

Sports Briefs

Sonics pound Suns, even series at 2-2

SEATTLE (AP) — Charles Barkley disappeared when the Phoenix Suns needed him most, and the Seattle SuperSonics on Sunday evened the Western Conference finals at 2-2.

The league's MVP scored 27 points but was held to a pair of baskets in the second half when the Sonics pulled away for a 120-101 victory.

Barkley was taunted with chants in the Seattle Coliseum after he picked up his fifth foul with 7:34 to go and when he missed the basket entirely with a 3-point attempt with 9:41 left.

Game 5 will be Tuesday night in Phoenix, with Game 6 on Thursday night in Seattle. Game 7, if necessary, will be in Phoenix next Saturday or Sunday.

The Suns have the home-court advantage throughout the playoffs because they won 62 regular-season games for the best record in the NBA. But they didn't have any advantage in Game 4.

The Suns left Seattle with a 104-97

Friday night victory to regain the home-court advantage in the series after Seattle managed a split in the first two games of the series in Phoenix.

On Sunday, Barkley's best scoring performance in this series on 11-for-20 shooting was overshadowed by the Sonics' frontline of Sam Perkins, Derrick McKey and Shawn Kemp. Kemp and McKey each scored 20 points and Perkins had 19.

Dan Majerle had 16 points for the Suns and Kevin Johnson, playing with a badly bruised left thigh, had just 6 points on 2-for-11 shooting.

Seattle outscored Phoenix 21-7 in the first 7:27 of the second half to take an 82-65 lead. As it turned out, that was the game.

Fittipaldi wins Indy; 24 cars complete race

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Emerson Fittipaldi used experience and patience to outfox a pair of former Formula One colleagues Sunday in the most competitive Indianapolis 500

ever. With 10 cars on the lead lap at the end, it was anybody's race until Fittipaldi took the checkered flags and shook his fist in triumph. Only 9.9 seconds separated the top eight finishers.

The 46-year-old Brazilian, started ninth and stayed close to the front throughout the race, but never led until he charged past Indy rookie and reigning Formula One champion Nigel Mansell on a controversial restart 16 laps from the end of the 200-lap race.

Fittipaldi wasn't challenged the rest of the way, easily holding off runner-up Arie Luyendyk, the pole-starter.

Twenty-four of the 33 starters were running at the end, matching the record set in the inaugural race in 1911, when 40 cars started.

Roberto Guerrero suffered a bruised left shoulder and right knee in a crash with Jeff Andretti, Mario's son, who was not injured.

Others hitting the wall Sunday were Paul Tracy, Fittipaldi's teammate from Canada, and 1985 Indy winner Danny Sullivan, who both escaped injury.

American League

West Division

	W	L	GB	ST
California	26	20	—	W3
Chicago	24	23	2.5	L6
Kansas City	23	23	3	L2
Texas	24	24	3	L4
Seattle	25	25	3	W2
Minnesota	20	26	6	W4
Oakland	19	26	6.5	L2

West Division

	W	L	GB	ST
Detroit	29	18	—	L2
New York	28	22	2.5	W3
Toronto	28	22	2.5	W2
Boston	27	22	3	W3
Milwaukee	22	24	5.5	W4
Baltimore	20	28	9.5	L2
Cleveland	19	31	11.5	L3

National League

West Division

	W	L	GB	ST
San Fran.	33	18	—	W2
Alanta	28	23	5	L2
Houston	26	22	5.5	W2
Los Angeles	25	23	6.5	L1
Cincinnati	24	26	8.5	W1
San Diego	20	29	12	L1
Colorado	14	36	18.5	L4

West Division

	W	L	GB	ST
Philidelphia	34	14	—	W3
Montreal	27	21	7	L1
Chicago	24	22	8	W1
St. Louis	25	23	9	W1
Pittsburgh	23	24	9.5	W1
Florida	21	28	13.5	L2
New York	16	31	17.5	L2

Sunday

Toronto 13	Oakland 11	San Francisco 4	Atlanta 3
California 7	Baltimore 5	Houston 2	Florida 1
Boston 6	Texas 5	Pittsburgh 5	Los Angeles 3
New York 6	Chicago 3	Cincinnati 8	New York 1
Minnesota 8	Cleveland 2	St. Louis 10	San Diego 4
Milwaukee 8	Kansas City 2	Chicago 5	Montreal 2
Seattle 9	Detroit 5	Philadelphia 18	Colorado 1

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Regional

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Aggie rightfielder Scott Smith was then plunked to load the bases for Designated Hitter David Minor who promptly sent a single back up the middle scoring Thomas and Harris for a 3-0 lead.

