

❖ The Houston Roundball Review ❖

©

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1997 - '98 NBA Season Preview Edition

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BASKETBALL FOR THOUGHT by Kris Gardner, e-mail: kgardner@houstonroundballrev.com

The 1997 - 1998 Season is Filled w/ Questions

The 1997 - 1998 NBA season is underway and it promises to be a very exciting year. The Eastern Conference should be a battle every night with nearly every team improving from the previous season. The Western Conference has a legitimate (on paper) 7 teams, sorry Minnesota, who should be locks for the play-offs. As the season progresses, many questions will be answered:

Will the Chicago Bulls pull off their "Repeat Three - peat"?

Will Houston's **Charles Barkley's** new body guard get arrested when someone throws ice on him?

Will the Atlanta Hawks lack of scoring production from the small forward position keep them from achieving elite status?

When will the Boston Celtic players break down from head coach **Rick Pitino's** aggressive trapping philosophy?

How are the Charlotte Hornets going to resolve their problems with veteran point guard **Muggsy Bogues**?

How long will it take Cleveland head coach **Mike Fratello** to resort to his slow down tactics? Will **Shawn Kemp** ever admit to himself:

"Wow, I should have stayed in Seattle?"
How much of Dennis-



coach?
How many games will the Denver Nuggets lose this season?
How many triple doubles will

How much of Dennis Rodman's incentive laden contract will be paid to either the league office or the Bulls?

Dennis Rodman's incentive laden contract will be paid to either the league office or the Bulls? How many games in a row will the Bulls win when **Scottie Pippen** returns to his All - NBA status after his surgery?

When will Dallas GM **Don Nelson** fire head coach **Jim Cleamons** and name assistant coach **Garry St. Jean**

Detroit's **Grant Hill** collect this season?

Will any teammates be able to help Golden State guard **Latrell Sprewell** win games for the Warriors? Which team is **Joe Smith** going to end the season playing for?

Can Houston's Big Three: **Clyde Drexler,**

(Continued on page 13)

My 25% Theory

The NBA is cyclical. As a result, teams experience transitional periods in their quest to pursue the NBA title. I believe teams are either building for a championship or rebuilding toward a championship. Consequently, I believe the league throughout its history, will always have a class system consisting of elite teams, good teams, mediocre teams, and bad teams. The teams will generally break down along a 25% line for each category. As a result, the following is how the 1997 - '98 season breaks down:

Teams w/ an Immediate Goal of a Championship Entering This Season:

Chicago, Utah, Houston, Miami, New York, LA Lakers and Seattle.

Teams Moving Toward the Championship:

Atlanta, Detroit, Charlotte, San Antonio, Phoenix, Portland, and Indiana.

Teams on Their Way Up / Teams on Their Way Down:

Washington, Minnesota, Orlando, Milwaukee, Cleveland, LA Clippers, Golden State, and Sacramento.

Teams that are Rebuilding / Building for the Future:

Dallas, Toronto, New Jersey, Boston, Denver, Philadelphia, and Vancouver.

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NBA State of the Team Address by: Kris Gardner

(As of November 2nd)

Atlanta Hawks:

Summary: A healthy Alan Henderson will be key to the success of the Hawks this season. Last year he had viral pancreatitis which limited his effectiveness for just about the entire season. If he stays healthy, Alan, while coming off the bench, will provide the Hawks the scoring everyone says they lack at the small forward position.

Boston Celtics:

Summary: Head coach Rick Pitino continues to form the Cs in his own image. Acquiring Walter McCarty, Dontae' Jones, and John Thomas from the Knicks for Chris Mills was a good move. Mills really didn't fit in with the type of style Pitino likes his teams to play. Acquiring Roy Rogers from the Grizzlies for Tony Massenburg should give Boston the necessary shot blocker to anchor their full court defense. Rookie point guard Chauncey Billups has struggled and Pitino has already shopped him around the league.

Charlotte Hornets:

Summary: David Wesley has struggled early adjusting to where his new teammates want the ball. The Hornets best ball distributor, Muggsy Bogues, is not happy with how the club is handling him. Bogues believes his knee is healthy enough to play; but, the Hornets aren't so sure.

Chicago Bulls:

Summary: Losing to the Celtics in the first game of the regular season is no big deal. The Bulls have trou-

ble with quick ball clubs who can pressure the ball and up the tempo. Dennis Rodman is not quite ready to play 30 to 35 minutes a game. Toni Kukoc is not in shape from resting his foot all summer. Hopefully, MJ will receive enough help from his teammates so he won't wear down before Pippen returns in either late December or early January.

Cleveland Cavaliers:

Summary: The Cavs signed Shawn Kemp and Wesley Person to contract extensions. Rookie center Zydrunas Ilgauskas looked good in the first 2 regular season games. Rookie guard Brevin Knight has already assumed the leadership role of running the club from Bob Sura. Sura is best suited to slash to the basket and dunk over somebody.

Dallas Mavericks:

Summary: Chris Anstey should have arrived from playing in the Australian Pro League. If the Mavs can stay healthy, they should be able to compete night in and night out as well as surprise some teams (re: Seattle). Shawn Bradley has gained weight and kept it on; so, he should improve his production this season.

Denver Nuggets:

Summary: Bobby Jackson may be the best point guard from this summer's Draft. The Nuggets reportedly turned down an offer from the Celtics to acquire Chauncey Billups for Jackson which says a lot considering Billups is a Col-

orado basketball icon from high school and college. LaPhonso Ellis was disappointed to start the season on the injured list. However, his health is key to the Nuggets winning 30 plus games this season.

Detroit Pistons:

Summary: The Pistons went from being a team without a center last season to a team without a power forward. If they can get consistent production from Grant Long and / or Theo Ratliff, they could really contend for the best record in the East. Grant Hill is better than he was last year—scary thought.

Golden St. Warriors:

Summary: The Warriors acquired Brian Shaw and David Vaughn from Orlando for Mark Price. Shaw should be able to help Latrell Sprewell once Brian gets healthy. Joe Smith is going through the motions. He's too light to play power forward and not a good enough perimeter shooter to be a small forward. The Warriors will struggle all season.

Houston Rockets:

Summary: Charles Barkley decided not to retire. Why don't the Rockets have problems with their 3 point guards like the Warriors did all last season? The team needs to reduce their turnovers. Rookie Rodrick Rhodes is going to help this club all year long.

Indiana Pacers:

Summary: The Pacers lack of quickness could be a problem the entire season. Fred Hoiberg has made himself into a legitimate

NBA player with a great perimeter shot. As long as center Rik Smits' feet don't cause him problems, Indiana should be successful.

LA Clippers:

Summary: The Clips are the Clips. Brent Barry has looked good early on; however, he has been the only one. Rookie forward Maurice Taylor looks like a good player. Taylor has much more offense than Bo Outlaw who left for Orlando; however, the Clips will miss Bo's ability to create havoc on defense.

LA Lakers:

Summary: Kobe Bryant energizes Lakers' fans every time he touches the basketball. As long as Shaq recovers from his strained abdominal muscle, look for Eddie Jones to be dealt for Mitch Richmond. Shaq slapping Utah C Greg Osertag during practice the day of the regular season opener was really an immature move which doesn't bode well for the club's championship aspirations.

Miami Heat:

Summary: Terry Mills' offense should really help the Heat this season. As long as Jamal Mashburn can be a consistent offensive threat, Mashburn can remain with the Heat. However, Pat Riley finally realizes that Mash is not similar to Grant Hill like Riles indicated when he acquired Mash last season. What does it mean that the Heat have a winning record without Zo?

Milwaukee Bucks:

Summary: The Bucks have improved their team

(Continued on page 3)

NBA State of the Team Address by: Kris Gardner

(As of November 2nd)

(Continued from page 2)

chemistry and their team defense. However, with the Eastern Conference improved, the club still may not qualify for the playoffs. Ray Allen should be ready to take off and have an exceptional season in his 2nd year in the league. The Bucks lack of inside scoring may prove a problem.

Minnesota T'wolves:

Summary: Cherokee Parks has played well starting at center so far. Stanley Roberts has played sparingly thus far because he doesn't have his conditioning yet. If clubs allow Minnesota to play fast break basketball, the T-wolves are going to be successful; however, Minnesota's half court offense still needs a lot of work.

New Jersey Nets:

Summary: Sam Cassell may prove to be one of the best scoring point guards in the East. Rookie Keith Van Horn should be able to play in about 2 weeks once he's recovered from his injured ankle. Jayson Williams should contend for this year's league rebounding title. The Nets will be improved this year.

New York Knicks:

Summary: Acquiring Chris Mills and Chris Dudley make the Knicks "2 deep at every position and the deepest club in the league" according to GM Ernie Grunfeld. Big deal. Their turnover totals must decrease if they hope to seriously contend for the title. Being 2 deep doesn't matter come playoff time anyway since coaches have a ten-

dency to tighten their rotation to 8 or 9 players. Head coach Jeff Van Gundy's motto for the club this year is "It's Time". Well, it's been time for the last 5 years.

