Nasdaq

Stocks ($2-$55)

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<th>Tr. at 12:30 P.M.</th>
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Software giant's shares rise as much as 8%, fueling tech rally after antitrust court decision in antitrust case

By James R. Gorman

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Not only of Monday's tech rally was attributable to Microsoft, analysts said. Reports that the Fed- eral Reserve will cut short-term interest rates when policy-makers gather Wednesday also buoyed the market, said analyst Robert White, an analyst with Thomas Weisel Partners in San Francisco.

But analysts also noted that the rally failed toward the end of the day as the Dow Jones industrial average, which includes Microsoft, fell 13 points. The Dow closed at 8,947.40.

Microsoft won a key ruling Monday in the antitrust suit it filed against rival Netscape Communications Corp., maker of the Navigator Internet browser.

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