

SPORTS

Michigan State Heads to Final Four Again

(AP) - Michigan State recovered from Kentucky's 3-point prayer that sent the game into overtime, taking over in the second extra session and pulling away for a 94-88 victory Sunday to cap a weekend filled with heart-stopping finishes. The Spartans are headed to their fourth Final Four in seven years, and will face North Carolina on Saturday.

The other two teams in the finals are Louisville and Illinois.

The trip to St. Louis will be sweet vindication for Michigan State's upperclassmen, a group that's been chided for being soft, weak and under-achieving. Kelvin Torbert, Alan Anderson and Chris Hill - seniors who were so close to breaking the chain of Final Fours begun by their predecessors from 1999-2001 - simply wouldn't let it happen.

Patrick Sparks' desperation 3 at the end of regulation danced oh-so softly on the rim, bouncing four times before falling through for Kentucky. But wait - was his right toe on the line?

Five minutes of tension passed



Michigan State's Shannon Brown, right, reacts with teammate Alan Anderson (15) as the end of a win over Kentucky in the NCAA Austin Region final at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, Texas, on Sunday, March 27. (AP Photo)

while the referees reviewed the replay over and over at the scorer's table. It was a 3-pointer, all right, forcing overtime.

Yet even with the wind knocked out of them, the Spartans refused to fold. As the final seconds of the first overtime ticked away, Torbert stood near halfcourt, smiled at his teammates and screamed, "Let's

go!" - and they did, not even allowing a last shot.

Torbert went 5-of-6 from the foul line in the second overtime and Anderson was 4-of-4, keeping Kentucky from ever leading again.

"It will go down in history as a great college basketball game," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "It hurts right now, but some

of our guys will appreciate it later on."

After Louisville and Illinois both advanced Saturday with improbable comebacks that ended in overtime, this was the first time in NCAA tournament in history that three regional finals went to an extra period. And only once before had it happened in two of the four games, in 1992.

Fueled by Sparks' longball at the end of regulation, the second-seeded Wildcats jumped to a 79-75 lead at the start of the first extra period. But they never led again and Smith remains without a trip back to the Final Four since winning it all in 1998. They've gone down in the regional finals three times, twice now to the Spartans.

The loss also deprived the Bluegrass state of having two teams in the Final Four; only Louisville will be there now.

Instead, there's the chance for a title-game matchup between a different set of regional rivals: Michigan State and Illinois, the only team that finished ahead of the Spartans (26-6) in the Big Ten this season.

Bonds Returns to San Francisco for Rehab

(AP) - A mental break away from everybody might be just what Barry Bonds needs right now. Exhausted and testy, the San Francisco slugger returned to the Bay Area on Thursday to continue rehabilitating his surgically repaired right knee because the Giants believe SBC Park is better suited for him than the team's spring complex.

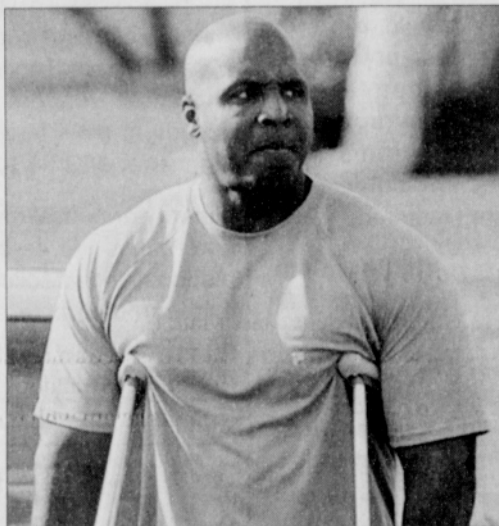
There is no timetable for Bonds' return. The seven-time NL MVP said Tuesday he could miss half or all this season while recovering from the surgery, though the Giants are hoping he'll be coming back sooner.

"Anybody who thinks Barry Bonds is going to quit doesn't know Barry Bonds. There's no way," trainer Stan Conte said. "When somebody has a second surgery, it's a little discouraging. And that's called being a human being."

Bonds, who has had two operations on his right knee in the last two months and also had surgery on his left knee in October, flew back to San Francisco with assistant trainer Dave Groeschner.

Bonds, at the center of the steroids scandal, said earlier this spring it was frustrating not to be with his teammates and on their schedule. On Tuesday, he blamed media scrutiny for his problems.