Orlando Magic:

Summary: Mark Price should alleviate some of the scoring load for Penny Hardaway. The Magic really made a mistake signing Nick Anderson to a long term contract. Nick hasn't been the same since he bricked the 4 free throws in the Finals against the Rockets. If he can't produce, look for head coach Chuck Daly to play Penny at small forward with Mark Price and Derek Harper in the back court.

Philadelphia 76ers:

Summary: Talent, thy name is 76ers. The club has vehemently denied rumors of a deal involving Jerry Stackhouse and Derrick Coleman to the Lakers for Elden Campbell and Eddie Jones. Why would Lakers GM Jerry West do that anyway? Allen Iverson is trying to be more of a ball distributor this year as opposed to being a scoring machine like last year. The players and coach Larry Brown must be patient in order understand how Brown wants things to work.

Phoenix Suns:

Summary: The Suns are have more depth and athleticism than perhaps any club in the league. Steve Nash is playing well at point / scoring guard which adds to the mix. Jason Kidd hopes he and Antonio McDyess can be the next "Stockton to Malone" combination; however, he wants championships not just

accolades.

Portland Trailblazers:

Summary: The Blazers are young, big, and athletic. Combine all those qualities with immaturity, and you have a volatile mix. They'll win games; but, drive new coach Mike Dunleavy nuts with their immaturity. Dunleavy has appointed Isaiah Rider team captain. Now, if that isn't a frightening notion, I don't know what is.

Sacramento Kings:

Summary: The countdown to the trading of All - Star guard Mitch Richmond continues. The club wants equal value in return. They hope to be like Seattle and acquire a player of All - Star caliber in the deal. Good luck. Rookie guard Anthony Johnson is pushing Bobby Hurley for the starting spot.

San Antonio Spurs:

Summary: Charles Smith started the season on the injured list which must mean the club has been unsuccessful in getting him to retire due to osteoarthritis in his knee. Tim Duncan is a better low post player than David Robinson. Teams are still trying to acquire Will Perdue from the Spurs. Chuck Person's back is not a concern yet though he started the year on the injured list.

Seattle Sonics:

Summary: Losing to Dallas at home in the second game of the regular season was disappointing; however, the Sonics have blown a game to the Mavs almost every year. The

club is still adjusting to Vin Baker. Jim McIlvaine hasn't been healthy enough to contribute at center. Of course, some will say Mac isn't *good* enough to contribute at center. George Karl will make the best out his last year coaching the club.

Toronto Raptors:

Summary: The Raptors can't shoot. They can run. They can pass. They can defend (except in the lane). Sharone Wright may miss the entire season due to his car accident.

Utah Jazz:

Summary: Apparently, Karl Malone will need surgery to repair an injured tendon in a finger on his right hand. However, he won't have surgery until after the season. The injury sounds similar to David Robinson's in the past which caused him a lot of problems any time his thumb was hit.

Vancouver Grizzlies:

Summary: The Grizzlies traded Roy Rogers to Boston. Grizzlies' GM Stu Jackson swears the deal was made to improve the club not because Roy went public with his frustrations at the lack of effort and professionalism the Grizzlies' players displayed in the pre - season. Shareef Abdur - Rahim will be an All - Star this season.

Washington Wizards:

Summary: Gheorghe Muresan is no where close to being ready to play. He is still having problems with the strained tendon in his right ankle. The Wizards need to get off to a good start. If not, their fans will turn on them and it will be much more difficult to make the playoffs.

1997 NBA TEAM BY TEAM KEY OFF - SEASON MOVES

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Boston Celtics:

Key acquisitions: G Chauncey Billups (draft choice), F Andrew DeClercq (free agent), G Tyus Edney (free agent), F Dontae' Jones (acquired from New York), C Travis Knight (free agent), F Walter McCarty (acquired from New York), G Ron Mercer (draft choice), F Chris Mills (free agent), F Roy Rogers (acquired from Vancouver), F John Thomas (acquired from New York)

Key departures: F Rick Fox (LA Lakers), F Chris Mills (traded to New York), G David Wesley (Charlotte), F Eric Williams (traded to Denver)

Miami Heat:

Key acquisitions: C Duane Causwell (acquired from Sacramento), G / F Todd Day (free agent), G Voshon Lenard (re - signed), F Terry Mills (free agent), G Eric Murdock (free agent), G Charles Smith (draft choice)

Key departures: G John Crotty (Portland)

New Jersey Nets:

Key acquisitions: F David Benoit (re - signed), F / C Michael Cage (acquired from Philly), G Sam Cassell (re - signed), G Sherman Douglas (free agent), G Lucious Harris (acquired from Philly), F Keith Van Horn (draft rights acquired from Philly), F Don MacLean (acquired from Philly)

Key departures: G / F Jim Jackson (traded to Philly), C Eric Montross (traded to Philly)

New York Knicks:

Key acquisitions: G Scott Brooks (re - signed), C Chris Dudley (acquired from Portland), C Patrick Ewing (re - signed), F Chris Mills (acquired from Boston)

Key departures: F Walter McCarty (traded to Boston), F John Wallace (traded to Toronto)

Orlando Magic:

Key acquisitions: G / F Nick Anderson (re - signed), F Bo Outlaw (free agent), G Mark Price (acquired from Golden State), F Derek Strong (re - signed), C Danny Schayes (re - signed), F Johnny Taylor (draft choice), G Gerald Wilkins (re - signed)

Key departures: F Dennis Scott (traded to Dallas), G Brian Shaw (traded to Golden State), F David Vaughn (traded to Golden State).

Philadelphia 76ers:

Key acquisitions: F Terry Cummings (free agent), F / G Mark Davis (free agent), F / G Jim Jackson (acquired from New Jersey), C Eric Montross (acquired from NJ), G Marko Milic (draft choice), G Doug Overton (re - signed), G Anthony Parker (draft rights acquired from New Jersey), F Tim Thomas (draft rights acquired from New Jersey)

Key departures: F / C Michael Cage (traded to NJ), G Lucious Harris (traded to NJ), F Don MacLean (traded to NJ)

Washington Bullets:

Key acquisitions: G Tim Legler (re - signed), F Ben Wallace (re - signed), G Chris Whitney (re - signed)

Key departures: None.

CENTRAL DIVISION

Atlanta Hawks:

Key acquisitions: G Mookie Blaylock (contract extension), F Tyrone Corbin (re - signed), G Ed Gray (draft choice), G Eldridge Recasner (re - signed)

Key departures: None.

Charlotte Hornets:

Key acquisitions: G Bobby Phills (free agent), F J.R. Reid (free agent), G David Wesley (free agent)

Key departures: G Ricky Pierce (waived)

Chicago Bulls:

Key acquisitions: F / G Scott Burrell (acquired from Golden State), G Michael Jordan (re - signed)

Key Departures: C / F Brian Williams (Detroit)

Cleveland Cavaliers:

Key acquisitions: G Derek Anderson (draft choice), G Sherman Douglas (acquired from Milwaukee), G Tony Dumas (acquired from Phoenix), F Shawn Kemp (acquired from Seattle), G Brevin Knight (draft choice), G / F Wesley Person (acquired from Phoenix) G Bob Sura (contract extension)

Key departures: G Terrell Brandon (traded to Milwaukee), F Tyrone Hill (traded to Milwaukee), F Chris Mills (Boston), G Bobby Phills (Charlotte), C Mark West (Indiana)

Detroit Pistons:

Key acquisitions: G Joe Dumars (re - signed), G Lindsey Hunter (re - signed), G / F Charles O'Bannon (draft choice), C Scot Pollard (draft choice), F Don Reid (re - signed), G / F Malik Sealy (free agent), C / F Brian Williams (free agent)

Key departures: F / G Michael Curry (Milwaukee), F Terry Mills (Miami), F Otis Thorpe (traded to Vancouver)

Indiana Pacers:

Key acquisitions: F Austin Croshere (draft choice), F Chris Mullin (acquired from Golden State), C Mark West (free agent)

Key departures: C / F Erick Dampier (traded to GS), F Duane Ferrell (traded to GS)

Milwaukee Bucks:

Key acquisitions: G Terrell Brandon (acquired from Cleveland), F Michael Curry (free agent), F Tyrone Hill (acquired from Cleveland), C Ervin Johnson (acquired from Denver),

Key departures: F Vin Baker (traded to Seattle), G Sherman Douglas (traded to Cleveland), G / F Johnny Newman (traded to Denver), F Joe Wolf (traded to Denver)

Toronto Raptors:

Key acquisitions: G Doug Christie (re - signed), F / G Tracy McGrady (draft pick), F Carlos Rogers (re - signed), F John Wallace (acquired from New York), F Walt Williams (re - signed)

Key departures: None.

