

# ◆ The Houston Roundball Review ◆

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NBA PLAYOFFS SPECIAL

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

## When is a Basket not a Basket?

**A**nswer: when 3 officials and commissioner **David Stern** say so.

Sunday, April 12, the Knicks apparently defeated the Miami Heat 83 - 82, on a last second rebound by **G Allan Houston**. Replays showed Allan scored the basket with 2 tenths of a second on the clock. However, officials disagreed. They huddled after the shot for 30 seconds to determine if they were all in agreement. They were. Basket disallowed. Miami wins 82 - 81.

The Knicks filed a protest with the league office claiming a clock malfunction was the determining factor in the refs' decision. They argued the red light came on with 1 tenth showing which may have caused the officials to react early. (Truth be told, the light came on with at least 2 tenths showing.) The commissioner didn't disagree with the Knicks. He just didn't overturn the decision.

While concluding on the basis of videotape replay that the officials made the wrong call, Stern determined that the error was one of judgment, not a misapplication of the rules, and therefore not an adequate ground to support a protest.

The determination as to whether a ball is shot prior to the expiration of time, Stern



protest by the losing team. "The Board of Governors has not seen fit to adopt such a rule," the Commissioner stated, "although

*"...although the subject has been considered from time to time. Until it does so, such is not the function of the League Office," the Commissioner stated.*

stated in his opinion, is "an archetypal example of a judgment call."

Stern also stressed that the NBA does not have a "replay rule" that allows for review of the videotape upon

the subject has been considered from time to time. Until it does so, such is not the function of the League Office."

First of all, I disagree that it was a judgment call.

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A clock was involved; not a foul or a violation of the rules. The basket either was made before the clock expired or after. The clock provides tangible proof. This wasn't a charge or block call. Period. No gray area here.

Secondly, it's time the league allows officials to use replay when dealing with issues involving the clock. It's sad that the entire viewing audience could see replays showing the basket should be allowed and not the 3 most important people—the referees calling the game! Ironically, the officials viewed the replays in the locker after the game; but, of course, it was too late to make the correction.

In this high tech day and age, it should not be very difficult or time consuming to allow the referees the opportunity to clarify or correct a call when it involves the clock.

I'm not advocating lessening the authority of the refs. I just believe if someone makes a mistake and there is an opportunity to correct the mistake; then, the mistake needs to be corrected.

I have a very simple proposal: the refs should be allowed to use replay when the clock is under 2 seconds in the 4th quarter if a play is in question. Simple. No muss. No fuss. Beyond that, the officials can make all the judgment calls they desire. Someone will always be upset with a "judgment" call anyway.

## NBA State of the Team Address by: Kris Gardner

*(Records as of April 19th; End of Regular Season.)*

### **Atlanta Hawks:** 50 - 32.

**Summary:** The Hawks showed Charlotte F Anthony Mason they indeed had "heart" as they waxed the Hornets for the 4th time in the regular season. The Hawks matchup very well with Charlotte; however, they now have to beat the Hornets in the first round of the playoffs. Perimeter shooting will be key to their success.

### **Boston Celtics:** 36 - 46.

**Summary:** Celtics' coach Rick Pitino stated his club gave him everything they had; however, the current make up of the club is what it is: a 36 win ball club. They need to get bigger in the front court and sign F Antoine Walker to a contract extension this summer. Assuming of course, there is no lockout.

### **Charlotte Hornets:** 51 - 31.

**Summary:** The Hornets played miserably the last month of the season. Facing Atlanta in the first round is probably their worst possible matchup. David Wesley and Bobby Phills have to shoot well in order to give Glen Rice his much needed help. If the starting back court struggles, Charlotte won't be in the playoffs very long.

### **Chicago Bulls:** 62 - 20.

**Summary:** Injuries have hurt the Bulls. Luc Longley is very important to the club's interior defense. He may not play much in the first round while he recovers from his injured knee. He probably won't be needed in the first round anyway since the Nets don't have a dominant scoring center.

### **Cleveland Cavaliers:**

47 - 35.

**Summary:** The Cavs surprised a lot of people with their won loss record this season. With 4 rookies playing a major role, coach Mike Fratello did a good job maximizing his club's ability and potential. They should give Indiana's veteran legs a workout; but should not advance past the first round.

### **Dallas Mavericks:** 20 - 62.

**Summary:** Michael Finley emerged this season as a young star. However, it remains to be seen if he is just a good player on a bad team. Shawn Bradley continues to befuddle coach / GM Don Nelson with his schizophrenic play. One game Shawn produces a big time triple - double against Portland; and another game he's is hardly noticed.

### **Denver Nuggets:** 11 - 71.

**Summary:** Hooray for the Nuggets and their 11 victories! Cory Alexander seemingly played his way to being re-signed by the club. A few questions remain: will they re-sign F LaPhonso Ellis?; who'll replace Bill Hanzlik as head coach?; has rookie Bobby Jackson's blow ups with the coaching staff forced his exit?; and which big time free agents want to be Denver Nuggets next season?

### **Detroit Pistons:** 37 - 45.

**Summary:** The Pistons closed out a hugely disappointing season. They lost 21 games in which they led in the 4th quarter. Grant Hill has gone public stating

he wants the club to name interim head coach Alvin Gentry head coach for next season. Joe Dumars announced he'll return for his 14th season. Changes will be made. Jerry Stackhouse has said he wants to return and he won't mind playing behind Dumars as long as he's "compensated."

### **Golden St. Warriors:**

19- 63.

**Summary:** The Warriors accomplished their goal: they did not finish with one of the 3 worst records in the league which means they can keep their draft pick. C Erick Dampier's improved play this season may cause management to sign him to a contract extension this summer. Jim Jackson has said he wouldn't mind resigning with the club as long as they show signs of progress and improvement in the off - season.

### **Houston Rockets:** 41 - 41.

**Summary:** The end of the line is near. Injuries have taken a toll on the club all season. To a man, each player truly believes they can capture lightning in a bottle one more time and make a run in the playoffs. We'll see. Utah in the opening round is no picnic; however, if healthy, the Rockets can pose some match up problems.

### **Indiana Pacers:** 58 - 24.

**Summary:** The Pacers beat the Bulls decisively in Chicago and laid claim to being the second best team in the East. However, they have 3 defensive liabilities in their starting line - up: Mullin, Miller, and Jackson. C Rik Smits received some

aggressive treatment on his injured feet to remove scar tissue. Rik said his feet haven't felt this good in 2 years. He's crucial to the Pacers' post - season hopes.

### **LA Clippers:** 17 - 65.

**Summary:** Bill Fitch was fired 4 / 20. It's unknown who will be the new coach. Owner Donald Sterling agreed to move the Clips to downtown LA and share a new arena with the Kings and Lakers. It's about time he left the dilapidated LA Sports Arena. Now, if he can focus on producing a better product on the court...

### **LA Lakers:** 61 - 21.

**Summary:** GM Jerry West apparently will step down in August due to stress and being worn out. The Lakers have loads of talent and could really advance far in the playoffs. However, they must maintain focus for the entire game and not drift from quarter to quarter. Perimeter shooting is key to their success. Shaq will dominate any opponent. He needs help to go far.

### **Miami Heat:** 55 - 27.

**Summary:** Miami finished the regular season very poorly. Jamal Mashburn returned to action in the last regular season game and looked pretty good. Trading Ike Austin will really loom big in the post - season if Alonzo Mourning gets into foul trouble. A consistent third scorer is key to their playoff success.

### **Milwaukee Bucks:** 36 - 46.

**Summary:** Give the Bucks credit for not throwing in the towel after injuries to Glenn Robinson, Terrell

*(Continued on page 3)*

## NBA State of the Team Address by: Kris Gardner

*(Records as of April 19th; End of Regular Season.)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Brandon, and Tyrone Hill. They will miss the playoffs for the 7th straight season; however, Chris Ford deserves to be brought back as coach next year. Rookie F Jerald Honeycutt's solid performances late in the year gives the club hope he could be the scorer off the bench they need. Look for them to trade F Armon Gilliam and / or C Andrew Lang this off-season.

**Minnesota T'wolves:** 45 - 37.

**Summary:** Everyone thought the wolves would crater without Tom Gugliotta. Boy, were we wrong! They won 12 of their last 15 and are really peaking for the playoffs. They believe they matchup favorably with the Sonics in the first round compared to Utah or the Lakers. They're right; however, they won't get out of the first round.

**New Jersey Nets:** 43 - 39.  
**Summary:** The Nets almost blew their shot at the post season with 3 straight losses before winning on the last day of the regular season. Injuries to Jayson Williams, Michael Cage, and Rony Seikaly have left them without a low post defender. Williams vows to be ready for the playoffs. He should play and the Nets should get swept by the Bulls.

**New York Knicks:** 43 - 39.  
**Summary:** The Knicks have a lot of heart and character. They match up better with Miami than any team in the East Patrick Ewing and Chris Dudley will be placed on the playoff roster; but, only Dudley may see time in

the first round. If they advance to the second round, Patrick should be able to play and compete. A low post scorer in the 4th quarter is crucial to their success. The Knicks cannot afford G Allan Houston to struggle. If he does, they go home very early.

**Orlando Magic:** 41 - 41.  
**Summary:** Coach Chuck Daly got everything he could from his players. Nick Anderson finished the second half of the season as one of the top guards in the East. They will begin looking into offers for Penny Hardaway this summer.

**Philadelphia 76ers:** 31 - 51.

**Summary:** The Sixers have financial decisions to make: how much should they offer Theo Ratliff this summer; can they sign Allen Iverson to a contract extension this summer; should they buy out F Derrick Coleman's contract for \$5.6 M and then try and re-sign him. What should they do about Joe Smith? Re-sign him or let him go? The club showed signs of improvement this year which will raise fans' expectations for next season which may not be a good thing.

**Phoenix Suns:** 56 - 26.  
**Summary:** Losing Danny Manning to a torn ACL in April hurt the club personnel wise and emotionally. However, the Suns have enough depth to overcome Manning's loss in the first round. Signing C / F Mike Brown for the playoffs gives Phoenix a physical presence to go against David in the first round. Quickness and

perimeter shooting go a long way.

**Portland Trailblazers:** 46 - 36.

**Summary:** Damon Stoudamire's health is crucial to their success. Isaiah Rider continues to piss off the fans with his antics. They can compete with the Lakers; but, their consistency and focus are real concerns.

**Sacramento Kings:** 27 - 55.

**Summary:** The Kings ended the season with 1 win in a month. They looked listless. However, management has said Eddie Jordan will return as head coach. If they want to sign Mitch Richmond to a contract extension, they should do so this summer; if not, trade Mitch and start over. Once again. Rookie G Tariq Abdul - Wahad looks like a keeper.

**San Antonio Spurs:** 56 - 26.

**Summary:** Tim Duncan is unbelievable! He led the league in double - doubles (points & rebounds). David is still having problems with his left knee. The team wimped out after Karl Malone knocked David unconscious with an elbow early in the month. Their lack of perimeter scoring should be their downfall in the first round.

**Seattle Sonics:** 61 - 21.  
**Summary:** Vin Baker, welcome to the playoffs! Make your free throws. They played the last month like they were bored. It's time to step up. Minnesota poses some problems; but, the Sonics will advance.

**Toronto Raptors:** 16 - 66.

**Summary:** Butch Carter should be permanent head coach within 2 weeks. He gives the club discipline and a work ethic. Tracy McGrady finally showed flashes of ability. Marcus Camby (the Thin Man) led the league in blocked shots; but, he just can't stay healthy.

**Utah Jazz:** 62 - 20.

**Summary:** Best record in the league. Home court throughout the playoffs. That's a lot of pressure if you aren't used to it. It's right there for the Jazz to be NBA champs. I picked them to win it all; but, I still don't see them doing it.

**Vancouver Grizzlies:** 19 - 63.

**Summary:** Vancouver needs to decide what to do with G Antonio Daniels in the summer. His performance was very disappointing to some in the organization. If Shareef Abdur - Rahim wants to sign a contract extension, the summer is the time. If he doesn't sign, he's probably gone after next season. If there is one.

**Washington Wizards:** 42 - 40.

**Summary:** Justice to the Wizards! They half stepped most of the season and put on a late push to almost make the playoffs. Too much talent to get in the post season like that, again. Off the court problems have caused GM Wes Unseld headaches for the last time. Either Juwan Howard or Chris Webber has to go if this team is to mature and reach their potential. C Gheorghe Muresan missed the entire season due to injury; but, he finally learned the cause: fish. He may resign for the minimum.

## WNBA NEWS

### 3 More College Players Signed to Contracts

April 15, The league announced the signing of 3 more college players:

**Tracy Reid**, 5'11, F from North Carolina; Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year for two consecutive seasons (1996-97 & 1997-98).

