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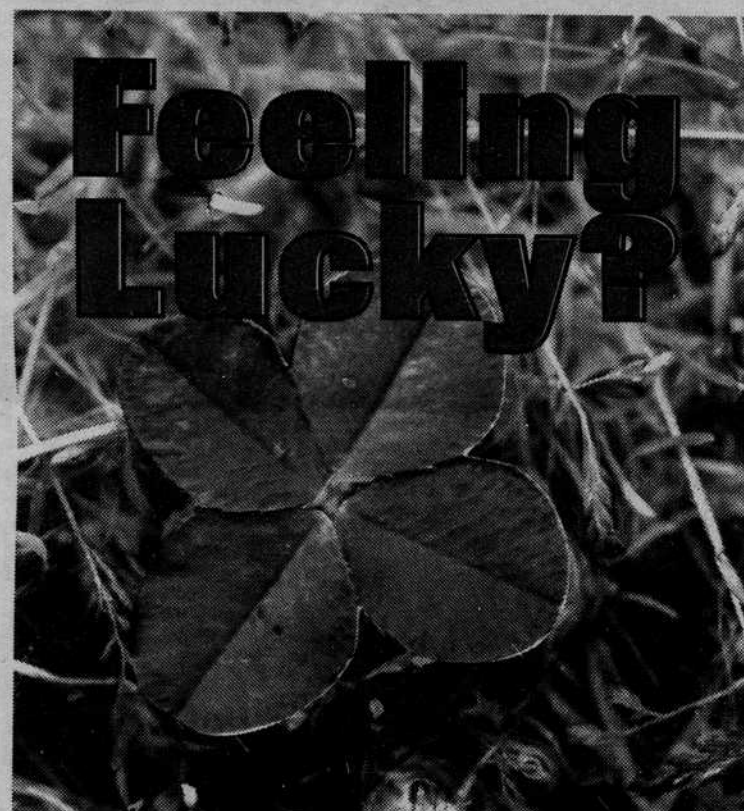
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Portland embarrasses Jazz

By Landon Hall
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — In the end, all the Utah Jazz were playing for was their dignity. And there wasn't much left of that.

The Jazz certainly don't have much hope left, not after their 103-85 loss to the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night, which

BLAZERS

wondering if it can win even one game in this best-of-seven series.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Salt Lake City.

Steve Smith scored 11 of his 19 points in the third quarter, and five of his teammates scored in double figures as the Blazers jumped to an early lead and squelched any hope of Utah coming back from its 94-75 loss in Game 1.

Karl Malone was held to just 15 points, barely half of his playoff average this season. Yet, his total actually led the Jazz. Bryon Russell had 12 points.

Malone, showing no ill effects from a left knee injury Sunday, got little help from his teammates for the second straight game. The rest of Utah's starters scored just 25 points, two less than Sunday.

A hook by Jermaine O'Neal, playing his first minutes of the

playoffs, made it 93-63 with 7:37 to go. The lead reached as high as 33.

Only a fourth-quarter flurry by the Jazz reserves kept this loss from ranking among Utah's most lopsided ever in the playoffs, although it didn't come close to its 96-54 defeat by the Chicago Bulls in Game 3 of the 1998 Finals.

After Sunday's loss, Utah needed a quick start, and it didn't come. The Jazz committed two turnovers on their first three possessions and were outscored 13-6 in the last half of the period.

Rasheed Wallace hit a long jumper, and Scottie Pippen followed with a 3-pointer to give the Blazers a 20-12 lead. Wallace hit a short turnaround jumper, then followed his own miss as Malone flopped on the floor for a 24-14 lead.

Utah, outscored 29-14 in the fourth quarter of Game 1, was outscored 24-16 in the first Tuesday night.

And it only got worse for the Jazz after that.

The Blazers' reserves dominated the second period as Greg Anthony and Detlef Schrempf combined for 19 points, matching the entire Jazz team's output.

Anthony schooled John Stockton at both ends of the floor during a key 10-0 run. First, Antho-

ny hit a 17-footer, got fouled by Stockton and converted the free throw to make it 34-22.

On the next possession, Stockton was stripped of the ball by Anthony, who then hit a short running jumper. After the Jazz let the shot clock run out, Anthony got fouled by Stockton and made both free throws.

Schrempf made a 3-pointer to cap the run and extend the lead to 41-22 with 5:08 left. Anthony later hit a 3-pointer, and Smith finished the Blazers' 32-point quarter with a long jumper for a 56-35 halftime lead.

The Jazz briefly came to life in the third, cutting it to 15 on a 19-foot jumper by Stockton. But Damon Stoudamire hit a midrange shot and, after Malone lost the ball, drove for a layup to build the lead to 66-45.