1997 NBA TEAM BY TEAM KEY OFF - SEASON MOVES

MIDWEST DIVISION

Dallas Mavericks:

Key acquisitions: C Chris Anstey (draft choice), G Hubert Davis (free agent), G Michael Finley (contract extension), F Dennis Scott (acquired from Orlando), G Erick Strickland (re - signed)

Key departures: G Sasha Danilovic (Italy)

Denver Nuggets:

Key acquisitions: F / C Tony Battie (draft choice), F Danny Fortson (draft choice), C Dean Garrett (free agent), G Anthony Goldwire (re - signed), G Greg Graham (acquired from Seattle), G Bobby Jackson (draft choice), G / F Johnny Newman (acquired from Milwaukee), F Eric Williams (acquired from Boston; contract extension), F Joe Wolf (acquired from Milwaukee)

Key departures: F / G Dale Ellis (traded to Seattle), F Antonio McDyess (traded to Phoenix), F Tom Hammonds (waived), C Ervin Johnson (traded to Milwaukee)

Houston Rockets:

Key acquisitions: F Matt Bullard (re - signed), G Emanuel Davis (re - signed), F Othella Harrington (re - signed), F Eddie Johnson (re - signed), G Matt Maloney (re - signed), G / F Rodrick Rhodes (draft choice), C Serge Zwikker (draft choice)

Key departures: None.

Minnesota Timberwolves:

Key acquisitions: F Kevin Garnett (contract extension), C Paul Grant (draft choice), C Stanley Roberts (acquired from LA Clippers)

Key departures: C Dean Garrett (Denver), G James Robinson (LA Clippers), C Stojko Vrankovic (traded to LA Clippers)

San Antonio Spurs:

Key acquisitions: C / F Tim Duncan (draft choice), G Avery Johnson (re - signed)

Key departures: None.

Utah Jazz:

Key acquisitions: G / F Shandon Anderson (re - signed), F Antoine Carr (re - signed), G Howard Eisley (re - signed), G Jeff Hornacek (re - signed), C Greg Ostertag (signed a 6 yr. contract extension), F Bryon Russell (re - signed), G Jacque Vaughn (draft choice).

Key departures: F Stephen Howard (Seattle).

Vancouver Grizzlies:

Key acquisitions: G Marcus Brown (free agent), G Antonio Daniels (draft choice), F / G Sam Mack (acquired from Houston), F Tony Massenburg (acquired from Boston), C Bryant Reeves (contract extension), G Chris Robinson (re - signed), F Otis Thorpe (acquired from Detroit)

Key departures: G Greg Anthony (renounced), F Roy Rogers (traded to Boston), F Aaron Williams (Seattle)

PACIFIC DIVISION

Golden State Warriors:

Key acquisitions: C / F Erick Dampier (acquired from Indiana), F Duane Ferrell (acquired from Indiana), F Adonal Foyle (draft choice), G Brian Shaw (acquired from Orlando), F Dickey Simpkins (acquired from Chicago), F David Vaughn (acquired from Orlando).

Key departures: F Scott Burrell (traded to Chicago), F Andrew DeClercq (Boston), F Chris Mullin (traded to Indiana), G Mark Price (traded to Orlando).

Los Angeles Clippers:

Key acquisitions: G James Robinson (free agent)

Key departures: G Terry Dehere (Sacramento), F Bo Outlaw (Orlando), G / F Malik Sealy (Detroit)

Los Angeles Lakers:

Key acquisitions: G Jon Barry (free agent), F Rick Fox (free agent), F Robert Horry (re - signed)

Key departures: C / F Travis Knight (Boston)

Phoenix Suns:

Key acquisitions: F Mark Bryant (re - signed), G Rex Chapman (re - signed), F Antonio McDyess (acquired from Denver), G Kevin Johnson (re - signed), F George McCloud (free agent), F Clifford Robinson (free agent), C John Williams (re - signed)

Key departures: None.

Portland Trailblazers:

Key acquisitions: G John Crotty (free agent), F Brian Grant (free agent), C / F Kelvin Cato (draft choice), F Rasheed Wallace (contract extension)

Key departures: F Clifford Robinson (Phoenix), C Chris Dudley (traded to New York)

Sacramento Kings:

Key acquisitions: F Lawrence Funderburke (free agent), G / F Olivier Saint - Jean (draft choice)

Key departures: G Tyus Edney (Boston), F Brian Grant (Portland)

Seattle Sonics:

Key acquisitions: G Greg Anthony (free agent), F Vin Baker (acquired from Milwaukee), F / G Dale Ellis (acquired from Denver), F Stephen Howard (free agent), F Jerome Kersey (free agent), G Eric Snow (re - signed), F Aaron Williams (free agent), G / F David Wingate (re - signed)

Key departures: F Terry Cummings (Philly), F Shawn Kemp (traded to Cleveland)

NBA OPENING DAY TEAM BY TEAM ROSTERS

(October 31, 1997)

BOSTON CELTICS						NEW YORK KNICKS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	11	Dana Barros	G	5'11	163		1	Chris Childs	G	6-3	195
	4	Chauncey Billups	G	6'3	202		14	Chris Dudley	C	6'11	240
	12	Bruce Bowen	F	6'7	200		33	Patrick Ewing	C	7-0	240
	7	Dee Brown	G	6'2	192		25	Ron Grandison	F	6'6	220
	45	Andrew DeClercq	F-C	6'10	230	I	20	Allan Houston	G	6-6	200
I	20	Tyus Edney	G	5'10	152		2	Larry Johnson	F	6-7	263
	29	Pervis Ellison	F-C	6'10	242		42	Chris Mills	F	6'7	216
	13	Dontae' Jones	F	6'8	220		8	Pete Myers	F-G	6'6	190
	40	Travis Knight	C	7'0	235		34	Charles Oakley	F	6-9	245
	0	Walter McCarty	F	6'10	230		3	John Starks	G	6-5	185
	5	Ron Mercer	G	6'7	210		21	Charlie Ward	G	6-2	190
I	9	Greg Minor	G	6'6	230		52	Buck Williams	F	6-8	225
I	99	Roy Rogers	F-C	6'10	230		32	Herb Williams	C	6-11	260
	55	John Thomas	F	6'9	255						
	8	Antoine Walker	F	6'9	225						
MIAMI HEAT						ORLANDO MAGIC					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	2	Keith Askins	G-F	6'8	224		25	Nick Anderson	G-F	6'6	228
	8	Isaac Austin	C	6'10	270		10	Darrell Armstrong	G	6'1	180
	42	P.J. Brown	F	6'11	240		34	Brian Evans	F	6'8	220
	31	Duane Causwell	C	7'0	240		54	Horace Grant	F	6'10	245
	11	Todd Day	F-G	6'6	188		1	Anfernee Hardaway	G	6'7	215
	10	Tim Hardaway	G	6'4	195		12	Derek Harper	G	6'4	206
I	12	Malcolm Huckaby	G	6'2	218	I	9	Tim Kempton	F	6'9	255
	21	Voshon Lenard	G	6'4	205	I	8	Jason Lawson	C-F	6'11	240
	9	Dan Majerle	G-F	6'6	220		45	Charles "Bo" Outlaw	F	6'8	210
	24	Jamal Mashburn	F	6'8	250		5	Mark Price	G	6'0	180
	6	Terry Mills	F	6'10	250		24	Danny Schayes	C	6'11	260
I	33	Alonzo Mourning	C	6'10	261		4	Rony Seikaly	C	6'11	253
	5	Eric Murdock	G	6'1	200		33	Derek Strong	F	6'9	240
I	14	Charles Smith	G	6'4	194	I	17	Johnny Taylor	F	6'9	220
	30	Mark Strickland	F	6'9	220		21	Gerald Wilkins	G-F	6'6	225
NEW JERSEY NETS						PHILADELPHIA 76ers					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	22	David Benoit	F	6'8	220		44	Derrick Coleman	F	6'10	260
	45	Michael Cage	F	6'9	248		34	Terry Cummings	F	6'9	250
	10	Sam Cassell	G	6'3	185		7	Mark Davis	F-G	6'7	210
	33	Yinka Dare	C	7'0	265		3	Allen Iverson	G	6'0	165
	20	Sherman Douglas	G	6'1	195		22	Jim Jackson	F-G	6'6	220
	21	Kevin Edwards	G	6'3	210	I	20	Marko Milic	F-G	6'6	235
	15	Chris Gatling	F-C	6'10	230		00	Eric Montross	C	7'0	270
	13	Kendall Gill	G	6'5	216		9	Doug Overton	G	6'3	190
I	54	Jack Haley	C	6'10	242	I	12	Anthony Parker	G-F	6'6	215
	12	Lucious Harris	G	6'5	205		42	Jerry Stackhouse	G-F	6'6	218
I	11	Steve Henson	G	6'1	180	I	41	Kebu Stewart	F	6'8	239
	30	Kerry Kittles	G	6'5	179		1	Tim Thomas	F	6'10	230
I	24	Don MacLean	F	6'10	235		23	Rex Walters	G	6'4	190
	44	Keith Van Horn	F	6'10	220		35	Clarence Weatherspoon	F	6'7	240
	55	Jayson Williams	F	6'10	245		55	Scott Williams	C-F	6'10	230
WASHINGTON WIZARDS											
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.						
	40	Calbert Cheaney	G-F	6'7	215						
S	52	Terry Davis	F-C	6'10	250						
	44	Harvey Grant	F	6'9	225						
	31	Darvin Ham	F	6'7	230						
	5	Juwan Howard	F	6'9	250						
I	23	Tim Legler	G	6'4	200						
I	77	Gheorghe Muresan	C	7'7	303						
	35	Tracy Murray	F	6'7	228						
	2	God Shammgod	G	6'0	169						
	1	Rod Strickland	G	6'3	185						
	30	Ben Wallace	F-C	6'9	245						
	4	Chris Webber	F	6'10	245						
	12	Chris Whitney	G	6'0	170						
	43	Lorenzo Williams	C	6'9	230						