**Leslie Johnson**, 6'2, C from Western Kentucky, a 1997-98 All-Sun Belt First Team selection.

Connecticut's **Rita Williams**, 5'7 guard; member of the 1997-98 All-Big East Second Team. She was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 1997-98 Big East Championship.

### 4 Conference Players of the Year head List of Signees

April 14, The league announced the signing of 7 college players to contracts:

Arizona's **Adia Barnes**, a 5'11 forward, PAC-10 Conference Player of the Year.

Duquesne's **Kori Hlede**, a 5'9 guard, Atlantic 10 Conference Player of the Year.

Northeastern Illinois' **Delores Jones**, a 6'1 center, Mid-Continent Conference Player of the Year.

Stephen F. Austin's **Katrina Price**, a 5'10 guard, Southland Conference Player of the Year.

**Anna DeForge**, 5'11 guard from Nebraska, who was named to the All-Big 12 First Team.

Stanford's **Vanessa Nygaard**, 6'1 forward who was named to the All PAC-10' First Team.

Florida's **Mahogany Hudson**, 5'6 guard who helped lead the club to the '97-'98 Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tourney.

### Six More College Stars Signed

April 13, The league announced the signing of six more college players to contracts:

**Christy Smith**, 5'6, guard from Arkansas, 1997-98 All-SEC First Team.

Alabama's **Brittney Ezell**, 5'5 guard, '97- 98 All-SEC Second Team.

**Quacy Barnes**, 6'5, center from Indiana, member of the 1997-98 All-Big 10 First Team.

**Octavia Blue**, 6'1, forward from Miami, member of the '97-'98 Big East First Team.

**Angela Jackson**, 6'4, center from Texas, member of the '97-'98 Big XII Second Team.

**Jayme Olson**, 6'1, forward from Iowa State, member of '97-'98 Big XII Second Team.

### WNBA Signs 8 More College Players

April 9, The league announced the signings of 8 more college players:

Howard's **Alisha Hill**, a 5'11" forward from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Iowa's **Tangela Smith**, a 6'4" center from the Big Ten Conference.

**LaTonya Johnson** from the University of Memphis, a 6'1" forward, was a member of the 1997-98 All-Conference USA First Team.

**LaShena Graham**, a 5'3" guard from Colorado.

Iowa's **Angela Hamblin**, a 6'0" guard/forward.

Virginia's **Mimi McKinney**, a 5'9" guard

Vanderbilt's **Lisa Ostrom**, a 6'2" forward.

⇒ The Los Angeles Sparks acquired F / C **Pamela McGee** from the Sacramento Monarchs in exchange for F **Linda Burgess**.

### WNBA Inks Six International Stars

Three 1996 Olympians among latest signees

April 7, The WNBA announced the signings of 6 international players and they are:

**Susanna Bonfiglio**, a 5'10" guard, was a member of the 1996 Italian Olympic team.

**Sandy Brondello** participated in the 1988 and 1996 Olympics as a member of the Australian National Team.

**Maria Stepanova**, a 6'8" center, at 20, was the youngest member of the 1996 Russian Olympic team.

**Albena Branzova**, a 6'3 forward, has played on the Bulgarian National team since 1986. Her sister, Gergana, signed a contract with the league on April 2nd.

**Vedrana Grgin**, a 6'1" forward from Croatia, played for Split in her native country from 1990-93 and then spent a year with Sporting in Greece.

**Odile Santaniello**, a 6'0 guard, is the only player in history to be named MVP of the French League eight consecutive times.

### WNBA Signs Six Seniors

Big Sky and WAC Players of the Year among signees

April 2, The WNBA signed 6 seniors and they are:

**Nani Cockett**, 6'0 guard from Hawaii, the 1997-98 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

**Skyla Sisco**, 5'7 guard from Montana, the 1997-98 Big Sky Conference Player of the Year.

**Pollyanna Johns**, a 6'3" center from Michigan University, earned 1997-98 All-Big Ten First Team honors.

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## Roundball Review Regular Season Award Winners

The Houston Roundball Review presents the criteria necessary for a player, coach, or management to receive the following awards. Unlike the NBA, we put our criteria *in writing* in order to give our readers an opportunity to provide input on the awards.

◆ Winners listed in **bold**. Total votes: 441.

### MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:

The player who has the most value to his team. In other words, if this player missed games for an extended period of time, his team would experience a *dramatic* fall off in performance and / or wins.

CANDIDATES:

**Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls: 54.5%**

Karl Malone, Utah Jazz: 27.3%

Gary Payton, Seattle Sonics

David Robinson, San Antonio Spurs

Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston Rockets: 18.2%

### MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER:

The player who has the best season statistically for his team throughout the league and also contributed the most to his team's success. In order to be eligible for the MOP, *the player must play in at least 60 games of the regular season.*

CANDIDATES:

**Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls: 54.5%**

Karl Malone, Utah Jazz: 9.1%

Gary Payton, Seattle Sonics: 18.2%

David Robinson, San Antonio Spurs

Shaquille O'Neal, Los Angeles Lakers: 18.2%

### COACH OF THE YEAR:

The coach who best maximized his team's talent and overcame any team adversity.

CANDIDATES:

**Larry Bird, Indiana Pacers: 63.6%**

Phil Jackson, Chicago Bulls: 9.1%

Danny Ainge, Phoenix Suns: 9.1%

Rick Pitino, Boston Celtics: 9.1%

Pat Riley, Miami Heat: 9.1%

John Calipari, NJ Nets      Jerry Sloan, Utah Jazz

George Karl, Seattle Sonics

### EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR:

The executive who made the best personnel decisions which led to his or her team's improvement this season compared to the previous season.

CANDIDATES:

Wally Walker, Seattle Sonics: 18.2%

Scott Layden, Utah Jazz

Bryan Colangelo, Phoenix Suns: 9.1%

**Wayne Embry, Cleveland Cavaliers: 54.5%**

John Nash, New Jersey Nets: 18.2%

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

The rookie who helped his team improve (no. of wins) the most compared to the previous season.

CANDIDATES:

**Tim Duncan, San Antonio Spurs: 63.6%**

Keith Van Horn, New Jersey Nets: 36.4%

Brevin Knight, Cleveland Cavaliers

Tim Thomas, Philadelphia 76ers

Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Cleveland Cavaliers

Michael Stewart, Sacramento Kings

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

The player who disrupts the opponent's offense more than any other player. He is not necessarily the best man to man defender in the league.

CANDIDATES:

**Dikembe Mutombo, Atlanta Hawks: 45.5%**

Shawn Bradley, Dallas Mavericks

Gary Payton, Seattle Sonics: 27.3%

Mookie Blaylock, Atlanta Hawks

Eddie Jones, Los Angeles Lakers: 27.2%

### SIXTH MAN OF THE YEAR:

The player who provides an offensive punch as well as any intangible things such as diving for loose balls, making the extra pass, etc. coming off the bench.

CANDIDATES:

**Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers: 45.5%**

Dale Ellis, Seattle Sonics

John Starks, New York Knicks: 9.0%

Danny Manning, Phoenix Suns: 18.2%

Alan Henderson, Atlanta Hawks

Kevin Willis, Houston Rockets: 27.3%

### MOST IMPROVED PLAYER:

The player who improved the most over last season statistically and became a major contributor toward his team's success.

CANDIDATES:

Donyell Marshall, Golden State Warriors

Jalen Rose, Indiana Pacers: 18.2%

Theo Ratliff, Philadelphia 76ers: 9.1%

Alan Henderson, Atlanta Hawks

**Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers: 45.5%**

Steve Nash, Phoenix Suns: 27.2%

## NBA NOTES

### CBA to NBA Call - Ups

(As of April 20th)

1. Rusty LaRue, G, Idaho: Chicago Bulls, Nov. 15
2. Kiwane Garris, G, Grand Rapids: Denver Nuggets,  
Nov. 24
3. Rick Brunson, G, Connecticut: Portland Trail Blazers,  
Dec. 2
4. Randy Livingston, G, Sioux Falls: Atlanta Hawks, Dec. 9
5. Carl Thomas, G, Fort Wayne: Orlando Magic, Dec. 10
6. Harold Ellis, F, Rockford: Denver Nuggets, Dec. 14
7. Donald Royal, F, Fort Wayne: Orlando Magic, Dec. 23
8. Mark Hendrickson, F, La Crosse: Sacramento Kings,  
Dec. 23
9. Lloyd Daniels, F, Idaho: Toronto Raptors, Jan. 6
10. Bob McCann, F, Sioux Falls: Toronto Raptors, Jan. 6.
11. Carl Thomas, G, Fort Wayne: Golden State Warriors,  
Jan. 9
12. Randy Livingston, G, Sioux Falls: Atlanta Hawks, Jan. 9
13. Donald Royal, F, Fort Wayne: Charlotte Hornets,  
Jan. 14 .
14. Steve Henson, G, Grand Rapids: Detroit Pistons, Jan. 17.
15. Gerald Madkins, G, Rockford: Miami Heat, Jan. 21
16. Michael McDonald, C, Grand Rapids: Charlotte Hornets,  
Jan. 22
17. Jeff Grayer, G, Rockford: Charlotte Hornets, Feb. 2
18. Carl Thomas, G, Fort Wayne: Cleveland Cavaliers, Feb. 2
19. Lawrence Moten, G, La Crosse: Washington Wizards,  
Feb. 9.
20. Brandon Williams, G, La Crosse: Golden State Warriors,  
Feb. 10.
21. Lloyd Daniels, F, Idaho: Atlanta Hawks, Feb. 13
22. Litterial Green, G, Quad City: Milwaukee Bucks, Feb. 13
23. Willie Burton, G, Quad City: San Antonio Spurs, Feb. 24.
24. Ben Davis, F, Grand Rapids: New York Knicks, Feb. 28.
25. Kevin Ollie, G, Connecticut Pride: Orlando Magic, Mar. 2.
26. Gerald Madkins, G, Rockford: Golden State Warriors,  
Mar. 5.
27. Gary Grant, G, Yakima: Portland Trail Blazers, March 5.
28. Benoit Benjamin, C, Yakima: Philadelphia 76ers, Mar. 11.
29. Jeff Nordgaard, F, Fort Wayne: Milwaukee Bucks,  
Mar. 13.
30. Antonio Lang, F, Grand Rapids: Miami Heat, March 13.
31. Larry Robinson, G, Rockford: Vancouver Grizzlies,  
Mar. 27.
32. Jeff Grayer, G, Rockford: Golden State Warriors, April 9.

## Roundball All '98 NBA Teams

Note: Based on the 5 best players; regardless of position.

### ALL - NBA

#### First Team:

F - Karl Malone, Utah Jazz  
 F - Tim Duncan,  
     San Antonio Spurs  
 C - Shaquille O'Neal,  
     Los Angeles Lakers  
 G - Michael Jordan,  
     Chicago Bulls  
 G - Gary Payton,  
     Seattle Sonics

#### Second Team:

F - Grant Hill,  
     Detroit Pistons  
 F - Scottie Pippen,  
     Chicago Bulls  
 C - David Robinson,  
     San Antonio Spurs  
 G - Rod Strickland,  
     Washington Wizards  
 G - Tim Hardaway,  
     Miami Heat

#### Third Team:

F - Vin Baker,  
     Seattle Sonics  
 F - Glen Rice,  
     Charlotte Hornets  
 C - Alonzo Mourning,  
     Miami Heat  
 G - Steve Smith,  
     Atlanta Hawks  
 G - John Stockton,  
     Utah Jazz

### ALL - DEFENSE

#### First Team:

F - Scottie Pippen,  
     Chicago Bulls  
 C - Dikembe Mutombo,  
     Atlanta Hawks  
 G - Michael Jordan,  
     Chicago Bulls  
 G - Gary Payton,  
     Seattle Sonics  
 G - Eddie Jones, LA Lakers

#### Second Team:

F - PJ Brown, Miami Heat  
 F - Tim Duncan,  
     San Antonio Spurs  
 C - Alonzo Mourning,  
     Miami Heat  
 G - Mookie Blaylock,  
     Atlanta Hawks  
 G - Jason Kidd,,  
     Phoenix Suns

#### Third Team:

F - Bo Outlaw,  
     Orlando Magic  
 F - Charles Oakley,  
     New York Knicks  
 F - Grant Hill, Detroit Pistons  
 G - John Stockton, Utah Jazz  
 G - Mitch Richmond,  
     Sacramento Kings

### ALL - ROOKIE

#### First Team:

F - Tim Duncan,  
     San Antonio Spurs  
 F - Keith Van Horn,  
     New Jersey Nets  
 C - Zydrunas Ilgauskas,  
     Cleveland Cavaliers  
 G - Ron Mercer,  
     Boston Celtics  
 G - Brevin Knight,  
     Cleveland Cavaliers

#### Second Team:

F - Cedric Henderson,  
     Cleveland Cavaliers  
 F - Maurice Taylor,  
     Los Angeles Clippers  
 F - Tim Thomas,  
     Philadelphia 76ers  
 C - Michael Stewart,  
     Sacramento Kings  
 G - Derek Anderson,  
     Cleveland Cavaliers

## NBA NOTES

### 1998 NBA CALENDAR

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Apr. 1 - 4  | Portsmouth Invitational Tournament<br>(Portsmouth, VA)                        |
| Apr. 7 - 11 | Nike Desert Classic<br>(Arizona St. Univ., Tempe, AZ)                         |
| Apr. 19     | 1997 - '98 Regular Season ends  |
| Apr. 20     | 1998 NBA Playoffs rosters set by<br>2 pm CDT                                  |
| Apr. 23     | 1998 NBA Playoffs begin   |
| May 10      | Early Entry eligibility deadline at<br>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<br>Basketball (Thessaloniki and<br>Athens, Greece) |

### Board of Governors Votes to Re - open Deal with Players Association

The NBA Board of Governors voted overwhelmingly, 27 - 2, March 23 to exercise the league's right to re - open its Collective Bargaining Agreement with the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA). As a result, the agreement will now expire June 30, 1998.

