

# Spurs, Suns set for game 3

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — It's like the old days for David Robinson.

He's carrying the offensive load for the San Antonio Spurs in the absence of Tim Duncan.

Robinson had 25 points and 15 rebounds Tuesday in Game 2 against the Phoenix Suns as the Spurs earned their best-of-five playoff series 1-1.

Game 3 is Saturday in Phoenix. It has yet to be determined if Duncan, who has torn cartilage in his left knee, will play.

"It's kind of a distraction because we don't know his status. We know that it's a problem with his knee and that it gets swollen," Robinson said. "I haven't seen him in any action, and that tells me that he's not ready."

Robinson and Duncan, the MVP of the NBA Finals last year, led the Spurs to their first championship last season. Duncan dominated on offense and

Robinson anchored the defense.

Now Robinson is having to step up his scoring, much as the 7-foot-1 center did early in his career before Duncan arrived. Aside from occasional nagging injuries, Robinson has been in good shape.

"He gave us everything he has. His body has been feeling good," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "We are an inside-oriented team, and a big part of that (Duncan) is gone. David doing what he did is good."

San Antonio lost the first game of the series in the Alamodome 72-70 on Saturday as Robinson was held to 11 points.

In the second game, Robinson, Avery Johnson and Sean Elliott produced, giving San Antonio a 14-point lead by halftime and an 85-70 victory.

"The only thing we had a problem defending was when they ran the pick and roll with Avery and David," said Penny Hardaway of the Suns. "When David would get back out and Avery would kick the ball to him, then David would hit the shot."

Phoenix coach Scott Skiles said

Robinson and the Spurs made the adjustments they needed to win without Duncan.

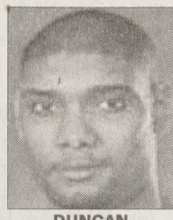
"In the first half we were soft and let Robinson catch the ball where he wanted it," Skiles said. "We made it more difficult for him in the third. We held him, but we couldn't convert our opportunities."

Robinson led a 17-3 Spurs run in the second quarter that gave the team the cushion it needed to overcome the Suns' defensive pressure in the third.

But the Suns shot poorly in the fourth, and Johnson scored 12 of his 21 points in the final period. Elliott, who returned in March after a kidney transplant, played a season-high 36 minutes and had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Suns hope to capitalize on the split they got in San Antonio. They're aiming to prevent an early rally like the one the Spurs had before halftime Tuesday.

"If we can stay mentally tough we can stop these spurts," said Suns guard Kevin Johnson. "It's a three-game series now, and we should be able to get it back."



DUNCAN

# Ryan in good condition after surgery

ROUND ROCK (AP) — Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is recovering well after a double bypass operation and should leave the hospital this week, his doctor and a spokesman for his baseball team said Wednesday.

"The boss is doing good," said J.J. Gottsch, public relations director for the minor league Round Rock Express. "He's recovering faster than they anticipated. He most likely will be out in the next couple of days."

Dr. Mark Felger, Ryan's heart surgeon, issued a brief statement saying Ryan is "recovering uneventfully and should be home in the next day or two."

Baseball's career leader in strikeouts and no-hitters was in Round Rock on Sunday for a Texas League game between the Express and Midland.

Ryan went to a Round Rock hospital after experiencing shortness of breath, tingling in his arms, and chest pains while walking around the stadium. He was moved to the Heart Hospital of Austin, where he was rushed into surgery. Tests revealed a near-total blockage in a main artery to his heart.

Doctors said Ryan had severe blockage in his left coronary

artery, which supplies 75 percent of the blood to the heart. An ostial lesion had developed where the left coronary artery met the aorta, resulting in blockage that ranged from 50 percent to 90 percent because of spasms in the artery.