I - Injured list

S - Suspended list

I - Injured list
S - Suspended list

CENTRAL DIVISION

ATLANTA HAWKS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	50	Greg Anderson	C-F	6'10	250
	10	Mookie Blaylock	G	6-1	185
	52	Chucky Brown	F	6'8	215
	33	Tyrone Corbin	F	6-6	225
	46	Chris Crawford	F	6'9	235
	22	Ed Gray	G	6'3	210
	44	Alan Henderson	F	6-9	235
	32	Christian Laettner	F-C	6'11	245
	2	Anthony "Pig" Miller	F	6'9	255
	55	Dikembe Mutombo	C	7'2	258
I	5	Eldridge Recasner	G	6'3	190
	8	Steve Smith	G	6'8	215
	20	Donald Whiteside	G	5'10	170

CHARLOTTE HORNETS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	15	Corey Beck	G	6'3	200
	1	Tyrone Bogue	G	5-3	141
	30	Dell Curry	G-F	6-5	205
	00	Tony Delk	G	6-2	189
	12	Vlade Divac	C	7-1	260
	8	Tony Farmer	F	6'9	244
	52	Matt Geiger	F-C	7-1	245
	14	Anthony Mason	F	6-8	250
	13	Bobby Phills	G	6'5	226
	7	J.R. Reid	F-C	6'10	247
	41	Glen Rice	G-F	6-8	220
	4	David Wesley	G	6'1	202
I	32	Travis Williams	F	6'7	224

CHICAGO BULLS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
I	22	Keith Booth	F	6'6	226
	1	Randy Brown	G	6'2	191
	30	Jud Buechler	G-F	6'6	228
	24	Scott Burrell	F-G	6'7	218
	35	Jason Caffey	F	6'8	256
	9	Ron Harper	G	6'6	216
	23	Michael Jordan	G	6'6	216
	25	Steve Kerr	G	6'3	181
	53	Joe Kleine	C	7'0	271
	7	Toni Kukoc	F-G	6'11	232
	13	Luc Longley	C	7'2	292
I	33	Scottie Pippen	F	6'7	228
	91	Dennis Rodman	F	6'7	220
	34	Bill Wennington	C	7'0	277

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	23	Derek Anderson	G	6'5	195
	6	Mitchell Butler	G-F	6'5	210
I	27	Tony Dumas	G	6'7	190
	35	Danny Ferry	F	6-10	235
I	20	Greg Graham	G	6'4	182
	45	Cedric Henderson	F	6'7	215
	11	Zydrunas Ilgauskas	C	7-3	238
	32	Henry James	F	6'8	220
	4	Shawn Kemp	F	6'10	256
	12	Brevin Knight	G	5'10	173
	1	Wesley Person	G	6'6	195
	52	Vitaly Potapenko	C-F	6-10	280
	44	Shawnelle Scott	C	6-11	250
	3	Bob Sura	G	6-5	200

DETROIT PISTONS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	4	Joe Dumars	G	6-3	195
	33	Grant Hill	F	6-8	225
	1	Lindsey Hunter	G	6-2	195
	43	Grant Long	F	6-9	248
	44	Rick Mahorn	F	6-10	260
	23	Aaron McKie	G	6'5	209
I	5	Charles O'Bannon	G	6'5	209
	31	Scott Pollard	C	6'11	265
	42	Theo Ratliff	F-C	6-10	225
	52	Don Reid	F-C	6-8	250
I	10	Rumeal Robinson	G	6'2	195
	14	Malik Sealy	F-G	6'8	200
	8	Brian Williams	C	6'11	260
	13	Jerome Williams	F	6-9	206

INDIANA PACERS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	4	Travis Best	G	5'11	182
	21	Etdrick Bohannon	F	6'9	220
I	44	Austin Croshere	F	6'9	235
	33	Antonio Davis	F-C	6'9	230
	32	Dale Davis	F	6'11	230
	20	Fred Hoiberg	G	6'4	203
	13	Mark Jackson	G	6'3	185
I	9	Derrick McKey	F	6'10	225
	31	Reggie Miller	G	6'7	185
	17	Chris Mullin	F	6'7	215
	53	Mark Pope	F	6'10	235
	5	Jalen Rose	G	6'8	210
	45	Rik Smits	C	7'4	265
	41	Mark West	C	6'10	246
I	3	Haywoode Workman	G	6'3	180

MILWAUKEE BUCKS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	34	Ray Allen	G	6-5	205
	7	Terrell Brandon	G	5'11	173
	22	Tim Breaux	F	6'6	216
	15	Michael Curry	G	6'5	227
	11	Jamie Feick	F	6'8	255
	30	Armon Gilliam	F	6-9	260
	42	Tyrone Hill	F	6'10	250
	25	Jerald Honeycutt	F-G	6'9	254
	40	Ervin Johnson	C	6'11	245
I	28	Andrew Lang	C	6-11	275
	9	Jeff Nordgaard	F	6'6	222
	5	Elliot Perry	G	6-0	160
	13	Glenn Robinson	F	6-7	235

TORONTO RAPTORS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	21	Marcus Camby	C-F	6'11	220
	13	Doug Christie	G-F	6'6	205
	00	Chris Garner	G	5'10	156
	54	Popeye Jones	F	6'8	250
I	25	John Long	G	6'5	200
	1	Tracy McGrady	G-F	6'8	210
	31	Shawn Respert	G	6'1	195
	34	Carlos Rogers	F	6'11	220
	24	Reggie Slater	F	6'7	255
I	40	Ed Stokes	C	7'0	264
	20	Damon Stoudamire	G	5'10	171
	3	Zan Tabak	C	7'0	245
	44	John Wallace	F	6'9	225
	42	Walt Williams	F-G	6'8	230
I	4	Sharone Wright	C-F	6'11	260

MIDWEST DIVISION

DALLAS MAVERICKS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	44	Shawn Bradley	C	7'6	248
	55	Adrian Caldwell	F-C	6'9	265
I	42	Ace Custis	F	6'7	211
	24	Hubert Davis	G	6'5	183
	4	Michael Finley	G-F	6'7	215
	45	A.C. Green	F	6'9	225
I	13	Martin Muursepp	F	6'9	235
	3	Kevin Ollie	G	6'4	195
I	4	Robert Pack	G	6'2	190
	6	Khalid Reeves	G	6'3	201
	7	Dennis Scott	F	6'7	229
	20	Erick Strickland	G	6'3	210
	40	Kurt Thomas	F	6'9	240
	52	Samaki Walker	F	6'9	240
	35	Bubba Wells	F	6'5	230

DENVER NUGGETS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	4	Tony Battie	F-C	6'11	240
I	20	LaPhonso Ellis	F	6'8	240
	15	Danny Fortson	F	6'7	260
	21	Dean Garrett	C	6'11	250
	5	Anthony Goldwire	G	6'2	182
	13	Bobby Jackson	G	6'1	185
	30	Priest Lauderdale	C	7'4	325
	22	Johnny Newman	G-F	6'7	225
I	55	Steve Scheffler	C-F	6'9	250
	23	Bryant Stith	G	6'5	208
	14	Eric Washington	G	6'4	190
	32	Eric Williams	F	6'8	220
	17	Joe Wolf	F-C	6'11	254
	25	George Zidek	C	7'0	266

HOUSTON ROCKETS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	4	Charles Barkley	F	6'6	252
	50	Matt Bullard	F	6'10	240
	15	Emanuel Davis	G	6'5	195
	22	Clyde Drexler	G-F	6'7	222
	17	Mario Elie	F-G	6'5	210
	32	Othella Harrington	F-C	6'9	235
	8	Eddie Johnson	F	6'8	215
	12	Matt Maloney	G	6'3	200
	34	Hakeem Olajuwon	C	7'0	255
	20	Brent Price	G	6'1	185
	1	Rodrick Rhodes	G-F	6'6	225
I	41	Joe Stephens	F	6'7	273
	42	Kevin Willis	F-C	7'0	245
I	43	Serge Zwikker	C	7'3	273