Smith, who had 11 points in the quarter, hit a 3-pointer with 33.8 seconds left to make it a laugher at 80-55.

Notes: Utah has led for just three minutes and 28 seconds in the series, all early in the first quarter. ... The Blazers scored 27 points off 17 Jazz turnovers. Utah got 11 points off 18 Portland turnovers. ... Blazers reserve Bonzi Wells scored 15 of his 17 points in the garbage-time fourth. ... Jazz reserve guard Howard Easley is just 7-for-31 in Utah's last five playoff games.

Knicks get physical, go up 2-0

By Steven Wine
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Once again, the New York Knicks negated the Miami Heat's homecourt advantage.

In a sloppy game with more slapstick than a Broadway farce, the Knicks beat the Heat 82-76 Tuesday to even the best-of-seven series at 1-1.

The teams have met in the playoffs the past four years, splitting the first two games in Miami every time. New York went on to eliminate the Heat the past two seasons.

Heat coach Pat Riley noted that his players once again squandered the homecourt edge they worked for 82 regular-season games to earn.

"You work that hard, and we gave it all back in one two-hour stand," Riley said.

Game 3 will be Friday at Madison Square Garden.

The Knicks evened the series despite plenty of ugly moments. Marcus Camby missed a dunk. Patrick Ewing hit the side of the backboard with a jumper. Camby and Kurt Thomas wrestled each other for a rebound and dropped the ball out of bounds.

Somehow, New York still built an 18-point lead midway through the fourth quarter, then withstood a late Miami charge.

The Heat shot just 34 percent, tying a franchise playoff low, and they missed 14 of 33 free throws, including seven in a row in the first half.

"Our free-throw defense was outstanding," Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy joked.

"It was an ugly game out there," said Jamal Mashburn, who led Miami with 25 points. "We've got to make free throws. That probably would have bailed us out."

The Knicks shot 26 percent in the first half and still led by four. They finally pulled away in the third quarter.

"The rock wasn't going in the hole," Van Gundy said. "That was some bad shooting in that first half."

Ewing and Charlie Ward had 13 points each for the Knicks, who had six players in double figures.

"Charlie hit some big shots for them," Heat forward P.J. Brown said. "He was the x-factor. He deserves a lot of credit for their win."

Ward sank a pair of 3-pointers and had six rebounds and no turnovers in 37 minutes.

"I'm not a superstar. I don't get a lot of press," he said. "But you need guys to help pull a

“We wanted this game more than anything. We showed that, even though we didn't play well offensively. We got the job done at the defensive end.”

Latrell Sprewell
Knicks guard

team together. I've been trying to do that since I got here."

Alonzo Mourning had 17 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks for Miami. Tim Hardaway, playing with a sore left foot, had 13 points and three assists in 30 minutes.

"It was sort of a surreal game," Riley said. "We rebounded and played well enough defensively, but offensively we were horrendous. Instead of taking the ball strong to the basket, we settled for long jumpers and that hope game we get into at times."

As the Knicks promised, Game 2 was more physical than the first game. There were 60 fouls, compared with 40 Sunday when Miami won 87-83.

"We wanted this game more than anything," Knicks guard Latrell Sprewell said. "We showed that, even though we didn't play well offensively. We got the job done at the defensive end."

Ewing, Sprewell and Allan Houston — New York's leading scorers this season — were a combined 3-for-24 in the first half. Sprewell finished 2-for-13 and Houston 3-for-14.

Houston was 1-for-10 before dunking a follow, and the Knicks made their next three shots for a 48-40 lead.

After Miami closed to 51-50 late in the third period, New York went on a 21-4 run. Three-pointers by Ward and Chris Childs sparked the spurt that gave the Knicks a 72-54 lead with seven minutes to go.

Miami staged a 13-2 run to close to 78-67 with 2 1/2 minutes left, but Ewing hit a follow and two free throws to clinch the win.

The Heat held their last lead at 13-12 before New York scored 11 consecutive points.

"Very frustrating," Brown said. "Everybody is going to go home with a bad taste in their mouth. We definitely should have won and gone up 2-0. Would have, could have, should have."

Notes: Say Again? Dept.: Said Heat coach Pat Riley before the game, "The past is dead. The future is tonight for the present moment." ... Heat reserve forward Otis Thorpe came into the game with a career field-goal percentage of .580 in the playoffs, second in NBA history only to James Donaldson's .627. ... The Knicks won for the first time in four games at new American Airlines Arena. The Heat lost at home for only the third time in their past 28 home games. ... Miami also shot 34 percent in a loss to Chicago on May 22, 1997.