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NBA PLAYOFFS

NBA: San Antonio takes 2-1 lead

■ Continued from Page 7

Fans who have been sitting on their hands seemingly since the Cavs moved into Gund Arena in 1994 responded as Kemp danced at halfcourt — two hip thrusts and two kicks that got the place as loud as it has ever been.

"If you can't get excited now, then you don't belong in this building," Kemp said.

The Pacers, who won the first two games of the series at Market Square Arena, now must play Game 4 on Thursday night. Only five teams have come back from 2-0 deficits in a best-of-five series.

"Their backs are still against the wall," said Indiana's Mark Jackson, who surpassed his own club playoff record with 17 assists. "We're a veteran basketball team."

Rik Smits led Indiana with 26 points on 11-for-17 shooting before fouling out with 86 seconds left. Reggie Miller had 18 points despite being hampered by a sore left leg that he stretched and limped on during the second half.

Reserve Derek Anderson — one of four rookies playing major minutes for Cleveland — scored 11 points and inspired the Cavs by shoving Dale Davis late in the third. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 13 points.

"It proves to these kids that they can win a playoff game," Cavs general manager Wayne Embry said after his team snapped its seven-game home losing streak in the playoffs.

After the Cavs squandered a 51-40 halftime lead in Game 2, Kemp was determined not to let it happen again. He got up in the middle of the locker room and gave a fiery speech at halftime.

"I said there was no way we're going to lose this lead," Kemp said. "They heard me. If you were standing outside the door, you would have heard me."

Kemp's SuperSonics were the last team to lose a best-of-five series after leading 2-0. He made 11 of 21 shots and pulled down seven rebounds. Whatever combination of defenders Bird put on him, he dominated.

"A lot of times I thought we defended him well, but they bailed him out with the call," Bird said.

Even though the crowd of 17,495 was about 3,000 short of a sellout, the ones who showed up made plenty of noise. And they sensed that getting Smits in foul trouble might have been Cleveland's only chance.

Smits picked up his fourth foul with 4:57 left in the third and went to the bench. But Miller and Mullin made layups and the Pacers extended their lead to 58-53 with 3:33 left.

Anderson gave Cleveland another weapon besides Kemp in the third period. While making one of his kamikaze drives to the basket with 2:26 left in the period, Anderson took issue with the much bigger Davis and gave him a shove after the play.

Luckily for Anderson, Kemp was there to catch the charging Davis, who got a technical along with Anderson.

Suddenly, the inspired Cavs were in business — especially with Smits on the bench. Knight hit a pull up 15-footer, Ilgauskas a turnaround jumper, and Kemp and Knight each added two free throws to give Cleveland a 65-61 lead after three quarters.

Wesley Person, who led the league in 3-pointers made and attempted, but had only two in the first two games, hit one early in the fourth to make it 68-61.

Smits snapped Cleveland's 13-2 run spanning the third and fourth with a baseline jumper to make it 68-63 with 9:21 to play. But he picked up his fifth foul with 5:30 left and fouled out with Cleveland leading 80-75 with 1:26 remaining.

FIRST ROUND

■ MONDAY:

Indiana 86, Cleveland 77
Pacers lead series 2-1
San Antonio 100, Phoenix 88
Spurs lead series 2-1

■ TODAY:

Miami at New York, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Kemp hit a turnaround jumper and then passed to Knight for an open 18-footer to extend the lead to 79-73 with 3:24 left.

Jackson and Miller both missed 3-pointers in the final two minutes.

Spurs 100, Suns 88

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan scored 22 points and helped key a crucial third-quarter rally Monday night as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Phoenix Suns 100-88 to take a 2-1 lead in their NBA playoff series.

Duncan scored eight points and David Robinson six in the third-quarter scoring binge as the Spurs grabbed a double-digit lead by outscoring the Suns 27-15 in the period.

San Antonio held a 71-59 advantage entering the final period after the score was tied at halftime.

The Spurs have the chance to win the best-of-five series with a victory Wednesday night in the Alamodome.

All five of the Spurs starters scored in double figures.

Antonio McDyess led the Suns with 26 points and 17 rebounds.

George McCloud, who along with McDyess posed problems for Duncan in the last game, scored 18 points for Phoenix. Jason Kidd had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Kevin Johnson scored 15 points.

Blazers return to Portland for Game 3

The Blazers hope playing at home will balance the foul calls after the Los Angeles Lakers shot 31 more free throws in Sunday's Game 2

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — One loss from being swept from the playoffs by the Los Angeles Lakers, the Portland Trail Blazers are hoping the foul calls are a bit more balanced now that they're playing at home.

The Lakers shot 31 more free throws than the Blazers in Sunday's Game 2 at the Great Western Forum.

As the series shifts to Portland for tonight's Game 3, head coach Mike Dunleavy told the emotional Blazers they are reaping what they have sown through the season.

"What Mike told us is all the things we've done throughout the season in terms of negative publicity and yelling at referees is all coming back on us," Damon Stoudamire said. "But at the same time we've got to fight through it. We've got to focus in on the game and not on the referees."

The Lakers were 34 for 52 from the free-throw line in their 108-99 victory over the Blazers on Sunday. Portland was 17 for 21.

"Some of it was aggressiveness and some of it was ridiculous," Isaiah Rider said. "We have a play where Sabas [Arvydas Sabonis], myself and Rasheed [Wallace] get slapped in the arm. Then we come down and slap them in the arm, they go to the line."

Dunleavy, who shared the lead with Utah's Jerry Sloan for most technicals in the regular season, used the word "amazing" to describe the free-throw discrepancy. He said his belief that the Blazers were victims of bad calls was backed up by remarks he heard from commentators when he watched the videotape of NBC's telecast of the game.

"I come back and I watch the film and I see five or

seven replays where I've got the guys on NBC saying 'Those aren't fouls.' 'That's not a foul.' 'I don't think that was a touch.' 'That's pretty cheap.' I don't have to say anything," Dunleavy said. "It's being said on national TV by people who are more objective than I certainly would be, so I hope it changes back."

Shaquille O'Neal sees the Blazers' frustration mounting.

"They don't think they're getting any calls," he said, "so they'll be extra pumped up. We'll just have to be ready for that."

Portland is equally frustrated trying to defend O'Neal. The Blazers have double- and triple-teamed the big center, only to have him toss it out to a teammate for an open jumper. Eddie Jones, Kobe Bryant, Rick Fox, Robert Horry and Nick Van Exel have taken turns burning the Blazers.

"It's going to be me sometimes. It'll probably be Nick or Kobe in the next game," Fox said. "If we can keep them off-balance, we'll be better for it. It's a collective effort."

After scoring 30 in the series opener, O'Neal had 19 points Sunday, but his teammates picked up the slack. Fox had 24, Jones 21 and Horry 15.

"It's good for everybody," Harris said. "It's good for Shaq when he doesn't have to be the leading scorer every game."

Portland's Sabonis has played just 24 and 14 minutes in the two games because of foul trouble. Even when he is in the game, Sabonis hasn't been able to deal with O'Neal's quickness and power.

"Shaq's unstoppable," Rider said. "If we didn't double-team Shaq, he would get 50 points against Sabonis. You double- and triple-team Shaq every time he touches the ball."

Having that kind of player in the middle is the kind of luxury other coaches envy.

"It's amazing what \$120 million can buy," Dunleavy said.