"It was really important that we came out and scored early," Granger said. "With the offense pounding out runs and the defense backing me up I felt really confident."

When all was said and done the Aggies pounded out 10 more runs and finished the game with 16 hits, while the pitching staff shackled the Bulldogs on one run and four hits.

In the second inning of the game Granger set the Aggie single season strikeout record of 131 with a whiff of Bulldog outfielder Darryl Simchak.

Game two - Lamar

Game two saw Trey Moore and his perfect 11-0 record pitted against the fourth seed Lamar Cardinals.

The game started out looking like a pitchers duel. In the top of the first Cardinal pitcher Phil Brassington sent the Aggies down in order. Likewise in the bottom half of the inning Moore came out gunning as he fanned the side.

The Aggies held a slim 3-2 lead until the Cardinal fourth. Triny Rivera led off the inning with a screamer to center but was robbed by a diving Brian Thomas.

Moore walked the next batter and then gave up a double to Cardinal shortstop Sergio Galvez which tied things up at three.

Outfielder Anthony Iapoco then stepped up and blasted the two run shot off of the scoreboard in left to put the Cardinals up 5-3.

In the top half of the fifth the Aggies faced a deficit for the first time in their regional play. This, however, fazed them not as they went on to pound out seven hits in a row, scoring six runs and taking a 9-5 lead.

After a walk to Harris and infield singles by John Curl and Robert Lewis to load the bases, Rob Trimble smacked a one-out single for the RBI. Smith then scored two on a double down the line to put the Aggies back on top to stay.

Moore went the distance picking up the win as the Aggies won 10-5 improving their record to 50-9 on the year.

Game three - UCLA

The UCLA Bruins became the next obstacle in the Aggies path. Powered by the

nations homerun leader in Ryan McGuire with 25, A&M pitcher Kelly Wunsch knew he had his work cut out for him.

"I knew it was going to be a challenge, but the game plan was to go right at the batters," said Wunsch "I just love pitching against aggressive teams."

A&M got to Bruin starter Gabe Sollecito early. After a Thomas single, Curl stepped up and plated the first run of the game with a double in the first.

In the fourth Thomas and Curl again started the Aggies scoring run with a walk and a single to put runners at the corners. Robert Lewis then singled to left for the RBI and a two run lead.

An error on the Bruins catcher from a Rob Trimble bunt loaded the bases. A wild pitch moved the runners up and made the score 3-0 and Aggie second baseman Eric Gonzalez added a sacrifice fly to score a tagging Lewis.

Harlan added a base hit in the inning to plate another run and put the Aggies up 5-0.

With the Aggies up 6-4 in the bottom of the eighth inning, third baseman Lee Fedora stepped up with the bases loaded and tomahawked a fastball over the right-field fence.

"I was thinking he would bring a fastball inside, he did and I took it," said Fedora "It always feels good to get a homer like that, it relaxed us and loosened things up."

The Aggies added another run in the eighth inning and went on to the 11-4 win.

Texas tops USC in Central II

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Brooks Kieschnick was untouchable on the mound for the first five innings and added three hits and two RBI to help Texas to an 11-3 victory Sunday over Southern Cal in a winner's bracket game of the NCAA Central II regional.

Kieschnick (15-3), mixing in change-ups and sliders with his fastball, retired the first 17 Trojan batters he faced. Only eight of his 40 pitches through four innings were not strikes.

He lasted 7 1/3 innings, scattering seven hits and three earned runs while striking out five and walking one before giving way to Mark Senterfitt in the eighth.

