

SPORTS

CHICAGO HOLDS 3-1 LEAD

Seattle stays alive



By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

It was Game 3 of the 1996 NBA Finals all over again. Sort of. The only difference this time, believe it or not, was the Chicago Bulls on the losing end of the score.

The Seattle SuperSonics, realizing their backs were against the wall, finally showed up ready to play Wednesday at home in Game 4 and held off the charging Chicago Bulls 107-86.

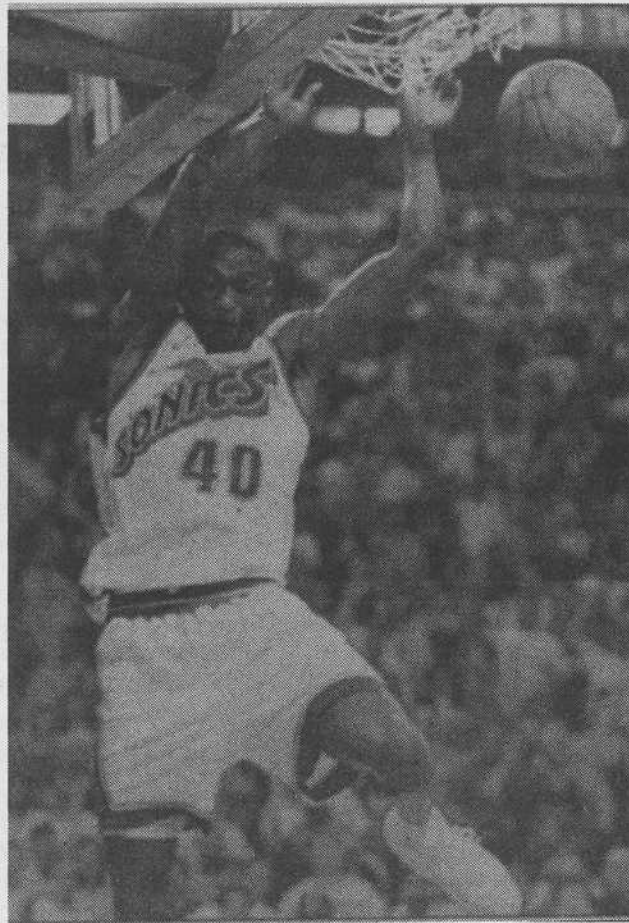
Chicago, who held a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series going into Wednesday's matchup, were looking to sweep the Sonics en route to their fourth NBA title in the last six years. That will now have to wait.

Seattle, who had played poorly through the first three games of the series would not be denied in Game 4, however.

With chances to win both Games 1 and 2 in Chicago, the Sonics had been plagued by turnovers, poor shooting, and even poorer rebounding, allowing Bulls forward Dennis Rodman to have his way in the paint. Rodman also seemed to frustrate the Sonics mentally, taking them totally out of the style of play which led them to a 64-18 regular season record, second only to the Bulls' 72-10 season mark.

In Game 3, Seattle was thoroughly humiliated on their home court in a 108-86 loss. Dominating the game from the opening tip, Chicago, led by Michael Jordan's 36 points, totally frustrated Seattle both offensively and defensively.

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Shawn Kemp's game-high 25 points helped keep the Seattle's NBA championship hopes alive as the SuperSonics posted a 107-86 win over the Chicago Bulls in Game 4 Wednesday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

POOLE AND EIGHT TEAMMATES INDICTED

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Nine Oregon State football players, including former Western High School standout Derrick Poole, were indicted last week on theft charges alleging they made thousands of dollars worth of calls on a university credit card. In all, 11 university students were indicted for making \$12,925 worth of phone calls during the past school year, according to school officials. The 11 were either cited or would be cited for first degree theft of service and will be scheduled to appear in Benton County District Court. In addition to the criminal charges, the 11 will be subject to possible charges from the university. They could be suspended, expelled or placed on probation and ordered to pay restitution.

RELATIONS WORSEN; NBA LOCKOUT POSSIBLE

CHICAGO — Relations between the NBA and its players union have deteriorated to the point where the word "lockout" was mentioned publicly during the NBA Finals last week. At a news conference to hype the league's 50th anniversary plans, commissioner David Stern and deputy commissioner Russ Granik discussed the impasse over details of last fall's collective bargaining agreement, which has not yet been signed. Stern and Granik did not rule out a lockout, and the union contended one would be illegal. No one expected any decision until after the Olympics. The document remains unsigned while the sides argue over exactly what was ratified by the players.