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	43	Chris Carr	G	6'6	220
I	15	Bill Curley	F	6'9	245
	21	Kevin Garnett	F	6'11	220
I	40	Paul Grant	C	7'0	245
	24	Tom Gugliotta	F	6'10	240
	31	Reggie Jordan	G	6'4	195
	3	Stephon Marbury	G	6'2	180
	42	Sam Mitchell	F	6'7	215
	44	Cherokee Parks	F-C	6'11	240
	30	Terry Porter	G	6'3	195
	53	Stanley Roberts	C	7'0	290
	22	Clifford Rozier	F-C	6'11	255
	5	Doug West	G-F	6'6	220
	4	Micheal Williams	G	6'2	175

SAN ANTONIO SPURS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	1	Cory Alexander	G	6'1	190
	15	Vinny Del Negro	G	6'4	200
	21	Tim Duncan	F-C	7'0	248
	32	Sean Elliott	F-G	6'8	220
	4	Reggie Geary	G	6'2	190
	7	Carl Herrera	F	6'9	225
	2	Jaren Jackson	G-F	6'6	215
	6	Avery Johnson	G	5'11	180
	41	Will Perdue	C	7'0	240
I	45	Chuck Person	F	6'8	235
	50	David Robinson	C	7'1	250
	31	Malik Rose	F	6'7	250
I	54	Charles Smith	F	6'10	245
	3	Monty Williams	F	6'8	225

UTAH JAZZ					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	40	Shandon Anderson	F	6'6	208
	55	Antoine Carr	F	6'9	255
	10	Howard Easley	G	6'2	177
	44	Greg Foster	C	6'11	250
	14	Jeff Hornacek	G	6'4	190
	25	Troy Hudson	G	6'1	170
	31	Adam Keefe	F	6'9	241
	32	Karl Malone	F	6'9	256
	43	Chris Morris	F	6'8	220
	00	Greg Ostertag	C	7'2	280
	3	Bryon Russell	F	6'7	225
I	12	John Stockton	G	6'1	175
	11	Jacque Vaughn	G	6'1	190

VANCOUVER GRIZZLIES					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	3	Shareef Abdur-Rahim	F	6-9	230
I	4	Marcus Brown	G	6'3	185
	23	Pete Chilcutt	F	6-11	240
	33	Antonio Daniels	G	6'4	195
	30	Blue Edwards	G-F	6-4	229
I	32	Doug Edwards	F	6-7	228
	34	George Lynch	F	6-8	228
	7	Sam Mack	F-G	6'7	220
	44	Tony Massenburg	F	6'9	250
	11	Lee Mayberry	G	6-1	180
	40	Ivano Newbill	F-C	6'11	245
	7	Anthony Peeler	G	6-4	208
	50	Bryant Reeves	C	7-0	275
I	5	Chris Robinson	G	6-5	208
	10	Otis Thorpe	F	6'10	246

I - Injured list
S - Suspended list

PACIFIC DIVISION

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	11	B.J. Armstrong	G	6'2	185
	12	Bimbo Coles	G	6'2	182
	35	Erick Dampier	C	6'11	265
	20	Dell Demps	G	6'4	210
	33	Duane Ferrell	F	6'7	215
	31	Adonal Foyle	F	6'8	250
	52	Todd Fuller	C	6'11	255
S	34	Marcus Mann	F	6'8	245
	3	Donyell Marshall	F	6'9	230
I	20	Brian Shaw	G-F	6'6	215
	8	Dickey Simpkins	F-C	6'10	264
	32	Joe Smith	F	6'10	225
	50	Felton Spencer	C	7'0	280
	15	Latrell Sprewell	G	6'5	190
	43	Larry Stewart	F	6'8	230
I	34	David Vaughn	F-C	6'9	240

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	31	Brent Barry	G	6'6	195
	33	Keith Closs, Jr.	C	7'3	212
I	32	James Collins	G	6'4	196
	15	Darrick Martin	G	5'11	170
	7	Lamond Murray	F	6'7	236
	52	Eric Piatkowski	G-F	6'7	215
	2	Pooh Richardson	G	6'1	180
	26	James Robinson	G	6'2	180
	54	Rodney Rogers	F	6'7	255
	23	Maurice Taylor	F	6'9	260
	35	Loy Vaught	F	6'9	240
	11	Stojko Vrankovic	C	7'2	260
	55	Lorenzen Wright	F	6'11	240

LOS ANGELES LAKERS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	20	Jon Barry	G	6'5	210
	23	Mario Bennett	F	6'9	235
	43	Corie Blount	F	6-10	242
	8	Kobe Bryant	G	6-6	200
	41	Elden Campbell	F-C	6-11	250
	2	Derek Fisher	G	6-1	200
	17	Rick Fox	F	6'7	242
	5	Robert Horry	F	6'10	230
	6	Eddie Jones	G	6-6	190
	34	Shaquille O'Neal	C	7-1	330
	45	Sean Rooks	F-C	6-10	260
I	24	Shea Seals	G	6'5	210
	9	Nick Van Exel	G	6-1	183

PHOENIX SUNS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	2	Mark Bryant	F-C	6'9	245
	1	Cedric Ceballos	F	6'7	220
I	24	Tom Chambers	F-C	6'10	230
	17	Rex Chapman	G	6'4	195
	7	Kevin Johnson	G	6'1	190
	32	Jason Kidd	G	6'4	212
	17	Horacio Llamas	C	6'11	285
	15	Danny Manning	F-C	6'10	234
	21	George McCloud	F	6'8	225
	34	Antonio McDyess	F	6'9	220
I	40	Loren Meyer	F-C	6'10	260
	13	Steve Nash	G	6'3	195
	30	Cliff Robinson	F	6'10	235
	18	John Williams	C-F	6'11	245

PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	7	Kenny Anderson	G	6'1	168
	17	Vincent Askew	F-G	6'6	235
	2	Stacey Augmon	F-G	6'8	205
	31	Kelvin Cato	C-F	6'11	255
	12	John Crotty	G	6'2	194
	44	Brian Grant	F	6'9	254
	19	Sean Higgins	F-G	6'9	215
I	53	Alton Lister	C	7'0	245
	5	Jermaine O'Neal	F	6'11	226
	34	Isaiah Rider	G	6'5	215
	11	Arvydas Sabonis	C	7'3	292
I	33	Gary Trent	F	6'8	250
	30	Rasheed Wallace	F	6'10	225
	21	Alvin Williams	G	6'4	185
I	10	Dontonio Wingfield	F	6'8	256

SACRAMENTO KINGS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	3	Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf	G	6-1	162
	24	Terry Dehere	G	6'4	190
	51	Lawrence Funderburke	F	6'9	230
I	40	Kevin Gamble	G-F	6-6	225
	54	Derek Grimm	F	6'9	230
	7	Bobby Hurley	G	6-0	165
	10	Anthony Johnson	G	6'3	190
	30	Billy Owens	F-G	6-9	225
	0	Olden Polynice	C	7-0	250
	2	Mitch Richmond	G	6-5	215
I	9	Olivier Saint - Jean	G-F	6'6	223
I	32	Kevin Salvadori	C	7-0	231
	34	Michael Smith	F	6-8	230
	13	Michael Stewart	C-F	6'10	230
	4	Corliss Williamson	F	6-7	245

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS					
Status	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
	2	Greg Anthony	G	6'1	180
	42	Vin Baker	F	6'11	250
I	2	James Cotton	G	6'5	220
	9	Dale Ellis	G-F	6'7	215
	33	Hersey Hawkins	G	6-3	190
I	44	Stephen Howard	F	6'9	250
	7	Jerome Kersey	F	6'7	225
	22	Jim McIlvaine	C	7-1	260
I	10	Nate McMillan	G-F	6-5	200
	20	Gary Payton	G	6-4	190
	14	Sam Perkins	F-C	6-9	255
	11	Detlef Schrempf	F	6-10	235
	13	Eric Snow	G	6-3	200
	15	Aaron Williams	F-C	6'9	225
	25	David Wingate	G-F	6-5	185

I - Injured list
S - Suspended list

Roundball Predictions

ROOKIES TO WATCH

(listed alphabetically)

Note: rookies who should make a positive, and in some cases, **immediate** impact on their team

Derek Anderson, G, Clev.	Bobby Jackson, G, Den.
Kelvin Cato, F / C, Port.	Anthony Johnson, G, Sac.
Keith Closs, C, LAC	Brevin Knight, G, Clev.
Antonio Daniels, G, Van.	Ron Mercer, G, Bos.
Tim Duncan, F / C, SA	Rodrick Rhodes, G / F, Hou.
Lawrence Funderburke, F, Sac.	Charles Smith, G, Mia.
Ed Gray, G, Atl.	Tim Thomas, F, Phila.
Zydrunas Ilgauskas, C, Clev.	Keith Van Horn, F, NJ

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Note: based on past health problems, volatility, off - court problems, new contracts or teams, or projected improvement.

