### NJ Had Dallas Seeing Stars In 7-3 Win Blazers Staying Alive

New Jersey has a chance to take a 2-0 lead if they can once again defeat Dallas in tonight's 8 p.m. game.

Casual farew Pickens and

Summerville 10 Lofty 14 Exit from a

nerve 15 Chocolate

source
16 Opera song
17 Three suns?
20 Untreated
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21 State

21 State 22 Defy authority 24 Take to court 25 Draft letters 28 Made a lap 30 Half a Kenyan rebel?

rebel?
33 Tack on
37 Mentors
41 Three lights?
43 Instructor
44 Tightening

Soak flax

49 Abyss 52 Attract 56 Musica 60 Puts to

'60s war zone. 48 Skinny twins?

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - The defending Stanley Cup champion Dallas Stars thought they were done seeing the Avalanche. Instead, they ran into one in, of all places, New Jersey.

Petr Sykora scored twice in a fourpoint night and Ken Daneyko, who has

THE Daily Crossword

designer 69 Vended 70 Dens and kitchens 71 Winter fall

DOWN

DOWN

1 Roosevelt's successor

2 Wheels' connector

3 Horn honk

4 Sadat of Egypt

5 Use elbow grease

6 Highland gals

7 I in Innsbruck

8 Female servant

9 Loudness units

10 Hold for later action

played every postseason Devils history, scored his first

11 Precinct 12 Prevaricator 13 Feeble 18 Opposite of WSW 19 Old French

23 Side-to-side
25 Not as risky
26 Fine porcelain
27 Gush forth
29 Hot quaff
30 Verdun's river
31 Firebug's crime
32 Consumers
34 & so forth
35 Teachers' grp.
36 Banned insecticide's letters
38 Creative skill
39 Revolutionary

New Jersey ....7 playoff goal in New Jersey's top line embarrassed Dallas' stars in a commanding 7-3 victory Tuesday night.

Sykora also assisted on Jason Arnott's two goals as the Devils, attempting to become the first Eastern Conference team to win the Stanley Cup since they did it five years ago, badly outplayed the defending champions at their own

By William P. Bandas

Guevara 40 Sweetie 42 Hither's part-

ner?
47 Showplace for antiquities
49 Mauled

50 "\_\_ a
Wonderful Life"
51 Mongolian

dogs just as they were when they upset Detroit in four games in the 1995 finals, can take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series by winning Thursday night at

The game was vintage Devils - vin-

tage 1995, that is.

The Devils followed still-new coach Larry Robinson's game plan to perfec-tion. They seized the critical early lead, dusted off the neutral-zone trap that was so effective in '95 to shut down Dallas' scorers and let goaltender Martin Brodeur stop the shots that sneaked through their defense.

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angle 65 Modern: pref.

54 Bangor's summer hrs.
55 Throws down the gauntlet
56 Some NCOs
57 Bread spread
58 Football coach
Chuck
59 Without accompaniment

The Devils' top line of Sykora, Arnott and Patrik Elias combined for four goals and now have nine in the last games. By contrast, the Stars' Brett Hull and Mike Modano, the top two scorers in the playoffs want scoreless.

in the playoffs, went scoreless.

Dallas goaltender Eddie Belfour was no better. Belfour, who had allowed two or fewer goals in 12 of his previous 13 games, yielded six goals on 18 shots before being replaced by Manny Fernandez with 16:58 left.

The Stars allowed as many goals in less than a full game than they did in the entire Avalanche series, when they permitted seven goals – the fewest in 50 years in a Stanley Cup semifinal series.

The Devils' oft-overlooked offense ambushed a baffled Belfour and the Stars, who looked fatigued and off their game almost from the opening minute despite having three days off since eliminating Colorado on Saturday

The Devils, known more for their give-no-ground neutral zone trap, were the NHL's second-highest scoring team during the season, but Robinson reshaped their game after succeeding the fired Robbie Ftorek with eight

games left in the regular season.

Robinson sold the Devils on returning to their '95 style, in which the trapping defense set up an opportunistic offense, rather than vice versa. But even Robinson couldn't have expected this, not against a determined, defense-driven team that coach Ken Hitchcock said was extremely focused on winning a second Cup.

The Stars have already fared worse

than the last four defending champions Detroit, Pittsburgh and two of Wayne
 Gretzky's Edmonton Oilers teams who returned to the finals the year after winning the cup. All four of those teams repeated as champion, and only one lost even one game in the finals.

The first game of a Stanley Cup final can be critical - the Game I winner has won the cup 79 percent of the time.

## With Win Over L.A.

The Lakers are 43-7 at home this season, but three of those losses have come at the hands of the Blazers.

LOS ANGELES - There will be no celebration in Los Angeles. Not yet,

Scottie Pippen and the rest of the Portland Trail Blazers stunned the Lakers with a 96-88 victory Tuesday night to stay alive in the Western Conference finals.

With Los Angeles up 3-2, the series

shifts back to Portland for NBA Western Game 6 on

riday night.
The Lakers
St. two. in ...

Portland ....96
Los Angeles ...88 lost two in a row at home for the first time all season

A team so poised and confident in their weekend sweep in Portland might have been a safe bet to clinch its first trip to the NBA Finals since 1991 with a home-

But Portland never trailed. Despite dislocating his left ring finger late in the first quarter, Pippen had 22 points, six steals and four blocked shots. In the process, Pippen broke Michael Jordan's record for career playoff steals with 380.

Rasheed Wallace was just 7-for-21 from the field, but scored 22 points, including seven of eight free throws, and grabbed 10 boards. Steve Smith added 13 points, and Arvydas Sabonis 12. Shaquille O'Neal did his best to make

is the big night everyone expected with 31 points and 21 rebounds. Ron Harper added 14 points.

But Kobe Bryant made only four of

13 shots, scored 17 points and commit-ted six turnovers before fouling out with 4:45 to play. Glen Rice was 1-for-8 from the field and 0-for-5 from 3-point range,

finishing with four points.

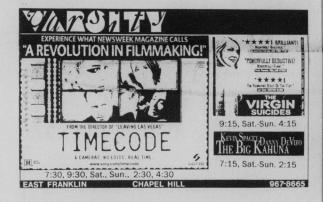
The Lakers were just 6-for-27 from 3point range and shot 38 percent from

Trailing 80-67 entering the fourth quarter, the Lakers mounted one chalnge. Bryant scored on a layup and was fouled, making it 82-74 with 9:33

O'Neal waved his arms to get the crowd roaring, but after a timeout, Bryant missed the free throw. Then, the Blazers' Brian Grant scored on a threepoint play to boost the lead back to 87-76, and the Lakers were finished.

# Attracted Musical works Puts to sleep Three moons?

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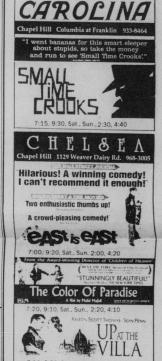


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