

Lakers lead playoffs 2-1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Norm Nixon scored 21 of his 29 points in the second half as the Los Angeles Lakers pulled away from the Philadelphia 76ers for a 129-108 victory Tuesday night and a 2-1 lead in the National Basketball Association championship series.

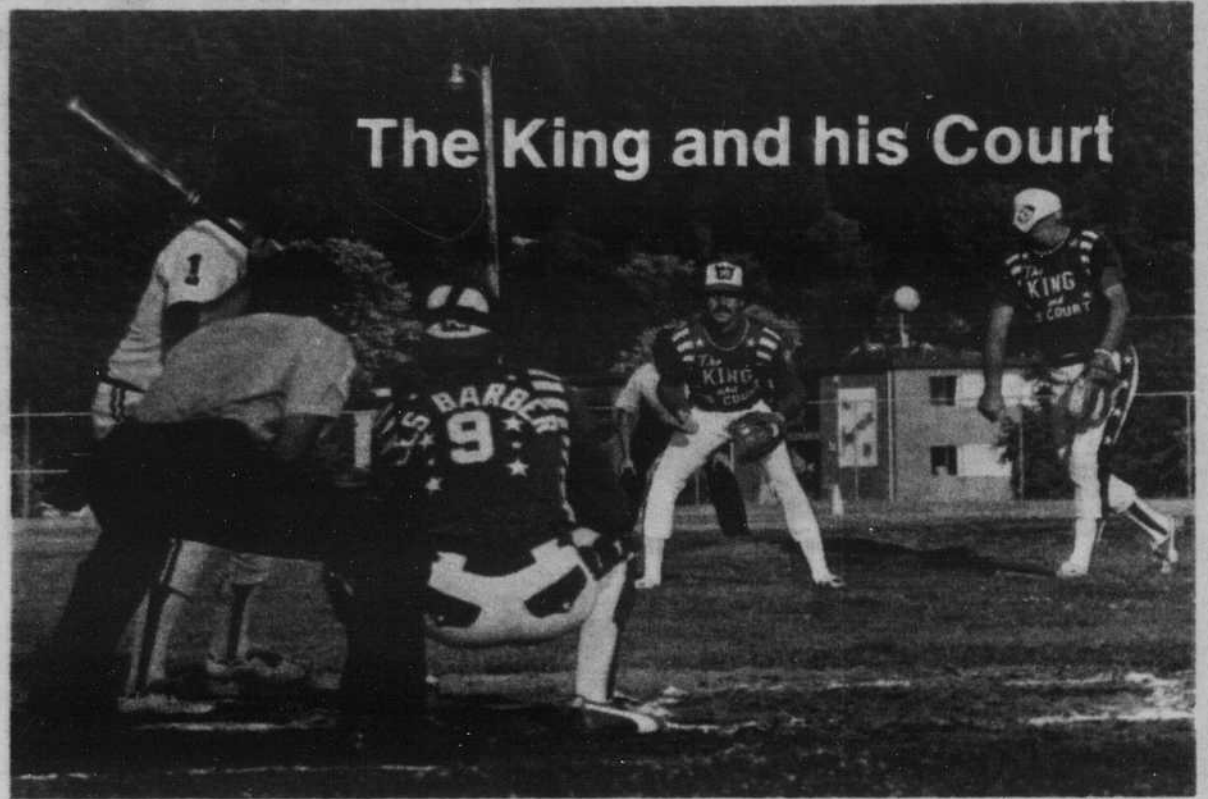
Nixon, who scored only six points in Los Angeles' 110-94 loss in Game 2 after leading the Lakers in scoring in their record nine-game playoff winning streak, was 8-for-10 from the field in the second half.

The fourth game of the best-of-seven series will be played here Thursday night.

The Lakers expanded a 12-point halftime lead to 73-50 with a 13-2 spurt in the first 3½ minutes of the third quarter. The closest the 76ers got after that was 15 points as Andrew Toney, who scored a game-high 36 points for Philadelphia, tried desperately to bring his team back.

