

76ers drop Lakers, 113-107

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers, with Moses Malone scoring 27 points and Andrew Toney adding 25 points, wore down Los Angeles in the second half and beat the Lakers 113-107 in the opener of the National Basketball Association championship series Sunday.

The Lakers, seeking to become the first team in 14 years to repeat as NBA champions, were playing their second game in less than 48 hours. Because of an injury to Bob McAdoo and foul trouble, they had to dig deep into the bench against the 76ers after using just seven players in some of their earlier playoff games.

The 76ers had best record in the league during the regular season, thanks to the addition of the 6-foot-10 Malone, who signed a six-year \$13.2 million contract. But they trailed by three at halftime.

Then, with the Lakers leading 63-60, a 10-1 streak in which Maurice Cheeks and Julius Erving scored four points piece, put the 76ers ahead 70-64 with 7:29 left in the third quarter. The Lakers, who had won the first road game in their last nine playoff series since 1979, never caught up again.

Erving had 20 points for Philadelphia, while Clint Richardson had 15, all in the second half. Norm Nixon led

Los Angeles with 26 points, while Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had 20, Ervin "Magic" Johnson 19 and Jamaal Wilkes 16.

Malone had 18 rebounds while Erving had 10 rebounds and nine assists.

The closest the Lakers got after Philadelphia went ahead for good was two points at the end of the third quarter. The 76ers extended their margin to 103-92 on a basket by Richardson with 5:29 to go.

The Lakers fought back to within four in the final minute. But Malone clinched it with two free throws with two seconds left.

The first half, which finished with the Lakers ahead 57-54, was one of spurt and counter-spurts by the two teams, who have now faced each other in the finals three of the past four years.

The 76ers broke away from three early ties with 11 straight points midway through the first period, with the last six in a row by Toney giving Philadelphia a 23-12 margin.

Abdul-Jabbar responded with a skyhook and a jumper and Michael Cooper hit two free throws to cut the deficit to 23-18, but Toney, who had 15 points in the first quarter, came back with a jumper and three-point play. When backup center Clemon Johnson scored for the 76ers, they had their biggest first half lead at

30-18 with 36 seconds to go in the period.

Then Los Angeles scored 15 of the next 19 points to make it 34-33 and the Lakers finally took their first lead of the game at 48-47 on a basket by Wilkes with 2:42 to go in the half.

A thigh injury kept backup forward-center McAdoo out of the lineup, and when Wilkes and Cooper picked up three fouls, the Lakers had to finish the half with four players who averaged less than 10 points in the regular season. However, one of those players, Clay Johnson, scored on an alley-oop play at the buzzer to give the Lakers a three-point lead.

Mark Landsberger, who had played in only seven of the Lakers' 11 previous playoff games, led Los Angeles in rebounding with 10.

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series will be played Thursday night, again in Philadelphia.



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Beavers win

PORTLAND (AP) — Third baseman Ron Pruitt belted a double and a three-run home run to power the Portland Beavers to a 6-5 Pacific Coast League baseball victory over the Tucson Toros in Portland Sunday.

Pruitt's eighth-inning home run tied the game at 5-5. With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Catcher John Russell hit his 10th home run of the year, a solo shot, to give Portland, 21-21, the victory.

Pitcher Larry Andersen, 3-3, was credited with the victory. Dan Boone, 4-3, suffered the loss.

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