

Drexler up to old tricks in Houston loss

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns claimed they weren't after revenge in the wake of last year's playoff elimination by the Houston Rockets.

Then they went out and exacted some anyway.

"It was a perfect game as far as the way it went," Charles Barkley said.

The Suns, sensing the kill when Houston's Clyde Drexler was ejected in the second quarter, raced to a 130-108 victory Tuesday night.

They shot 60 percent in routing the defending champions in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals. Game 2 of the best-of-7 series is Thursday night in Phoenix.

A.C. Green had a career play-off high of 25 points, on 8-of-12 shooting, and 15 rebounds. Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich had been wary of a big game from Green, and that's precisely what happened.

"I think we are very hungry right now," Green said. "We're desperately trying to do what it takes to win."

Barkley, who has the flu and was on intravenous fluids during

the afternoon, had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns and Kevin Johnson had 21 points and 13 assists. The Suns outrebounded the Rockets 48-29.

"It was a situation where we wanted to establish play," Green said.

Sam Cassell scored 31 points for the Rockets and Hakeem Olajuwon had 18, but only four rebounds, while sitting out the fourth quarter.

"We look at this as a game to throw away," Cassell said. "That wasn't us out there."

The Suns bolted to 20-point leads over the dispirited Rockets in the second quarter and led 75-57 at halftime. They were up 106-81 after the third quarter.

The ejection overshadowed a strong defensive game by centers Joe Kleine and Wayman Tisdale, who each had 12 points and took Olajuwon, who was averaging 35 points in the playoffs, out of his game.

Kleine hit 6-of-7 shots, five from the top of the key while trying to draw Olajuwon outside.

"When he makes that shot, it makes my game easier, and it makes his game easier," Barkley

said.

Drexler, who teamed with Olajuwon to give the Rockets a rare pair of 40-point scorers when he got 41 in Game 4 of Houston's 3-2 first-round victory over the Utah Jazz, picked up two technical fouls and was ejected with 10:12 left in the second quarter.

The Suns were leading 40-30 when Drexler fouled Dan Majerle. Drexler protested, and referee Jake O'Donnell hit him with a technical.

O'Donnell walked away, but Drexler kept talking, and O'Donnell signaled a second technical, an automatic ejection.

Drexler, who finished the first quarter as Houston's leader in points (nine), rebounds (two) and assists (two), yelled and charged O'Donnell. He was restrained by Tomjanovich and Mario Elie, but it took several seconds before Drexler stopped trying to fight his way through.

"It was a tough situation, and I know exactly how he felt," said Olajuwon, who picked up three fouls in the first 13:23 of play. "From the beginning of the game, I could see what the referees were doing."

"We look at this as a game to throw away. That wasn't us out there."

— SAM CASSELL
Houston Rockets

Johnson made both technical free throws, and Majerle made 1-of-2 free throws, increasing Phoenix' lead to 43-30.

The three points were part of a 22-5 run by the Suns, who did something the Jazz weren't able to do by leading after the first quarter, 32-30.

When the spurt ended with a 3-pointer by Danny Ainge with eight minutes remaining, Phoenix was up 54-35. The lead reached 22 points, 70-48, on Elliot Perry's free throw with 2:13 left.

In the third period, Johnson scored on a layup with 2:43 left for a 100-77 lead, and Green made two free throws and a baseline jumper in the final 32 seconds, each time sending the Suns to 25-point leads.

Erickson denies covering up drug-testing

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Former Miami Hurricanes coach Dennis Erickson denied trying to cover up drug-testing results, saying he had no obligation to inform athletic director Paul Dee when a player tested positive.

Erickson said changes in the school's drug-testing policy before the 1993 season virtually decreed that no disciplinary action was required, even for a player who had multiple positive tests.

"If anybody tested positive, they were to go to counseling and that was the extent of it," said Erickson, who left Miami in January to become coach of the Seattle Seahawks. "There was never anything about suspension."

According to the school's 1993 student-athlete manual, a second positive drug test resulted in a mandatory one-game suspension.

The Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale reported Sunday that Dee acknowledged one case in which he wasn't notified of positive drug-test results that Erickson was responsible for sending to him. The case occurred prior to the 1995 Orange Bowl, the newspaper said.

Changes in Miami's drug-testing policy helped All-American defensive tackle Warren Sapp avoid at least two suspensions that could have ended his career, the paper said.

Dee said the university was investigating Erickson's drug-policy actions and had requested that independent testing laboratories provide every player's testing records from the past five years.

Dee doesn't plan to comment until the investigation is complete, and he declined to respond to Erickson's latest remarks, a school spokesman said.

Failure by Miami to follow its own drug policy could be an NCAA violation. The university plans to have a new drug-testing policy in place by the time football practice begins in August.

Erickson, speaking Monday in Seattle, acknowledged he didn't always notify Dee of positive drug-testing results.

"I had no reason to report to anyone," Erickson said. "I never hid anything. I had no obligation to turn anything over."

Erickson said the head coach, and not the athletic director, was responsible for taking action on players' positive drug tests.

"Our stance was when someone tested

positive we got them help ... got them treatment and counseling," Erickson said. "Why would I cover up anything? How would it benefit me?"

