

L.A. outclasses Philly in NBA championship contest

Poof! 'Magic' makes 76ers disappear

Poof! Just like 'Magic,' the Philadelphia 76ers disappeared after only five games of the NBA playoffs.

In Strat-O-Matic's version of the 1979-80 final series, replayed by Review co-editor Del Newell, the Magic Man, Earvin Johnson, was again a sensation, particularly with his passing as L.A. shot down the 76ers in one less game than needed in real-life.

Of course, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Jamaal Wilkes gave Magic a little help--almost 50 points per-game worth! Jabbar led all scorers with a 26.8 average and also was the leading rebounder, averaging 14. Shooting, he was uncanny, connecting on 61 of 88 shots--most from inside, of course--for a deadly 69.3 percent mark.

Wilkes, after pouring in 32 in the opener, went on to average 21.6 (shooting 52.3 percent from the floor, 44-84) while Johnson averaged 18.2 and shot at a 50.6 percent clip (36-75). He also grabbed off 7.2 rebounds. And critics of Magic said he couldn't shoot well enough to make it big in the pros.

One deviation from real-life was that Jabbar, who sat out the sixth game because of an injury, played all five games. The series never got to a sixth game. Spencer Haywood, however, did not play at all, so the L.A. roster was reduced to nine players.

EARLY STRIKE KEY FOR L.A.

The pattern for the series was set in the opener when the Lakers roared out to a 40-22 lead after one quarter and coasted in with a 130-88 victory. It was a scene that would be repeated in games two and three: the Lakers jumping out to a quick lead and Philly futilely playing catch-up ball thereafter.

Only in the fourth game did the 76ers break from the pattern. In this one, L.A. lost three players on fouls, including Jabbar and Wilkes, and had a total of 36 fouls whistled on it. Philly led after one period, 35-31, and put the Lakers away with a 41-point burst in the final quarter, posting a runaway 136-100 win.

The fifth game was the closest of 'em all as L.A. had to score 70 points in the second half to pull out a 120-115 victory after trailing the majority of the game. It wasn't until the last three minutes that L.A. grabbed the lead for good.

THE DOCTOR OPERATES FOR 24.4

Philadelphia, although unable to match the passing wizardry of Magic (1-4 Dazzler, 5-6 Turnover) and Norm Nixon (1-3 Dazzler, 4-5 Percentage Shot, 6 Turnover), had its heroes, too. Julius Erving, the good doctor, operated like a surgeon throughout the series--despite being guarded by Wilkes--averaging 24.4 points. He had 31 in a vain attempt to stave off defeat in game five. Erving netted 53 percent of the 100 field goals he attempted.

And Caldwell Jones, the lanky center-forward, matched Jabbar in rebounding with 70--14 per game--and Darryl Dawkins, the 76ers' gargantuan-sized center, shot 50 percent, averaged 20.6 points and 9.8 rebounds. Guard play was spotty at best, however, for the 76ers and the floor shooting, except for game four, was always under 50 percent.

Here is a capsule summary of each playoff game:

GAME 1 - Lakers shot down Philly behind 64.7 percent accuracy in the first half, building a 71-48 advantage, and coasted to 130-88 win...L.A. meshed 33 of 51 shots in first half, 58 of 103 (56.3 percent) for game... Wilkes had 32 points after 25-point first half, Jabbar 26 and Johnson 25. ..Jabbar led L.A. to 59-45 rebounding advantage with 18...Philly, which shot coolish 36.7 percent, was led by Erving's 25 points.

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GAME 2 - Fast start again was key for L.A. as it led 38-23 after one quarter and 71-52 at halftime...Lakers shot phenomenal 60.2 percent (53-88) from floor and sank 23 of 30 free throws...Jabbar had 27 points and 16 rebounds, Mark Landsberger 16 rebounds, while seven players cracked double figures scoring...Erving had 24, Maurice Cheeks 21 and Dawkins 20 for 76ers, who shot 43.6 percent [45-103]. Final: Los Angeles 129, Philly 109.

GAME 3 - L.A. was up by 19--39-20--after one quarter and again game was all but over...76ers, surprisingly, did pull within two points twice in third quarter before being outscored 36-24 in final period and succumbing, 120-97...Jabbar had 32 points, 12 in opening quarter, and pulled down 17 rebounds, with Johnson chipping in with 22 points, Nixon 19...Dawkins had 20, Erving 19 and Caldwell Jones 15 rebounds for losers.

GAME 4 - 76ers erupted and dominated all facets of play...Dawkins had series-high 31 points, Erving 22, Caldwell Jones 20 to go with 13 rebounds as seven players scored in double figures en route to smashing 136-100 triumph...Philly shot 56.6 percent [51-90] and also paraded to free throw line, sinking 34 of 45 chances...Jabbar had 23 points but only five in second half before fouling out; Wilkes 18, all in first half.

GAME 5 - Philly's reprieve was short-lived, however, as L.A. shot 54.6 percent [53-97], outscored it 42-32 the last quarter and wrapped up the series, 120-115...Wilkes led L.A. with 27 points, 10 coming in the final period, Jabbar had 26, 12 in the last quarter during which the Lakers connected on 19 of 29 shots in the clutch...Erving poured in 31, 11 in the fourth, for Philly, which shot 49.5 percent [51-103]; Dawkins had 20 and Caldwell Jones snatched a game-high 16 rebounds.

