

Sonics fly past Nuggets

SEATTLE (AP) — Fred Brown scored 26 points and Gus Williams added 24 to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to a 123-108 playoff

victory Wednesday night over the Denver Nuggets and their first-ever berth in the National Basketball Association finals.

The triumph before a Coliseum sellout crowd of 14,098 gave the Sonics a 4-2 edge in the best-of-seven Western Conference championship series against the Nuggets.

Seattle will host the Washington Bullets, the Eastern Conference champions, in Game 1 of the best-of-seven NBA title series Sunday.

The Nuggets, who trailed 62-54 at halftime, closed to within six points twice early in the third period, the last time on a pair of Dan Issel baskets.

But the Sonics then ran off a 17-6 spurt, capped by John Johnson's three-point play, for an 83-66 advantage with 4:36 left in the quarter.

Seattle, which played with much more intensity than it had in its loss to the Nuggets in Game 5 in Denver Sunday, continued its hot shooting. The Sonics scored the last eight points of the third quarter for a commanding 93-72 margin going into the final 12 minutes.

The Sonics held Denver to just 18 points in the third period and Nuggets' star guard David Thompson to just four points in that quarter. Thompson finished with 21 points, including only 10 in the second half.

The victory was the Sonics' 20th straight at the Coliseum, in-

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—sportfolio—

Women athletes honored

Oregon senior women athletes and coaches will be honored this Thursday at a recognition dessert in the Letterman's Lounge, Mac Court, starting at 7:30 p.m.

All women athletes are invited to attend.

OTC holds two runs

The Oregon track club will hold runs of two and four miles Sunday at Alton Baker Park. There are no entry fees and no prizes. For more information, contact Janet Heinonen at 344-0498.

Sailing team takes second

The Oregon Sailing team with Rusty Kalen and James Taylor skippering, Paul Adamson and Scott Hopkins crewing, took second in Districts at Western Washington this past weekend. Six teams competed in the race across Lake Watcomb, which sported very stiff winds of about 20 knots.

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Commentary

Making decisions about dollars

Mike Marino

Money.

People in the business (that's right) of intercollegiate athletics know how important it has become, and we have begun to see legislation aimed at solving the problems created by the dollar.

The most recent proposal was passed in the Big 10 conference Tuesday night, and it set to rest — for the moment — one of the nagging issues in the NCAA today: football gate money.

At the outset the problem of how much money taken in at a football game might not seem important, but one shouldn't forget that it's football revenue that carries most of the other sports at a University — even Oregon.

What the faculty representatives of the Big 10 decided Tuesday, something that the conference's athletic directors had voted on in March of this year, was that home teams would now have to guarantee visiting conference teams at least \$100,000 in take-home pay for every game. Prior to this rule, the Big 10 had operated on the same type of deal that the Pac-10 operates on: a 50-50 split of gate money.

But now, a team will have to put up at least a hundred grand whether they draw enough to cover expenses or not. Theoretically, we could see teams in the Big 10 paying each other to play on the road.

The lines were drawn for a battle between both ends of the conference money spectrum: Michigan, the affluent one, and Northwestern, the not-so-affluent one.

Don Canham, the Wolverine Athletic Director, had argued earlier that going to play at Northwestern, where the crowds are poor at best, would mean a loss of \$300,000 in money that Michigan would have to incur as a result of not playing the game in Ann Arbor.

"If you're going to have a choice of playing before 104,000 or 30,000 people," Canham said Wednesday, "you'd have to take the bigger gate. How are you going to budget your budget if you don't know how much you're going to get?"

Canham, though, was not one of the vocal proponents of the \$100,000 rule. "Moving games is the way to approach it," he said. "In this conference you are going to have to maximize profit any way you can, and you should do things accordingly."

After all, we're not like the Pac-10. They get more TV money, and a bigger conference split of the Rose Bowl money than we do.

Certainly, the majority of the schools in the Pac-10 would face the same situation that Northwestern faces now. "There are going to be big games where we will only draw a split of \$60 or 70,000," said Northwestern AD John Pont. "And we'll have to pay \$20 or 30,000 out of our own pockets just to meet the rule."

Pont, like the ADs from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Purdue, each of whom has in the last four years failed to come up with a consistent gate above a \$100,000 split, is hoping that the losses will be absorbed on the road, where his school will get at least what they lost in return.

That situation would have to fail miserably before Pont would consider changing game sites. "I think that you have to keep in mind the basic philosophy behind intercollegiate athletics," he said. "I've been a college coach, and I realize that kids have problems playing on the road. And they should have the opportunity to play before their school."

Since the Big 10 is somewhat of a "model conference," in that it is an important voice in NCAA decisions, how does the \$100,000 rule effect others — specifically, the Pac-10?

"I don't think we've reached the point where we really need that," said Wiles Hallock, the executive director of the conference. "For us, the 50-50 split is much more effective."

The situation here gives us a better look. Oregon, on the average, gave conference opponent's \$50,000 in a take-home split this past season, and took in the same. Now if the \$100,000 rule had been in effect, the Ducks would have had to give up \$50,000 a game, or their share of the take. And at the end of the season, the program would have a lot less money to show for the year.

"It would hurt this conference, and not only Oregon, I might add," said John Caine, the Ducks' AD. "There are only three schools in the Pac-10 that can safely boast of drawing enough for \$100,000 in take-home money — USC, Washington and Arizona State. At this point, we can't."

There are ways to solve this problem of money — even the ones that exist with the 50-50 rule. "We could go on the road for all our big games and probably make more money right now," said Caine, "but we won't; no way. It just prostitutes your program so badly — before doing that, we would get out of the conference."

"And if that happened, a conference would lose its integrity and competitive flavor. We don't want it to turn into a money market."

There are, still, a lot of decisions being made now on just that basis — money. But it's good that each conference is solving problems in its own way.

gretchen MILLER

FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

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