"They're sitting there saying we covered up for a bowl game. I mean, that's ridiculous because there was never anything there to cover up because there was no punishment as far as suspensions [were] concerned."

Erickson also wondered about the confidentiality of drug-test results, given recent news reports concerning possible violations of the policy.

"How do all these things get out?" he said. "You've got all these sources within the university. Geez, to me I don't know what kind of a confidentiality thing there is at the University of Miami right now."

A committee that includes Dr. Clyde McCoy, director of the university's Comprehensive Drug Research Center, has worked on a new drug-testing policy since February at the behest of Dee.

Details haven't been disclosed, and officials haven't said whether the new policy will be tougher than the old one. A draft of the new policy was given to Dee in March and awaits approval.

WEDNESDAY

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Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — The top 25 college baseball teams as determined by the staff of Baseball America magazine with records through May 7, and previous rankings:

	Record	Pvs
1. Cal State Fullerton	45-9	2
2. Auburn	45-7	3
3. Florida State	42-11	1
4. Clemson	45-7	4
5. Oklahoma	36-11	5
6. Wichita State	45-12	7
7. Southern California	36-18	6
8. Texas Tech	41-11	8
9. Miami	38-12	11
10. Louisiana State	41-12	9
11. Rice	37-14	10
12. Central Florida	45-11	12
13. Tennessee	41-12	13
14. Florida Intl.	49-7	16
15. Oklahoma State	36-14	14
16. Texas	41-15	15
17. Fresno State	38-16	17
18. Pepperdine	31-17	18
19. Stanford	28-20	19
20. James Madison	37-13	20
21. Arizona State	34-18	22
22. Long Beach State	30-19	—
23. Texas A&M	35-17	24
24. South Alabama	38-13	—
25. Mississippi	35-17	23

Virginia guard opts for NBA

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Corey Alexander, whose career at Virginia was marked first by promise and then by season-ending injuries, has applied for early entry to the NBA draft.

The 6-foot-1 junior point guard played only 11 minutes in the 1993-94 season opener before he broke his ankle. He returned as a redshirt last season and broke the same ankle Feb. 8 against North Carolina State.

Mike Colley, Virginia's assistant sports information director, said Alexander filed the early-entry papers Monday.

Colley said Alexander's decision was no surprise.

TUESDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL TEXAS LEAGUE

- WICHITA WRANGLERS—Optioned Raul Gonzalez, outfielder, and Nevin Brewer, Kevin Rawitzer, and Ken Ray, pitchers, to Wilmington of the Carolina League.
- WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS—Optioned Ray Roberts and Ken Winkle, pitchers, to Springfield of the Midwest League.
- BELOIT SNAPPERS—Released Ron Rantz, pitcher. Called up T.J. Schenbeck, pitcher, from Stockton of the California League.

NORTHERN LEAGUE

- SIOUX FALLS CANARIES—Signed Eric Stonecipher, pitcher.

PRAIRIE LEAGUE

- ABERDEEN PHEASANTS—Signed Steve Hayward, pitcher.

BASKETBALL NBA

- VANCOUVER GRIZZLIES—Named Jay Triano director of community relations.

FOOTBALL NFL

- CINCINNATI BENGALS—Released Louis Oliver, safety.
- GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed Brian Williams, linebacker.
- HOUSTON OILERS—Signed Richard Saenz, center, and George Terrell, tight end.
- MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed Dwight Hollier, linebacker, to a two-year contract and Ontwaun Carter, running back.
- SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Waived Barry Hawkins, defensive tackle.
- TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Agreed to terms with Jerry Wilson, cornerback, on a three-year contract.

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- SHREVEPORT PIRATES—Signed Gil Carillo, running back. Waived Keith Browner, defensive tackle, and Don Caparotti, defensive back.

HOCKEY NHL

- BOSTON BRUINS—Returned Guy Larose, left wing, to Providence of the AHL.
- MONTREAL CANADIENS—Returned Mario Roberge, left wing, to Fredericton of the AHL.
- QUEBEC NORDIQUES—Returned Garth Snow, goalie, to Cornwall of the AHL.
- RECALLED Landon Wilson, right wing, from Cornwall.
- SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled Shean Donovan, right wing, and Vlastimil Kroupa, defenseman, from Kansas City of the IHL.

COLLEGE

- CAL POLY-SAN LUIS OBISPO—Named Kevin Bromley assistant men's basketball

coach.

- DARTMOUTH—Named Steffany Bender softball coach.
- GUILFORD—Announced the resignation of Kate Derrick, women's soccer and lacrosse coach.
- EASTERN ILLINOIS—Named Deborah Polca associate director of athletics.
- VILLANOVA—Named Karen Frasca assistant athletic director for media relations.
- VIRGINIA—Announced Cory Alexander, junior basketball guard, will forego his senior year and make himself eligible for the NBA Draft.
- WESTERN CAROLINA—Announced the resignation of Benny Dees, men's basketball coach.
- WILKES—Named Al Zellner wrestling coach.

ON THE TUBE

May 10

4:30

p.m.

ESPN

Major

League

Baseball

N.Y. Yankees at Toronto or Montreal at Philadelphia

5 p.m. TNT — NBA Basketball Playoffs, Chicago at Orlando

7:30 p.m. ESPN — Major League Baseball, Seattle at Oakland or Texas at California

EMERALD