

357 76ers have no 'Answer'; Pistons' win streak at 3

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Journal News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Show no mercy.

It's an easy concept to understand. But at times it has been difficult for the Detroit Pistons to do, especially when the opponent has key players sidelined with injuries.

Teams like the Philadelphia 76ers, who were playing without Allen Iverson (oral surgery), Chris Webber (lower back) and Steven Hunter (right ankle) on Tuesday, tend to stay in a game longer than they should when playing a healthy Detroit team.

In those situations, "it's easy to let your guard down," said Pistons guard Chauncey Billups.

The Pistons did that at times, but the outcome was never in doubt as Detroit pulled away for a 97-87 win.

It was the kind of victory

Pistons coach Flip Saunders has grown accustomed to.

"Pretty much grind it out," Saunders said. "That's when we're at our best, when we have the ability to execute offensively, not turn the ball over, move the ball and whoever is hot, run plays for those guys."

The hot hand for the Pistons seemed to change from one quarter to the next.

However, it was Tayshaun Prince's scoring in the fourth quarter that secured the Pistons' third consecutive win. He had 11 of his 25 points in the final quarter, and finished with six assists and four rebounds. Rasheed Wallace had his third consecutive double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

The Sixers, losers in six of their last seven games, were led by former Detroit Mercy star Willie Green, who had a season-high 24 points filling in for Iverson.

Before the game, several Pistons talked about how important it was for them to not allow the undermanned Sixers to gain confidence early.

Detroit learned that the hard way last week when they lost,

e, one of the factors in their sive play recently. After giving points in four of their first Pistons haven't given up ints since.

is definitely coming together," o had four points and two starting to get on the same

ade one last push in the ith a 7-0 spurt that cut 78-72 with 8:48 to play. ne Pistons countered with an re able to maintain a double-rest of the game.

Detroit has now won three est winning streak of the sea-

g to get better and that's all t we try to get better every ups said.



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