

Bullets anything but blanks

Next year it'll be the "Magic Show" making Philadelphia disappear in seven games or less. But that's a long way off, or so it seems.

In the meantime, while waiting for the new S-O-M Basketball cards, replete with the three-point field goal and such indomitable rookies as Earvin (Magic) Johnson and Larry Bird, the Review staff undertook a replay of the 1978-79 playoff series matching the real-life kings, the Seattle Supersonics, and the Washington Bullets.

But, whereas the Sonics won handily in five games on the hardwood, the tabletop was a far different arena, one that the Bullets were to prevail on in six games. The Bullets were anything but blanks after game No. 3 as, after trailing 2-1, they took advantage of cold Seattle shooting to win the next three games and the series.

Now, here is a game-by-game summary of that championship series:

Game 1 - Washington 110, Seattle 88. Bobby Dandridge scored game-high 33 points, 12 in the opening quarter, leading Washington to victory... Dandridge was 15-of-19 shooting from the field as Washington connected on 44.9 percent (48-107) of shots...Seattle trailed only 77-72 entering last quarter but was outscored 33-16...Elvin Hayes had 20 points, 14 rebounds and Wes Unseld 19 points and 18 rebounds for winners, while Lon Shelton was Seattle's high scorer with 16 and Jack Sikma grabbed 17 rebounds.

Game 2 - Seattle 112, Washington 104. Rerun of real-life appeared in making as Sonics bounced back behind Shelton (25 points) and Sikma (23 and 24 rebounds)...Seattle also got 19 points from Gus Williams, shot 46.7 percent (43-92) from the floor and netted 26 of 31 free throw chances...Shelton-Sikma duo had 29 of Seattle's 29 final-period points...Dandridge had 21, Hayes 20 for Bullets, who meshed 44 of 104 shots (42.3 percent).

Game 3 - Seattle 109, Washington 98. Seattle appeared to be taking charge of series as it jumped out to 85-46 halftime lead and coasted in with easy win...Sonic defense smothered Bullet offense as losers launched only 83 shots and made 33 for a frigid 39.8 percent...Bullets did swish 32 of 38 free throws, otherwise it would have been a blowout...Shelton scored 18 of game-high 24 points in first half, Sikma 15 of 19; Williams added 15 and Sikma claimed 24 rebounds for second straight game...Dandridge's 20 topped Bullets, who also got 18 from Hayes, with Unseld pulling down 17 rebounds.

Game 4 - Washington 100, Seattle 98. Pivotal game in series as Washington held Seattle to 13 points in third quarter to claim narrow win...Dandridge again led all scorers, including tossing in 10 points in fourth quarter, with 25 and Hayes snatched 17 rebounds before fouling out in final period...Bullets shot 40 percent from floor (36-90), but netted 28 of 40 free throws...Seattle was 22 of 25 from line, but had 15 fewer chances...Sikma scored 20, Freddie Brown 14 for Seattle, which was guilty of 22 turnovers.

Game 5 - Washington 105, Seattle 99. Seattle let an eight-point half-time lead slip away, shot a stone-cold 6-of-25 from the field in the fateful fourth quarter and succumbed again...Shelton was one of game's goats as he misfired on all seven of shots in fourth...Mitch Kupchak came off bench to score 15 for Washington, while Hayes had 18 to go with 13 rebounds and Dandridge 16 tallies...Brown had 20 points, Williams 17, Dennis Johnson 16 for Sonics.

Game 6 - Washington 107, Seattle 90. Washington delivered coup de grace swiftly and mercifully, seizing 57-41 halftime advantage and coasting to 17-point win...Dandridge and Hayes led balanced Bullet attack with 17 points each, while Sikma had 20 and 17 rebounds trying to stave off defeat for Seattle...Sonics shot chilly 37.1 percent and turned ball over an unchampion-like 24 times...Hayes sank eight of nine shots as Bullets were on-target 45 out of 99 shots.