

# Magic puts on 'dazzling' show

## Lakers whip 'Bad Boys' before they become good

Detroit's "Bad Boys" were a year away when Review co-editor Del Newell replayed the 1988 NBA championship series. The "Bad Boys," in fact, were just plain bad.

Or more apt, Detroit should have been called the gang that couldn't shoot straight, for the way it put the ball in the basket against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Detroit could only connect on 40.3 percent of its field goal attempts against the fastbreaking Lakers, who shot a crisp 48.2 percent and pinned four straight losses on the Pistons.

Remember, this was in '88, and L.A. had both Magic Johnson and his Dazzler Show and Bryon Scott, both of whom were injured in Detroit's sweep this spring.

Magic was easily the MVP of the championship series as he averaged 20.8 points, 10.5 rebounds, shot 46.5 percent (33-71) from the floor, swished 17 of 18 free throws and, most importantly, was credited with 12.3 dazzler passes each game.

Detroit was simply defenseless when it came to slowing L.A.'s break and Magic's dazzler passes (he was 3-20 = dazzler, in a normal offense; 6-20 = dazzler, in a fastbreak).

Both Magic and Scott averaged 20.8 points, while forward James Worthy was close behind, pumping in 19.5 points per game. Three other Lakers - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (10.8), Mychal Thompson (10.5) and Tony Campbell (10.0) - averaged in double figures.

### THOMAS IS LEADING SCORER, BUT...

The Pistons had the more prolific scorers in Isiah Thomas, who averaged a series high 23 points, and Adrian Dantley (21.8), plus Bill Laimbeer tossed in 15.5 each game and pulled down a series-tops 12.5 rebounds.

But no one, particularly the guards, could connect for Detroit when it was crunch time, or the game was on the line in the waning seconds.

Thomas, on paper, was a respectable 47 percent shooter (39-83). But his sidekicks in the backcourt, Joe Dumars and Vinnie Johnson, were colder than Lake Superior in the winter. Dumars, who was this year's championship series MVP, had a dismal series, netting only 13 of 44 shots (29.5 percent) and averaging 7.8 points.

And Vinnie Johnson (a.k.a. Microwave) never heated up either. Johnson was 18 of 53 for chilly 34 percent floor shooting. In game four, with the Pistons fighting for their playoff lives, Dumars and Johnson misfired on eight shots in the final quarter. The Lakers outscored Detroit, 6-2, in the last two minutes to complete the sweep.

### WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S SERIES?

As mentioned before, the cards used were based on the 1987-88 season. Since the same two teams reached the final in 1989, a replay is again in the works. Biggest dilemma faced by Newell is whether or not to use Scott (who didn't play at all) and Johnson (who missed most of the last three games)?

Minutes were adhered to as much as possible in this replay. Dazzler passes were kept for Magic (49 total in four games) and Thomas (19). Ironically, the Lakers only netted two 3-pointers (out of eight attempts), while Detroit was 4-of-17 from long range.

The Lakers also got the better of the shot-blocking, swatting away 30 shots (Worthy and A.C. Green had seven apiece, Jabbar six) to

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Detroit's 19 (Laimbeer had seven, Mahorn and Salley four each).

Now for a look at each game in the series:

#### GAME 1

Los Angeles set the pattern for the series by outscoring cold-shooting Detroit in the second quarter, 32-20, en route to a 33-point victory...L.A. shot 52.6 percent (51-97) while Detroit was 35.5 percent (38-107)...Worthy, who had 10 points in the opening quarter, led L.A. with 28 and Scott had 23. Jabbar had his best scoring game of the playoffs with 14 points, all in the second half...Thomas connected on 11 of 22 field goal attempts and finished with 25 points...Magic had 12 dazzlers. LAKERS 125, PISTONS 92

#### GAME 2

Tony Campbell came off the bench and scored eight of L.A.'s 12 straight points in the third quarter, which expanded the Lakers' lead from 64-56 at halftime to a commanding 76-56...Magic had his best game with 30 points, 11 rebounds and 10 dazzlers...Thomas again led Pistons, who shot a respectable 45.5 percent (46-101) from the field, with 24 points, while Dantley and Laimbeer each had 20. Laimbeer also had 15 rebounds. LAKERS 128, PISTONS 111

#### GAME 3

Detroit came close, carrying an 80-78 lead into the final quarter, but L.A. connected on 11 of 22 shots in the fourth to outpoint the Pistons, 30-24, and snatch away victory...Worthy had 10 of his team-high 22 points in the last period...L.A. swished all 17 of its free throw chances...Detroit, despite playing at home, still suffered shooting blahs, making only 19 of 50 second-half field goals...Dantley led all scorers with 25 points, 17 coming in second half. LAKERS 108, PISTONS 104

#### GAME 4

Lakers outscored Detroit 6-2 in final two minutes and blocked a series-high 11 shots for the game, sweeping the cold-shooting Pistons (37.8 percent, 42-111)...Magic had 23 points, 12 rebounds and 12 dazzler passes, while Scott also tossed in 23 points...Thomas and Dantley again did everything they could to stave off defeat, with Thomas pumping in 27 points (13-24 shooting) and Dantley 24...Dumars and Vinnie Johnson were 9-of-32 from the floor, however, and that was the story of the game and series. LAKERS 108, PISTONS 104

#### CHAMPIONSHIP BOXSCORES

##### Game 1 - At Inglewood Forum

##### DETROIT (92)

Dantley 5-21 8-8 18, Mahorn 3-6 1-1 7, Laimbeer 7-18 2-2 16, Thomas 11-22 2-2 25, Dumars 2-7 1-2 5, V. Johnson 5-15 0-0 10, Rodman 4-9 1-4 9, Salley 1-4 0-0 2, Edwards 0-5 0-0 0. Totals: 38-107 15-19 92  
LOS ANGELES (125)

Worthy 8-15 12-12 28, A.Green 4-7 0-0 8, Jabbar 7-12 0-0 14, M. Johnson 6-12 4-4 16, Scott 10-16 3-3 23, Campbell 3-8 0-0 6, Cooper 5-13 0-0 10, Thompson 4-6 3-4 11, Rambis 1-2 0-0 2, Matthews 3-6 1-1 7. Totals: 51-97 23-24 125.