Shareef Abdur Rahim, F, Van.	Walter McCarty, F, Bos.
Ray Allen, G, Milw.	Antonio McDyess, F, Phoe.
Isaac Austin, F / C, Miami	Chris Mullin, F, Ind.
Vin Baker, F, Seattle	Jermaine O'Neal, F, Port.
Terrell Brandon, G, Milw.	Greg Ostertag, C, Utah
Dee Brown, G, Bos.	Vitaly Potapenko, C / F, Clev.
Kobe Bryant, G / F, LAL	Bryant Reeves, C, Van.
Sam Cassell, G, NJ	Isaiah Rider, G, Port.
Derrick Coleman, F, Phil.	Stanley Roberts, C, Minn.
Sean Elliot, F, SA	David Robinson, C, SA
LaPhonso Ellis, F, Den	Glen Robinson, F, Milw.
Kevin Garnett, F, Minn.	Dennis Rodman, F, Chi.
Brian Grant, F, Port.	Bryon Russell, F, Utah
Penny Hardaway, Orl.	Dennis Scott, F, Dal.
Tyrone Hill, F, Milw.	Rod Strickland, G, Wash.
Fred Hoiberg, G, Ind.	Bob Sura, G / F, Clev.
Lindsey Hunter, G, Det.	Otis Thorpe, F, Van.
Shawn Kemp, F, Clev	Antoine Walker, F, Bos.
Toni Kukoc, F, Chi.	Brian Williams, C, Det.
Jamal Mashburn, F, Miami	Jerome Williams, F, Det.

MOST IMPROVED TEAMS

(listed alphabetically)

Boston Celtics	Milwaukee Bucks
Dallas Mavericks	Philadelphia 76ers
Indiana Pacers	San Antonio Spurs
New Jersey Nets	Vancouver Grizzlies

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

1. Miami, 59 - 23.
2. New York, 58 - 24.
3. Washington, 46 - 36.
4. Orlando, 43 - 39.
5. New Jersey, 39 - 43.
6. Philadelphia, 34 - 48.
7. Boston, 28 - 54.

Central Division

1. Chicago, 56 - 26.
2. Charlotte, 54 - 28.
3. Detroit, 53 - 29.
4. Atlanta, 52 - 30.
5. Indiana, 48 - 34.
6. Milwaukee, 42 - 40.
7. Cleveland, 40 - 42.
8. Toronto, 34 - 48.

PLAYOFF TEAMS

Miami, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Charlotte, Indiana, and Washington.

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

Chicago vs. Miami

EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMP

Chicago, 4 - 3.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

1. Houston, 56 - 26.
2. San Antonio, 52 - 30.
3. Utah, 50 - 32.
4. Minnesota, 43 - 39.
5. Dallas, 33 - 49.
6. Vancouver, 25 - 57.
7. Denver, 22 - 60.

Pacific Division.

1. LA Lakers, 58 - 24.
2. Seattle, 55 - 27.
3. Phoenix, 51 - 31.
4. Portland, 49 - 33.
5. Sacramento, 36 - 46.
6. LA Clippers, 34 - 48.
7. Golden State, 30 - 52.

PLAYOFF TEAMS

Houston, Seattle, LA Lakers, Utah, San Antonio, Portland, Phoenix, and Minnesota.

WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

LA Lakers vs. Houston

WESTERN CONFERENCE CHAMP

LA Lakers, 4 - 3.

NBA FINALS

LA Lakers vs. Chicago

NBA CHAMP

Chicago, 4 - 3.

Reviewing Recent NBA Trades

(Salaries May not be Accurate; Analyses are posted on the web site w / i 2 days of the trade)

October 28, 1997:
"Celts Get Roy Rogers"

The Boston Celtics acquired F **Roy Rogers** from the Vancouver Grizzlies in exchange for F **Tony Massenburg** and a future 2nd round pick.

Notes:

- ◆ Rogers can be a free agent in the summer of 1999.
- ◆ Massenburg will be a free agent after the '99 - '00 season.

1997 - '98 Salaries:
Roy Rogers, Boston: \$763.1 K
Tony Massenburg, Van.: \$750 K

Who got the better of the deal?
Boston.

Why?

Roy Rogers, 6'10", should provide the Celtics the shot blocker necessary to anchor the pressing and trapping style of play head coach **Rick Pitino** wants to utilize. The only negative for Boston is Rogers' bad knees which he has had since his playing days at Alabama.

Massenburg really didn't fit into Pitino's style of play. He should back up **Otis Thorpe** at power forward and **Bryant Reeves** at center. Tony, 6'9", is a banger who is a solid rebounder and low post defender.

"Mack goes to Vancouver"

The Houston Rockets traded swingman **Sam**

Mack to Vancouver in exchange for a future 2nd round pick.

Note: Houston gets the pick in either 1999 or 2000.

1997 - '98 Salary:
Sam Mack, Vancouver: \$326 K

Who got the better of the deal?
Houston.

Why?

Vancouver needed a 3 point shooter on the club. Mack can supply that; however, he's a very streaky shooter.

Houston is very deep at small forward with **Mario Elie**, **Eddie Johnson**, plus the flexibility of having guards **Clyde Drexler** and rookie **Rodrick Rhodes** play the position left Mack with very little opportunity of making the club.

October 27, 1997:
"Mark Price Goes to Orlando"

The Golden State Warriors acquired G **Brian Shaw** and F **David Vaughn** from the Orlando Magic in exchange for G **Mark Price**.

Notes:

- ◆ Shaw and Vaughn are free agents after this season.
- ◆ Price has 2 years, including this season, left on his contract totaling \$9 M.; however, he agreed to restructure his deal to give the Magic an option to get out and make a trade easier.

1997 - 98 Salaries:

Brian Shaw, Golden St.: \$3.75 M
David Vaughn, G. State: \$326 K
Mark Price, Orlando: \$4.09 M

Who got the better of the deal?
Golden State.

Why?

Throughout the pre - season the Magic looked like Penny and 11 other guys. No one else could deliver consistent point production. Acquiring Mark Price helps alleviate that problem. He is one of the top 3 point shooters in league history. The Magic lost their 3 point ability when they traded **Dennis Scott** for **Derek Harper**.

"Mark shoots the ball extremely well," coach Chuck Daly said. "His addition will give us increased depth in the backcourt. And he has the ability to score, which has been a deficiency of ours."

Golden State has wanted to rid itself of the three point guard monster of Price, **B.J. Armstrong**, and **Bimbo Coles** since February. Acquiring Shaw gives the Warriors more size in the backcourt as well as versatility.

"Mark did a very good job for us," Coach P.J. Carlesimo said after practice Monday. "But we have not liked the situation with the three point guards from Day 1."

Shaw, 6'6", can back up **Latrell Sprewell** at the big guard and also run the offense.

With the Warriors inconsistent production from the small

forward spot (**Donyell Marshall**), head coach **P. J. Carlesimo** may be forced to play **Sprewell** at small forward, **Shaw** running the offense, and **Armstrong** as the shooter.

The Warriors gained salary cap flexibility with the trade plus another big forward in **David Vaughn** who will add to their front court flexibility which could possibly lead to more trades.

October 23, 1997:
"Knicks Acquire Mills in 5 Player Deal"

The New York Knicks acquired veteran swingman **Chris Mills** and 2 second round draft picks from the Boston Celtics in exchange for rookie F **John Thomas**, second year forwards **Walter McCarty** and **Dontae' Jones**, and **G Scott Brooks**.

Notes:

- ◆ Boston waived Scott Brooks on 10 / 27.
- ◆ The Knicks can choose any 2 of the Celtics 6 second round picks over the next 4 years.

1997 - '98 Salaries:
Chris Mills, New York: \$2.6 M
Walter McCarty, Bos.: \$862.6 K
Dontae' Jones, Boston: \$795 K
John Thomas, Boston: \$640.4 K
Scott Brooks, Boston: \$326 K

Who got the better of the deal?
Neither club.

Why?

Knicks' head coach **Jeff Van Gundy** summed up the deal very well: "We're trying to win right now." Well, the Knicks better win right now

(Continued on page 12)

Reviewing Recent NBA Trades

(Salaries May not be Accurate; Analyses are posted on the web site w / i 2 days of the trade)

(Continued from page 11)

because they have little or no future left after this deal.

Chris Mills signed a seven year, \$33.6 M contract with Boston earlier this summer as a free agent. He is expected to back up **Larry Johnson** at the small forward spot.

Knicks GM **Ernie Grunfeld** believes: "Mills is just hitting his prime. He makes us two-deep at every position. We are as deep as any team in the league."

"We feel we have at least a four-year window to get it done," added Patrick Ewing. "And that's our goal. To get it done now."

Patrick is not quite accurate. The Knicks window is not 4 years. In truth, it's no more than 2 years and the window is closing fast.

Walter McCarty was playing very well this pre - season. However, some questioned whether the 6'10", 230 pound forward could maintain his impressive pre - season performance throughout the regular season.

