

Wilkens misses chance to break record again

NEW YORK (AP) — Lenny Wilkens missed on a third attempt to break Red Auerbach's coaching record Wednesday night when the New York Knicks beat the Atlanta Hawks 89-80.

Even playing in Wilkens' hometown didn't help the Hawks, who have lost eight of their last 11 games. Their Brooklyn-born coach is still looking for career victory No. 939, which would break the mark he tied Dec. 29. Wilkens' next shot at the record comes Friday against Washington in The Omni.

The Hawks have hit the 100-point mark just once in the last seven games and have lost seven of 10 overall.

The Knicks got their fourth straight win by holding the Hawks to one field goal in the final 7 minutes. Atlanta

was 2 of 13 from the field in the fourth quarter and was out-rebounded 50-33.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 21 points and 11 rebounds and Derek Harper added 20. Mookie Blaylock paced the Hawks with 17 points and Ken Norman added 15.

The Hawks pulled to 84-80 on two free throws by Andrew Lang with 1:45 remaining. After both teams missed shots, Hubert Davis hit a 3-pointer with 51 seconds left to put the game away. Ewing made two free throws with 30 seconds to go for New York's final points.

Up 70-65, the Knicks scored the first two baskets of the fourth quarter to open a 9-point lead and held Atlanta without a field goal for the first three minutes.

The Hawks cut the lead to 84-80 with 4:10 to play on two free throws. New York shot 53 percent and held the Hawks to 16 points in the third quarter, opening a 66-61 lead on a 13-footer by Ewing with 2:00 left in the period. Steve Smith scored the last three baskets for the Hawks, but Atlanta entered the fourth quarter trailing by five points.

The Hawks went up 23-16 late in the first half on Norman's 3-pointer from the top of the key, but neither team led by more than five in the second half. A 3-pointer by Harper put the Knicks ahead 49-44 with 52 seconds left before intermission. Atlanta responded with two quick baskets, another trey by Norman, who had 12 first-half points, and a basket by Lang to pull even at the half.

Owners consider replacing players

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball officials turn their attention to replacement players today, and some government officials turn their attention to the 146-day-old strike.

While baseball's operations committee meets by telephone and discusses how to set up replacement ball, the 104th Congress opens. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Rep. Michael Biliarkis, R-Fla., planned to introduce legislation to remove the sport's 73-year-old antitrust exemption.

"Major league baseball is in grave peril," said Moynihan, who will be working with Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "The antitrust exemption allows the owners to act as a cartel."

In another part of Washington, Labor Secretary Robert Reich meets with union head Donald Fehr. Reich is scheduled to meet next week with acting commissioner Bud Selig.

"We've been encouraged and have not been distressed about our prospects for some time now," Fehr said Tuesday of the antitrust legislation.

General managers returned from the holiday break Tuesday and said they were awaiting guidance from the operations committee, which Selig appointed last September. Pitchers and catchers are due to start reporting Feb. 16, and the overwhelming majority of teams appear to favor the use of replacements.

"It may not be pretty at the beginning," New York Yankees general manager Gene Michael said. "I'm not comfortable doing it, but I know we're going to have to do something to get baseball back onto the sports pages."

Owners implemented a salary cap Dec. 23 after declaring an impasse in bargaining.

"America has spoken consistently and said: 'Give us replacement players rather than let these guys remain on strike,'" Atlanta Braves president Stan Kasten said Tuesday.

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