"Our goal is to have a successor agreement in place by the time the current agreement expires on June 30. That is our highest priority right now, said Deputy Commissioner **Russ Granik**.

The CBA guarantees NBA players will receive 48.04% of Basketball Related Income (BRI)—which amounts to \$835 M in player salaries and benefits for the '97 - '98 season. The agreement gave the owners the option of re - opening the agreement if the league paid out more than 51.8% of BRI—or \$900 M—to the players. Projections show that actual salaries and benefits for this season will be \$995 M—or 57.2% of BRI.

"Although the league's revenue growth has been strong, player salaries are climbing much faster than revenues, said Granik. "As a result, the league is becoming unprofitable."

"In the negotiations, the NBA will not be proposing that players take pay cuts," Granik said. "In fact, we can guarantee that salaries will continue to increase over the next several years. We just have to get increases in player salaries in line with out increases in revenues, without pricing our game beyond the point that fans can or will accept."

### Owners and Players Meet for the First Time

The two sides met for the first time for about three hours Wednesday, April 1st, with the talks expected to last for months. The next session is not expected to be held for about three weeks.

The agreement that allows NBA teams to sign their own free agents without their contracts counting against the salary cap, called the Larry Bird exception, appears to be the major issue in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

With the owners contending they are losing money, the NBA is intent on changing the contract to curb escalating salaries.

Union executive director Bill Hunter, however, disputes that contention, pointing to the \$2.4 billion television contract the NBA signed with NBC and Turner Sports.

Twenty-four of the 29 NBA teams are over the salary cap of \$26.9 million per team. The owners now want a "hard cap", a cap without loopholes, one that would mean teams re-signing their own free agents would have to include them under the salary cap as if they were pursuing another team's free agent.

⇒ Commissioner Stern and Hunter met again April 16th to discuss a new collective bargaining agreement.

⇒ Deputy commissioner Russ Granik and several lawyers also were in attendance for the three-hour meeting at a Manhattan law office.

### Duncan and Hardaway Complete U.S. Team for the World Championships

San Antonio rookie F **Tim Duncan** and Miami Heat G **Tim Hardaway** have been named to the US team which will compete this summer at the World Championships in Greece. With their additions the roster has been completed.

Ten previous players were named to the squad last fall: Detroit Pistons forward **Grant Hill**, Seattle Sonics guard **Gary Payton** and F **Vin Baker**, Atlanta F **Christian Laettner**, **Glen Rice** of the Charlotte Hornets; Washington F **Chris Webber**; Minnesota forwards **Kevin Garnett** and **Tom Gugliotta**; Milwaukee point guard **Terrell Brandon**; and New York G **Allan Houston**.

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**.

## NBA Players of the Week

(through April 19th, end of Regular Season)

### FOR THE WEEK ENDING:

*November 10th:*  
Dikembe Mutombo,  
Atlanta Hawks.

*November 17th:*  
Shaquille O'Neal,  
Los Angeles Lakers.

*November 24th:*  
Michael Jordan,  
Chicago Bulls.

*November 30th:*  
Karl Malone,  
Utah Jazz

*December 7th:*  
Wesley Person,  
Cleveland Cavaliers

*December 14th:*  
Glen Rice,  
Charlotte Hornets

*December 21st:*  
Michael Jordan,  
Chicago Bulls

*December 28th:*  
David Robinson,  
San Antonio Spurs

*January 4th:*  
Rik Smits,  
Indiana Pacers

*January 11th:*  
Steve Smith,  
Atlanta Hawks

*January 18th:*  
Allen Iverson,  
Philadelphia 76ers

*January 25th:*  
Jayson Williams,  
New Jersey Nets

*February 1st:*  
David Robinson,  
San Antonio Spurs

*February 8th:*  
All - Star Break

*February 15th:*  
Karl Malone,  
Utah Jazz

*February 22nd:*  
Nick Anderson,  
Orlando Magic

*March 1st:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*March 8th:*  
Karl Malone,  
Utah Jazz

*March 15th:*  
Jason Kidd,  
Phoenix Suns

*March 22nd:*  
Shaquille O'Neal,  
Los Angeles Lakers

*March 29th:*  
Alonzo Mourning,  
Miami Heat

*April 5th:*  
Michael Jordan,  
Chicago Bulls

*April 12th:*  
Sam Cassell,  
New Jersey Nets

*April 19th:*  
Jason Kidd  
Phoenix Suns

*Player of the Month*

*November:*  
Eddie Jones,  
LA Lakers

*December:*  
Michael Jordan,  
Chicago Bulls

*January:*  
Shaquille O'Neal,  
LA Lakers

*February:*  
Karl Malone,  
Utah Jazz

*March:*  
Michael Jordan,  
Chicago Bulls

*April:*  
Karl Malone,  
Utah Jazz

*Coach of the Month*

*November:*  
Lenny Wilkens,  
Atlanta Hawks

*December:*  
George Karl,  
Seattle Sonics

*January:*  
Larry Bird,  
Indiana Pacers

*February:*  
Pat Riley,  
Miami Heat

*March:*  
Jerry Sloan,  
Utah Jazz

*April:*  
Del Harius,  
Los Angeles Lakers

*Rookie of the Month*

*November:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*December:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*January:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*February:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*March:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs

*April:*  
Tim Duncan,  
San Antonio Spurs



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## Roundball NBA Playoffs Predictions

### Western Conference:

First Round: Best of 5.

- Utah Jazz vs.  
8. Houston Rockets:  
Jazz, 3 - 1.
- Seattle Sonics vs.  
7. Minnesota T-wolves:  
Sonics, 3 - 1.
- Los Angeles Lakers vs.  
6. Portland Trail Blazers:  
Lakers, 3 - 1.
- Phoenix Suns vs.  
5. San Antonio Spurs:  
Suns, 3 - 1.

Semi - finals: Best of 7.

Phoenix vs. Utah : Jazz, 4 - 2.  
Seattle vs. LA Lakers:  
Seattle, 4 - 3.

Conference Finals:

Best of 7.  
Seattle vs. Utah:  
Utah, 4 - 3.

### Eastern Conference:

First Round: Best of 5.

- Chicago Bulls vs.  
8. New Jersey Nets:  
Bulls, 3 - 0.
- Miami Heat vs.  
7. New York Knicks:  
Knicks, 3 - 2.
- Indiana Pacers vs.  
6. Cleveland Cavaliers:  
Pacers, 3 - 1.
- Charlotte Hornets vs.  
5. Atlanta Hawks:  
Hawks, 3 - 1.

Semi - finals: Best of 7.

Atlanta vs. Chicago:  
Bulls, 4 - 2.  
New York vs. Indiana:  
Indiana, 4 - 3.

Conference Finals:

Best of 7.  
Indiana vs. Chicago :  
Bulls, 4 - 3.

### NBA Finals:

Chicago vs. Utah:  
Jazz, 4 - 3.



## WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFF ROSTERS

## HOUSTON ROCKETS

| No. | Name               | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|-----|
| 4   | Charles Barkley    | F    | 6-6  | 252 |
| 50  | Matt Bullard       | F    | 6-10 | 235 |
| 22  | Clyde Drexler      | G    | 6-7  | 222 |
| 17  | Mario Elie         | G/F  | 6-5  | 210 |
| 32  | Othella Harrington | F/C  | 6-9  | 235 |
| 8   | Eddie Johnson      | G    | 6-7  | 215 |
| 27  | Charles Jones      | C    | 6-9  | 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     | F    | 6-6  | 225 |
| 42  | Kevin Willis       | F/C  | 7-0  | 245 |

## LOS ANGELES LAKERS

| No. | Name             | 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    | 6-7  | 210 |
| 41  | Elden Campbell   | C    | 7-0  | 255 |
| 2   | Derek Fisher     | G    | 6-1  | 200 |
| 17  | Rick Fox         | F    | 6-7  | 242 |
| 5   | Robert Horry     | F    | 6-10 | 220 |
| 6   | Eddie Jones      | G    | 6-6  | 200 |
| 34  | Shaquille O'Neal | C    | 7-1  | 315 |
| 45  | Sean Rooks       | C    | 6-10 | 260 |
| 9   | Nick Van Exel    | G    | 6-1  | 190 |

## MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

| No. | Name             | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|------------------|------|------|-----|
| 15  | Bill Curley      | F    | 6-9  | 245 |
| 21  | Kevin Garnett    | F    | 6-11 | 220 |
| 20  | Tom Hammonds     | F    | 6-9  | 225 |
| 31  | Reggie Jordan    | G    | 6-4  | 195 |
| 3   | Stephon Marbury  | G    | 6-2  | 180 |
| 42  | Sam Mitchell     | F    | 6-7  | 215 |
| 44  | Cherokee Parks   | C    | 6-11 | 240 |
| 1   | Anthony Peeler   | G    | 6-4  | 208 |
| 30  | Terry Porter     | G    | 6-3  | 195 |
| 53  | Stanley Roberts  | C    | 7-0  | 290 |
| 32  | DeJuan Wheat     | G    | 6-0  | 165 |
| 4   | Micheal Williams | G    | 6-2  | 175 |

## PHOENIX SUNS

| No. | Name              | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-------------------|------|------|-----|
| 52  | Mike Brown        | C-F  | 6-10 | 260 |
| 2   | Mark Bryant       | F    | 6-9  | 245 |
| 3   | 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 |
| 21  | George McCloud    | F    | 6-8  | 225 |
| 34  | Antonio McDyess   | F    | 6-9  | 220 |
| 13  | Steve Nash        | G    | 6-3  | 195 |
| 30  | Clifford Robinson | C    | 6-10 | 225 |
| 4   | Dennis Scott      | F    | 6-8  | 229 |
| 18  | John Williams     | C    | 6-11 | 245 |

## PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS

| No. | Name             | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|------------------|------|------|-----|
| 2   | Stacey Augmon    | G    | 6-8  | 205 |
| 31  | Kelvin Cato      | C    | 6-11 | 255 |
| 12  | John Crotty      | G    | 6-2  | 194 |
| 44  | Brian Grant      | F    | 6-9  | 254 |
| 23  | Gary Grant       | G    | 6-3  | 185 |
| 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 |
| 3   | Damon Stoudamire | G    | 5-10 | 171 |
| 30  | Rasheed Wallace  | F    | 6-11 | 225 |
| 42  | Walt Williams    | F    | 6-8  | 230 |

## San Antonio Spurs

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 15  | Vinny Del Negro | G    | 6-4  | 200 |
| 21  | Tim Duncan      | F    | 7-0  | 248 |
| 4   | Reggie Geary    | G    | 6-2  | 190 |
| 7   | Carl Herrera    | F    | 6-9  | 225 |
| 2   | Jaren Jackson   | G    | 6-6  | 215 |
| 6   | Avery Johnson   | G    | 5-11 | 180 |
| 54  | Brad Lohaus     | F    | 6-11 | 230 |
| 41  | Will Perdue     | C    | 7-0  | 240 |
| 45  | Chuck Person    | F    | 6-8  | 235 |
| 50  | David Robinson  | C    | 7-1  | 250 |
| 31  | Malik Rose      | F    | 6-7  | 250 |
| 3   | Monty Williams  | G    | 6-8  | 225 |

