

# Sonics, Bullets survive NBA playoffs, face final test

The Seattle Supersonics staved off elimination from the NBA Playoffs with a thrilling defeat of the Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

The Sonics hung on to win the game 106-105 in Phoenix and evened the best of seven western division final series at three games apiece. Dennis Johnson and Jack Sikma led the Sonics scoring efforts with 23 and 21 points respectively. Phoenix was led by the high scoring

tandem of Paul Westphal and Walter Davis with 29 and 26 points each.

The win came on the heels of a Suns 99-93 defeat of the Sonics in Seattle on Friday evening. Game seven of the series is scheduled for Thursday in Seattle.

The Washington Bullets have had all they can handle in defending their NBA Championship Title. The Atlanta Hawks took the Bullets to seven games

before bowing out and now the San Antonio Spurs have the Bullets on the ropes again leading the Eastern Division final series 3 games to 2.

The Bullets won their second game in the series 107-103 on Sunday behind the hot shooting and strong rebounding of Elvin Hayes. Hayes poured in 24 points and hauled down 22 rebounds to pace the Bullets, while teammate Kevin Grevey added 23 points. The Spurs were led by George Gervin and Larry Kenon with 28 and 22 points. On Friday the Spurs dumped the Champions, 118-102.

The Bullets face game six at San Antonio on Wednesday and must win in order to force a seventh game at Landover.

Prior to Sunday's action, both of the finalists in last year's playoffs faced elimination and it is still possible that neither will make the finals.

Bill Walton signed a multi-year contract to play for the San Diego Clippers. Walton

inked a seven-year contract with the Clippers and is reported to have become the highest paid player in the NBA. Certain con-

troversy awaits the compensation that San Diego must award Portland for signing the often injured superstar.

---