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NBA: Lakers take four-point lead in 3rd quarter

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That put Seattle up 86-82 with 6:37 left.

After O'Neal hit a 10-foot hook shot over Baker, Payton hit a three-pointer and Kersey made two free throws for a 93-86 lead with 4:37 left.

Rick Fox of the Lakers responded with a fastbreak layup to cut Seattle's lead to five before Detlef Schrempf made two free throws, Payton hit a fall-away 15-footer and Hawkins made two free throws to put the Sonics ahead 99-88 with 1:09 left.

The Sonics went 15 for 16 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter.

The Sonics, the NBA's top three-point shooting team during the regular season, were 11 for 21 from behind the arc. Hawkins, Payton and Sam Perkins each made three three-pointers.

In the third quarter, the Lakers went on an 18-3 run to turn a 70-59 deficit with 7:24 to go into a 77-73 lead with 1:49 left. Fox keyed the run with three field goals, one a three-pointer. Seattle had to settle for a 14-footer by Jim McIlvaine and a free throw by Baker during the run.

Seattle led by 14 points for the third time in the game when Bak-

er made a layup to open the third quarter.

Perkins connected on a three-pointer with 50 seconds left in the third quarter to cut the Lakers' lead to 79-78 going into the final period.

Seattle opened the second quarter with a 15-0 run over the first 3:22 as Payton made two three-pointers and Perkins hit one to go in front 44-32.

The Lakers, who shot 67 percent in the opening period, were two for 11 over the first 6:59 before Van Exel connected on a three-pointer.

Seattle led 62-50 at halftime after twice leading by 14.

Notes

McIlvaine, who played seven minutes in Seattle's first-round series against Minnesota, started at center for the Sonics. He was charged with four fouls in the third quarter ... The Sonics and the Lakers met in the playoffs for the first time since Los Angeles won a first-round series 3-1 in 1995 ... The 11 three-pointers by Seattle was a record against the Lakers in a playoff game ... The Lakers, the league's worst free-throw shooting team, were 11 for 20 from the line ... The Sonics outrebounded Los Angeles 52-42 with Baker and Hawkins getting eight each. O'Neal had 11.

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Applications are due 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 1998, except for Managing Editor, which is due at noon, Friday, May 1st. All positions are paid.

Applications can be picked at the ODE office (Suite 300, EMU) or visit our website at www.uoregon.edu/~ode (click on "Employment"). Relevant work samples should be submitted with each application.

Questions? Call 346-5511.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Kentucky forward to forgo senior season

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Nazr Mohammed, whose shot blocking and rebounding helped lead Kentucky to the NCAA basketball championship, said Monday he would forgo a senior season and enter the NBA draft.

Mohammed, a 6-foot-10 center, said he would not hire an agent in order to protect his college eligibility in case he changes his mind before the June draft. He has until seven days prior to the draft to with-

draw his name and return for a final year.

"I'm in a great situation where I can explore my options," Mohammed said at a news conference, seated alongside head coach Tubby Smith.

Mohammed led Kentucky in rebounding with 7.2 per game and blocked 75 shots. He hit 60 percent of his field goal attempts, mostly from short range, and developed a deft hook shot.

If drafted even as low as 29th, Mohammed would be guaranteed an aggregate \$1.8 million for three seasons.

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