## SEATTLE SONICS

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 2   | Greg Anthony    | G    | 6-1  | 180 |
| 42  | Vin Baker       | F    | 6-11 | 250 |
| 9   | Dale Ellis      | G    | 6-7  | 215 |
| 33  | Hersey Hawkins  | G    | 6-3  | 200 |
| 7   | Jerome Kersey   | F    | 6-7  | 225 |
| 22  | Jim McIlvaine   | C    | 7-1  | 264 |
| 10  | Nate McMillan   | G    | 6-5  | 210 |
| 20  | Gary Payton     | G    | 6-4  | 180 |
| 14  | Sam Perkins     | F    | 6-9  | 260 |
| 11  | Detlef Schrempf | F    | 6-10 | 235 |
| 15  | Aaron Williams  | C    | 6-9  | 225 |
| 25  | David Wingate   | G    | 6-5  | 187 |

## Utah Jazz

| No. | Name             | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|------------------|------|------|-----|
| 40  | Shandon Anderson | F-G  | 6-6  | 208 |
| 55  | Antoine Carr     | C-F  | 6-9  | 250 |
| 10  | Howard Eisley    | G    | 6-3  | 177 |
| 44  | Greg Foster      | C    | 6-11 | 250 |
| 14  | Jeff Hornacek    | G    | 6-4  | 190 |
| 31  | Adam Keefe       | F    | 6-9  | 241 |
| 32  | Karl Malone      | F    | 6-9  | 256 |
| 34  | Chris Morris     | F    | 6-8  | 220 |
| 00  | Greg Ostertag    | C    | 7-2  | 280 |
| 3   | Bryon Russell    | F    | 6-7  | 225 |
| 12  | John Stockton    | G    | 6-1  | 175 |
| 11  | Jacque Vaughn    | G    | 6-1  | 190 |

## PREVIEW OF THE 1ST ROUND WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                      |     |                            |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1 - <u>Utah Jazz</u> | vs. | 8 - <u>Houston Rockets</u> |
| Karl Malone          | F   | Kevin Willis               |
| Adam Keefe           | F   | Mario Elie                 |
| Greg Foster          | C   | Hakeem Olajuwon            |
| Jeff Hornacek        | G   | Clyde Drexler              |
| John Stockton        | G   | Matt Maloney               |

**Utah won the regular season series 4 - 0.**

| <u>STRENGTH</u>      | <u>WEAKNESS</u>       | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>      |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| half - court offense | consistent 3rd scorer | experience      | health               |
| veteran exp.         | small guards          | Rudy T          | team defense         |
| chemistry            | G.Ostertag            | low post off.   | point guard play     |
| home court           |                       |                 | attacking the basket |

*X - Factor:* consistent 3rd scorer

*Player to*

*Watch:* Bryon Russell

*X - Factor:* 3 point shooting

*Player to*

*Watch:* Mario Elie

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

Karl Malone can just about name his score. He and Willis will bang on each other throughout the series; however, the Mailman has the upper hand. Mario Elie must use his quickness advantage over Adam Keefe and attack the basket. Keefe must knock down the open jumpers he will get from double teams on Malone. Willis has to have his jump hook working or he'll get embarrassed.

EDGE: Solidly to Utah. Watch the Mailman deliver.

#### CENTER

Hakeem could dominate this matchup if his knees hold up. However, that may be a problem. Greg Foster just needs to score any easy baskets he gets as well as knock down any open jump shots. If Foster has problems with Hakeem, Ostertag will get the call with Antoine Carr taking his time on Olajuwon. In the fourth quarter, Karl Malone will probably defend Hakeem.

EDGE: Solidly to Houston. If Hakeem's healthy, he could dominate.

#### GUARD

Matt Maloney has to hit his open 3 pointers and not get completely embarrassed by Stockton. Based on the starting line ups, Drexler will probably be guarded by Hornacek in which case Clyde should post up Jeff as much as possible. Hornacek is a solid perimeter shooter who has a knack for making off balance jump shots. Stockton may have lost a step; but, he's still going to provide about 10 assists and 12 points a game as well as keep the Jazz offensive machine clicking.

EDGE: Solidly to Utah.

#### BENCH

Howard Easley has become a very good sub for John Stockton. The Jazz hardly miss a beat with him. With Bryon Russell, Shandon Anderson, and Easley the Jazz play a much faster tempo and look to run more. Ostertag must produce and save face after a disastrous regular season. If not F Antoine Carr will see more minutes. Chris Morris could, also, provide a spark. A healthy Barkley is vital to the success of the Rockets. Brent Price must limit his turnovers and score from outside. Eddie Johnson must have his shot going or the Rockets will be hurting for points from the bench. If he's healthy, Rodrick Rhodes may guard John Stockton.

EDGE: Slightly to the Jazz.

#### COACH

Jerry Sloan and Rudy T will both have their clubs prepared and focused. Neither coach will give an inch. Whichever team loses will not be due to poor coaching.

EDGE: Even.

PREDICTION: Jazz in 4. Rockets could pull a surprise; but it's unlikely.

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                         |     |                              |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 4 - <u>Phoenix Suns</u> | vs. | 5 - <u>San Antonio Spurs</u> |
| Antonio McDyess         | F   | Will Perdue                  |
| George McCloud          | F   | Tim Duncan                   |
| Clifford Robinson       | C   | David Robinson               |
| Rex Chapman             | G   | Vinny Del Negro              |
| Jason Kidd              | G   | Avery Johnson                |

**Phoenix won the regular season series 3 - 1.**

| <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>    | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>       |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| athleticism     | half court offense | Tim & David     | consistent perimeter. |
| versatility     | low post scorer    | rebounding      | shooting              |
| fast break      | front court bulk   | team defense    | quality depth         |
| offense         | Kidd's perimeter   | chemistry       | lacks toughness       |
| bench           | shooting           |                 |                       |

*X - Factor:* rebounding

*Player to*

*Watch:* Clifford Robinson

*X - Factor:* perimeter shooting

*Player(s) to*

*Watch:* V. Del Negro, Jaren Jackson

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

If Spurs coach Gregg Popovich decides to go with the Tri - Towers of Duncan, Perdue, and Robinson, the Suns will have difficulties matching the size; however, Suns coach Danny Ainge may go to a quicker lineup. Duncan has an advantage over any Suns player. Perdue is a shot blocker and rebounder. McCloud is a perimeter shooter. McDyess flourishes in the open court and he must make his open 18 foot jump shots.

EDGE: Slightly to the Spurs.

#### CENTER

David Robinson has an advantage over Clifford Robinson, John Williams, or any other Suns' big man. Robinson needs to play well this post - season because he hasn't performed well in the playoffs in his career. Williams can provide some low post defense; however, he isn't quick enough to stay with David.

EDGE: Solidly to the Spurs.

#### GUARD

Rex Chapman has been suffering from problems w/ his groin and hamstring; so, he may be limited. If so, KJ or Steve Nash may start. Or Ainge may go with McCloud in the back court. The key for the Suns is Jason Kidd making his perimeter shots when the Spurs force Phoenix into a half court game. Avery Johnson, Del Negro, and / or Jaren Jackson must shoot well from the perimeter to lessen some of the double teams on the big men. If Chapman can play, he'll be launching jumpers all over the court. He is a true streak shooter who specializes in making jumpers off one foot.

EDGE: Solidly to the Phoenix.

#### BENCH

The Spurs bench is outclassed by Phoenix'. Chuck Person must connect from the outside; however, he's back could spasm on him at any moment. Monty Williams may start; but, either way he needs to play good defense and attack the basket. Malik Rose may be a factor with his toughness. If he plays, Reggie Geary must limit his mistakes and run the Spurs' offense effectively. Pick a weapon for the Suns: Dennis Scott to shoot; Mike Brown to bang down low; KJ to run the club; Steve Nash to shoot and run the club; Mark Bryant to bang down low, etc. etc. They are loaded.

EDGE: Solidly to the Suns.

#### COACH

Danny Ainge just needs to push the right buttons. He has the talent and the weapons. He's also done a good job getting the team to play defense. Popovich needs to push his team to be tough and believe they can beat the Suns.

EDGE: Slightly to Danny Ainge.

PREDICTION: Suns in 4. Too much depth and offensive firepower.

## PREVIEW OF THE 1ST ROUND WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                           |     |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 2 - <u>Seattle Sonics</u> | vs. | 7 - <u>Minnesota Timberwolves</u> |
| Vin Baker                 | F   | Sam Mitchell                      |
| Detlef Schrempf           | F   | Kevin Garnett                     |
| Jim McIlvaine             | C   | Stanley Roberts                   |
| Hersey Hawkins            | G   | Anthony Peeler                    |
| Gary Payton               | G   | Stephon Marbury                   |

### Seattle won the regular season series 3 - 1.

| <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u> | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>            |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| athleticism     | rebounding.     | athleticism     | lack of playoff experience |
| versatility     | 3 pt. reliance  | Garnett         | health concerns            |
| defense         | interior def.   | Marbury         | consistent 3rd scorer      |
| experience      |                 | versatility     |                            |

*X - Factor:* 3 point shooting  
*Player to Watch:* Vin Baker / Hersey Hawkins

*X - Factor:* 3 pt. shooting  
*Player to Watch:* Anthony Peeler

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

Vin Baker will be in his 1st playoffs. He must step up accordingly. He shot below 60% from the free throw line in the regular season and he must do better than that in the post season. Garnett can do it all and he'll need to do it all. He can't get into foul trouble. Detlef Schrempf is the complete player who should post up Sam Mitchell as much as possible. Mitchell must play good defense and make his perimeter shots.

EDGE: Slightly to the Sonics.

#### CENTER

If Stanley Roberts can provide any scoring for Minnesota, it will be a plus. McIlvaine may not even start due to illness. Jim's job is to block some shots; score on dunks; get some fouls and then sit down. Sam Perkins, or Jerome Kersey may start if McIlvaine is unable to play. Sam can score from outside while Aaron can run up and down the floor. Kersey stays active all the time.

EDGE: Slightly to the Timberwolves.

#### GUARD

Anthony Peeler must score from the perimeter. Hersey Hawkins needs to be a part of the Sonics' offense. Hawk must look for his shot. Hersey will play good defense and pick up some rebounds. Stephon must shoot well. He'll get his assists; however, he has to limit his turnovers. Gary Payton will look to score in the low post; so, Minnesota may have Peeler defend Payton and Steph guard Hawkins. If Gary is scoring from the 3, this will be a short series.

EDGE: Slightly to Seattle.

#### BENCH

Minnesota's bench is limited due to injuries. F Tom Hammonds is a banger who rebounds well. Bill Curley can guard forwards and score consistently from 15 feet. F Cherokee Parks must be active. Veteran Terry Porter has to play well for the T-wolves. The Sonics can use Greg Anthony or Nate McMillan to run the offense. Dale Ellis (who's recovering from a strained abdominal muscle) is a great outside shooter. Jerome Kersey does the little things and makes things happen.

EDGE: With a healthy McMillan, solidly for the Sonics.

#### COACH

If the Sonics are struggling with rebounding, George Karl shouldn't be afraid to use Aaron Williams who is active on the glass. Flip Saunders has to keep his players focused to handle the Sonics' pressure as well as any success they may achieve from 1 game.

EDGE: Solidly to coach Karl.

PREDICTION: Sonics in 4. Experience over youth, again.

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                               |     |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 3 - <u>Los Angeles Lakers</u> | vs. | 6 - <u>Portland Trail Blazers</u> |
| Robert Horry                  | F   | Rasheed Wallace                   |
| Rick Fox                      | F   | Brian Grant                       |
| Shaquille O'Neal              | C   | Arvydas Sabonis                   |
| Eddie Jones                   | G   | Isaiah Rider                      |
| Nick Van Exel / Derek Fisher  | G   | Damon Stoudamire                  |

### Regular season series 2 - 2.

| <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>    | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Shaq            | transition defense | athleticism     | inexperience    |
| athleticism     | youth / immaturity | versatility     | shooting        |
| versatility     | consistent focus   | shot blocking   | focus           |
| fast break      | foul shooting      | Stoudamire      | inconsistency   |

*X - Factor:* perimeter shooting  
*Player to Watch:* Nick Van Exel

*X - Factor:* defensive rotations  
*Player to Watch:* Isaiah Rider

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

Robert Horry has been bothered by nagging injuries; but, this is the time of year, Robert's play improves. Rick Fox is a steady contributor who plays good defense. Rasheed Wallace and Brian Grant have a talent advantage; however, they don't have the mental advantage. Grant and Wallace must rebound well and avoid foul trouble.

EDGE: Even.

#### CENTER

Shaq is too quick and strong for Sabonis. However, Arvydas is a better passer and perimeter shooter. Shaq must make his free throws and Sabas needs to avoid early fouls. If Arvydas is scoring from the perimeter, the Lakers could have problems rebounding because Shaq will be away from the basket defending Sabonis.

EDGE: Solidly to the Lakers.