McCarty joins former college coach **Rick Pitino** in Boston. "I love this trade," said the Kentucky alumnus. "I can't wait to get back to playing Coach P's style. I'm familiar with what he wants, what he expects, what's expected of you." He should become Boston's

starting small forward before too long.

Dontae' Jones is the key to the trade. He has yet to live up to expectations from his days at Mississippi State. Many have questioned his maturity and work ethic.

"This is a dream come true," Jones said of the deal. "I needed the change. It's more of a free-lance style. I can't wait to play the Knicks four times a year."

"Jones is the X factor," Pitino said. "He could be a great player for us. Or he could be a bust."

John Thomas was expected to be groomed as a future replacement for Knick mainstay **Charles Oakley** at the power forward position. Now, he should add some much needed bulk and toughness to the Cs frontline.

The Celtics also gained much needed salary cap flexibility. McCarty and Jones are free agents in the summer of 1999 while Thomas is eligible for free agency in the summer of 2000.

October 20, 1997:
"Sherman Marches to Denver"

The Denver Nuggets acquired veteran point guard **Sherman Douglas**, a second round pick in 2000, and an undisclosed amount of cash from the Cleveland Cavaliers in exchange for **G Greg Graham**.

Notes:

◆ Douglas is a free agent

next summer.

- ◆ Denver waived Douglas on 10 / 27.
- ◆ Douglas signed with New Jersey on 10 / 31 for one year at the league minimum of \$272, 250.

1997 - '98 Salaries:
Sherman Douglas, Den: \$4 M
Greg Graham, Clev.: \$1.5 M

Who got the better of the deal?
Denver.

Why?

"Cleveland has been after Greg Graham from the time we got him from Seattle," Nuggets vice president of basketball operations Allan Bristow said. "It was advantageous to us to go ahead and do the trade, because it was going to be very difficult for Greg to fit into our plans."

Rookie guard **Bobby Jackson** has emerged as the starter for new Nuggets' head coach **Bill Hanzlik**. Douglas saw limited minutes during the pre - season, thus far, with Cleveland. Sherman will be competing with **Anthony Goldwire** and **Elmer Bennett** for the back up spot to Jackson.

"Sherman is a veteran point guard," Bristow said, "but he's going to have to come in and earn a spot on the club."

With Douglas a free agent next summer, the Nuggets have freed up an additional \$1.7 M under their salary cap to try and acquire top market free agents.

Cleveland, on the other hand, wants to continue its move-

ment toward youth:

"We wanted to remain committed to the young guys and give Sherman the opportunity to go to a team where he could step in as a starter."

"We've got Bob Sura in the process of establishing himself at point guard, Brevin Knight as his backup and Derek Anderson, who also can play there," Embry said.

Look for Brevin Knight to become the Cavs floor leader as the season progresses. Sura makes too many mistakes running the offense and head coach Mike Fratello *really* hates mistakes. Knight, on the other hand, is a born leader.

Relying on their youth indicates the Cavs are willing to accept the growing pains young players go through. Sura is not a great floor leader and Knight is a rookie trying to get acclimated to the league. Both must be effective enough to get teammates **Shawn Kemp**, center **Zydrunas Ilgauskas**, and forward **Vitaly Potapenko** the ball when and where they want it.

Greg Graham won't see a lot of minutes for Cleveland. He is a good athlete; however, at 6'4", he isn't a great shooter nor is he effective running a ball club.

This trade seems to stamp the Cavs as a .500 club this year.

Season Filled w/ Questions

(Continued from page 1)

Charles Barkley, and **Ha-keem Olajuwon** survive the regular season without any major injuries?

When will new Pacers' coach **Larry Bird** complain that today's players: "don't play the way I used to"?

When will Clipper's owner **Donald Sterling** finally move his club to Anaheim?

Will this be the season the Lakers mature to the level of their immense talent?

Did the Miami Heat add enough offensive firepower to advance further in the playoffs?

Will the Milwaukee Bucks realize talent alone is not enough to get to the playoffs?

How many games will Minnesota center **Stanley Roberts** be healthy enough to play? Can **Kevin Garnett** handle the pressure of being a marked player for his exorbitant contract?

Is New Jersey rookie forward **Keith Van Horn** the next **Larry Bird**? Why can't he be the first Keith Van Horn?

How many times will the New York Knicks get 20 or more turnovers in a game? When will the Knicks' management realize there is such a thing as being too deep of a team?

Will Orlando's **Penny Hardaway** supplant MJ and lead the league in scoring?

How long can Philly coach **Larry Brown** co-exist with disgruntled forward **Derrick Coleman**?

Is the defense of the Phoenix Suns good enough to win in the playoffs? Can **Kevin Johnson** be healthy 2 seasons in a row?

Will Portland's summer signing of forward **Brian Grant** backfire? How long can **Isaiah Rider** stay out of trouble?

When will Sacramento trade disgruntled All - Star guard **Mitch Richmond**?

Can San Antonio center **David Robinson's** back hold up for the entire season? When will the media tab rookie forward **Tim Duncan** "Rookie of the Year"?

How long will it take forward **Vin Baker** and his new Sonic teammates to adjust to one another? Where will head coach **George Karl** be working next season?

How many ragged games will the Toronto Raptors win while driving their opponents nuts with the trapping defenses? How will rookie **Tracy McGrady** perform?

Will Utah's **John Stockton** be able to return to his Hall of Fame level of play when he returns from cartilage surgery?

How long before **Otis Thorpe** causes internal strife in Vancouver?

When will the Washington Wizards' fans begin booing the team for not living up to expectations?

For answers to these questions and a whole lot more, enjoy this NBA season because, unfortunately, one more question will be asked after the playoffs: When will the 1998 - 1999 NBA season begin as a result of the lockout / strike?

NBA NEWS: Injuries and Trade Rumors

As of November 2nd

Miami Heat C **Alonzo Mourning** had surgery on, 9 / 27, to repair a partial tear of the patellar tendon in his left knee. He is expected out 4 to 8 more weeks.

Chicago F **Scottie Pippen** had surgery, 10 / 6, on his left foot to repair soft tissue. He is expected out another 1 to 2 months. All signs indicate Scottie will return in the beginning of January.

Utah G **John Stockton** had surgery (10 / 13) to repair cartilage in his left knee. He is expected out another 6 to 10 weeks.

Milwaukee C **Andrew Lang** had surgery, 10 / 4, to repair a broken right ring finger. He is expected out 2 to 3 more weeks.

Indiana rookie F **Austin Croshere** broke a metacarpal in his left hand in an exhibition game on 10 / 10 against Cleveland. He is expected out 3 more weeks.

Phoenix C **Loren Meyer** had surgery, 10 / 9, to repair a herniated disc. He is expected to be out 2 more months.

Toronto veteran G **John Long** had surgery, 10 / 4, to repair a broken jaw. He had plates inserted and should be out about another month.

Dallas G **Erick Strickland** sprained ligaments in his right ankle on 10 / 17. He

should be out about 2 more weeks. G **Robert Pack** broke his left ring finger on 10 / 17 and is expected to be out another 4 to 6 weeks. F **Ace Custis** sprained right knee on 10 / 18 out indefinitely.

New Jersey rookie F **Keith Van Horn** tore a tendon in his right ankle on 10 / 23. He is expected to miss about 2 more weeks.

Washington C **Gheorghe Muresan** has been suffering from a strained tendon in his right ankle since the opening of training camp. He will start the season on the injured list. He is at least 2 weeks away from playing.

Detroit G **Joe Dumars** pulled his left hamstring, 10 / 31, and could miss anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks if not more.

Trade Rumors

- ◇ **Mitch Richmond** to the Lakers for **Eddie Jones** and **Sean Rooks**.
- ◇ **Mitch Richmond, Bobby Hurley, Corliss Williamson, and Billy Owens** to the Knicks for **Allan Houston, Chris Childs, and Chris Mills**.
- ◇ **Mitch Richmond** to the Spurs, **Will Perdue** to the Pistons, and **Theo Ratliff**, et al to the Kings and Spurs.
- ◇ **Mitch Richmond** to about half the NBA.

An Early Look: Team by Team List of 1998 Free Agents

(This list will be updated throughout the season).

As of November 4th

Atlanta Hawks: F Tyrone Corbin, F Alan Henderson, F Christian Laettner

Boston Celtics:

Charlotte Hornets: G Dell Curry, C Vlade Divac, C Matt Geiger, G Ricky Pierce

Chicago Bulls: F Jud Buechler, G / F Scott Burrell, F Jason Caffey, G Steve Kerr, G Michael Jordan, C Joe Kleine, C Luc Longley, F Scottie Pippen, C Bill Wennington.

Cleveland Cavaliers: G Tony Dumas, F Henry James

Dallas Mavericks: C Shawn Bradley *, F Dennis Scott, F Kurt Thomas

Denver Nuggets: F LaPhonso Ellis, G / F Johnny Newman, F / C Steve Scheffler, F / C Joe Wolf, C George Zidek.

