Defense tells as Lakers tip SuperSonics

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INGLEWOOD, CALIF. - Although the Los Angeles Lakers' nationally televised 92-87 victory over Seattle in the first game of the NBA Western Conference finals Saturday wasn't exactly playoff basketball at its finest, it might be about as good as it'll get in this series.

That means a lot of hard defense the kind that makes good shots, fast breaks and offensive continuity hard to come by. It means a lot of grabbing and holding and leaning and fouling. Playoff basketball at its grungiest.

"They create a lot of havoc," was Laker guard Michael Cooper's description of the Seattle defense. "Same as we do."

Havoc? Consider this: The Lakers were held to their lowest point total of the season and still won.

They scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, shooting 3-for-13 from the floor and still won. That's because the Sonics also scored only 15 points, shooting 3-for-18.

Defensive Prowess

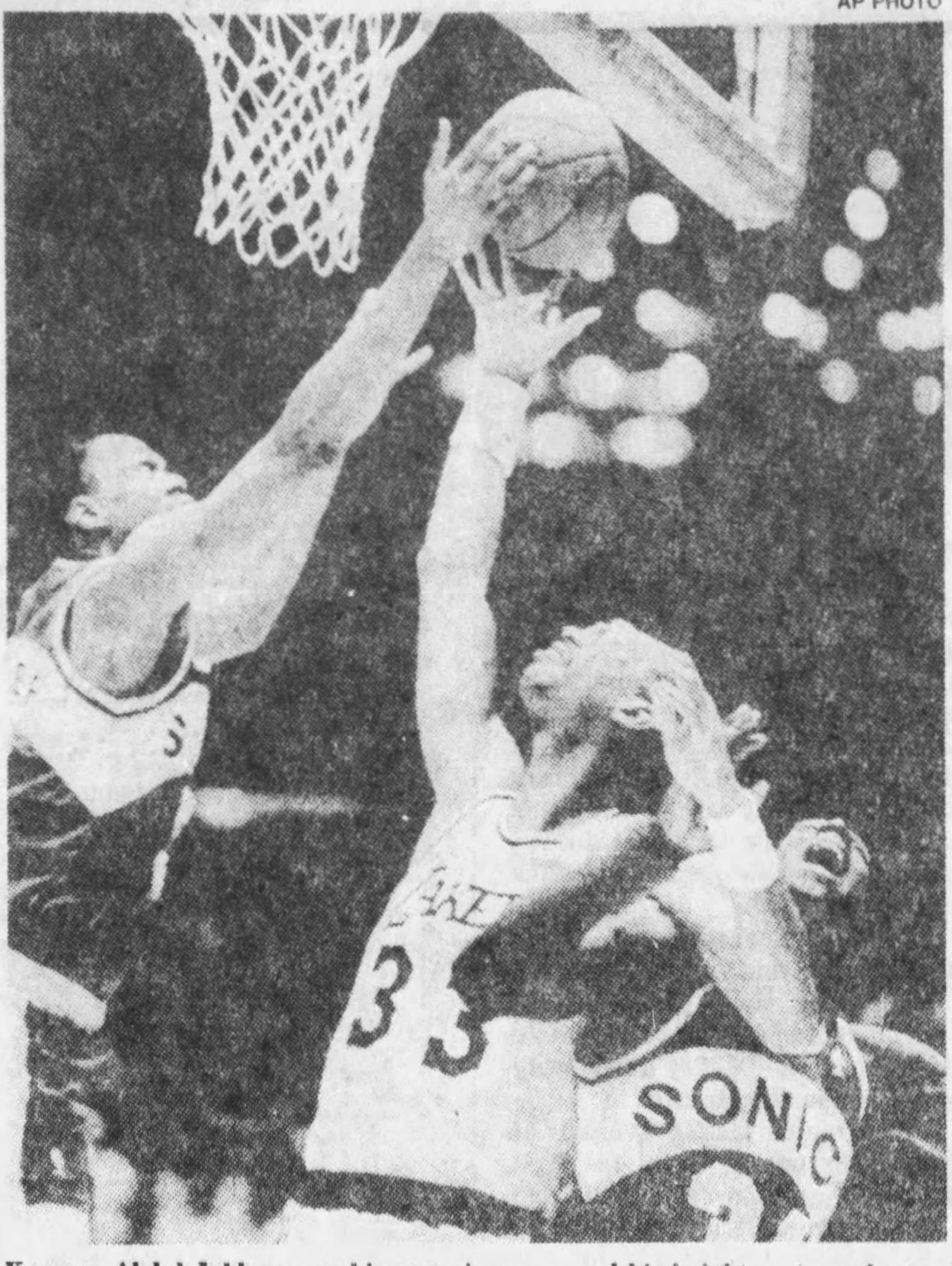
"Ninety-two points is enough in a game like this," said the Lakers' Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who scored 14 of his 20 points in the third quarter, when the Lakers established command of the game. "I'm not surprised that's all we scored. They're a very good defensive team. That's how they got here."

