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## Rockets extend series with win

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 in Houston

The Houston Rockets know the odds are stacked against them in their playoff series with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Still, they believe momentum is on their side.

Chandler Parsons scored 27 points and the Rockets escaped playoff elimination with a 105-103 win over the Thunder on Monday night in Game 4.

With point guard Jeremy Lin out with a bruised chest muscle, Patrick Beverley added 16 points for Houston.

The Rockets face a daunting bit of history: No NBA team has come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven playoff series. It's the first time in three chances that Houston has won a Game 4 when trailing 3-0 in a playoff series.

Game 5 is on Wednesday in Oklahoma City. "Getting this first win gives us confidence going back to Oklahoma City, and anything can happen," James Harden said.

The Rockets led in the fourth quarter of each of the last two games only to end up losing.

"We felt the pain and frustration from the last two losses ... and we didn't want that to happen for the third straight time," Parsons said.

It almost did.

Kevin Durant scored five quick points to cut the Rockets' lead to two. Harden missed two shots after that and the Thunder had a last chance. Reggie Jackson missed a jump shot

### NOTES

**Kevin Durant** has scored 20 or more points in 30 straight playoff games ... Former Rockets star **Steve Francis** watched the game from a court-side seat ... The Seattle SuperSonics were the last team to sweep Houston in the playoffs, getting a 4-0 series win in the Western Conference semifinals in 1996.

and Serge Ibaka grabbed the rebound, but missed a layup at the buzzer.

A stunned Ibaka fell to the court after the miss and covered his face with his hands. Durant scored 38 points in Oklahoma City's second game without injured All-Star guard Russell Westbrook.

The victory kept Houston from being swept in the playoffs for the first time since 1996.

"We're resilient and we're never going to give up no matter how much we're down in a game, how much we're down in a series," Parsons said. "No one's giving us a chance so we have no pressure. All the pressure is on them."

Durant hit the go-ahead 3-pointer in the Thunder's Game 3 win. He wanted to get another one off on Monday, but Francisco Garcia forced him to give up the ball.

"I was. I was going to try to win it," Durant said. "But he played good defense."

Durant is looking forward to the series shifting back to the Thunder's home court "We'll be all right," he said.



DAVID J. PHILLIP / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Oklahoma City Thunder's Reggie Jackson crashes into the Houston Rockets' Patrick Beverley during Game 4 of their first-round NBA playoff series on Monday in Houston. The Rockets won, 105-103, to close their deficit to 3-1 in the best-of-seven series.

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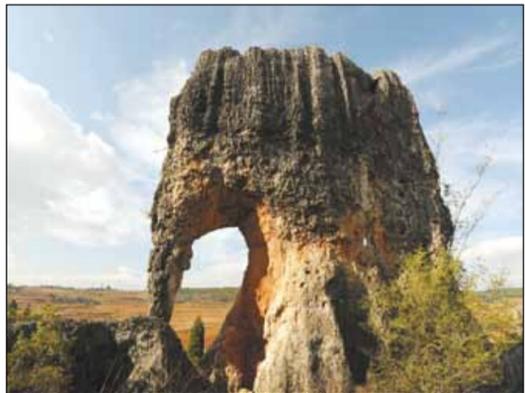
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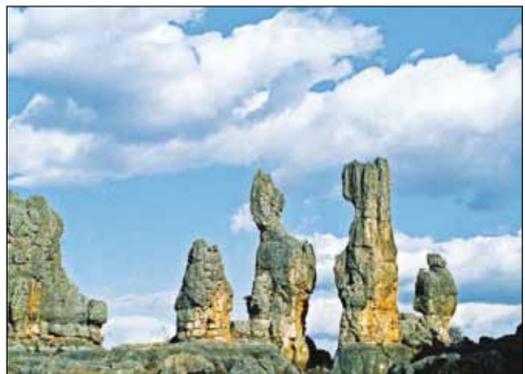
## Towering grandeur of Naigu stone forest in Yunnan



The rocks in the stone forest were formed about 270 million years ago.



"Elephant Rock" is among the variety of shapes.



Likened to human figures, "Butterfly Lovers" face each other.

By LI YINGQING  
 and GUO ANFEI

The karst formations in Shilin have long been a tourist draw in Yunnan province, but the Naigu stone forest in Lunan county just 10 kilometers away is now emerging as a popular destination.

A central part of Stone Forest Park that was listed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site in 2007, the 30-square-kilometer Naigu scenic area is known as a natural museum of karst landforms.

The word *naigu* means "ancient and black" in the language of the Yi ethnic group, a fitting description of the mass of blackish limestone that formed about 270 million years ago.

Compared with the Shilin landscape and its sword-shaped stones, the Naigu attraction has much sturdier stone columns that appear as shapes ranging from animals and figures to towers and blockhouses. The highest is more than 40 meters tall.

To date, management at the Naigu stone forest has developed around 100 scenic spots.

Seen from the top of nearby mountains, the dense collection of rock looks like a petrified stormy black sea with huge waves billowing high into the sky.

Walking through the mass of stone, one easily has the feel of great wildness. On the periphery of the area stand weathered rocks that look like horses and some are compared to blockhouses, so locals call it an "ancient battlefield".

No wonder the area was chosen as one of the shooting locations for the TV version of the classic Chinese novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.



Women in traditional costumes of Sani ethnic group amid wildflowers near the stone forest in Yunnan province.

In Contrast to the huge awe-inspiring rocks, lakes in the scenic site add a touch of gentleness.

Past the entrance lies White Cloud Lake, a reservoir with two islands. Boats on the lake float in the shimmering sunlight, while a tour of caves and underground streams have an aura of mystery.

One of the nine caves in tourist use is also named White Cloud. It has 18 scenic spots, all linked to a folk myth.

Coming out of the dark and narrow caves, visitors are impressed with the vast grassland amid surrounding lofty mountains. In spring and summer the grassland is blanketed with brightly colored wild flowers with towering blue-



The site is now on the World Natural Heritage list.

stones in the distance. While the stone forest has growing appeal, local authorities have recently initiated a ticket discount promotion designed for Yunnan residents to draw more tourists.

The Naigu stone forest has been closed for four years for ecological restoration as

the local government bid for World Natural Heritage status. Nearly 50 million yuan (\$8.11 million) was spent to restore the environment and buildings, and to add amenities.

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PHOTOS BY WAN HONGGANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

### TIPS

- Estimated travel time around the stone forest: five to six hours
- Tourist buses between Shilin and Naigu: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Major ethnic groups living near the Naigu stone forest: Yi and Sani peoples
- Nearby attractions: Wanjiahuan - Merry Families - Farm, Aiboxin Vineyard, a museum on the karst landscape, ethnic group villages, solar energy station and center for flower horticulture and sale.

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