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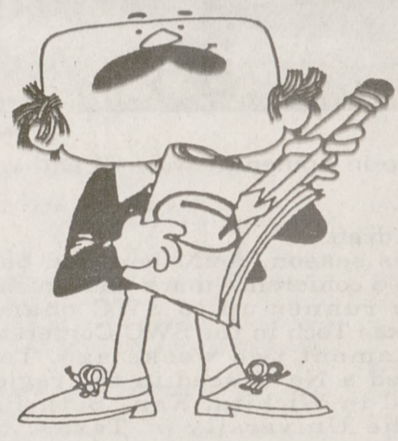


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Spurs rebound to tie conference finals

Robinson leads San Antonio in 103-81 win.

HOUSTON (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs have the home-court disadvantage back in the Western Conference finals. The Spurs, in their most dom-

inating performance of the playoffs, routed the Houston Rockets 103-81 Sunday to square the best-of-7 series 2-2 with all the wins coming on the road.

San Antonio dominated the rebounding 64-39 to emphatically complete a Summit sweep.

David Robinson had 20 points and 16 rebounds, the first time he's matched Hakeem Olajuwon statistically in the series. Olajuwon had 20 points and 14 rebounds but was just 9-for-24 from the field.

Now the series shifts 200 miles up Interstate 10 for Game 5 Tuesday night in the Alamodome, where San Antonio has lost three straight. It should be a

welcome change for Houston, which is 3-4 at home in the playoffs but has won four in a row on the road.

Vinny Del Negro tied his career playoff high for the second straight game with 19 points, nine in the third quarter when San Antonio used a 17-4 run to blow the game open. All five Spurs starters scored in double figures and Doc Rivers came off the bench to score 13.

Dennis Rodman scored 12 points and had 19 rebounds, 12 offensive, as San Antonio turned the tables against a Rockets team that showed few signs of the poise, precision and togetherness that had brought them five straight playoff victories and a 2-0 lead in the series.

Instead, they looked like a weary team playing its 14th playoff game in 26 days.

The Spurs outscored the Rockets 24-13 in the third quarter, when Houston went 5-for-15 from the field and committed five turnovers. San Antonio led 78-58 going into the final quarter and the Rockets never got closer than 14 the rest of the way.

TRACK

Continued from Page 1

dence in myself. I know I am capable of doing it." In the field events, he threw 247 feet in the discus, the fifth-best of the outdoor season.

Nelson said he feels that Kennedy can throw of the top part of the field.

"The No. 1 guy's throw (feet)," Nelson said, "is 252, he just got right that day."

Nelson said that Young could do well in the 110 and 400-meter hurdles.

Other members of the team that will be participating in the championships are Bolden and Billy Peltz. Bolden is the 100-meter dash, Peltz is the long jump, Richard is the decathlon, Kenzie is triple jump and Kenzie is in the discus. Donyae will compete for the team in the 100-meter dash.

Nelson said he also has a chance to win the championships.

THE TEXAS SHOOTOUT



The 1995 NBA Western Conference Finals
San Antonio vs. Houston
(Series tied, 2-2)

- Game 1: Mon. May 22 Houston 94 at San Antonio 93
- Game 2: Wed. May 24 Houston 106 at San Antonio 96
- Game 3: Fri. May 26 San Antonio 107 at Houston 102
- Game 4: Sun. May 28 San Antonio 103 at Houston 81
- Game 5: Tue. May 30 at San Antonio
- Game 6: Thu. June 1 at Houston
- Game 7: Sat. June 3 at San Antonio (if necessary)

GEORGANDIS: Fans strike back with low attendance

Continued from Page 3

make any noise at all. The addition of "General Admission," an Astro dome employee dressed up in Civil War garb who fires a cannon for each Astro home run hasn't helped attendance much.

Why? Because the Astros can't hit home runs to save their lives.

One of baseball's big problems is that Hakeem Olajuwon, David Robinson, Shaquille O'Neal and Reggie Miller don't play in the major leagues. Baseball has Barry Bonds, Frank Thomas and Ken Griffey Jr., but there aren't enough superstars to save baseball from its downward spiral.

Another problem hurting pro baseball is its college equivalent. The regional action around the country is furious as teams compete to get elusive bids to the College World Series

in Omaha. For once, the Southwest Conference is doing its fans proud in the postseason by placing four teams in the NCAA Regionals Tournament.

As of Sunday, all four SWC teams were still playing for bids to the World Series, with Texas Tech leading the charge after crushing Providence Saturday, 24-5. Both Rice and A&M also won Saturday while Texas was knocked off by the Oklahoma Sooners.


The point is college games have everything that the pros don't. Like hitting, for instance. Too many pro games are three-and-a-half hour long, 3-2 yawners. Saturday, A&M and Massachusetts ripped each other in a 14-11 war won by the Aggies. Tech had nine hits in the first inning against Providence en route to a 27-hit outburst.

There are very few, if any, signs of life for baseball. One is Cal Ripken, who is nearing the

immortal Lou Gehrig's consecutive game streak. Another is Hideo Nomo, the Japanese pitching sensation who is calling up images of Fernando Valenzuela out in Tinseltown.

Nomo, the current Dodger star is very similar to Valenzuela, the former Dodger star. They both have a crazy delivery, with Nomo twisting his body almost backward while Valenzuela practiced "breathing through his eyelids," a practice copied by the great "Nuke" LaLoosh in the movie "Bull Durham." Both also speak very little English, but nevertheless have captured the imagination of Southern California.

Can Nomo bring the glory years back to Los Angeles? Maybe. Can Bagwell find his stroke again and get back to his fearsome MVP form of last season? Probably. Can baseball ever be the same again? No.



TOP 10 FINIS

Name of driver, starting and number of laps

1. Jacques Villeneuve
2. r-Christian Fittipaldi
3. Bobby Rahal
4. r-Eliseo Salazar
5. Robby Gordon
6. Mauricio Gugelmin
7. Arie Luyendyk
8. Teo Fabi
9. Danny Sullivan
10. Hiro Matsushita

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