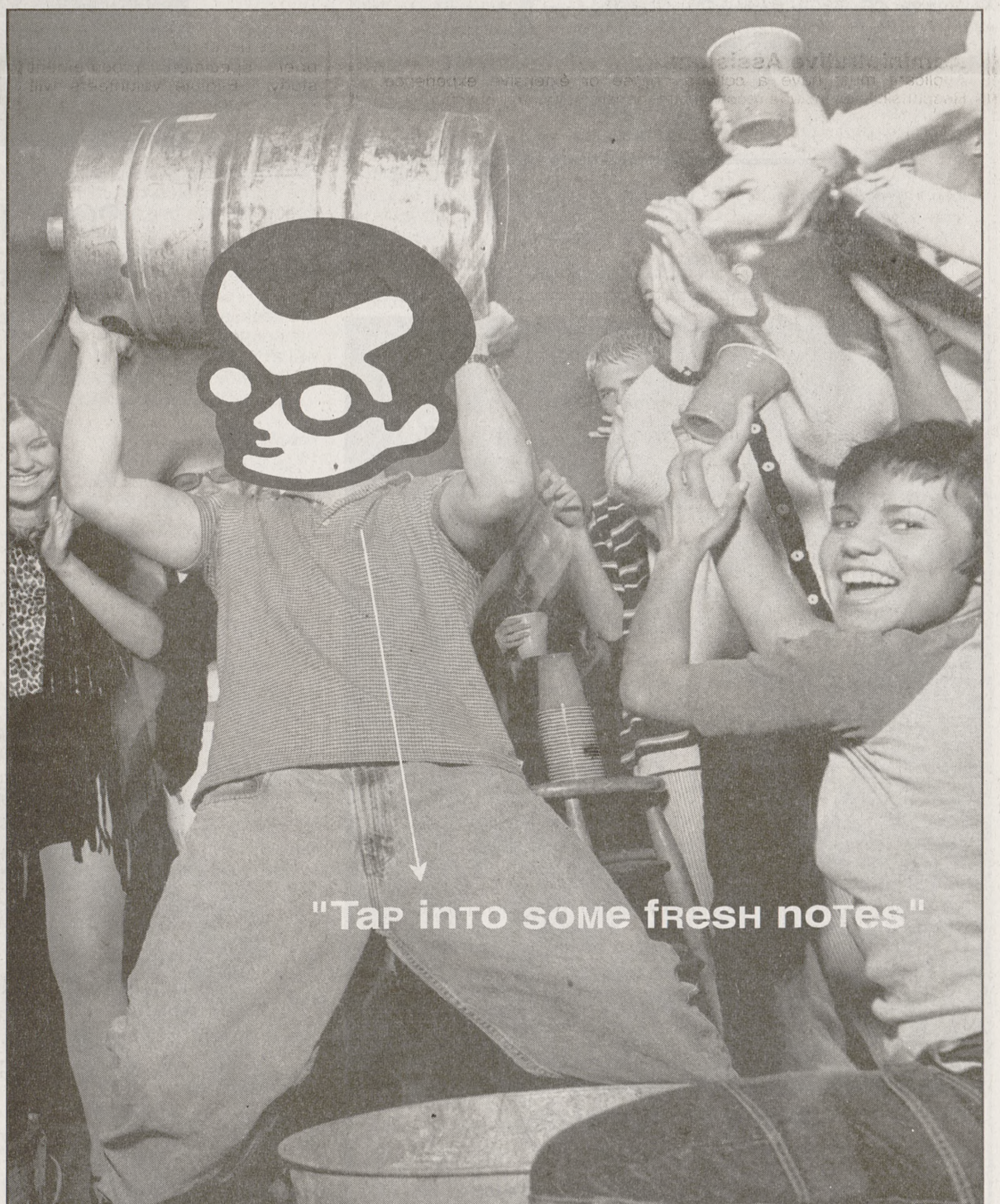
Gottsch said doctors report the usual recovery time for the operation is a week to 10 days, but Ryan has been recovering nearly with the speed of one of his pitches.

"This is really good for him. He's not the type to sit around," Gottsch said.

Gottsch said Ryan's wife, Ruth, likely will drive him home to Alvin, near Houston, where he will continue recuperating.

Ryan was a first-ballot Hall of Famer in 1999. He holds or shares 48 major league, American League or National League records. During a record 27 seasons in the majors, his blistering fastballs gave him the records in strikeouts with 5,714 and no-hitters with seven. He retired in 1993 with the Texas Rangers.

Ryan, his son Reid and Houston businessman Don Sanders purchased the Houston Astros' Double-A affiliate and this year moved it from Jackson, Miss., to a new, \$25 million stadium located just north of Austin.



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**DINNER CIRCLES** by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 12 British gun               | 40 Poet Pound                          |
| 14 Chess choice              | 41 _the-mill                           |
| 17 Gumbo veggies             | 43 Horror-film menace                  |
| 22 Pinball paths             | 44 Lamented                            |
| 23 Book after John           | 45 Aviary population                   |
| 24 Flounder's filter         | 46 Debbie Allen TV series              |
| 25 Cheat at hide-and-seek    | 48 With 10 Down, grad student's hurdle |
| 26 Just clear of 'the seabed | 49 Teases, with "on"                   |
| 27 One of the Judds          | 50 Car part                            |
| 28 Model-plane material      | 52 13th-century explorer               |
| 29 Hockey infraction         | 53 Wax-coated cheese                   |
| 30 Slight coloration         | 54 Begins a Q&A session                |
| 34 Stress or worry, e.g.     | 57 _Ridge, TN                          |
| 36 Little Rascals teacher    | 58 Poetic adverb                       |
| 37 Ooh's partners            |  |
| 38 Cottonwood covering       |  |

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Answer to previous puzzle

STIRS	HADIT	INK
ARNIE	UPONE	REN
GOLDENGOOSE	OWE	
ALASKA	PRETENSE	
SLY	ETS	TECH
GRUNGE	RHODA	
PASO	ROOMY	ORAL
ERIN	ARUBA	ISTO
WILD	LEGER	NEAT
SAVOR	REDDOG	
ELA	WASAT	PST
PARABOLA	ROSIER	
ARF	BRASSMONKEY	
CAF	INDIA	LIIETO
TAX	TEENS	EPSION

**Newsday Crossword**

ACROSS

- Not quite shut
- Poet Teasdale
- Does a hatchet job on
- CBS eye, e.g.
- Element #5
- Leave the stage
- Two examples of 56 Across
- New Haven school
- United
- Green Hornet's driver
- Amateurs
- Bunker, to his buddies
- Meat in a pita
- Two examples of 56 Across
- Les \_Unis
- Pub pints
- George Bush's 70s grp.
- Love god
- Telemarketing tasks
- Barry's Going My Way costar
- Kipling character
- They're divided into periods
- Breath
- Two examples of 56 Across
- Spherical bodies
- Low sound
- Prepare a floppy disk
- Casino game
- Soup veggie
- Mozca man
- Theo of this puzzle
- Bethlehem visitors
- Makes less burdensome

DOWN

- Purina competitor
- 1958 Pulitzer
- Hold up
- Offer comfort to
- Jason's ship
- Nancy's youngest
- Critiques
- Attention-getter
- See 49 Down
- Artifice

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