Detroit	21	20	24	27	-	92	(continued on
Los Angeles	25	32	39	29	-	125	next page)

3-point goals: Thomas. Total fouls: Detroit 27, Los Angeles 18.  
Fouled out: Thompson. Rebounds: Detroit 60 (Rodman 12, Dantley 10); Los Angeles 55 (Worthy 10). Turnovers: Detroit 15, Los Angeles 9. Blocks: Detroit 4 (Salley 2, Laimbeer 2); Los Angeles 6 (Worthy 2, Jabbar 2).

#### Game 2 - At Inglewood Forum

DETROIT (111)

Dantley 6-14 8-9 20, Mahorn 3-6 2-2 8, Laimbeer 9-15 1-1 20,  
Thomas 10-23 2-2 24, Dumars 3-11 1-1 7, V.Johnson 3-12 0-2 6, Rodman  
3-7 0-0 6, Salley 5-6 2-4 12, Edwards 4-7 0-1 8. Totals: 46-101 16-22  
111.

LOS ANGELES (128)

Worthy 4-13 4-8 12, Green 3-7 3-4 9, Jabbar 5-12 1-1 11, M.Johnson  
11-23 8-9 30, Scott 6-15 2-2 14, Campbell 7-12 1-2 15, Cooper 3-13 0-0  
6, Thompson 7-10 3-4 17, Rambis 3-4 0-0 6, Matthews 4-5 0-1 8. Totals:  
53-114 22-31 128.

Detroit 30 26 22 33 - 111

Los Angeles 32 32 34 30 - 128

3-point goals: Thomas 2, Laimbeer. Total fouls: Detroit 28, Los  
Angeles 19. Fouled out: Rodman. Rebounds: Detroit 54 (Laimbeer 15); Los  
Angeles 67 (M.Johnson 13, Green 10, Jabbar 10). Turnovers: Detroit 18,  
Los Angeles 5. Blocks: Detroit 4 (Laimbeer 3); Los Angeles 11 (Jabbar  
3, Worthy 2, Green 2, Cooper 2).

#### Game 3 - At Pontiac Silverdome

LOS ANGELES (108)

Worthy 11-22 0-0 22, Green 7-12 4-4 18, Jabbar 5-9 0-0 10, M.John-  
son 5-15 4-4 14, Scott 9-21 4-4 23, Campbell 1-4 4-4 6, Cooper 2-6 0-0  
4, Thompson 4-7 1-1 9, Rambis 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 45-98 17-17 108.

DETROIT (104)

Dantley 9-18 7-8 25, Mahorn 1-6 5-8 7, Laimbeer 6-13 4-4 16,  
Thomas 5-14 6-8 16, Dumars 2-7 2-2 6, V.Johnson 7-13 2-2 16, Rodman 1-6  
0-0 2, Salley 2-4 4-7 8, Edwards 4-4 0-0 8. Totals: 37-85 30-39 104.

Los Angeles 31 25 22 30 - 108

Detroit 26 28 26 24 - 104

3-point goals: Scott. Total fouls: Los Angeles 29, Detroit 24.  
Fouled out: none. Rebounds: Los Angeles 53 (Green 12); Detroit 51  
(Laimbeer 15). Turnovers: Los Angeles 12, Detroit 13. Blocks: Los  
Angeles 4 (Green 2); Detroit 7 (Mahorn 3, Laimbeer 2).

#### Game 4 - At Pontiac Silverdome

LOS ANGELES (108)

Worthy 8-21 0-0 16, Green 1-3 0-0 2, Jabbar 3-8 2-3 8, M.Johnson  
11-21 1-1 23, Scott 11-19 0-2 23, Campbell 6-9 1-2 13, Cooper 3-7 0-0  
6, Thompson 2-9 1-3 5, Rambis 2-3 4-4 8, Matthews 2-2 0-0 4. Totals:  
49-102 9-15 108.

DETROIT (104)

Dantley 7-18 10-11 24, Mahorn 1-6 2-2 4, Laimbeer 4-12 2-2 10,  
Thomas 13-24 1-2 27, Dumars 6-19 1-1 13, V.Johnson 3-13 0-0 6, Rodman  
5-9 0-0 10, Salley 2-5 0-0 4, Edwards 1-5 4-6 6. Totals: 42-111 20-24  
104.

Los Angeles 38 23 25 22 - 108

Detroit 32 23 26 23 - 104

3-point goals: Scott. Total fouls: Los Angeles 23, Detroit 19.  
Fouled out: none. Rebounds: Los Angeles 62 (M.Johnson 12, Green 11);  
Detroit 63 (Laimbeer 11, Rodman 11). Turnovers: Los Angeles 13,  
Detroit 8. Blocks: Los Angeles 9 (Green 3, Thompson 2, Worthy 2);  
Detroit 4 (Edwards 2).