#### GUARD

Isaiah Rider could dominate Eddie Jones if he posted Jones up. However, Isaiah being Isaiah, he'll settle for perimeter shots. If Derek starts, Van Exel will still see more minutes. Damon will be playing in his first playoffs; so, he may struggle. Damon has the quickness advantage over Fisher and Van Exel; as a result, he must utilize that advantage and break down the Lakers defense. In the past, Jones has struggled in the playoffs due to the slower tempo. He must score from the perimeter. Perimeter shooting for each guard is vital to his team's success.

EDGE: Decidedly to Houston.

#### BENCH

Kobe is the key. If he takes good shots, and scores from the perimeter, LA will roll. The Blazers have enough big bodies (Kelvin Cato, Alton Lister, etc.) to play "Hack a Shaq". Walt Williams must shoot well from the outside for Portland. Fisher of Nick (whoever doesn't start) must run the offense effectively. Elden Campbell must produce when called. Mario Bennett may see some time for the Lakers; if so, he can offensive rebound and run the floor. Gary Grant has to run the Blazers' offense well and score from outside. Stacey Augmon will be called to defend any Laker who's hot from the perimeter.

EDGE: Slightly to the Lakers.

#### COACH

Del Harris has been questioned for his coaching moves in the past and it will probably continue. Mike Dunleavy must shuffle his big men effectively when they get in foul trouble and keep Isaiah Rider focused. Good luck.

EDGE: Slightly to Del Harris.

PREDICTION: Lakers in 4. More dominant than last year's matchup.

## EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFF ROSTERS

### ATLANTA HAWKS

| No. | Name               | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|-----|
| 0   | Greg Anderson      | C    | 6-10 | 250 |
| 11  | Drew Barry         | G    | 6-5  | 191 |
| 10  | Mookie Blaylock    | G    | 6-1  | 185 |
| 52  | Chucky Brown       | F    | 6-8  | 215 |
| 33  | Tyrone Corbin      | F    | 6-6  | 225 |
| 4   | Chris Crawford     | F    | 6-9  | 235 |
| 44  | Alan Henderson     | F    | 6-9  | 235 |
| 32  | Christian Laettner | F    | 6-11 | 245 |
| 2   | Anthony Miller     | F    | 6-9  | 255 |
| 55  | Dikembe Mutombo    | C    | 7-2  | 261 |
| 3   | Eldridge Recasner  | G    | 6-3  | 190 |
| 8   | Steve Smith        | G    | 6-8  | 221 |

### CHARLOTTE HORNETS

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 10  | B.J. Armstrong  | G    | 6-2  | 185 |
| 15  | Corey Beck      | G    | 6-3  | 200 |
| 30  | Dell Curry      | G    | 6-5  | 205 |
| 12  | Vlade Divac     | C    | 7-1  | 260 |
| 52  | Matt Geiger     | C    | 7-1  | 245 |
| 14  | Anthony Mason   | F    | 6-8  | 250 |
| 13  | Bobby Phills    | G    | 6-5  | 226 |
| 7   | J.R. Reid       | F    | 6-10 | 247 |
| 41  | Glen Rice       | F    | 6-8  | 220 |
| 5   | Donald Royal    | F    | 6-8  | 218 |
| 4   | David Wesley    | G    | 6-1  | 202 |
| 32  | Travis Williams | F    | 6-7  | 250 |

### CHICAGO BULLS

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 1   | Randy Brown     | G    | 6-2  | 191 |
| 30  | Jud Buechler    | G    | 6-6  | 228 |
| 24  | Scott Burrell   | F    | 6-7  | 218 |
| 9   | Ron Harper      | G    | 6-6  | 216 |
| 23  | Michael Jordan  | G    | 6-6  | 216 |
| 25  | Steve Kerr      | G    | 6-3  | 181 |
| 7   | Toni Kukoc      | F    | 6-11 | 232 |
| 13  | Luc Longley     | C    | 7-2  | 292 |
| 33  | Scottie Pippen  | F    | 6-7  | 228 |
| 91  | Dennis Rodman   | F    | 6-6  | 220 |
| 8   | Dickey Simpkins | F    | 6-10 | 264 |
| 34  | Bill Wennington | C    | 7-0  | 277 |

### CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

| No. | Name               | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|-----|
| 23  | Derek Anderson     | G    | 6-5  | 195 |
| 2   | Scott Brooks       | G    | 5-11 | 165 |
| 35  | Danny Ferry        | F    | 6-10 | 235 |
| 45  | Cedric Henderson   | F    | 6-7  | 215 |
| 11  | Zydrunas Ilgauskas | C    | 7-3  | 260 |
| 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    | 6-10 | 280 |
| 44  | Shawnelle Scott    | C    | 6-11 | 250 |
| 3   | Bob Sura           | G    | 6-5  | 200 |
| 30  | Carl Thomas        | G    | 6-4  | 195 |

### INDIANA PACERS

| No. | Name          | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|---------------|------|------|-----|
| 4   | Travis Best   | G    | 5-11 | 182 |
| 33  | Antonio Davis | F    | 6-9  | 230 |
| 32  | Dale Davis    | F    | 6-11 | 230 |
| 20  | Fred Hoiberg  | G    | 6-4  | 203 |
| 13  | Mark Jackson  | G    | 6-3  | 185 |
| 9   | Derrick McKey | F    | 6-10 | 225 |
| 31  | Reggie Miller | G    | 6-7  | 185 |
| 17  | Chris Mullin  | F    | 6-7  | 215 |
| 43  | 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 |

### MIAMI HEAT

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 2   | Keith Askins    | G    | 6-8  | 224 |
| 42  | P.J. Brown      | F    | 6-11 | 240 |
| 31  | Duane Causwell  | C    | 7-0  | 240 |
| 40  | Marty Conlon    | F    | 6-11 | 245 |
| 10  | Tim Hardaway    | G    | 6-0  | 195 |
| 21  | Voshon Lenard   | G    | 6-4  | 205 |
| 9   | Dan Majerle     | G    | 6-6  | 220 |
| 24  | Jamal Mashburn  | F    | 6-8  | 250 |
| 6   | Terry Mills     | F    | 6-10 | 250 |
| 33  | Alonzo Mourning | C    | 6-10 | 261 |
| 5   | Eric Murdock    | G    | 6-1  | 200 |
| 30  | Mark Strickland | F    | 6-9  | 220 |

### NEW JERSEY NETS

| No. | Name            | Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. |
|-----|-----------------|------|------|-----|
| 45  | Michael Cage    | F    | 6-9  | 248 |
| 10  | Sam Cassell     | G    | 6-3  | 185 |
| 20  | Sherman Douglas | G    | 6-1  | 195 |
| 11  | Brian Evans     | F    | 6-8  | 220 |
| 15  | Chris Gatling   | F    | 6-10 | 230 |
| 13  | Kendall Gill    | F    | 6-5  | 216 |
| 12  | Lucious Harris  | G    | 6-5  | 205 |
| 30  | Kerry Kittles   | G    | 6-5  | 179 |
| 2   | Rony Seikaly    | C    | 6-11 | 253 |
| 44  | Keith Van Horn  | F    | 6-10 | 220 |
| 42  | David Vaughn    | F    | 6-9  | 240 |
| 55  | Jayson Williams | C    | 6-10 | 245 |

### NEW YORK KNICKS

| No. | Name           | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. |
|-----|----------------|------|-----|-----|
| 13  | Anthony Bowie  | G    | 6-6 | 200 |
| 1   | Chris Childs   | G    | 6-3 | 195 |
| 35  | Terry Cummings | F    | 6-9 | 250 |
| 14  | Chris Dudley   | C    | 7-0 | 260 |
| 33  | Patrick Ewing  | C    | 7-0 | 255 |
| 20  | Allan Houston  | G    | 6-6 | 200 |
| 2   | Larry Johnson  | F    | 6-7 | 263 |
| 42  | Chris Mills    | F    | 6-7 | 216 |
| 34  | Charles Oakley | F    | 6-9 | 245 |
| 3   | John Starks    | G    | 6-5 | 185 |
| 21  | Charlie Ward   | G    | 6-2 | 190 |
| 52  | Buck Williams  | F    | 6-8 | 225 |

## PREVIEW OF THE 1ST ROUND EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                            |     |                            |
|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1 - <u>Chicago Bulls</u>   | vs. | 8 - <u>New Jersey Nets</u> |
| Scott Burrell / Toni Kukoc | F   | Keith Van Horn             |
| Scottie Pippen             | F   | Kendall Gill               |
| Dennis Rodman              | C   | Chris Gatling              |
| Michael Jordan             | G   | Kerry Kittles              |
| Ron Harper                 | G   | Sam Cassell                |

### Chicago won the regular season series 4 - 0.

| <u>STRENGTH</u>   | <u>WEAKNESS</u>              | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>            |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| MJ, Pip           | transition def.              | athleticism     | health concerns            |
| Phil Jackson      | defending quick point guards | Sam Cassell     | lack of playoff experience |
| Dennis experience | defending scoring centers    | versatility     | interior defense           |

*X - Factor:* health

*Player to*

*Watch:* Toni Kukoc

*X - Factor:* team defense

*Player to*

*Watch:* Keith Van Horn

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

If Van Horn is being defended by Kukoc, Keith must win the matchup. Keith has better quickness and a better low post game. Consequently, Scottie must post up Kendall Gill at all times because he's taller and stronger than Gill. Kukoc prefers starting; so, without Longley, he gets his opportunity. Being left handed, Toni has an advantage since most players are used to defending right handed players. With his moving w/o the ball, his passing, and scoring ability, Kukoc will give Van Horn problems, also.

EDGE: Slightly to the Bulls.

#### CENTER

With Luc Longley and Jayson Williams injured, neither team may start a center. Dennis will rebound and annoy Gatling. Chris must be mentally prepared for Dennis' antics and rise above them. Gatling must score in the low post plus shoot well from the perimeter.

EDGE: Solidly to the Bulls.

#### GUARD

MJ will dominate this matchup. However, Sam Cassell has to be play very well in order for the Nets to have a chance. Sam will probably be defended by Ron Harper; so, Sam should use his quickness advantage. Ron will counter that by backing up and forcing Sam to shoot from the outside. Kerry Kittles must play well in his first visit to the playoffs. He must shoot well and avoid early foul trouble.

EDGE: Solidly to the Bulls.

#### BENCH

Neither team may be at full strength due to injuries. If Kukoc starts, the Bulls lose his points off the bench. Scott Burrell must play well for the Bulls. He can provide 3 point shooting and solid defense. Steve Kerr is the Bulls designated perimeter gunner and he needs to shoot well. Randy Brown will defend Cassell. Jayson Williams, injured right thumb and all, will try to play. If he does, he'll rebound as best he can. Sherman Douglas has to be effective running the Nets' offense; however, he's a liability on defense. F David Vaughn may have to play. If he does, he has to avoid foul trouble and play good defense. A healthy Seikalys helps NJ's scoring down low.

EDGE: Solidly to Chicago.

#### COACH

Phil Jackson has all the experience over John Calipari. Phil is a master motivator, guru, and strategist. Cal can't over react and get on his players nerves when things go haywire.

EDGE: Solidly to Phil Jackson.

PREDICTION: Bulls in 3. Nets get taught a lesson.

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                              |     |                          |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 4 - <u>Charlotte Hornets</u> | vs. | 5 - <u>Atlanta Hawks</u> |
| Anthony Mason                | F   | Alan Henderson           |
| Glen Rice                    | F   | Tyrone Corbin            |
| Vlade Divac                  | C   | Dikembe Mutombo          |
| Bobby Phills                 | G   | Steve Smith              |
| David Wesley                 | G   | Mookie Blaylock          |

### Atlanta won the regular season series 4 - 0.

| <u>STRENGTH</u>      | <u>WEAKNESS</u>    | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>     |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Glen Rice            | team chemistry     | starting 5      | bench               |
| front court          | starting backcourt | Mutombo         | scorers no shooters |
| versatility          |                    |                 |                     |
| shooters not scorers | consistency focus  | coach Lenny     | poor shot selection |

*X - Factor:* starting backcourt

*Player to*

*Watch:* David Wesley

*X - Factor:* perimeter shooting

*Player to*

*Watch:* Mookie Blaylock

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

If Glen Rice doesn't get his shots, the Hornets will get destroyed. After saying that, the Hornets will still struggle. Atlanta won't allow Rice to get many touches. Glen will be double and triple teamed the entire series. Mason has to back up his talk with solid play. He needs to avoid stupid fouls and technical and run the club. Tyrone Corbin's sole job is to make the open perimeter shot. Alan Henderson has a height and quickness advantage over Mason and he must maximize both.

EDGE: Even.

#### CENTER

Mutombo can shut down the entire Hornets' offense by himself. Matt Geiger and Vlade Divac don't have the low post scoring attack the give Deke problems; however, Geiger has quickness and Vlade can shoot from the outside. If neither utilizes their talents, Dikembe will shut both of them down completely. Geiger has suffered from a bad hamstring, lately.

