

'Healthy' Bird unstoppable in championship series

Boston surprises Lakers in replay

How much difference does a healthy Larry Bird make to the Boston Celtics?

About the difference between winning the NBA championship series playoff in six games from the Los Angeles Lakers, compared to losing it to L.A. in the same number of games in real-life.

Bird, with no ailing shoulder or hand woes, averaged a phenomenal 36.5 points in leading the Celtics to victory in a replay by Review co-editor Del Newell. The win avenged, in a sense, L.A.'s five-game romp over Boston the year before when in real-life it was the Celtics that triumphed.

Bird was a paper superman as he swished 59.2 percent (93-157) of his floor shots, 91.6% (33-36) free throws, averaged 10.6 rebounds and even blocked nine shots in the six-game series which saw Boston win the first two games at home, win one of three road games and then put L.A. away at home in game six.

Bird had plenty of helping hands as center Robert Parish averaged 18.6 points and a series-high 11.1 rebounds (plus he blocked 10 shots, including five in game five), Kevin McHale 20 points, Danny Ainge a surprising 15.1 and Dennis Johnson 13, despite 40.9% field goal shooting.

Ainge scored 25 points in the finale - most of the points came on the payoff end of the fast-break - and shot a crisp 57.3% (43-75). Overall, Boston had only a slight advantage in the field goal shooting (51.8 to 51.5%) and rebounding (48.1 to 47.0) departments.

The Celtics were Mr. Cleans, however, when it came to fouls, committing 45 fewer than L.A. and going to the free throw line 135 times and netting 115 (85.9%) compared to the Lakers' 66-of-85 showing. Boston, in other words, put up 50 more free throws.

Bird's performance in the first game set the pattern for the series as he connected on 20 of 33 field goal attempts and finished with a series-high 48 points. Bird scored, by quarters, 10, 14, 10 and 14 points. All of Boston's starters were in double figures, with Magic Johnson pacing L.A. with 29 points and Jabbar adding 17 and a series-high 17 rebounds.

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Boston eventually finished off the Lakers in game six, 132-118, as four Celtics scored 20 or more points, with Bird leading the way with 28. Jabbar's 34 went for naught.

Jabbar led the Lakers in the series with a 23-point average. In game four he swished 13 of 14 inside shots. Overall, L.A.'s big man clicked on 65.5% (61-93) of his shots. Jabbar also averaged 9.6 rebounds. Johnson was right behind with a 22.5 scoring average, plus had a basket-full of assists, even though that statistic was not kept. James Worthy averaged 19.1 points.

Bryan Scott was a disappointment, however, averaging only 14.1 points, with Bob McAdoo, the usually reliable "Instant Points," netting only 10.6. Jabbar, however, was tops in the blocked shot (12) category, with Worthy swatting away 11 shots.

Both teams used the fast-break and both were in normal defenses. Rest periods were adhered to and only 10 players were utilized per team.

Summaries:

GAME 1 - AT BOSTON

LOS ANGELES (115)

Worthy 9-20 0-0 18, Rambis 2-7 0-0 4, Jabbar 6-13 7-8 19, M.Johnson 13-22 3-3 29, B.Scott 9-17 0-0 18, Spriggs 1-2 0-0 2, McAdoo 6-8 3-4 15, Kupchuk 0-0 0-0 0, McGee 0-0 0-0 0, Cooper 5-6 0-0 10. Totals: 51-95 13-15 115.

BOSTON (128)

Bird 20-33 8-8 48, McHale 5-10 7-9 17, Parish 9-17 2-2 20, D.Johnson 8-19 1-1 17, Ainge 8-17 0-0 16, Wedman 1-3 2-2 4, Maxwell 3-5 0-0 6, Kite 0-2 0-0 0, Buckner 0-2 0-0 0, R.Williams 0-4 0-0 0. Totals: 54-112 20-22 128.

Los Angeles 28 24 28 35 - 115

Boston 31 29 36 32 - 128

Total fouls: Los Angeles 20, Boston 15. Fouled out: none. Rebounds Los Angeles 50 (Jabbar 17), Boston 54 (Bird 14). Blocks: Los Angeles - Jabbar 5, Worthy 2, B.Scott, Cooper; Boston - Bird 2, Parish 2, Wedman, McHale, D.Johnson.

GAME 2 - AT BOSTON

LOS ANGELES (97)

Worthy 10-17 0-0 20, Rambis 1-3 0-0 2, Jabbar 11-18 1-4 23, M.Johnson 9-15 1-1 19, B.Scott 5-12 0-0 10, Spriggs 2-4 2-2 6, McAdoo 1-5 0-0 2, Kupchuk 0-2 1-2 1, McGee 3-7 0-0 6, Cooper 4-5 0-0 8. Totals 46-88 5-9 97.

BOSTON (121)

Bird 14-22 8-11 36, McHale 8-8 4-5 20, Parish 8-15 4-4 20, D.Johnson 5-12 2-2 12, Ainge 8-12 0-0 16, Wedman 1-6 0-0 2, Maxwell 2-6 6-6 10, Kite 1-5 0-0 2, Buckner 0-0 0-0 0, R.Williams 1-7 1-1 3. Totals: 48-93 25-29 121.

Los Angeles 28 26 22 21 - 97

Boston 37 36 28 20 - 121

Total fouls: Los Angeles 27, Boston 14. Fouled out: Rambis. Rebounds: Los Angeles 39 (Worthy 7); Boston 52 (Parish 14, Bird 11). Blocks: Los Angeles - McAdoo 2, Worthy, Spriggs, Rambis, Kupchuk, M. Johnson; Boston - Parish, Bird.