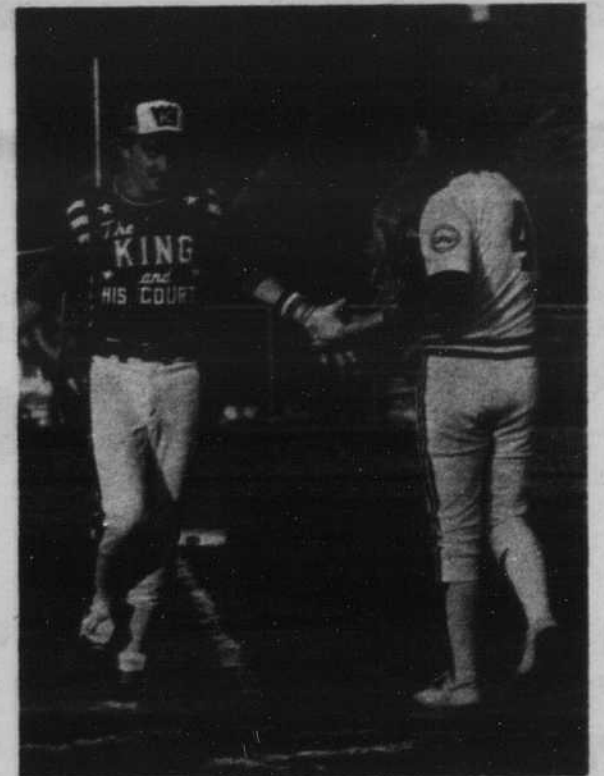
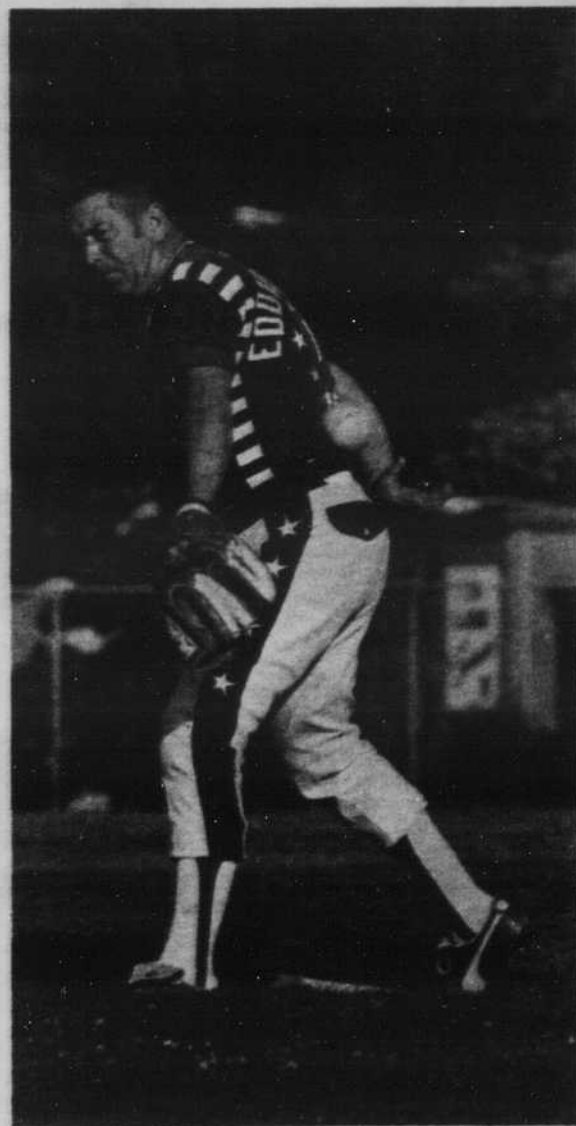
The Lakers, winning their tenth game in 11 playoff starts this season, scored what has proved to be a pivotal victory in the championship round. In the 35 previous final series, the team that won the third game has gone to win the title 25 times.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson had 22 points on 8-of-9 field goal shooting for the Lakers.



Photos by David Corey

The King and his Court came to town Tuesday to provide the entertainment at Howe Field. Eddie Feinger Sr. (the King) showed some of his fast-pitch softball finesse by pitching with a blindfold (above) and behind his back (left). Meanwhile the King's Court was busy providing the offense, led by former University of North Carolina baseball star Dave Barnett (below).



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