EDGE: Solidly to Atlanta.

#### GUARD

The key to the series. With Glen Rice being swarmed, Bobby Phills and David Wesley have to shoot well from the outside. Wesley has never been in the playoffs; so, he may struggle especially being defended by Mookie Blaylock. Steve Smith and Blaylock are both streak shooters. Steve has a height advantage over Phills and should exploit it in the low post. If David cannot handle Mookie's pressure defense, this will be a very short series.

EDGE: Solidly to Atlanta.

#### BENCH

Eldridge Recasner and Christian Laettner, basically, are the Hawks' bench. Recasner scores from the outside and Laettner bangs on the inside. B.J. Armstrong may be called on to provide playoff leadership for Charlotte. Plus, B.J. can shoot well from the perimeter. Dell Curry has to have a big series for the Hornets. Donald Royal may have to defend Steve Smith because he's taller than Phills. Divac or Geiger must be effective and play smart basketball. J.R. Reid has to knock down his open shots.

EDGE: Slightly to Charlotte.

#### COACH

Lenny Wilkens has coaching experience over Dave Cowens. Cowens has had to endure the entire season with his team questioning the offense and the team philosophy. The Hornets lost all 4 regular season games to the Hawks which may shake the players' confidence. On the other hand, Wilkens has to make sure his players don't get over confident.

EDGE: Solidly to Lenny Wilkens.

PREDICTION: Hawks in 4. Charlotte eliminated early 2 years in a row.

## PREVIEW OF THE 1ST ROUND EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                              |     |                            |
|------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 2 - <u>Miami Heat</u>        | vs. | 7 - <u>New York Knicks</u> |
| P. J. Brown                  | F   | Larry Johnson              |
| Jamal Mashburn / Dan Majerle | F   | Chris Mills                |
| Alonzo Mourning              | C   | Charles Oakley             |
| Voshon Lenard                | G   | Allan Houston              |
| Tim Hardaway                 | G   | Charlie Ward               |

### Regular season series tied 2 - 2.

| <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>                 | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Pat Riley       | mind set                        | toughness       | creating own shots    |
| overall def.    | Zo's foul shooting              | versatility     | health concerns       |
| T.Hardaway      | dependence on<br>3 pt. shooting | chemistry       | go to guy in 4th qtr. |
| toughness       | size in backcourt               | mental edge     | point guard play      |

*X - Factor:* 3pt. shooting

*Player to*

*Watch:* Jamal Mashburn

*X - Factor:* foul trouble

*Player to*

*Watch:* Larry Johnson

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

If he starts, Majerle provides Miami another 3 point threat. However, Dan has been bothered by a hernia and a bad back. F Mark Strickland is athletic; but, he's too inexperienced to start for Pat Riley. Jamal Mashburn has to regroup from his broken thumb. Larry Johnson has to have an effective series. Without Patrick Ewing, he is the Knicks best low post scorer. Chris Mills must maintain his composure and shoot well from the perimeter. P.J. will play solid defends; however, he needs to avoid any more altercations with Charlie Ward (like last year).

EDGE: Even.

#### CENTER

Zo must dominate this matchup, period. Without Patrick, he has no excuse. Sure, he'll get swarmed with double teams; however, he must read the defense and make the right passes. Beyond that, no Knick can guard him one on one. Charles Oakley must avoid foul trouble; rebound; and make the open perimeter shot. In other words, play his normal game.

EDGE: Solidly to the Heat. (It better be.)

#### GUARD

Voshon Lenard is the key to this series. If Mashburn is ineffective, he must be Miami's third scorer. He has to hit his perimeter shots as well as attack the basket on occasion. Allan Houston has to shoot well. Plus, Allan needs to be selfish and not look to pass and give up a shot. Tim Hardaway owns Charlie Ward; however, Charlie can run the Knicks' offense pretty well. If Tim struggles, Miami is in deep trouble.

#### BENCH

Without Ewing and Chris Dudley, the Knicks cannot afford foul trouble to their front court players. John Starks needs to get out of his 3 month long funk. Chris Childs does a good job defending Hardaway. Eric Murdock has to play well, limit his turnovers, and shoot well from the outside.

Keith Askins has been bothered by his knees, Duane Causwell is a mystery. Terry Mills has been ineffective. Jamal Mashburn is playing with a bad thumb. Other than that, Miami's bench is in good shape. Terry Cummings can give the Knicks another low post scoring threat.

EDGE: Slightly to the Heat.

#### COACH

Pat Riley and Jeff Van Gundy coach the same way: physical defense and low post offense. Van Gundy was an assistant to Riles; so, there shouldn't be too many surprises. They respect each other; but their teams loathe each other. Go figure.

EDGE: slightly to Pat Riley.

PREDICTION: Knicks in 5. It should be a war!

### Probable Starting Line - ups:

|                           |     |                                |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 3 - <u>Indiana Pacers</u> | vs. | 6 - <u>Cleveland Cavaliers</u> |
| Dale Davis                | F   | Shawn Kemp                     |
| Chris Mullin              | F   | Cedric Henderson               |
| Rik Smits / Antonio Davis | C   | Zydrunas Ilgauskas             |
| Reggie Miller             | G   | Wesley Person                  |
| Mark Jackson              | G   | Brevin Knight                  |

### Regular season series tied 2 - 2.

| <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>            | <u>STRENGTH</u> | <u>WEAKNESS</u>            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| experience      | consistency                | Mike Fratello   | lack of playoff experience |
| bench           | focus                      | toughness       |                            |
| team defense    | quickness at<br>small fwd. | athleticism     | consistent<br>Shawn Kemp   |
| rebounding      | team quickness             | bench           | turnover prone             |

*X - Factor:* rebounding

*Player to*

*Watch:* Rik Smits

*X - Factor:* perimeter shooting

*Player to*

*Watch:* Wesley Person

### STARTING POSITION MATCHUPS:

#### FORWARD

Shawn Kemp has to play well. If not, the Cavs are dead. Kemp must avoid foul trouble. Cedric Henderson will be in his first playoffs like many of his teammates; as a result, he may struggle. Cedric must play good defense on Mullin and hit his perimeter shots. Chris Mullin is going to run Cedric around pick after pick in order to get open and shoot from the outside. Dale Davis has to avoid dumb fouls and be a force on the boards.

EDGE: Slightly to Indiana.

#### CENTER

If Rik Smits' feet allow him to start, he has to play well including on the boards. Zydrunas is 7'3 and has a good touch; however, he isn't very physical which may pose problems is Antonio Davis starts for the Pacers. Rik can provide Indiana the low post scoring threat it needs to complete the offense.

EDGE: Even. If Rik is healthy, slightly to the Pacers.

#### GUARD

Wesley Person and Reggie Miller are both thinly built, long range bombers. Reggie; however, has the experience in big games. Brevin Knight has the quickness advantage over Mark Jackson and he must maximize it. The Pacers will give Brevin open outside shots all series and Brevin must make them. Mark Jackson will try and post up the shorter Knight as much as possible. If Wesley is hitting his outside shots, the Cavs have a very good chance in the series.

EDGE: Even.

#### BENCH

Bob Sura and Derek Anderson give Cleveland 2 very athletic guards off the bench. However, neither is experienced in playoff basketball.

F Vitaly Potapenko is very physical and will bang constantly with the Davises. Derrick McKey is the Pacers best defender and may guard Kemp. Jalen Rose has the young legs and long arms to defend Sura, Person, or Anderson. Travis Best has the quickness to combat Brevin Knight. Danny Ferry needs to make his outside shots because his defense is a liability.

EDGE: Slightly to the Pacers.

#### COACH

If they were playing one on one, Larry Bird would school Mike Fratello; however, they aren't. When it comes to X's and O's, Mike has the edge Bird and his assistants. Larry is more laid back. We shall see how laid back Larry is in this series.

EDGE: Solidly to Mike Fratello.

PREDICTION: Pacers in 4; Indiana has too much depth and experience.

## NCAA POST - SEASON CAMPS ROSTERS

### 1998 Nike Desert Classic Roster

Tempe, AZ, Apr. 7 - Apr. 11. Hosted by the Phoenix Suns.

Note: Listed alphabetically.

| <u>NAME</u>         | <u>COLLEGE</u>     | <u>HT</u> | <u>WT</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Earl Boykins        | Eastern Michigan   | 5-5       | 145       |
| Torrays Braggs      | Xavier             | 6-8       | 235       |
| Corey Brewer*       | Oklahoma           | 6-1½      | 190       |
| Gerald Brown        | Pepperdine         | 6-3       | 210       |
| Greg Buckner*       | Clemson            | 6-4½      | 206       |
| Todd Burgan         | Syracuse           | 6-7       | 220       |
| Corey Carr          | Texas Tech         | 6-4       | 210       |
| Anthony Carter      | Hawai'i            | 6-2       | 185       |
| Keon Clark          | UNLV               | 6-10      | 220       |
| Bennett Davison     | Arizona            | 6-8       | 212       |
| Michael Dickerson   | Arizona            | 6-5       | 192       |
| Zendon Hamilton     | St. John's         | 6-10      | 240       |
| Mitch Henderson     | Princeton          | 6-3       | 195       |
| Bakari Hendrix*     | Gonzaga            | 6-9       | 230       |
| Sam Jacobson        | Minnesota          | 6-6       | 215       |
| Kris Johnson        | UCLA               | 6-4       | 235       |
| Charles Jones       | Long Island        | 6-3       | 185       |
| Ahlon Lewis         | Arizona State      | 6-0       | 188       |
| Felipe Lopez        | St. John's         | 6-5       | 190       |
| Corey Louis         | Florida State      | 6-9       | 230       |
| Sam MacKinnon       | SE Melbourne Magic | 6-5       | 216       |
| Sean Marks          | California         | 6-11      | 250       |
| Roshown McLeod*     | Duke               | 6-8       | 220       |
| Brad Miller         | Purdue             | 6-11      | 250       |
| Makhtar Ndiaye      | North Carolina     | 6-8½      | 248       |
| Tyrone Nesby        | UNLV               | 6-6       | 228       |
| Norman Nolan        | Virginia           | 6-8       | 255       |
| Andrae Patterson    | Indiana            | 6-8       | 240       |
| Brett Robisch       | Oklahoma State     | 6-11      | 240       |
| Ansu Sesay          | Mississippi        | 6-9       | 220       |
| Casey Shaw          | Toledo             | 6-11      | 250       |
| Jeff Sheppard       | Kentucky           | 6-3       | 190       |
| Clayton Shields     | New Mexico         | 6-8       | 210       |
| Raymond Tutt        | Cal-Santa Barbara  | 6-4       | 205       |
| Jeremy Veal         | Arizona State      | 6-3       | 182       |
| Saddi Washington    | Western Michigan   | 6-3½      | 186       |
| Tyson Wheeler       | Rhode Island       | 5-10      | 165       |
| Jahidi White        | Georgetown         | 6-9       | 290       |
| Shammond Williams   | North Carolina     | 6-2½      | 200       |
| Steve Wojciechowski | Duke               | 5-11½     | 176       |

\* McLeod (back), Brewer (hand), and Buckner (stomach) did not participate.

\* Bakari Hendrix was named the MVP.

#### All Tourney Team:

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Keon Clark       | Michael Dickerson |
| Bakari Hendrix   | Tyrone Nesby      |
| Andrae Patterson | Casey Shaw        |

### Portsmouth Invitational Tournament

Portsmouth, VA, April 1 - April 4.