Detroit Pistons: G Randolph Childress, G Joe Dumars, F / C Rick Mahorn, G Aaron McKie, F Theo Ratliff, F / G Malik Sealy.

Golden State Warriors: G / F Brian Shaw, F / C Dickey Simpkins, F Joe Smith, G Carl Thomas, F David Vaughn.

Houston Rockets: F Charles Barkley, F Matt Bullard, G Clyde Drexler, G / F Mario Elie, F Othella Harrington, F Eddie Johnson, G Matt Maloney, C Serge Zwikker.

Indiana Pacers: G Travis Best, G Fred Hoiberg, C Rik Smits, C Mark West.

Los Angeles Clippers: G Brent Barry, G Eric Piatkowski, F Rodney Rogers, Loy Vaught

Los Angeles Lakers: G Jon Barry, F Corie Blount, G Eddie Jones

Miami Heat: F / G Keith Askins, C / F Isaac Austin, G / F Todd Day, G Eric Murdock

Milwaukee Bucks: F / C Acie Earl, F Tyrone Hill,

Minnesota Timberwolves: F Bill Curley, F Tom Gugliotta *, F Sam Mitchell, C / F Cherokee Parks, G Terry Porter, C Stanley Roberts.

* Denotes player's option to become a free agent.

** Denotes team's option.

New Jersey Nets: F David Benoit, G Sherman Douglas, G Kevin Edwards, F Jayson Williams

New York Knicks: C Chris Dudley

Orlando Magic: G Darrell Armstrong, G Penny Hardaway *, G Derek Harper, F Ed O'Bannon, C Danny Schayes, C Rony Seikaly **, F Derek Strong, , F / G Gerald Wilkins.

Philadelphia 76ers: F Mark Davis, G Jimmy Jackson, G Marko Milic, G Doug Overton, G Jerry Stackhouse, F Kebu Stewart, F Clarence Weatherspoon

Phoenix Suns: F Mark Bryant **, F Cedric Ceballos, G Rex Chapman, G Kevin Johnson, C Horacio Llamas, F George McCloud, F Antonio McDyess, C / F Loren Meyer, F Clifford Robinson, C / F John Williams.

Portland Trailblazers: F / G Vincent Askew, C Arvydas Sabonis, F Gary Trent

Sacramento Kings: G Mahmoud Abdul - Rauf, G Terry Dehere, G Gary Grant, G Bobby Hurley, F Billy Owens, C Olden Polynice, C Kevin Salvadori, F Corliss Williamson.

San Antonio Spurs: G Cory Alexander, F Carl Herrera, G Vinny Del Negro, F Monty Williams, C Will Perdue **

Seattle Sonics: F / G Dale Ellis, F Stephen Howard, F Jerome Kersey, G / F Nate McMillan, F / C Sam Perkins, G / F David Wingate.

Toronto Raptors: F Popeye Jones, G Shawn Respert, G Damon Stoudamire, C Zan Tabak

Utah Jazz:

Vancouver Grizzlies: G Blue Edwards, F George Lynch, C Eric Mobley, F / C Ivano Newbill.

Washington Wizards: F Harvey Grant, C Gheorghe Muresan,

* Denotes player's option to become a free agent.

** Denotes team's option.

NBA NEWS

1997 - '98 NBA CALENDAR

Sept 18 - 21	NBA League Meetings (Orlando)
Sept. 29	1997 Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies (Springfield, MA)
Oct. 3	NBA Training Camps officially open
Oct. 16 - 18	McDonald's Championship; Paris, France
Oct. 30	Opening Day Rosters set (5 pm CST)
Oct. 31	1997 - '98 NBA season begins
Jan. 5	10 - day contracts may now be signed
Jan. 10	All player contracts guaranteed for the season
Feb. 5 - 8	All - Star Weekend (Madison Square Garden; New York)
Feb. 19	Trading Deadline (5 pm CST)
Apr. 19	1997 - '98 Regular Season ends
Apr. 20	1998 NBA Playoffs rosters set by 2 pm CDT
Apr. 23	1998 NBA Playoffs begin
May 10	Early Entry eligibility deadline at 10:59 CDT
May 17	NBA Draft Lottery
June 2 - 5	NBA Pre - Draft Camp (Chicago, IL)
June 24	NBA Draft (GM Place, Vancouver)
July 1	Free agents may begin negotiating
July 29 - Aug. 9	FIBA World Championship of Basketball (Thessaloniki and Athens, Greece)

NBA on TNT, TBS, and NBC SCHEDULE

(for December)
Starting Times Central

TNT				
Day	Date	Game	Air Time	
Tue	Dec 2	Seattle at Washington	7:00	
Fri	Dec 5	Utah at Portland	7:00	
Tues	Dec 9	New York at Chicago	7:00	
Fri	Dec 12	Miami at Indiana	7:00	
Tue	Dec 16	Detroit at New York	7:00	
Fri	Dec 19	Miami at Philadelphia	7:00	
Tues	Dec 23	Charlotte at Boston	7:00	
Fri	Dec 26	Miami at Detroit	7:00	
Tues	Dec 30	New York at Orlando	7:00	

NBC				
Day	Date	Game	ShowTime	Air Time
Th.	Dec 25	Houston at Utah	1:30	2:00
		Miami at Chicago		4:30

TBS				
Day	Date	Game	Air Time	
Wed	Dec 3	LA Lakers at Denver	7:05	
Wed	Dec 10	LA Lakers at Golden State	7:05	
Wed	Dec 17	LA Lakers at Chicago	7:05	

⇒ Schedules are subject to change.

NBA Hires Two Female Referees

On October 28th, two women were hired as full-time NBA referees, marking the first time in major pro sports in the United States that females will officiate regular-season games in an all-male league. The hiring of Dee Kantner and Violet Palmer was announced Tuesday by the NBA.

Kantner and Palmer were among five new referees added to the league's 58-member officiating staff; another seven refs didn't make the cut.

"They've gotten better each time out," said Rod Thorn, NBA vice president of operations. "Just like the other referees, they've come back from the summer, had training camp and preseason and have gotten used to being out there."

Kantner, 36, was the supervisor of officials in the WNBA. She also has refereed four women's NCAA championship games, including the 1997 matchup between Tennessee and Old Dominion.

Palmer, 33, was an official in the WNBA, and has officiated college women's games.

The two join Rashan Michel, Rodney Mott and Derek Richardson as the NBA's five new additions to the 58-member crew. The regular season starts October 31st.

ROUNDBALL “RIM” SHOTS

Upcoming Features

TRIVIA

LAST MONTH’S QUESTION:

Who holds the NBA record for most field goals made in the first quarter?

ANSWER:

On April 9, 1978, **David Thompson** of the Denver Nuggets made 13 field goals in the first quarter in a 139 - 137 loss at Detroit.

THIS MONTH’S QUESTION:

Who was the first person to lead the NBA in scoring and assists in the same season?

Did You Know?

On Oct. 12, 1979, **Larry Bird** made his debut as a rookie against the Houston Rockets. Also, in the same game, Boston’s **Chris Ford** scored the first three - point basket in NBA history with 3:48 left in the first quarter of a 114 - 106 victory at Boston Garden.

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TIP - INS

Detroit Pistons forward **Grant Hill** and Seattle Sonics guard **Gary Payton** headline the 10 players named to represent USA Basketball in the 1998 FIBA Men’s World Championship in Athens, Greece.

The other players chosen were: Atlanta’s **Christian Laettner**, **Glen Rice** of the Charlotte Hornets; Washington F **Chris Webber**; Minnesota forwards **Kevin Garnett** and **Tom Gugliotta**; newly acquired Seattle F **Vin Baker**, new Milwaukee point guard **Terrell Brandon**; and New York G **Allan Houston**.

Gugliotta was named to replace the Lakers **Shaquille O’Neal** who turned the invitation citing a desire to take time off from international competition until the 2000 Olympics which will be held in Sydney, Australia.

The team will be coached by Houston Rockets head coach, **Rudy Tomjanovich** who will be assisted by the Lakers’ **Del Harris**, **Mike Jarvis** from George Washington University and Illinois’ **Lon Kruger**.

The World Championship is held every four years and is contested by 16 national teams. The event will be held from July 29th to August 9th.

You may e-mail comments or questions to: comments@houstonroundballrev.com or send comments or questions by “snail mail” to:
The Houston Roundball Review
P.O. Box 70516
Houston, TX 77270 - 0516

ONLINE:

- a NBA Who’s Hot / Who’s Not; updated weekly.
- b NCAA Player, Freshman, and / or “Diamond in the Rough” article, including photo; monthly.

NEWSLETTERS:

- a NCAA Player, Freshman, and / or “Diamond in the Rough” article—Dec.
- b NBA Players of the Week, etc., beginning in Dec.
- c CBA Call - ups—beginning in December or January.

* The December newsletter will be available around the middle of the month.

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