Summaries:

GAME 1

LOS ANGELES (130)

Wilkes 14-22 4-4 32, Chones 2-9 0 4, Jabbar 12-16 2-5 26, M.Johnson 11-19 3-3 25, N.Nixon 5-14 0 10, Byrnes 1-2 1-1 3, Landsberger 5-7 1-3 11, Holland 4-6 0 8, Cooper 4-8 3-4 11. Totals--56-103 14-20 130.
PHILADELPHIA (89)

Erving 11-22 4-6 26, C.Jones 5-9 2-2 12, Dawkins 5-14 2-2 12, Hollins 3-11, 0-2 6, Cheeks 3-11 4-4 10, Mix 3-10 1-2 7, B. Jones 3-10 2-4 8, Richardson 0-2, 0 0, Bibby 1-6 0 2, Spanarkel 2-3 1-1 5. Totals--36-98 16-23 89.

Total Fouls: Los Angeles 19, Philadelphia 23. Fouled out: none.
Los Angeles 40 31 35 24 - 130
Philadelphia 22 26 16 24 - 88

GAME 2

LOS ANGELES (129)

Wilkes 6-12 3-4 15, Chones 6-8 2-2 14, Jabbar 12-17 3-4 27, Johnson 5-14 7-11 17, Nixon 8-11 1-1 17, Byrnes 0-1 2-2 2, Landsberger 7-9 2-3 16, Holland 4-8 0 8, Cooper 5-8 3-3 13. Totals--53-88 23-30 129.
PHILADELPHIA (109)

Erving 11-26 2-2 24, C.Jones 3-12 0-1 6, Dawkins 7-14 6-9 20, Hollins 4-11 2-2 10, Cheeks 9-13 3-4 21, Mix 5-6 0-2 10, B.Jones 3-7 3-4 9, Bibby 3-9 2-3 8, Richardson 0-4 0 0, Spanarkel 0-1 1-2 1. Totals--45-103 19-29 109.

Total Fouls: Los Angeles 21, Philadelphia 27. Fouled out: Chones; B.Jones.
Los Angeles 38 33 26 32 - 129
Philadelphia 23 29 26 31 - 109

GAME 3

PHILADELPHIA (97)

Erving 9-16 1-1 19, C.Jones 5-10 0 10, Dawkins 10-20 0 20, Hollins 2-9 0 4, Cheeks 5-12 2-3 12, Mix 6-13 1-1 13, B.Jones 5-10 0 10, Bibby 1-6 0 2, Richardson 2-3 1-3 5, Spanarkel 0-1 2-2 2. Totals--45-100 7-10 97.

LOS ANGELES (120)

Wilkes 7-18 2-6 16, Chones 4-6 1-1 9, Jabbar 14-21 4-4 31, Johnson
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10-17 2-3 22, Nixon 6-15 7-8 19, Byrnes 0-1 0 0, Landsberger 2-8 1-2 5, Holland 2-6 1-1 5, Cooper 4-6 4-4 12. Totals--49-98 22-29 120.

Total fouls: Philadelphia 30, Los Angeles 14. Fouled out: Erving.

Philadelphia 20 25 28 24 - 97

Los Angeles 39 25 20 36 - 120

GAME 4

PHILADELPHIA (136)

Erving 8-13 6-6 22, C. Jones 8-10 4-4 20, Dawkins 12-19 7-10 31, Hollins 3-10 2-2 8, Cheeks 5-9 0 10, Mix 3-5 9-13 15, B. Jones 5-9 4-6 14, Richardson 0-5 1-2 1, Bibby 7-9 1-2 15, Spanarkel 0-1 0 0. Totals--51-90 34-45 136.

LOS ANGELES (100)

Wilkes 6-14 6-6 18, Chones 4-12 2-3 10, Jabbar 10-14 3-3 23, Johnson 4-11 2-2 10, Nixon 7-14 2-2 16, Byrnes 0-3 0 0, Landsberger 2-2 0 4, Holland 4-12 2-2 10, Cooper 4-7 1-1 9. Totals--41-89 18-19 100.

Total fouls: Philadelphia 22, Los Angeles 36. Fouled out: Wilkes, Jabbar, Landsberger.

Philadelphia 35 35 25 41 - 136

Los Angeles 31 29 12 28 - 100

GAME 5

PHILADELPHIA (115)

Erving 14-23 3-4 31, C. Jones 5-14 0-1 10, Dawkins 8-17 4-8 20, Hollins 5-12 0 10, Cheeks 5-10 1-1 11, Mix 4-6 1-4 9, B. Jones 4-8 0 8, Richardson 3-6 2-2 8, Bibby 2-4 0 4, Spanarkel 1-3 2-2 4. Totals--51-103 13-22 115.

LOS ANGELES (120)

Wilkes 11-18 5-6 27, Chones 3-7 0 6, Jabbar 13-20 0 26, Johnson 8-16 1-1 17, Nixon 6-10 2-2 14, Byrnes 1-2 0 2, Landsberger 4-9 2-2 10, Holland 4-8 1-1 9, Cooper 3-7 3-4 9. Totals--53-97 14-16 120.

Total fouls: Philadelphia 21, Los Angeles 19. Fouled out: none.

Philadelphia 28 22 33 32 - 115

Los Angeles 23 27 28 42 - 120
