutive times in Portland since Oct. 19, 1974. The sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be back at the Palace.

Detroit, which rallied from a 10-point deficit with seven minutes left to win Game 1, trailed by six points after three quarters Thursday night, but came back strong again in the fourth period.

Douglas Pils  
Sports Writer

## New breed of Reds poised to recapture magic

Throughout the annals of time, history often has repeated itself.

World War I was followed by World War II. The stock market crash of 1929 was followed by Black Monday in 1987.

Now, much to the demise of the National League, Cincinnati's Big Red Machine of the 1970s is being succeeded by new breed of Cincinnati Reds.

With a little over a fourth of the season completed, Cincinnati, with the best record in baseball and a seven game lead in the Western Division, enters a weekend series with Houston.

The 90s version of the Reds has been built in much the same way as the 70s version—a strong nucleus made up of home-grown talent with a few key trades to get the right chemistry.

## Like days gone by

During the 70s, the Reds averaged 95 wins a season, produced six MVPs and won two world championships. Only once did they finish below second in the division.

The dynasty was built from within. Players like Hall of Famer Johnny Bench, first baseman Tony Perez, shortstop Dave Concepcion, Ken Griffey Sr. and Pete Rose were the Reds' aces.

Key trades brought George Foster from the San Francisco Giants, Cesar Geronimo and Hall of Fame second baseman Joe Morgan from the Houston Astros.

This lineup, along with some solid pitching, dominated the National League and reached the pinnacle of success by repeating as world champions when they swept the New York Yankees in the 1976 World Series.

The modern version of the Big Red Machine may not have the power hitters of the original version but they make up for that with a strong defense, an outstanding pitching staff and an attitude that they are unbeatable.

The make-up of this team bears a striking resemblance to the Reds of old.

## Another dynasty?

A solid left side of the infield includes third baseman Chris Sabo and hot hitting Barry Larkin. Power comes from outfielders Paul O'Neill and superstar Eric Davis. Rookie catcher Joe Oliver rounds out the heart of the Reds lineup.

The amazing part of the Reds' season is how they have gotten off to a fast start without a healthy and effective Eric Davis.

The play of newcomers such as outfielder Billy Hatcher, second baseman Mariano Duncan and first baseman Todd Benzinger have been instrumental to the team's success.

Pitching is where the Reds find their greatest strength. Jack Armstrong, Tom Browning, a healthy Danny Jackson and Jose Rijo comprise one of the strongest rotations in the circuit.

Set-up artist Norm Charlton and the *Bad Boys*—Randy Meyers and Ron Dibble—anchor a stingy bullpen.

The foundation has been built and I wouldn't be too surprised to see the Oakland A's and the Cincinnati Reds in the 1990 World Series.