'DAWG POUND' WILL REMAIN IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND — A couple of hometown players won the rights Thursday to design the \$220 million stadium for the future Cleveland Browns and promised to keep the "Dawg Pound." The \$14.5 million contract went to HOK Sports Facilities Group of Kansas City and Robert P. Madison International and Osborn Engineering, both of Cleveland. HOK designed Jacobs Field for the Cleveland Indians. The new Cleveland Browns are to begin playing in the new stadium in 1999.

ZONING INSPECTOR DENIES TYSON REQUEST

SOUTHINGTON, Ohio — A zoning inspector has denied boxer Mike Tyson's request to keep a lion cub and two tiger cubs on his estate, and the WBC heavyweight champion is appealing that ruling. Tyson representatives filed an appeal last Wednesday of a May 30 decision by Bob Reader, zoning inspector for Southington Township about 40 miles southeast of Cleveland. Reader denied Tyson's request to erect a facility to feed and house the cubs on the estate. Tyson is believed to have a tiger cub already on the estate, the Tribune Chronicle of Warren reported.

BLADES RELIVES ORDEAL AT HEARING

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A tearful Brian Blades sat silently in court Monday, listening to the tape of the 911 call he made moments after a tussle over a gun led to his cousin's fatal shooting. The voice of the Seattle Seahawks receiver, caught on tape in the first emergency call after the 12:38 a.m. shooting July 5, 1995, echoed through Broward Circuit Judge Susan Lebow's courtroom Monday. Charles Blades was fatally shot in an apparent tussle with Brian Blades at Brian Blades' townhouse in Plantation, outside Fort Lauderdale. The shooting happened moments after a beer-drinking, partying Fourth of July ended in a family quarrel — first between Brian Blades' brother Benny and Benny's ex-girlfriend, then between brothers Brian and Benny — a defensive back for the Detroit Lions.

MCCOVEY GETS PROBATION

NEW YORK — Former San Francisco Giant Willie McCovey, the Hall of Fame slugger who remains among baseball's all-time home run champions 16 years after retiring, was sentenced Friday to two years probation for evading taxes on baseball memorabilia. McCovey stared straight ahead during the sentencing. He had previously pleaded guilty to a single count of tax evasion. McCovey admitted he failed to declare \$41,800 in income in 1989, when he made \$87,000, and \$69,800 in baseball memorabilia income received between 1988 and 1990. The judge sentenced him to two years probation and fined him \$5,000 for his role in a baseball memorabilia market that exploded in popularity in the 1980s.

HALL INDUCTS PRYOR, BENITEZ

CANASTOTA, N.Y. — Mourning the death of his mother, Aaron Pryor Sunday, accepted the highest honor of his boxing career. Flanked by his longtime trainer Buddy LaRosa and his mentor Ken Hawk, Pryor entered the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Pryor, who dominated the junior welterweight ranks from 1980-1984, was one of 13 former boxers and ring personalities inducted from four categories: modern, old-timer, pioneer and non-participant. Also inducted were Wilfred Benitez, Joe Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Emanuel Steward, Tommy Burns, Jack Delaney, Fidel LaBarba, Young Stribling and Kid Williams.

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Torchbearers dispute resolved

OAKVILLE, Ala. — An African American was added to the team that will carry the Olympic torch through Jesse Owens' hometown after a local activist threatened to protest.

Therman White, who is black, was named a torchbearer when the flame passes through Oakville.

"We're so delighted that it could be resolved and we're excited for the community that it's going to work out this way," said Cindy Bowling, assistant regional advance manager for the Olympic Torch Relay.

White, a resident of Oakville and chairman of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park Committee, learned Tuesday that he will run with park project coordinator James Pinton, who is white.

Eighty-six torchbearers for the north Alabama route were chosen from 972 nominees by a 30-member selection committee. Three of those selected were black, but the team of eight Lawrence County torchbearers did not include any African Americans. The selection process was coordinated by the United Way.

Donna Rush, director of communications for the United Way of Madison County, said the selection committee did not know the race of all the nominees. The pool of nominees include men and women of all ages and was 20 percent black, she said.

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