The SuperSonics, who finished 39-43 in the regular season, upset Dallas and Houston in the first two playoff rounds, using their disruptive fullcourt pressure and double-teams to maximum effect.

They also got here with a threepronged offense in which guard Dale Ellis and forwards Tom Chambers and Xavier McDaniel combined for 72 points a game and 70 percent of the team's shots.

But Saturday, the Lakers took out one of the prongs. Ellis, the Sonics' leading scorer in the regular season (24.9 points) and playoffs (28.9), scored just 11 points on 3-for-13

shooting. On the other hand, the Sonics did a



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar uses his experience — and his height — to make two smart plays: He blocks out Seattle's Xavier McDaniel (left) with his left arm, leaving his right hand free to block Alton Lister's shot.

number on Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who had 19 points and 11 assists but missed 13 of his 18 shots and had four turnovers in probably his worst game of the postseason.

Adequate Support

But Johnson had adequate support from James Worthy (27 points), Abdul-Jabbar, Scott (11) and Cooper (10).

Chambers (28 points) and McDaniel (21 points, 10 rebounds) had their moments for Seattle. But neither could stay hot long enough to carry the team when Ellis disappeared.

Seattle went scoreless for the first 5 minutes 40 seconds of the fourth quarter as the Lakers built a 85-72 lead. But the Sonics scored 10 straight points to close to within

Seattle was still within three, 90-

87. when Johnson double-dribbled under pressure from Kevin Williams with 38 seconds left.

But Chambers missed a jumper over Worthy, and Johnson and McDaniel tied up the rebound for a jump ball that the Lakers corralled.

Cooper was fouled by Alton Lister with 10 seconds to play, made two free throws, and that sealed the out-

Chambers 9-17 8-9 28, McDaniel 10-19 1-2 21, Lister 3-7 0-0 6, Ellis 3-13 5-7 11, McMillan 2-6 0-0 4, Young 2-6 0-0 5, C. Johnson 1-1 2-2 4, Williams 1-3 2-6 4, Lucas 1-4 0-0 2, Ed. Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Schoene 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 33-79 18-26.

Green 1-3 1-2 3, Worthy 11-19 5-6 27, Abdul-Jabbar 6-11 8-8 20, Ea. Johnson 5-18 9-12 19, Scott 5-8 1-4 11, Cooper 2-6 6-8 10, M. Thompson 1-4 0-0 Seattle ______25 17 30 15-87 L.A. Lakers _____27 24 26 15-92 Three-point goals—Chambers 2, Young, Fouled

out-Lister. Rebounds-Seattle 53 (McDaniel, Lister 10), Los Angeles 48 (Ea. Johnson 7). Assists-Seattle 27 (McMillan 8), Los Angeles 22 (Ea. Johnson 11). Total fouls--Seattle 27, Los Angeles 24. Technicals-Seattle lilegal defense 2, Ea. Johnson

Bucks face Celtics in final game of series

BOSTON, MASS. (AP) — The Celtics are home today to complete their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal with Milwaukee, but little else is going in Boston's direction.

With too many players having played too many minutes, the Celtics are threatened with the earliest end to their NBA season in four years.

"We've got to establish ourselves and take the momentum away from them," Celtics forward Fred Roberts

said of the decisive seventh game. In 1983, Milwaukee beat Boston, 4-0, in the Eastern Conference semifinals, which ended May 2. The Celtics have reached the championship round in each of the three seasons

since then, winning twice. Last Wednesday night, Milwaukee held Boston without a field goal for the last 21/2 minutes, won, 129-124, and ended the Celtics' 31-game Boston Garden winning streak. On Friday night, the Bucks used a fastbreaking offense and a swarming defense to erase a 12-point third-quar-

ter deficit and win, 121-111, at home. If they win today, the Bucks will become only the fifth NBA team to survive a 3-1 deficit and will make the Celtics the 18th consecutive champion to fail to repeat. Boston has not lost any of the 19 series it led 3-1. Consecutive Highs

"It doesn't surprise me to be in a seventh game," said Milwaukee's Sidney Moncrief, who achieved consecutive career playoff highs with 33 points Wednesday night and 34 Friday night. "It'll be determined in the last five minutes. We're going to continue to play with confidence."

The Celtics would like to resume playing with Robert Parish, their starting center who missed Friday night's game with a sprained left ankle. The absence of his shot-blocking skills helped the Bucks penetrate for crucial baskets in the sixth game.

"I thought we played well with what we had available," the Celtics' Larry Bird said. "If we play with the same intensity with Robert in there, we'll be all right. It will carry over into the seventh game."

Celtics team physician Dr. Thomas Silva said before Saturday's practice he expects Parish to play today. Re-

NBA PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference SEMIFINAL-ROUND SERIES Boston 111, Milwaukee 98 Boston 126, Milwaukee 124 Milwaukee 126, Boston 121 (OT) Boston 138, Milwaukee 137 (2 OT) Milwaukee 129, Boston 124

Milwaukee 121, Boston 111 TODAY'S GAME Noon - Milwaukee at Boston (series tied, 3-3)

garding backup center Bill Walton, out with an injured right foot, Silva said: "I'm all for him giving it a try, but it's got to be between a coach and a player."