# A&M Consolidated rally falls short, ousted from state tourney

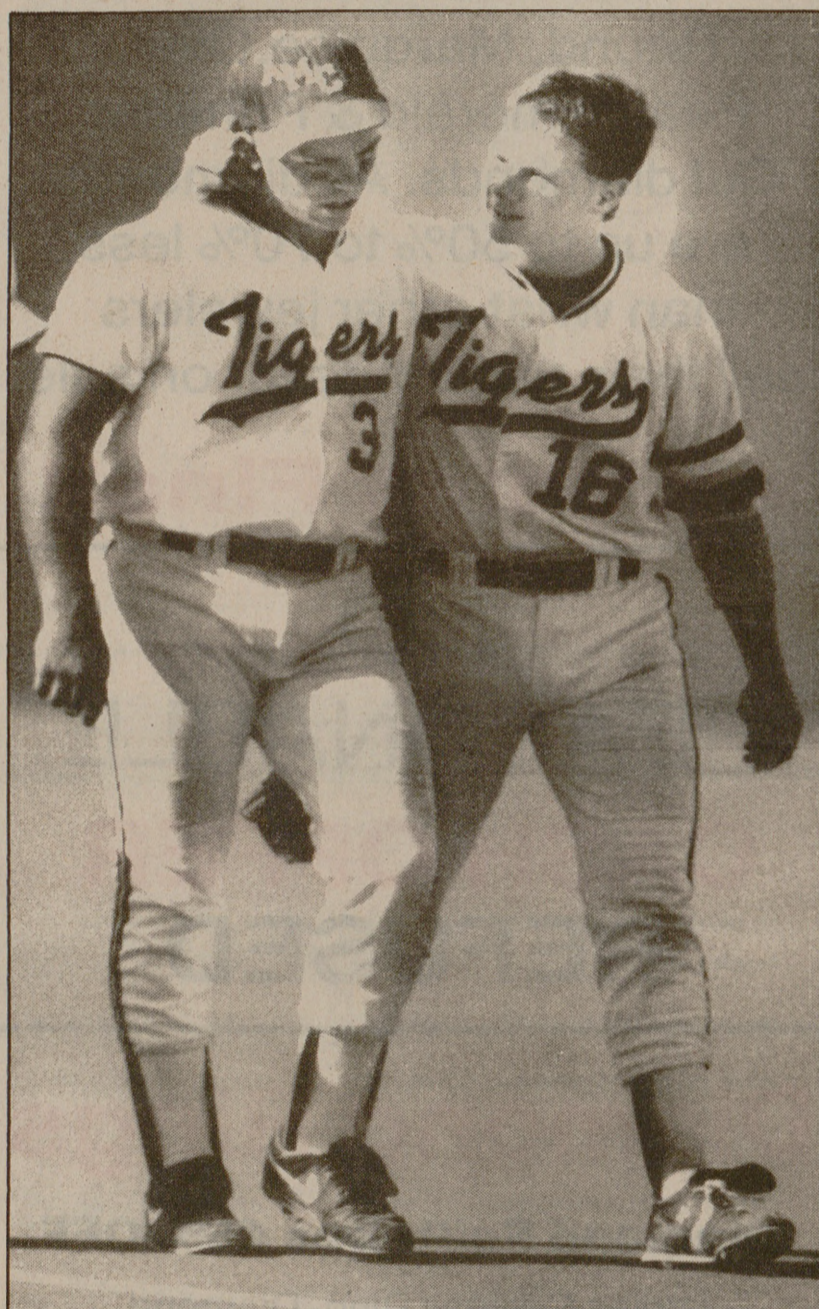


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Consolidated's Konrad Harms (16) tries to console teammate David Bogart (3) after the Tigers 7-6 loss to Robstown.

AUSTIN (AP) — Robstown lost a 5-0 lead, then rallied on a two-out, two-run single by Domingo Garza in the bottom of the seventh inning Thursday for a 7-6 victory over A&M Consolidated in the Class 4A semifinals of the state high school baseball tournament.

Robstown advanced to a Friday championship game against Carthage, which beat Andrews 7-1 on a three-hit pitching effort by Robin Trimble, who also drove in two runs on a groundout and single.

Trailing 5-0 after three innings, A&M Consolidated scored three runs in the fourth on a two-run triple by Andy Deuel, who scored on a groundout.

A&M had single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh, going ahead 6-5 on Lee Fedora's triple and a RBI fly ball by Brian Johnson.

Robstown won the game by scoring twice on a walk to Lee Roy Gonzalez, a single by Robert Cervantes, an infield single by Rey Gonzalez and Garcia's slicing line drive that centerfielder David Bogart could not grab after a long run.

Bogart turned face down on the ground and his teammates ran to console him.

The winning pitcher was J.J. Velasquez, 13-3, who pitched two outs. The loser was Ray Kavanaugh, 4-2, who had shut out Robstown for four innings before Garcia's winning hit.

Robstown's victory improved its record to 30-6 record, while A&M finished its season at 23-9.

In pitching Carthage past Andrews, Trimble pushed his season record to 16-0, striking out seven and walking seven.

Brent Leffingwell, 15-4, was the loser, leaving with none out in the third inning and the score 3-0.

Second baseman Terrance Goree had a third-inning triple that drove in a run and a third-inning double that led to another run.

Trimble was removed with two outs and two runners in the seventh inning. Reliever Jerome Jones, who had played third, got the final out.

Andrews' only run came in the first inning on a walk, stolen base and Leffingwell's two-out single. The Mustangs left 11 runners on base.

Carthage extended its record to 29-5. Andrews was eliminated with a 22-8 season record.

## Astros drop one to Reds

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Rijo allowed one hit in seven innings as the Cincinnati Reds snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Houston 6-1 on Thursday night, handing the punchless Astros their seventh straight loss.

Rijo (4-1) retired the first 13 Astros before walking Franklin Stubbs in the fifth inning. Eric Anthony struck out but Ken Caminiti lined a single to center for Houston's first hit. Rafael Ramirez hit a fly ball to center field to end the inning.

Rijo, who won his fourth straight decision and improved to 6-1 lifetime against the Astros, struck out three and walked one before being relieved by Norm Charlton to start the eighth.

## Rumors abound Officials ponder SWC fate

HOUSTON (AP) — What would the Southwest Conference be like without the University of Arkansas?

Some conference officials would prefer to ponder a different question: What would the conference be like with Louisiana State and Oklahoma?

Faced with the prospect of losing Arkansas to the Southeastern Conference, officials at some Southwest Conference schools are encouraging the league to fight back.

"There are some schools on our borders that might find it appealing to come here," Baylor football Coach Grant Teaff told The Houston Post. "I can see the possibility that LSU and Oklahoma might be interested in coming in."

"I've said all along we ought to go after LSU and Oklahoma," said

Houston athletic director Rudy Davalos. "We're stupid to just lie down and let people come in and start pulling people away."

Added Texas' Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds, "We've said all along that if somebody moves, we're going to take a look at what the options are after that. Those are options."

Southeastern Conference presidents voted last week to expand by two schools. Arkansas, a charter member of the Southwest Conference, was mentioned as a possible target of Southeastern Conference expansion.

"I think Arkansas is very serious," Teaff said. "And it's obvious the Southeastern Conference is very serious about them. From a geographic standpoint, it's something Arkansas would have to look at."

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