GAME 3 - AT LOS ANGELES

BOSTON (112)

Bird 14-27 4-4 32, McHale 7-12 3-4 17, Parish 3-11 1-2 7, D.Johnson 11-17 4-4 26, Ainge 6-14 0-0 12, Wedman 3-4 0-0 6, Maxwell 3-7 0-0 6, Kite 0-1 0-0 0, Buckner 1-1 0-0 2, R.Williams 2-3 0-0 4. Totals: 50-97 12-14 112.

LOS ANGELES (119)

Worthy 10-15 1-1 21, Rambis 5-10 3-4 13, Jabbar 7-14 4-5 18, M. Johnson 8-18 2-2 18, B.Scott 8-11 1-2 17, Spriggs 3-4 0-0 6, McAdoo

9-13 0-0 18, Kupchuk 1-2 0-2 2, McGee 0-5 0-0 0, Cooper 3-9 0-0 6.
Totals: 54-101 11-16 119.

Boston 33 22 26 31 - 112
Los Angeles 36 33 27 23 - 119

Total fouls: Boston 17, Los Angeles 21. Fouled out: Rambis. Rebounds: Boston 40 (Parish 13), Los Angeles 55 (Worthy 10, Jabbar 10). Blocks: Boston - McHale 4, Bird, Parish, D.Johnson; Los Angeles - Jabbar 2.

GAME 4 - AT LOS ANGELES

BOSTON (108)

Bird 16-29 6-6 38, McHale 9-19 10-13 28, Parish 9-12 5-5 23, D. Johnson 1-10 2-2 4, Ainge 4-11 0-0 8, Wedman 1-3 0-0 2, Maxwell 0-5 1-2 1, Kite 1-1 0-0 2, Buckner 0-1 0-0 0, R.Williams 1-4 0-0 2. Totals: 42-95 24-28 108.

LOS ANGELES (117)

Worthy 11-18 2-2 24, Rambis 2-5 0-0 4, Jabbar 13-14 0-0 26, M. Johnson 11-17 6-6 28, B.Scott 5-14 1-2 11, Spriggs 2-7 0-0 4, McAdoo 1-7 2-2 4, Kupchuk 1-3 0-0 2, McGee 1-1 0-0 2, Cooper 6-10 0-0 12. Totals: 53-96 11-12 117.

Boston 31 17 40 20 - 108
Los Angeles 35 26 28 28 - 117

Total fouls: Boston 11, Los Angeles 28. Fouled out: Rambis, McAdoo Rebounds: Boston 46 (McHale 12, Bird 10); Los Angeles (Worthy 11, Jabbar 10). Blocks: Boston - Bird 2, McHale 2, Wedman. Los Angeles - Worthy 5, McAdoo 2.

GAME 5 - AT LOS ANGELES

BOSTON (121)

Bird 16-23 5-5 37, McHale 7-14 3-3 17, Parish 8-13 5-5 21, D. Johnson 5-10 0-0 10, Ainge 6-7 2-2 14, Wedman 3-4 0-0 6, Maxwell 1-4 4-4 6, Kite 1-1 0-0 2, Buckner 1-5 0-0 2, R.Williams 3-4 0-0 6. Totals: 51-85 19-19 121.

LOS ANGELES (94)

Worthy 4-12 0-0 8, Rambis 3-6 0-0 6, Jabbar 8-15 2-2 18, M. Johnson 9-19 5-8 23, B.Scott 5-18 2-2 12, Spriggs 1-2 0-0 2, McAdoo 5-14 2-2 12 Kupchuk 0-2, 2-2 2, McGee 1-3 1-2 3, Cooper 4-8 0-0 8. Totals: 40-99 14-18 94.

Boston 37 22 30 32 - 121
Los Angeles 27 20 22 25 - 94

Total fouls: Boston 22, Los Angeles 23. Fouled out: Jabbar. Rebounds: Boston 48 (Parish 12), Los Angeles 44. Blocks: Boston - Parish 5 Kite 2, Bird, McHale, D.Johnson, R.Williams. Los Angeles - Jabbar 3, Worthy 2, Spriggs, Rambis.

GAME 6 - AT BOSTON

LOS ANGELES (118)

Worthy 12-19 0-1 24, Rambis 2-3 0-0 4, Jabbar 16-19 2-3 34, M. Johnson 6-16 6-7 18, B.Scott 7-17 2-2 16, Spriggs 0-0 0-0 0, McAdoo 2-3 0-0 4, Kupchuk 3-4 0-0 6, McGee 1-5 0-0 2, Cooper 2-5 0-0 4. Totals: 53-97 12-15 118.

BOSTON (132)

Bird 13-23 2-2 28, McHale 10-17 1-1 21, Parish 8-15 5-7 21, D. Johnson 4-15 1-2 9, Ainge 11-14 3-3 25, Wedman 4-5 0-0 8, Maxwell 4-5 1-1 9, Kite 2-2 0-2 4, Buckner 0-2 3-4 3, R.Williams 2-4 0-0 4. Totals: 58-102 16-23 132.

Los Angeles 36 22 28 32 - 118
Boston 34 29 29 40 - 132

Total fouls: Los Angeles 20, Boston 15. Fouled out: none. Rebounds Los Angeles 41 (Jabbar 9); Boston 49 (Bird 11, Parish 11). Blocks: Los Angeles - Rambis 2, Jabbar 2, Worthy. Boston - Bird 2, Wedman, Parish, Kite.