



## Jordan's best goes wasted, Magic win

**1995 NBA PLAYOFFS**

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Too young. Too inexperienced in the playoffs. Those were just two of the reasons the Orlando Magic weren't supposed to challenge the Chicago Bulls, winners of three NBA titles.

Shaquille O'Neal and his teammates blasted that theory to pieces Tuesday night, bouncing back from a dreadful first half to beat the Bulls 103-95 and take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinals.

"This was a gut-check for them," Magic coach Brian Hill said.

In just its sixth season overall and second time in the playoffs, Orlando can advance to the conference finals with a win Thursday in Chicago. Neither team, however, has been able to win two in a row in this series.

"It appears to be hard, doesn't it?" said Michael Jordan, whose 39 points and 9-of-14 second-half shooting weren't enough to resuscitate the Bulls. "Neither team has done it yet, but if we expect to win the series, we have to win two in a row."

To do it, the Bulls will once again have to tinker with their inconsistent offense. During the series, a good game for Jordan has usually meant a poor one for his teammates.

This time, Scottie Pippen added just 10 points and Toni Kukoc had another one of his off nights, scoring five. B.J. Armstrong had 18.

By contrast, four of Orlando's starters scored 19 or more. O'Neal scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half and had 22 rebounds and five blocks to lead the Magic's dominating second half.

Horace Grant, the most tested Magic player in the postseason, had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Dennis Scott scored 22 points and Anfernee Hardaway 19.

"It was a whole team effort," Grant said. "It's what we need to win a championship."

The same team that seemingly couldn't hit anything in the first half came to life after halftime, beating the Bulls to loose balls, controlling the boards and running up and down the court. By the end of the third quarter, the Bulls looked tired.

Leading 78-70 at the end of the third quarter, Orlando stretched the lead to 11 early in the final period. Jordan scored six straight points to cut it to 89-83 with 4:56 to play, but Chicago could not close the gap from there.

"Momentum just seemed to keep building their direction,"

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## Game on



Mike Acord, a recent graduate of Oregon, and others are trying to form a Eugene roller hockey league. For information about joining or drop-in play call Lane County Ice at 687-4423.

## Pacers ready to win Game 5

NEW YORK (AP) — A year ago, Reggie Miller stunned the New York Knicks with a dazzling performance in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals at Madison Square Garden.

The sweet-shooting, trash-talking Indiana guard returns to the Garden for another Game 5 Wednesday night, when the Pacers can eliminate the Knicks and advance to the conference finals again.

Unlike last year, when Indiana came to New York with the series tied 2-2, the Pacers arrive with a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series.

"This is a new series," Miller said. "Everything is totally different."

Miller scored 25 points in the fourth quarter of Game 5 last year to lead the Pacers over

the Knicks. In addition to hitting 8 of 10 shots, including five 3-pointers, Miller taunted courtside Knicks fan Spike Lee with words and gestures, including a "choke sign" Miller displayed by putting his hands around his neck.

New York eventually won the series in seven games, but Miller's transcendent performance elevated him from small-market smart mouth to one of the NBA's most visible stars.

Miller has made choking a recurring theme in this year's series, too. He incensed New York fans by calling the Knicks "choke artists" after he scored eight points in the last 16.4 seconds of Game 1, erasing a six-point Knicks lead and sending them to humiliating

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## Rangers await second round foes

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers eliminated Quebec from the Stanley Cup playoffs Tuesday night in what likely was the Nordiques' final game before moving to Denver.

The Rangers built a big early lead, got two goals from Alexei Kovalev and went on to win 4-2, ending the first-round series in six games.

The Nordiques had the second-best record and power play in the NHL, but neither meant anything against the Rangers, who struggled to make the playoffs and now await the Philadelphia Flyers in the second round this weekend.

The Nordiques, who had a 24 percent completion rate during the season, finished with just two power-play goals in 25 attempts in the series.

After Kovalev scored his second goal of the

game to give the Rangers a 4-0 lead midway through the second period, the Madison Square Garden crowd started chanting, "We want Hextall," referring to Flyers goaltender Ron Hextall.

The Nordiques hardly looked like the team that had beaten the Rangers three out of three in the regular season and finished 18 points ahead of them in the standings with a 30-13-5 record.

They had forced a Game 6 with a 4-2 victory in Quebec over the defending champions, but fell behind quickly in the first period when the Rangers took a 3-0 lead on goals by Pat Verbeek, Kovalev and Sergei Nemchinov.

Stephane Fiset, who had started the first three games of the series for Quebec, replaced Thibault

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## Snavelly in hunt for NCAA title

Oregon's senior all-Pacific-10 selection Ted Snavelly will take his clubs to Albuquerque, N. M., and represent the Ducks at the NCAA West Regional golf tournament this weekend.

Snavelly will be vying for one of two positions in the 54-hole, three-day event at Mexico's Championship Golf Course, to qualify for the NCAA Championships later this month in Columbus, Ohio.

Snavelly has been the most consistent golfer for the Ducks this year, capturing the Husky and Mauna Kea Invitationals while placing second at the Southwestern Intercollegiate.

## Another Husky leaves the pack

SEATTLE (AP) — Michael McClain becomes the third member of the Washington Huskies men's basketball program to leave the program since last season.

McClain, who was the starting point guard before his season-ending suspension in February, said he will transfer from Washington to a school closer to his home in Springfield, Mo., for his final season. He has not picked out that school.

McClain pleaded guilty March 22 to a fourth-degree assault charge that involved Huskies women's basketball star Rhonda Smith.

He received a 12-month deferred sentence with 24 months of probation, conditional upon completion of a counseling program and no further violations of the law.

## Montana to join NBC's 'NFL Live'

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Montana wasn't without work for long. The four-time Super Bowl champion quarterback will join NBC as a commentator, just a month after retiring from football.

The network said Tuesday that Montana will be a studio analyst on the pregame show "NFL Live," and the hiring will be announced today during a conference call.

There had been rumors of Montana joining NBC even before he made the retirement official in mid-April with a two-city farewell.

He'll become the second recently retired quarterback to join NBC. Former New York Giants star Phil Simms joined the network after a year with ESPN.