Note: Listed alphabetically.

| <u>NAME</u>          | <u>COLLEGE</u>      | <u>HT</u> | <u>WT</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Adebayo Akinkunle    | Bradley             | 6-8½      | 220       |
| Elijah Allen         | Fairleigh Dickinson | 6-1       | 165       |
| Chad Austin          | Purdue              | 6-2       | 194       |
| Maceo Baston         | Michigan            | 6-9       | 208       |
| Austin Bates         | Vanderbilt          | 6-9       | 243       |
| Joey Beard           | Boston Univ.        | 6-9       | 236       |
| Ishua Benjamin       | North Carolina St.  | 6-3½      | 194       |
| Andrew Betts         | Long Beach St.      | 7-1       | 256       |
| Rashid Bey           | St. Joseph's        | 5-11      | 177       |
| Roderick Blakney     | South Carolina St.  | 5-10½     | 185       |
| Ryan Bowen           | Iowa                | 6-9½      | 216       |
| Torrays Braggs*      | Xavier              | 6-8       | 235       |
| Bobby Brannen        | Cincinnati          | 6-7½      | 232       |
| Corey Brewer         | Oklahoma            | 6-1½      | 190       |
| Antoine Brockington  | Coppin St.          | 6-2       | 165       |
| Greg Buckner**       | Clemson             | 6-4½      | 206       |
| Sean Colson          | UNC-Charlotte       | 6-0½      | 160       |
| Mickey Curley        | Boston College      | 6-9½      | 260       |
| Carlos Daniel        | Washington St.      | 6-8       | 240       |
| Sean Daugherty       | Wisconsin           | 6-10½     | 237       |
| Nick Davis           | Arkansas            | 6-8½      | 200       |
| Rodney Elliott       | Maryland            | 6-8       | 223       |
| Steve Goodrich       | Princeton           | 6-9½      | 232       |
| Antonio Granger      | Boston College      | 6-5½      | 209       |
| Eric Harris          | Minnesota           | 6-3       | 203       |
| C.C. Harrison        | North Carolina St.  | 6-4       | 196       |
| Jerry Hester         | Illinois            | 6-6       | 209       |
| Sarunas Jasikevicius | Maryland            | 6-4       | 205       |
| Mark Jones           | Central Florida     | 6-6       | 210       |
| Mike Jones           | Texas Christian     | 6-3       | 205       |
| Felipe Lopez**       | St. John's          | 6-5       | 190       |
| Corey Louis**        | Florida State       | 6-9       | 230       |
| J.J. Lucas           | Hawaii Pacific      | 6-10      | 268       |
| Michael Maddox       | Georgia Tech        | 6-8       | 222       |
| Drew Maddux          | Vanderbilt          | 6-3½      | 196       |
| Cuttino Mobley       | Rhode Island        | 6-4½      | 194       |
| Makhtar Ndiaye       | North Carolina      | 6-8½      | 248       |
| Norman Nolan         | Virginia            | 6-8       | 255       |
| Damian Owens         | West Virginia       | 6-6       | 213       |
| Ruben Patterson      | Cincinnati          | 6-6       | 227       |
| Ryan Perryman        | Dayton              | 6-7       | 228       |
| Josh Pittman         | UNC-Asheville       | 6-5½      | 204       |
| Jay Poerner          | Southern Methodist  | 6-10      | 214       |
| Brett Robisch**      | Oklahoma State      | 6-11      | 240       |
| Tony Rutland         | Wake Forest         | 6-2       | 181       |
| Marcus Saxon         | Utah State          | 6-3       | 198       |
| Nathan Smith         | American Univ.      | 6-1½      | 184       |
| Ryan Stack           | South Carolina      | 6-11      | 217       |
| Curtis Staples       | Virginia            | 6-3       | 200       |

(Continued on page 16)

## NCAA CAMPS ROSTERS cont'd.

*(Continued from page 15)***Portsmouth Invitational Tournament Continued**

| <u>NAME</u>           | <u>COLLEGE</u>   | <u>HT</u> | <u>WT</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Jarod Stevenson       | Richmond         | 6-6½      | 202       |
| Eric Taylor           | St. Francis, PA  | 6-8       | 245       |
| Kelly Thames          | Missouri         | 6-8       | 218       |
| Billy Thomas          | Kansas           | 6-4       | 206       |
| Kevin Turner          | Illinois         | 6-2       | 170       |
| Antanas Vilcinskas    | Valparaiso       | 7-0       | 250       |
| Jerod Ward            | Michigan         | 6-9       | 225       |
| Saddi Washington**    | Western Michigan | 6-3½      | 186       |
| Melvin Watson         | South Carolina   | 6-0½      | 205       |
| Horatio Webster       | Mississippi St.  | 6-7       | 237       |
| Tyrone Weeks          | Massachusetts    | 6-6       | 250       |
| Jarrod West           | West Virginia    | 5-10      | 172       |
| Evan Wiley            | Oklahoma         | 6-9½      | 256       |
| Shammond Williams**   |                  |           |           |
|                       | North Carolina   | 6-2½      | 200       |
| Steve Wojciechowski** |                  |           |           |
|                       | Duke             | 5-11½     | 176       |

\* Named Tournament MVP and invited to Nike Classic.

\*\* Invited to Nike Desert Classic in Tempe, AZ.

**NABC All - Star Game**

San Antonio, TX, Freeman Coliseum. March 28th.

Note: Listed alphabetically.

## East Squad:

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Pos.</u> | <u>School</u>   |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Boubacar Aw    | F           | Georgetown      |
| Ryan Bowen     | F           | Iowa            |
| Corey Brewer   | G           | Oklahoma        |
| Greg Buckner   | G           | Clemson         |
| Steve Goodrich | F-C         | Princeton       |
| Felipe Lopez   | G           | St. John's (NY) |
| Troy Nesmith   | G           | Gannon (PA)     |
| Norman Nolan   | F           | Virginia        |
| Brett Robisch  | C-F         | Oklahoma State  |
| Melvin Watson  | G           | South Carolina  |

## West Squad:

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Pos.</u> | <u>School</u>                                 |
|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Adebayo Akinkunle | F           | Bradley                                       |
| Anthony Carter    | G           | Hawaii  |
| Bakari Hendrix    | F           | Gonzaga                                       |
| Carlos Knox       | G           | Indiana University-<br>Purdue University (IN) |
| Sean Marks        | C-F         | California                                    |
| Roshown McLeod    | F           | Duke  |
| Tyrone Nesby      | F-G         | UNLV  |
| Ruben Patterson   | F           | Cincinnati                                    |
| Raymond Tutt      | G           | UC Santa Barbara                              |
| Jeremy Veal       | G           | Arizona State                                 |

## WNBA News cont'd.

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Gergana Branzova**, a 6'4" center from Florida International University who earned 1997-98 All-Trans America Athletic Conference First Team honors.

**Aquenda Clark**, 5'10 forward from Florida A&M who was named to the All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference First Team the past two seasons.

and  
**Kerri Chatten**, a 6'1" forward, was a four-year starter for Providence College. She suffered a season-ending ankle injury and appeared in just ten games this past season.

**Cindy Blodgett Joins WNBA**

League agrees to terms with University of Maine scoring star

The WNBA announced, March 31, that **Cindy Blodgett** from the University of Maine has signed a player contract with the WNBA.

Blodgett, a 5-9 guard, was the nation's second leading scorer during the 1997-98 season, averaging 27.0 ppg. She led the nation in scoring in 1995-96 and 1996-97 with 27.8 ppg and 27.0 ppg averages, respectively. She was the first sophomore in NCAA Division I history to lead the nation in scoring and only the second female to win the national scoring title in consecutive seasons. The only other player to accomplish that feat was the Charlotte Sting's **Andrea Congreaves** in 1991-92 and 1992-93 while playing for Mercer University. Blodgett's 3,005 points currently ranks fourth on the NCAA all-time Division I leading scorers' list.

**1998 Key Dates**

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| April 29  | WNBA Draft, Secaucus, NJ  |
| May 12    | Training Camp Begins      |
| June 11   | 1998 Regular Season Opens |
| August 19 | Regular Season Ends       |

**Pre - Draft Camp**

The 1998 WNBA Pre-Draft Camp, which will include college seniors, veterans with prior professional experience and international players, will be held at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago from April 16-18. The 1998 WNBA Draft will be held via conference call with representatives from each team on Wednesday, April 29, beginning at 11 a.m. EDT.

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# Roundball Review's Top Players for the '98 NBA Draft

(As of April 20th)

**CENTERS: Grade: C-**

|                       |      |     |                                 |
|-----------------------|------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. Michael Olowokandi | 7-0  | 265 | Pacific                         |
| 2. Mike Doleac        | 6-11 | 269 | Utah                            |
| 3. Casey Shaw         | 6-11 | 260 | Toledo                          |
| 4. Alexander Koul     | 7-0  | 285 | George Washington               |
| 5. Jerome James       | 7-1  | 285 | Florida A&M                     |
| 6. Andrew Betts       | 7-1  | 250 | Long Beach State                |
| 7. Avondre Jones      | 6-11 | 225 | Fresno St.<br>(kicked off team) |

\* Evan Eschmeyer of Northwestern received a 6th year of eligibility and decided to return to school.

**FORWARDS: GRADE: B.****TIER ONE:**

|                       |      |     |                |
|-----------------------|------|-----|----------------|
| 1. Paul Pierce—junior | 6-7  | 220 | Kansas         |
| 2. Raef LaFrentz      | 6-11 | 240 | Kansas         |
| 3. Pat Garrity        | 6-9  | 230 | Notre Dame     |
| 4. Keon Clark         | 6-11 | 220 | UNLV           |
| 5. Matt Harpring      | 6-7  | 226 | Georgia Tech   |
| 6. Rashard Lewis      | 6-10 | 220 | Alief Elsik HS |
| 7. J.R. Henderson     | 6-9  | 223 | UCLA           |
| 8. Brad Miller        | 6-11 | 240 | Purdue         |
| 9. Ansu Sesay         | 6-9  | 220 | Mississippi    |
| 10. Brian Skinner     | 6-10 | 240 | Baylor         |

**TIER TWO:**

|                           |      |     |               |
|---------------------------|------|-----|---------------|
| 11. Robert Traylor—junior | 6-8  | 300 | Michigan      |
| 12. DeMarco Johnson       | 6-8  | 245 | UNC-Charlotte |
| 13. Roshown McLeod        | 6-8  | 220 | Duke          |
| 14. Clayton Shields       | 6-8  | 210 | New Mexico    |
| 15. Zendon Hamilton       | 6-11 | 241 | St. John's    |
| 16. Tremaine Fowlkes      | 6-8  | 215 | Fresno State  |
| 17. Korleone Young        | 6-8  | 220 | Hargrave Aca. |
| 18. Ruben Patterson       | 6-6  | 225 | Cincinnati    |
| 19. Maceo Baston          | 6-9  | 210 | Michigan      |
| 20. Corey Louis           | 6-9  | 225 | Florida St.   |

**TIER THREE:**

|                            |      |     |                   |
|----------------------------|------|-----|-------------------|
| 21. Horatio Webster        | 6-7  | 240 | Mississippi State |
| 22. Jerod Ward             | 6-9  | 215 | Michigan          |
| 23. Randell Jackson—junior | 6-11 | 230 | Florida St.       |
| 24. Bakari Hendrix         | 6-7  | 230 | Gonzaga           |
| 25. Andrae Patterson       | 6-8  | 240 | Indiana           |
| 26. Brett Robisch          | 6-11 | 240 | Okla. State       |
| 27. Torraye Brags          | 6-8  | 235 | Xavier            |
| 28. Norman Nolan           | 6-8  | 243 | Virginia          |
| 29. Sean Marks             | 6-11 | 240 | California        |
| 30. Jahidi White           | 6-9  | 290 | Georgetown        |

**GUARDS: GRADE: B.****TIER ONE:**

|                          |     |     |             |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1. Mike Bibby—sophomore  | 6-2 | 192 | Arizona     |
| 2. Larry Hughes—freshman | 6-5 | 185 | Saint Louis |
| 3. Bonzi Wells           | 6-5 | 210 | Ball State  |
| 4. Toby Bailey           | 6-5 | 205 | UCLA        |
| 5. Michael Dickerson     | 6-5 | 190 | Arizona     |
| 6. Cory Carr             | 6-4 | 200 | Texas Tech  |
| 7. Miles Simon           | 6-5 | 199 | Arizona     |
| 8. Tyronn Lue—junior     | 6-1 | 170 | Nebraska    |
| 9. Sam Jacobson          | 6-6 | 210 | Minnesota   |
| 10. Jeff Sheppard        | 6-3 | 190 | Kentucky    |
| Andre Miller*            | 6-2 | 195 | Utah        |

\* Andre graduates this spring; however, he, apparently, will return to Utah for another year of basketball.

**TIER TWO:**

|                          |     |     |                  |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| 11. Bryce Drew           | 6-3 | 185 | Valparaiso       |
| 12. Corey Brewer         | 6-1 | 190 | Oklahoma         |
| 13. Felipe Lopez         | 6-6 | 190 | St. John's       |
| 14. Corey Benjamin—soph. | 6-6 | 200 | Oregon State     |
| 15. Jeremy Veal          | 6-3 | 185 | Arizona State    |
| 16. Anthony Carter       | 6-1 | 185 | Hawaii           |
| 17. Mike Jones           | 6-3 | 210 | TCU              |
| 18. Malcolm Johnson      | 6-4 | 195 | TCU              |
| 19. Shammond Williams    | 6-2 | 180 | UNC              |
| 20. Raymond Tutt         | 6-4 | 180 | UC-Santa Barbara |

**TIER THREE:**

|                      |      |     |                  |
|----------------------|------|-----|------------------|
| 21. Charles Jones    | 6-3  | 180 | Long Island      |
| 22. Melvin Watson    | 6-1  | 200 | South Carolina   |
| 23. Rashid Bey       | 5-11 | 160 | St. Joseph's     |
| 24. Tyson Wheeler    | 5-10 | 165 | Rhode Island     |
| 25. Kris Johnson     | 6-4  | 222 | UCLA             |
| 26. Earl Boykins     | 5-5  | 145 | Eastern Michigan |
| 27. Saddi Washington | 6-3  | 180 | Western Michigan |
| 28. Greg Buckner     | 6-4  | 200 | Clemson          |
| 29. Tyrone Nesby     | 6-6  | 230 | UNLV             |
| 30. Cuttino Mobley   | 6-4  | 190 | Rhode Island     |

⇒ The list does not yet include junior G **Jason Williams** who was dismissed from Florida nor F-C **Jelani McCoy** who "resigned" from UCLA since neither has officially declared themselves eligible for the Draft.

