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NBA Playoffs Approach Final Four

By William Ramirez

From the beginning of the season everyone said the L.A. Lakers and Boston Celtics would meet in the NBA finals, well after Tuesdays playoff games they were getting closer and closer. Boston was up 2 games to 1 in their series with Milwaukee and the Lakers had wrapped up their series with Golden State, 4 games to 1.

Boston will try to repeat as champions, it would be the first time in more than 15 years that an NBA team would repeat as champion. Los Angeles, on the other hand, will try to return to the

finals after missing out last year losing to the Houston Rockets in the Conference finals. If L.A. makes it to the finals this year it'll be the fifth time in six years they've reached the finals.

Boston and Los Angeles have proved to be the dominant teams in the '80's. Since 1980, both teams own 3 championships a piece. Los Angeles won in 1980, '82 and '85; Boston won the crown in 1981, '84 and '86. The 1983 championship went to the Philadelphia 76ers.

In the Lakers' semi-final, they looked as if they'd sweep their series with Golden State, but Sunday af-

ternoon Eric "Sleepy" Floyd came alive to devour the Laker defense as he scored 51 points helping the Warriors defeat the Lakers 129-121. The Lakers won games 1, 2 and 3 by 9, 15 and 25 points respectively. The Lakers led all through game 4 until the Warriors put together a comeback which overcame a 102-88 deficit. Floyd scored a playoff record 29 fourth quarter points to help keep the Warriors alive. The Warriors didn't last long though as in Game 5 the Lakers eliminated them with a 118-106 victory. The Lakers will meet the winner of the Seattle-Houston series.

In Boston's semi-final, against Milwaukee, it has been an uphill climb. In Game 1 Boston defeated the Bucks 111-98 and it looked as if they'd just sweep right through Milwaukee. In game 2 Milwaukee put up a tough fight but just couldn't put it together and lost 126-124. Then there was Game 3, the Bucks finally came alive Milwaukee took the Celtics to overtime and earned their first victory of the series, 126-121. But now comes the test, would Milwaukee let Boston get the big advantage, all Milwaukee had to do was win and the series was tied. Well the Bucks scratched and clawed and at the end of regulation it was tied, just like Game 3, overtime. Milwaukee hung in there and at the end of overtime... it was tied, DOUBLE overtime. Well this time Boston wore them down as reserve forward Darren Daye hit the game winning free throws with one minute remaining and the Celtics finally defeated the Bucks 138-137. The Celtics continued their series with Milwaukee Wednesday in the Garden where they've won 79 of their last 80 games.

In the other semi-final matchups Detroit led their series with Atlanta 3 games to 1 while Seattle held a 3-2 lead on Houston.

Detroit, squaring off against Atlanta, won their third game of the series 89-88. Leading the way for Detroit, as always, was Isiah

World-Ranked Las Vegas Mayweather returns in Showboat main Thursday, May 14

Former World Boxing Association junior light-weight champion Roger Mayweather of Las Vegas fights here for the first time

Thomas. Thomas' driving one-handed shot from the right side of the lane with one second on the clock gave Detroit their victory. Unless the Hawks overcome a 3-1 deficit the Pistons will make their first Conference final appearance. They also would avenge last year's playoff loss to Atlanta. That series would continue Wednesday evening.

Now this semi-final matchup, between Seattle and Houston, has been a surprise. Seattle went into Houston and danced their way through games 1 and 2. Houston returned to form defeating Seattle 102-84 in game 3. But then it happened again, UPSET, Seattle beat Houston 117-102 behind All-Star MVP Tom Chambers 38 points. Now the Supersonics held a commanding 3-1 lead.

Tuesday evening was Game 5 and Seattle could've eliminated the defending Western Conference Champions, but Houston held on for victory and defeated Seattle 112-107. Seattle is now up 3-2; two more chances.

Well that's where the playoffs lie, but sometime in June expect the 1987 NBA Championship trophy to be in the Far East or the Far West; (Boston, Mass. or Los Angeles, Calif.).

in more than one year when he faces Frankie Davis in the 10-round main event on the Top Rank/ESPN professional boxing card Thursday, May 14, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

Mayweather, currently ranked No. 6 by the World Boxing Council among light-weights, and Davis, from Reno, will meet at the junior welterweight class.

Also on the card promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank Inc. in association with the Showboat will be a 10-round semi-main event matching junior lightweight prospects Lupe Miranda of Fort Worth, Texas, and Juan Cantu of Oxnard, Calif.

Four preliminary bouts — three featuring Las Vegas — complete the card in the Showboat Sports Pavilion. Local fighters include undefeated bantamweight Akeem Ainfowoshe in a six-round bout, middleweight Israel Cole in a six-round fight and middleweight Rene Marino making his pro debut in a four-rounder. Unbeaten heavyweight "Bronco" Billy Wright also will appear in a six-rounder.

The card starts at 6 p.m. with doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion opening at 5.

Tickets, priced at \$12 for general admission and \$20 for ringside reserved, are on sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

The 26-year-old Mayweather, originally from Grand Rapids, Mich., has a record of 26-5 with 17 knockouts and has recorded knockouts in his past three wins.

Davis, 25, has a record of 17-4-2 with nine knockouts and has not lost in almost three years.

Mayweather is fighting in Las Vegas for the first time since March 1986. Since then the boxer-puncher has stopped Oscar Bejines in the seventh round on July 3 in Los Angeles, Sergio Zam-

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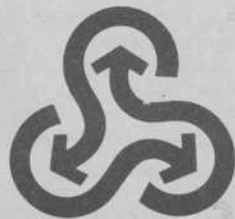
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