

SPORTS

BARKLEY HAS MONSTER GAME

Sir Charles in charge

by Canadian Press

Charles Barkley turned in one of the best performances in NBA playoff history Wednesday night as the Phoenix Suns beat the Golden State Warriors 140-133 to sweep their first-round series.

Barkley finished with 56 points, third-best effort in a playoff game, including a record 38 in the first half as the Suns moved closer to returning to the NBA Finals.

In the deciding Game 3, Barkley hit 23 of 31 shots from the field, had 14 rebounds and was 7-for-9 from the foul line. His 56 points were bettered only by Michael Jordan's 63 in 1986 and Elgin Baylor's 61 in 1962.

"Like I said before the series, the only thing I feared was if we got in a series and tried to outscore them," said Barkley. "We had to play defence and stop them."

"This was only game that was a real shootout, but if we don't im-

NBA

prove our defence we won't win a title."

In Wednesday night's other game, the New Jersey Nets stayed alive with a 93-92 overtime victory over the New York Knicks in Game 3.

The only Eastern Conference game tonight will have Miami trying to wrap up the series at home in Game 4 against top-seeded Atlanta.

Chicago, which gets the New York-New Jersey winner, and Indiana, which gets the Miami-Atlanta survivor, have already clinched in the East.

In the West tonight, Seattle tries to clinch on the road at Denver and Utah goes for the series win at home against San Antonio.

Houston, leading 2-1, is at Portland in a Game 4 on Friday night.

The Suns play the winner of that series in the next round.

In Oakland, Calif., Phoenix trailed 107-106 entering the fourth quarter and built its lead to 125-117 with 7:35 to play when Barkley converted a three-point play and notched his 50th point.

Golden State cut the lead to 131-129 on a basket by Latrell Sprewell, who had 27 points, with 2:07 left but couldn't get any closer. The Suns missed just three of their 19 shots in the final period.

Chris Mullin had 30 points for the Warriors, who were swept in a playoff series for the first time since 1967-68, when the Lakers won four straight in the Western Conference finals.

Nets 93 Knicks 92

Chris Morris made his first free throws of the game with 1.5 seconds left in the overtime to set up a Game 4 Friday night, again at the Meadowlands.

HORSE RACING

Bull top pick for Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Holy Bull drew the No. 4 post position and was made the 8-5 early favorite for Saturday's Kentucky Derby as a field of 15 was entered today.

Track oddsmaker Mike Battaglia made Santa Anita Derby winner Brocco the second choice at 3-1.

The next choice was Tabasco Cat at 6-1.

Post time is 5:30 p.m. EDT, and all starters will carry 126 pounds.

If all 15 go to post, the total purse will be \$888,800 US, with \$638,800 going to the winner.



Cup-winner winners get Cup

AP photo

Arsenal captain Tony Adams raises the winners' trophy Wednesday after his team beat Parma of Italy 1-0 in the European Cup-winners' Cup soccer championship at Copenhagen. Alan Smith scored the winner for the British team.

AUTO RACING

Brazilians go to honor hero

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Weeping and applauding, Brazilians came by the tens of thousands Wednesday to pay their respects to Ayrton Senna.

A line of fans stretched for over a kilometre outside the state legislature, where the body of the three-time Formula One driving champion will lay in state until burial Thursday.

Senna, 34, died of head injuries after his Williams-Renault slammed into a concrete wall at close to 300 km-h during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola, Italy, on Sunday.

Senna was cherished by his countrymen as a symbol of Brazilian success and brilliance — a Pele on wheels.

"Brazil is in a sea of tears today," said Hugo Mendes Pacheco, who drove 22 hours from southern Brazil. "Senna was more than the king of racing. He was a god."

A veteran policeman said the public outpouring of grief was unequalled since the suicide of President Getulio Vargas in 1954.

Senna's body arrived from Paris at dawn and was met by crowds of mourners. Sirens wailed and confetti rained down from high-rises as a fire truck carried the flag-draped coffin.

Ireland quickest in first time trial

BRIEFLY

finished fourth in 24:24.85. Klaas Bouwman was fifth in 25:15.23.

The next road race is Sunday at 1 p.m.

The McBicycle Shop Blackwater Road race begins at the junction of Blackwater Road and Highway 16 West.

For the record

In Tuesday's Citizen, the Prince George Spruce Kings' office number was incorrectly quoted.

The number to call for information about the Kings' public meeting Sunday is 564-1747.

The meeting is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Yellowhead Inn.

Expo gets attention

MONTREAL (CP) — Tim Spehr has spent much of the season in obscurity, but he was the central figure in the Montreal Expos' 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday.

A third-string catcher, Spehr had one hit in 11 at-bats entering the game. He didn't get to bat until the eighth inning, but he ripped a double, only to get doubled off second base, erasing the Expos' chance to snap a 4-4 tie.

But Spehr redeemed himself with a two-out, bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth, which scored Marquis Grissom from third base with the winning run.

"I was really glad to get that second chance," said Spehr. "I mean, I was the winning run out there and I get doubled off, so that's big."

"That second at-bat helped. Usually, I get one or two at-bats a game and I find I'm sometimes slow and anxious when I'm up at the plate."

"My thinking process was a lot

BASEBALL

better in the ninth inning because I definitely felt ready to hit."

Grissom's speed enabled him to beat out an infield chopper to ignite the winning rally against reliever Todd Worrell (2-2). Grissom raced to third when Randy Milligan followed with a single.

The Dodgers then intentionally walked hot-hitting Moises Alou and the strategy paid off when Worrell struck out Wil Cordero.

Worrell then went to a 3-2 count on Lou Frazier and appeared to injure his side on the next pitch, which Frazier fouled off. Worrell was visited by the trainer, threw a warmup pitch and was unable to continue, prompting the Dodgers to summon Kevin Gross.

Gross struck Frazier out with his first pitch. He then went to a 2-2 count on Spehr, who hammered the next pitch high off the left-field fence.

Jays' pen still struggling

TORONTO (CP) — A centimetre here, a centimetre there and the Toronto Blue Jay bullpen wouldn't be the ugly blemish on the successful franchise is right now.

Trouble is, those centimetres add up, the mistakes compound themselves and the Jays continue to struggle every time a starter can't get deep into the game.

The latest in the never-ending saga came Wednesday night, when the Kansas City Royals scored a 6-4, 10-inning victory at the Sky-Dome.

Tony Castillo, protecting a 4-3

lead in the eighth, gives up a bloop double down the line in left and a muscled single to right by pinch-hitter Hubie Brooks that ties the game.

Next, Darren Hall easily retires the first two men he faces in 10th before Gary Gaetti rolls a seeing-eye single between short and third. Then Hall makes the big mistake, a hanging slider that Felix Jose quickly deposited into the right-field seats and it was game over.

"I just didn't get the pitch where I wanted to," understated Hall, the 29-year-old rookie who suffered his first major-league loss.

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