## Around the Rim: News on NCAA Hoops

As of April 20th.

### HIRINGS:

**from March 25 - April 20**

Clemson: Named former Wyoming head coach, **Larry Shyatt**, new head coach. Shyatt worked as an assistant under Rick Barnes at Clemson for 3 years: 4 / 18.

Texas: Named former Clemson head coach, **Rick Barnes**, new head coach.

Barnes signed a 5 - year contract worth \$700 K per year: 4 / 12.

Duquesne: Promoted assistant coach **Darelle Porter** to head coach, replacing Scott Edgar.

UNC - Charlotte: Promoted assistant coach **Bobby Lutz** to head coach replacing Melvin Watkins: 4 / 9.

Mississippi: Promoted assistant coach **Rod Barnes** to head coach replacing Rob Evans: 4 / 9.

Arizona State: Named former Mississippi head coach, **Rob Evans**, new head coach: 4 / 7.

Iona: Named assistant coach **Jeff Ruland** new head coach to replace Tim Welsh: 4 / 6.

Fairfield: Named former Seton Hall assistant coach, **Tim O'Toole**, new men's basketball coach: 4 / 2.

Providence: Hired former Iona head coach, **Tim Welsh**, as new head coach. Welsh reportedly agreed to a 6 year contract.

Texas A & M: Hired former UNC - Charlotte head coach, **Melvin Watkins**, as new head coach. Watkins reportedly signed a 5 or 6 year deal worth between \$550 K and

\$800 K a season.

Virginia: Hired former Providence coach **Pete Gillen** as the new head coach. Gillen reportedly signed a 7 - year contract worth \$500 K per season.

Murray State: Named assistant coach, **Tevester Anderson**, new head coach to replace Mark Gottfried: 3 / 27.

San Jose State: Named former Arizona assistant coach, **Phil Johnson**, new men's basketball coach: 3 / 26.

Cal - Santa Barbara: Named former UC Davis head coach, **Bob Williams**, new head coach: 3 / 25. Williams coached UC Davis to this season's Division II Championship.

Alabama: Named former Murray State head coach, **Mark Gottfried**, new men's basketball coach: 3 / 25.

### FIRINGS / RESIGNATIONS: from April 8

Southern Illinois: Announced the forced resignation of head coach **Rich Herrin**: 4 / 10.

Duquesne: Fired head coach **Scott Edgar**; but agreed to honor the last year of his four year contract. Edgar's record was 29 - 55 in 3 years at Duquesne: 4 / 8.

Texas: Head coach **Tom Penders** announced his resignation. Penders and the school agreed to an up front payout of \$643 K as settlement for the 4 remaining years on his contract worth approximately \$550 K a year.

Iowa: Head coach **Tom Davis** announced he will retire at the end of the '98 - '99 season: 4 / 2.

### TRANSFERS

Wake Forest: Announced

sophomore C 7'0 **Loren Woods** will transfer at the end of the spring semester: 4 / 17.

Kansas: Announced freshman F **Luke Axtell** has transferred from Texas and will enroll in the fall. He will be eligible to play in '99 - '00 if Texas grants him a waiver: 4 / 13.

### POINT SHAVING SCANDAL:

Two former Northwestern players, **Dion Lee** and **Dewey Williams**, were indicted on charges of shaving points in games played during the 1994-95 season: 3 / 27.

Williams entered an innocent plea on 4 / 1 to the federal charges. Lee and Williams face maximum sentences of five years if convicted. Lee came off a suspension from the basketball team for gambling in December 1994, the same month that Northwestern administrators handed the results of its internal investigation of gambling over to federal officials.

### SELLEAZE SUSPENDED; BYU CAREER OVER

April 13, Brigham Young suspended the school's leading scorer, **Ron Selleaze**, and sophomore guard **Michael Garrett** for one year after they allegedly were found in possession of marijuana.

The suspension will force Selleaze, who has already redshirted one year, to miss his senior season, ending his career in a Cougars uniform after just 22 games. He could

transfer to a Division II or lower school to play his senior season.

The BYU Honor Code Office recommended the yearlong suspension earlier this month after the two players were cited for marijuana possession on March 16, when Provo police responded to a noise disturbance at the players' apartment.

Both players are currently enrolled in school, BYU spokeswoman **Carri Jenkins** said. The suspension will take effect at the end of the current semester. After they serve the suspension, both players can apply for readmission to the university, provided they meet the school's standards and again agree to the Honor Code.

### WATTS' CAREER AT DEPAUL ENDS A YEAR EARLY

**Jermaine Watts**, who led DePaul in scoring at 15.9 ppg last season, has been kicked off the team and will not return to school for his senior season.

Watts, the Blue Demons' leading scorer as a sophomore with 16.2 ppg in the '95-'96 season, had been suspended for the entire '96-'97 season for policy violations. He returned last season, but missed 12 games, including the last nine, with a knee injury that was operated on March 6.

He had allowed his grades to slip to a point where it was determined he couldn't pull himself back to required

*(Continued on page 19)*

## Around the Rim: News on NCAA Hoops

As of April 20th.

(Continued from page 18)  
levels, a source said.

"I put it all upon myself, I knew what was happening, and I failed to do anything about it," Watts said in a prepared statement.

### TARK AND NCAA SETTLE LAWSUIT

April 2, Fresno State basketball coach **Jerry Tarkanian** has ended his long running legal battle with the NCAA, and will receive \$2.5 million for his troubles.

The NCAA announced a settlement of a lawsuit filed in 1992 in the state of Nevada by the former Long Beach State and Nevada-Las Vegas coach and his wife, Lois. The Tarkanians will be paid \$2.5 million as part of the settlement, which calls for mutual release of all claims relating to the lawsuit, no admission of liability by any party and dismissal of actions cited in the case.

While not admitting liability, the settlement is clearly a victory for the controversial coach who is viewed as an outlaw by his critics. Tarkanian claimed in the lawsuit that the NCAA unfairly targeted him during his tenure as UNLV coach from 1973-92. But even in victory, the coach was pleased to have the matter settled.

"Regardless of what they paid, they can't make up

for the pain they caused," Tarkanian said at a news conference in Los Angeles. "(The NCAA) can get way with anything they want. They can plant stories out there that simply aren't true."

The trial was scheduled to begin in Las Vegas on May 18th. The NCAA tried unsuccessfully to get the trial moved from Las Vegas, citing Tarkanian's popularity in the city.

"The NCAA regrets the 26-year ongoing dispute with Jerry Tarkanian and looks forward to putting this matter to rest," said **Cedric W. Dempsey**, NCAA executive director. "While the process has been difficult, all sides have hopefully become wiser, and more understanding of one another's positions."

### NEW PROBLEMS at FRESNO STATE

April 2, Fresno State forward **Avondre Jones** and **Kenny Brunner**, a guard who transferred from Georgetown late in the season, were charged with felony violations for an alleged attack on an acquaintance that included the use of a samurai sword.

The Fresno County District Attorney charged both Jones, and Brunner with making terrorist threats against 22-year-old **Colin DeForrest**. Jones is charged using a firearm in the commission of the felony and Brunner is alleged to have used a deadly and dangerous weapon -- the samurai sword.

Both were further charged with assault with a deadly weapon as well as robbery. In addition, Jones was charged with possession of marijuana. Both defendants are scheduled to be arraigned in Fresno Municipal Court on April 16th.

April 17, Avondre Jones faces two new criminal counts in addition to charges that he used a gun and samurai swords to threaten, assault and rob a man. An amended complaint filed Wednesday accuses Jones of threatening to kill or injure a woman named Alycia Norberke in October 1996.

The other new count alleges that when Jones was arrested March 17, he illegally possessed a firearm due to a previous felony firearms possession conviction in Los Angeles.

### Underclassmen Declaring for the NBA DRAFT

**Fresno State**: 6'8, junior F **Tremaine Fowlkes**: 4 / 17.  
**Alief Elsik HS**: 6'10, 220, high school senior F  
**Rashard Lewis** announced he was foregoing college and turning pro: 4 / 16.  
**Saint Louis**: 6'5, freshman G **Larry Hughes**: 4 / 9.  
**Arizona**: 6'2, sophomore G **Mike Bibby**: 4 / 9.  
**Oregon State**: 6'6, sophomore G **Corey Benjamin**: 4 / 8.  
**Hargave Military Academy (HS)**: 6'8, 235, high school senior F **Korleone Young** announced he was foregoing college and turning pro: 4 / 8.  
**Kansas**: 6'7, junior G / F

**Paul Pierce**: 4 / 2.

**Iowa**: 6'5, freshman G **Ricky**

**Davis**: 4 / 1.

**Nebraska**: 6'1, junior G

**Tyronn Lue**: 3 / 31.

**Michigan**: 6'7, junior F

**Robert Traylor**: 3 / 27.

**Florida State**: 6'11, junior F

**Randell Jackson**: 3 / 26.

### SIGNIFICANT HIGH SCHOOL COMMITMENTS

APRIL 15: 6'7 F **Cedric**

**Taylor**, from Waltrip HS in Houston committed to the Univ. of Houston. He will not play at UH this fall due to academic reasons.

MARCH 25: 6'1 G **Ronald Curry**, from Hampton HS in Virginia, announced he will attend the University of North Carolina. He will attend on a football scholarship. Curry was named the top high school quarterback as well as the top point guard in the country.

### CONGRATULATIONS

MARCH 30: To the Kentucky Wildcats who rallied to defeat the Utah Utes to win 78 - 69 and capture the Men's NCAA Basketball Championship. The title is the first for first year Wildcats' head coach **Tubby Smith**.

MARCH 29: To the University of Tennessee Lady Vols for defeating the Louisiana Tech Lady Techsters 93 75 and winning an unprecedented third straight Women's NCAA Basketball Championship. The title is the 6th for head coach **Pat Summitt**. Summitt now only trails legendary UCLA Head coach **John Wooden** who won 10 titles coaching the Bruins.

# ROUNDBALL “RIM” SHOTS

## TRIVIA

LAST MONTH’S QUESTION:

Who was the first team in NBA history to shoot better than 50 percent from the field for a season?

ANSWER:

The 1970 - ‘71 Milwaukee Bucks led by **Kareem Abdul - Jabbar** and **Oscar Robertson**.

THIS MONTH’S QUESTION:

Who recorded the first quadruple - double in NBA history?

### Did You Know?

Michael Jordan has worn three jersey numbers in his NBA career—23, 45, and 12. He wore number 12 on Valentine’s Day 1990, when his number 23 was missing at game time.

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## TIP - INS

APRIL 3: North Carolina forward **Antawn Jamison** was named the 1998 Wooden Award winner as college basketball's Player of the Year.

Jamison was a runaway winner with 5,041 points in the balloting of nearly 1,000 sportswriters and sportscasters in 50 states, who vote from a ballot of 15 players selected by the Wooden Award National Advisory Board.

To qualify for the award, a player must have a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 and be making progress toward graduation.

**Raef LaFrentz** of Kansas was second with 3,901 points, followed by **Mike Bibby** of Arizona with 3,629, and **Paul Pierce** of Kansas with 2,756.

- ◇ Depending on whom you ask, NBA Commissioner **David Stern** is looking to really drop the hammer on the Players’ Association in the collective bargaining negotiations. If that is the case, the ‘98 - ‘99 season won’t start on time, if at all. Many believe negotiations won’t really get down to business until the players lose game checks which occurs once the season starts.
- ◇ After baseball’s fiasco, could the NBA really be that stupid?! It looks that, way. Stay tuned.

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## Roundball Features

WEB SITE:

- a NBA Trade Analyses, posted w/i 2 days of the trade (usually less).
- b *NCAA Players of the Mth*—December - February.
- c Top Players for the NBA Draft; updated regularly.
- d Roundball NBA Playoffs Predictions.
- e Roundball All - NBA Teams.
- f Roundball Regular Season Award Winners.

NEWSLETTERS:

- \* The May newsletter will be available after the NBA Draft Lottery on May 17.

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