

Lakers sweep New Jersey to take NBA title

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Proficiently and professionally, the Los Angeles Lakers finished strong, closed out the New Jersey Nets and won their third straight NBA title with a franchise first — a 4-0 sweep in the finals.
Shaquille O’Neal had another dominant night Wednesday with 34 points and 10 rebounds, Kobe Bryant went back to playing a supporting role with 25 points in the 113-107 victory.
The rest of the Lakers also came up big in the deciding game — just as they did a year ago.
It was the 14th title in franchise history, five while the team was in Minneapolis — including a three-peat — and nine in Los Angeles.
This, however, was the first time they ever beat an opponent in four straight games.
Bryant walked over and hugged

Nets coach Bryon Scott, and O’Neal, the finals MVP, sought out Nets guard Jason Kidd and then walked over to embrace his grandfather, who towelled the sweat off O’Neal’s face.
Coach Phil Jackson tied Red Auerbach for most titles as a head coach (nine) and passed Pat Riley for the most career postseason victories (156). Jackson also went over to Scott, smiled and shook hands at midcourt.
The Nets all but conceded defeat with 44 seconds left, subbing for Kidd and Kenyon Martin despite trailing by only six points.
Bryant made two free throws while the two Nets got a rousing ovation, and 14-year veteran Mitch Richmond hit the final shot of the game — and his only one of the series.
The Nets played gallantly, trying to salvage some respect in a series that turned out to be a mismatch.
But the Lakers had a little too much of everything — 11 3-pointers, big

nights from their two superstars and double-figure contributions from Derek Fisher, Devean George and Robert Horry.
O’Neal, who considers nearby Newark, N.J., to be his hometown, won his third consecutive finals MVP award. He scored 36, 40 and 35 points in the first three games, finishing the series by going 12-for-20 from the field with four assists and two blocks.
He thanked his teammates for “looking for me and having the confidence in me to give me the ball.”
“I told them if we made the finals I wasn’t going to let them down,” O’Neal said. Bryant added eight assists and six rebounds as the Lakers finished off an almost perfect series.
The Nets abandoned the full-court pressure they had used without much success in the first three games and went to a 2-3 zone whenever O’Neal was in the game.
But the Lakers kept moving the ball

and finding the open man, and the Nets were unable to come up with the clutch shots they needed to make it just a little closer down the stretch.
Jackson said his team had the right mind-set to finish off the series and not give the Nets any hope, and he couldn’t have been any more accurate.
The Lakers never looked nervous throughout the game, displaying the cool confidence that has become their trademark over the past three seasons.
“Even thinking of anything past that final buzzer is ridiculous for us,” Jackson said. “Momentum shifts from quarter to quarter and timeout to timeout. But it also shifts from game to game. If (the Nets) gain momentum, we can have a series on our hands if we’re not careful.”
Martin had the highest-scoring quarter of anyone in the series, getting 17 in the first 12 minutes on an assortment of dunks and midrange jumpers.
A bank shot high off the glass gave

the Nets a 34-23 lead with less than a minute left in the first quarter.
Coach Byron Scott chose to rest Martin and Kidd at the same time to start the second quarter, and by the time both returned the Lakers had tied the game, 41-41.
Back-to-back 3-pointers by George and Horry gave Los Angeles a 55-49 lead, and a 3 by Fisher made it 58-52 before New Jersey closed the half with a 5-0 run to trail by one at the break.
Fox had eight points in the first six minutes of the third quarter, and the Lakers increased their lead to eight late in the period. If it seemed as if the Nets were all set to fade away, they had different ideas.
New Jersey closed the quarter with a 4-0 run, then got a 3-pointer from Kidd, a three-point play from Lucious Harris and a foul shot from Martin to go ahead 87-84 with 10:05 left.
The game stayed tight for the next several minutes, Martin scoring nine

straight for New Jersey while the Lakers got 3-pointers from Bryant and George.
Fisher hit a corner jumper with 5:31 left and O’Neal — fouled while the ball was in the air — made a foul shot to complete an unorthodox three-point play.
Bryant drew a charging foul on Keith Van Horn, hit a runner in the lane, rebounded a miss by Martin and forced Kidd to alter his shot and miss a layup.
O’Neal went to the line with 4:05 left and made both, increasing the lead to 102-93, and Bryant answered a basket by Martin with a driving layup to restore the nine-point lead.
New Jersey got within five on a dunk by Martin with 2:18 left, but Fisher made a corner jumper and O’Neal — after missing his two previous shots badly — hit a turnaround from the lane with 1:24 left for a 108-99 lead.
The Nets surrendered moments later.