Bonds is third on the career home run list with 703, trailing only Babe Ruth (714) and Hank



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds returns to spring training camp Tuesday, March 22, 2005, in Scottsdale, Ariz. Bonds returned to the San Francisco Bay area Thursday to continue rehabilitating his surgically repaired right knee because the Giants believe the team's SBC Park is better suited for the slugger than the spring complex in Arizona. (AP Photo)

Aaron (755).

"Barry really didn't want to leave his teammates," Conte said. "He was very much more upbeat yesterday being around the guys."

Bonds will work in a therapeutic pool at SBC Park that will allow him to do cardiovascular training without putting pressure on the knee. He wasn't scheduled to do any rehab Thursday.

"You have to appreciate the fact he's had three knee surgeries since the end of last season and two in the last seven weeks. That takes a lot out of you," Conte said. "Usually it's a little slower process to begin with. That's also the reason we really have no timetable on this thing."

Conte said he's not yet sure whether Bonds will travel with the team once the season begins April 5.

The Giants took into consideration that with 40 players packed into the tight quarters at Scottsdale Stadium and many needing treatment, Bonds could get more personal attention elsewhere.

"Barry's kind of an important person on this team," Conte said. "We think that he deserves that concentration level of being up there and the utilization of state-of-the-art equipment at SBC Park."

Bonds was defiant the day he arrived at spring training Feb. 22, calling reporters liars and saying "I don't know what cheating is" when responding to a flurry of questions related to the steroids controversy.



Blazers Honor College Coach

The Portland Trail Blazers and Portland Bridge Builders honored University of Portland basketball coach Michael Holton. Holton is recognized nationally as a dedicated coach both on and off the court. He is a UCLA alumni and played with the NBA and CBA for nine years. After a long career of coaching involving Oregon State and UCLA, he returned to University of Portland as head coach. Trail Blazer Damon Stoudamire presented Holton with a \$500 stipend, which he donated to the Chris Dudley Foundation.

PHOTO BY SAM FORENCICH/NBA PHOTOS

Summer Street Jam to Return

Event expected to draw 30,000 people

The Portland Trail Blazers, Special Olympics Oregon, and Nike are teaming up to present the country's leading outdoor 3-on-3 basketball experience this July.

The 2nd Annual Trail Blazers Street Jam promises to be the one of the largest 3-on-3 basketball festivals in the United States, serving as an important economic contributor to the Portland metropolitan area.

All net proceeds from the event will benefit Special Olympics Oregon, a statewide year-round program offering 14 different Olympic-style sports to athletes with mental disabilities.

Held July 22 through July 24, the event will provide a fun-filled weekend for the whole family with basketball, music, and festivities throughout this celebration of athleticism, com-

munity involvement, fair play, and Oregon's rich basketball heritage.

A projected attendance of 30,000 athletes and spectators is expected to gather for the round robin-style 3-on-3 tournament, slam dunk contest, three-point competition, free NikeGO Kids' Clinic, and appearances by Trail Blazers players and local celebrities. The tournament portion of the event features five separate divisions based upon age and skill level.

Adult teams will be placed in their choice of either competitive or recreational divisions and seeded based upon height and average age. Two youth divisions have been created to accommodate youth ages and under.

For tournament details and registration, go online to www.blazersstreetjam.com.

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An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

Part 1. CHIROPRACTIC: For the best in natural healing, hearing is believing.

Q: How did Chiropractic care come about?

A: Spinal manipulations have been practiced for over 2,500 years. Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine," advised: "look well to the spine for the cause of disease." But modern Chiropractic came of age back in 1895. In Davenport, Iowa, a patient came to Dr. D.D. Palmer complaining of back pain. This patient had also been nearly deaf since suffering a back injury 17 years earlier. Dr. Palmer noticed a bump on the patient's back, which he suspected was related to a

dislocated vertebra. To relieve the patient's pain and reposition the vertebra, Dr. Palmer placed him on a table and pushed down on his back, performing a spinal manipulation or "adjustment." He performed this adjustment three days in a row. By the third day, not only had the patient's back pain disappeared, his hearing reappeared. Today's Chiropractors know that the central nervous system (housed within the body's spinal column) provides the energy, which governs all

bodily functions. By making sure that the spinal column is in correct alignment, Chiropractors eliminate any possible interference, which would prevent the central nervous system from keeping the body functioning the way nature intended.

To find out how Chiropractic might be able to help you or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, please feel free to call us at the phone number shown below.

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