Injuries and a weaker bench have forced Boston's starters to play more than Bucks starters. Four Celtics starters played at least 42 minutes in each of the last two games. No Bucks starter did that in the fifth game and only one did it in the sixth game.

"I can play two games a day," said Bird, who has said repeatedly he doesn't get tired when he plays a lot.

Nelson's Finale?

Milwaukee Coach Don Nelson said that "as you get older, it gets harder and they do have a couple guys up in their 30s. But I don't think this will have any bearing on our particular series."

Nelson has had differences with Bucks owner Herb Kohl and has indicated he will step down after this season, his 11th as Milwaukee's

Bird, who has made just 17 of 42 field-goal attempts in the last two games and hasn't been a dominant figure, said, "Maybe we'll go to me a little more in the seventh game."

The Bucks figure to keep running and shuffling in fresh players. Boston is likely to adopt a slower pace to keep its key players from tiring and try to strengthen its defense, which allowed 106 points per game in the regular season but has given the Bucks 120 per playoff game, excluding overtimes.

"By no means is anybody in control," Milwaukee guard John Lucas said. "Anything can happen in a seventh game, one rule, one call, any-

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MORNING REPORT

Longhorns subpoenaed: The Chicago-based federal grand jury investigating reports that Norby Walters, a New York sports agent, and his associate, Lloyd Bloom, threatened players and rival agents to keep players from deserting him has subpoenaed scholarship information on three former University of Texas football players. DeLoss Dodds, the university's athletic director, identified the players as former Longhorn running back Edwin Simmons, wide receiver Everett Gay and tight end William Harris.

What's in a name?: A 40-yearold Dubuque man won \$34,657.60 Friday night at Dubuque Greyhound Park with a \$2 wager. The man, who asked to remain anonymous, picked what he called his "lucky numbers" in the Super-Six, where winners are selected in races five through 10. He made one exception to his normal method, he picked a dog in the eighth race with a name he liked - I'll Make You Rich.

BRIEFLY ...

Basketball: Marques Kevin Johnson Jr., the 15-month-old son of Los Angeles Clippers forward Marques Johnson, died Saturday, just about 24 hours after falling into the family swimming pool.

Boxing: An overweight Earnie Shavers, 42, floored unheralded Larry Simms, a 36-year-old fighter from Cleveland, with a body blow and an uppercut 1 minute 30 seconds into the second round of their heavyweight fight Saturday in Cincinnati. Shavers ducked frequently and punched sparingly in what he hopes is the start of a comeback toward a title shot. . . . Roberto Duran, the former world champion making yet another comeback attempt, won a unanimous decision over Victor Claudio of Puerto Rico in a 10-round middleweight fight at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Duran, 36, was fighting for the first time since losing a split decision to Robbie Sims on June 23, 1986.

Golf: Rookie Steve Elkington took advantage of near-perfect conditions to shoot a 7-under-par 63 that lifted him into a tie with Chip Beck and Scott Simpson, for the second-round lead Saturday in the \$600,000 Colonial National Invitation Tournament. in Fort Worth, Texas. . . . Colleen Walker, a non-winner in five years on the LPGA tour, fired a 3-under-par 70 and opened a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$225,000 Chrysler-Plymouth Classic, in Middletown, N. J. . . . Lee Elder birdied the last three holes to take a four-shot lead over Dale Douglass after two rounds of the \$225,000 United Hospitals Senior Golf Championship in Malvern,

Close to home: Hayden Fry, the University of Iowa football program's super salesman, tried out his selling technique on Congress last week. Fry joined a star-studded coaches' delegation to lobby for a portable pension plan for college football coaches. Among the big names: Jackie Sherrill of Texas A & M, Bo Schembechler of Michigan, Earle Bruce of Ohio State, Johnny Majors of Tennessee and Jimmy Johnson of Miami.

Soccer: Tottenham Hotspur's Gary Mabbutt put the ball into his own net 6 minutes into overtime Saturday to give Coventry City a 3-2 victory in the the Football Association Cup final in Wembley, England.

Tennis: Second-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden, playing a nearflawless baseline style, crushed a frustrated John McEnroe, 6-1, 6-3, Saturday to advance to the final of the Italian Open in Rome. Wilander faces 11th-seeded Martin Jaite of Argentina in today's final. ... Topseeded Steffi Graf of West Germany beat Saudra Cecchini of Italy, 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, in the semifinals of the \$150,000 German Open women's tennis tournament in Berlin. Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany beat Patricia Tarabini, an Argentine, 6-4, 7-6, in the other semifinal.

Track: Edwin Moses extended his unbeaten streak in the 400-meter hurdles to 106 on Saturday, winning the Adidas-Princeton Invitational event in 49.19 seconds in Princeton, N.J.

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