Southern Cal's Geoff Jenkins broke up Kieschnick's bid for a perfect game with a two-out opposite-field single in the sixth, and Lionel Hastings ended the Texas hurler's attempt for a shutout

an inning later when he drove home Walter Dawkins from second base with a RBI double.

The Longhorns (49-14) — the only remaining unbeaten team in the regional — advance to Monday's championship contest against the winner of Sunday night's elimination game between the Southern Cal (34-28) and the winner of the McNeese State-Cal State Fullerton matchup.

Texas led 1-0 in the fourth when it blew open the game with a Tim Harkrider RBI double and Steve Heinrich's three-run home run, all off Trojan starter and loser Ben Tucker (2-7).

Tucker pitched 5 1/3 innings, surrendered six runs — five earned — on eight hits and three bases on balls and struck out two.

After scoring an unearned run in the fifth and spoting Southern Cal a run in the sixth, Texas put the game out of reach in the top of the eighth.

eventually came around to score which put the Aggies up by nine.

"At that point, the momentum was going our way," Aggie senior center fielder Brian Thomas said.

MacMillan's stint on the mound was cut short in the fifth, but not before allowing three more runs to score on two hits.

Jay Johnson was then put in to try and tame the offense, but he quickly became the next victim of the Aggie barrage. After getting out of the fifth inning unscathed, Johnson was not so lucky in the sixth. He gave up a long three-run blast to Aggie third baseman Lee Fedora.

"I was seeing the ball well," Fedora said. "I was sitting on the fastball and

that's what I got."

Granger gave up his only homerun of the tournament in the bottom of the sixth as he surrendered a solo shot to All-Tournament selection Manny DaSilva.

The score remained 13-2 until the top of the ninth when the Aggies added another run. Thomas, who hit a triple to deep center field, scored on a wild pitch from North Carolina's fourth relief pitcher Tom Hawkins.

Five Aggies were selected to the All-Regional team Fedora, Gonzalez, Harris, Harlan and Granger. Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament was Granger who went 2-0 with a 1.32 ERA during Regional action.

Omaha

Continued from Page 1

that inning with another run off a Rob Trimble double.

Jerzembeck ended his day on the mound in the fourth when he gave up a double to Aggie first baseman Billy Harlan and a walk to Harris. Relief pitching, however, was not the answer to the Tar Heels problems.

UNC pitcher Jay MacMillan began his short stint on the mound with two pitches in the dirt and a wild pitch that put two runners in scoring position. Both runners

Rush

Continued from Page 3

that has halted them just short of greatness. With Tom Chambers, Kevin Johnson, Oliver Miller, and "Thunderin'" Dan Marjerle, the Suns needed a center-type player and made the blockbuster trade with Philly to acquire the perennially consistent Barkley who had over stayed his welcome in Philadelphia.

Barkley made no bones about wanting to go to a contender and he did just that. The Suns have reached the Conference Finals for the first time since 1982,

and Barkley is the reason why.

The Round-Mound of Rebound proved that the award given to him was no fluke as he single-handedly led the comeback in the series against the Lakers and then de-spurred the team from San Antonio in the second round with a last second shot, reminiscent of Michael Jordan's shot that ended the Cavaliers' season two years ago. In a word, Barkley's shot was "Jordanesque."

I'm sorry to rub it in Houston fans, but until Hakeem can lead the Rockets farther into the post-season, he will not get the credit that he is indeed due. Unfortunately, he must take the line that the Chicago Cubs give year in and year

out, "Wait til next year."

It may just be that this saying will hold true because Barkley has said repeatedly that if he wins the NBA Championship this year, he will retire, leaving on an up note. Many question Barkley's attitude in asking, "Why now?"

Why not, he's done everything there is to do in the NBA. Then again, it is Charles Barkley and he's probably pulling our leg... no, he is pulling our leg.

Because there are few to agree, let me say that Charles was the best player in the NBA this season and I will be one of the first to say Congratulations Charles, it's about time they gave you one.

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