Colby’s Sweet Thunder 16&under takes second at Chapman tourney

Colby Sweet Thunder 16/U faced off against the Abilene 15’s in the first game of pool play at the Chapman tournament on Saturday. Britany Pettibone picked up the win on the mound, 4-3. Pettibone threw a one hitter, with 11 K, and 0 walks. Savannah Rupp led the offensive attack going 2-3 from the plate with a triple.
The home town Chapman Crushers played the next game with Colby. Colby came up short losing 2-4. Whitney Adams took the loss, giving up 3 hits, striking out six, and walking one. Chanel Sirtua went 2-3 from the plate to lead the team.
The final game of the day pitted Colby against the Marysville

Magic. Colby picked up their second win of the day 4-2. Pettibone gave up 2 hits, 4 K, and 1 BB. Whitney Adams led off the game with a home run and went 1-1 for the game with 3 walks.
Sunday morning brought the final game of pool play for Colby. Colby earned 2nd place in the pool giving them a chance to win the title with a 8-4 win over the Kansas Storm. Pettibone picked up her third win of the weekend with 5 hits, 7 K, and 5 BB. She also went 3-4 from the plate scoring 3 runs.
In the semi-final game Colby faced off against the Clay Center B’s 16’s. Adams earned the win against the top seeded team from the other pool. Adams threw a one hitter with 2 K and

2 HBP.
Savannah Rupp and Hope Maley both went 1-3 with RBI triples in the first to lead the offense. Colby picked up the win 3-2.
Colby played the Abilene 16’s for the title. Pettibone earned her first loss of the weekend 8-2. Going into the bottom of the sixth inning Colby trailed 3-2. On the mound, Pettibone gave up 3 hits, 3 K, and 2 BB. Chanel Sirtua lead the team going 1-2. Savannah Rupp added a home run in the top of the sixth inning. Colby is now 6-4 for the season
The next action for Sweet Thunder will be June 15-16 in North Platte, Nebraska.

Legion team now 7-0 on the year

The Colby American Legion baseball team traveled to McCook Wednesday and picked up a 10-2 win to move to 7-0 on the season. Jared Cranston got the win for Colby, striking out eleven and giving up three hits in seven innings. Top batters for the Legion were Bruce Arnberger with 3 hits; Ryan Arensdorf, Brian Sulzman, Clayton Kaiser, and Cody Hatfield with 2 hits each; and Josh Houtz, John Wark, and Jared Cranston each with 1 hit. Colby’s next action will be at a tournament in Hays on June 21, 22, and 23.
Here is the roster for this year’s Colby American Legion baseball squad:
#00 Ryan Arensdorf, catcher; #17 Bruce Arnberger, infielder; #12 Jared

Cranston, pitcher/infielder; #34 Wade Goodwin (from Atwood) pitcher/infielder; #11 Cody Hatfield, outfielder; #6 Drue Herl, outfielder; #8 Josh Houtz, pitcher/outfielder; #32 Josh Hutfles, pitcher/outfielder; #13 Clayton Kaiser, infielder; #18 Stephen Mardock, infielder; #5 Jeff Reavis, outfielder; 324 Curtis Snodgrass (from Atwood) outfielder; #7 Brian

Sulzman, infielder; #4 John Wark, infielder; #14 Dason Wentte, infielder; #21 Jeff Williams, pitcher/outfielder.
Here is the remainder of the Legion schedule (all dates are doubleheaders):
Hays tournament 6/21, 22, 23; 6/24 VS. St. Francis 7 p.m.; 6/26 VS. Ellis 6 p.m.; 7/2 VS. McCook 6 p.m.; 7/9 VS. Norton 7 p.m.; 7/12 @ Ellis 6:30 p.m.; 7/17 VS. Goodland 7 p.m.

COLBY JR. GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!!

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, JUNE 17th.

Contact David Pool, Colby Country Club @ 462-6443.

SUMMER HOURS:

5:00-11:00 p.m.

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Five junior golfers medal at Hoxie tournament

Colby’s junior golfers traveled to Hoxie Monday for league play, with 11 boys in three divisions competing. In the 8-9 division, Tyler Bates won the first place medal with a score of 53. Drew White also shot a 53 for second place. In the 10-11 division, Brandon Rasmussen took first with a 51, Garrett Rogers was third with a 60, Brandon Standage shot 67, Jeremy Harter shot 68, and Cody Wark shot an 85. In the 12-13 division, Mikel Ladenburger took third with a 48, Jesse Hawk shot a 54, Mitchell Tuma had a 61, and Brett Harter shot 72.
Any golfer winning a medal for first, second, or third place during the regular season automatically qualifies for

Red Wings were built to win Cup

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings were constructed by general manager Ken Holland and coach Scotty Bowman for one reason: to win the Stanley Cup.
It’s why Bowman is still coaching at age 68, why Igor Larionov is still playing at age 41, why Chris Chelios doesn’t chase golf balls the year around, why Brett Hull took a huge pay cut, why Dominik Hasek asked the Buffalo Sabres to trade him, why Jiri Slegr waited two months to play one game.

CARD OF THANKS:

**Thomas County Sheriff,
Thomas County EMS,
Kansas Highway Patrol,
Colby Police Department,
& Colby Fire Department**
One year ago today, Wednesday, June 13, 2001, you responded to a rollover accident north of Colby. Because of your quick response time, your medical knowledge and training, along with your professionalism, kindness and caring for others, the driver and all 4 passengers are alive today! We all have at least one scar - but physical scars can be overcome, it’s the mental scars that take time to heal. We are so thankful to people such as yourselves who dedicate their time and knowledge to the medical field and caring for/saving the lives of people. We realize that at times your jobs may seem thankless - but please know how much we appreciate you and thank you for your time and dedication! God bless each of you.
*Rhonda & Michael Erker,
David, Dawnelle & Sydney*



Frontier Equity Exchange wants to thank the communities of Goodland, Brewster, and Bird City in response to our recent Ethanol promotion, to show support for our local farmers. Thanks also to Farm Bureau to help make this event successful. Frontier Equity Exchange plans to continue promoting Ethanol.



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