

Heat takes lead in NBA finals

MIAMI (AP) — Draped in white paper streamers that rained down from the ceiling, the Miami Heat hugged and danced their way off the floor following a win to remember.

Not far away, the Dallas Mavericks and their feisty owner were kicking, screaming and fighting mad.

These NBA finals certainly haven't been lacking for any drama. And they're not over yet, either.

Dwyane Wade scored 43 points, the last on a free throw with 1.9 seconds left in overtime after Dallas' Josh Howard asked for an untimely timeout, and the Heat won their third straight game in this homey and heated series, 101-100 over the Mavericks on Sunday for a 3-2 lead.

Wade's latest virtuoso performance — he's averaging 40.3 points in the past three games — sent the evenly matched teams to Dallas for Game 6 on Tuesday night. Game 7, if necessary, will be Thursday night.

When the Mavericks' final shot — because of Howard's error, all they could manage was a half-court heave by Devin Harris — went over the backboard, American Airlines

Arena, hosting its final game of the season, erupted in cheers and some chaos.

"We can smell it," Wade said. "Dallas plays well at home but we are a confident bunch so we'll see what happens."

As the Heat were celebrating the biggest win in franchise history, Dallas owner Mark Cuban stormed onto the floor, complaining about a non-call against Wade a few other plays in the final seconds.

Cuban, wearing a blue jersey bearing the name of suspended Dallas reserve Jerry Stackhouse, stood with his hands on his hips in disbelief as the Mavericks headed to the locker room to begin getting ready for Game 6.

All the Mavericks were hot, especially Dirk Nowitzki, who first punted the ball into the stands and then kicked a stationary bike in a hallway before turning his anger on anything in his way.

"We got embarrassed here," Nowitzki said. "They suspended one of our players, so obviously we were pretty mad. We responded. We were in the game. We had our chances."



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jaron Cox took aim during while trap shooting at the Colby Trap Club range Sunday. The day was also one of three planned shooting days for youth, women and inexperienced shooters sponsored by the Kansas Division of Wildlife and Parks. Two more events will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, Aug. 20.

sored by the Kansas Division of Wildlife and Parks. Two more events will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, Aug. 20.

Hurricanes try to avoid giant collapse

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Hurricanes staggered home Sunday, trying to figure out how it has gone so wrong, so quickly.

A few of them stopped by the locker room, where they could have been sipping champagne from the Stanley Cup a few days ago. Now, their equipment was being sorted out for one more game, one more chance to avoid a mammoth collapse.

"I think we're all embarrassed by the way we played," defenseman Glen Wesley said.

One timely goal away from capturing the cup in Game 5, the Hurricanes find themselves very much on the defensive heading to Game 7 against the resurgent Edmonton Oilers, who suddenly seem much fresher, a step or two quicker and a lot more determined.

"I know we've been the underdog in most people's minds," Oilers center Shawn Horcoff said. "But we really believe we can get this thing done."

Only one team has squandered a 3-1 lead in the finals. Sixty-four years ago, Detroit actually won the first three games against Toronto, then lost the next four.

The 1942 Red Wings also are one of three teams that jumped out to a 2-0 lead and didn't win the cup.

The Hurricanes put themselves in position to join those infamous teams with a 4-3 overtime loss at home — on a short-handed goal, no less — and a dismal 4-0 defeat at Edmonton on Saturday night that evened the series at three games apiece.

Now, it's on to the winner-take-

all finale. Game 7 is Monday night in Raleigh.

The Hurricanes have history on their side, if not as much bounce in their skates. When the finals go to Game 7, the home team is 11-2. The 1971 Montreal Canadiens were the last road team to capture the cup in a decisive game.

Just as the Oilers fed off the enthusiasm of their fans Saturday night in Alberta, Carolina is counting on its crowd to be a major factor on Tobacco Road.

"They've been a huge boost to us all year," said rookie goalie Cam Ward, one of the few Hurricanes who's played well throughout the series. "We've got to use that to our advantage."

Edmonton looked right on the mark when it claimed to be wearing down a Carolina lineup filled with key 30-something players such as Wesley (37), Rod Brind'Amour (35), Bret Hedican (35) and Ray Whitney (34).

Led by feisty, hit-anything-in-red Raffi Torres, the younger Oilers are much like a boxer who just wants to get an aging fighter into the later rounds, then finish him off.

"We feel like we've got them to the point where we can push them over the edge," Edmonton left wing Ethan Moreau said.

Carolina coach Peter Laviolette even seemed to concede as much, at least for one night. He wondered why his team appeared so slow and out of sync in Game 6.

"We were pretty lousy in all aspects," he said. "We didn't have energy in our legs, in our skating, all the things that have been trademark for us all season long."

SportsBriefs

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP) — Phil Mickelson's bid for a third consecutive major ended with a shocking collapse Sunday when he bungled his way to a double bogey on the final hole, giving the U.S. Open to Geoff Ogilvy.

The winning shot in this test of survival at Winged Foot was Ogilvy's 6-foot par putt that he figured was only good for second place.

The memory will be Mickelson on the 72nd hole, one minute on the verge of joining Tiger Woods as the only players over the last 50 years with three straight majors, the next minute looking like the Mickelson of old with a reckless attempt to get out of trouble.

Ogilvy closed with a 2-over 72 in the highest-scoring U.S. Open since 1974 at Winged Foot. He became the first Australian to win the U.S. Open since David Graham in 1981.

BASEBALL
NEW YORK (AP) — Former major leaguer David Segui said he used HGH and was among the players mentioned by ex-teammate Jason Grimsley to federal investigators. Segui added that he used the drug with a doctor's prescription

because of a growth hormone deficiency.

Segui, who spent 15 years in the majors and retired in 2004, said on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" on Sunday that he continues to use HGH legally.

He said he first started using the hormone after the deficiency was found when he went for blood work before surgery during his playing career.

The 39-year-old first baseman said Grimsley came to him this past offseason, seeking advice about HGH and how it might help him recover from major arm surgery.

AUTO RACING
BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Kasey Kahne won from the pole again, helped this time by a timely caution flag and a downpour that ended Sunday's NASCAR Nextel Cup race 71 laps early.

PRO FOOTBALL
TORONTO (AP) — After gaining 8 yards in the first half, former Dolphins running back Ricky Williams finished his CFL debut with 97 yards on 18 carries in the Toronto Argonauts' 27-17 win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Saturday.

DODGE
4x14
place 85% in
GSN
printed ad
over earlier
this a.m.