

# Lakers work their Magic

by Ullysses Tucker, Jr.

It was an evening of no-look passes, lob dunks, high fives, sky hooks, smiles, deadly jumpers from the corner, fake behind the back passes, aggressive defense, and it was simply magical. Yes, "Magic" Johnson, the six-foot-nine prototype from Michigan State led the Los Angeles Lakers traveling show to Portland and trounced the locals 120-108.

According to Johnson, the Lakers are playing some very good basketball for this time of the year and it should carry over into the Western Division playoffs.

"Our rhythm is beautiful," said Johnson after confusing the Blazers with 24 points, ten rebounds, nine assists, four steals, and he one of six Lakers in double figures. "A team needs this type of flow going into the playoffs and we have it. With us, we started on defense very aggressively and that carried over to the offense but we're still playing tough D. I feel pretty good about the team and the way we're going," (smiling).

"Magic" also believes that the reason why the Lakers are so successful is because everyone on the team knows their roles and understands role-playing.

"When you have players going out of their assigned roles it spoils the entire chemistry of a team," he said seriously. "For any team to be competitive as well as successful, every player must accept their role and do their job. We do it well."

Currently, "Magic" is second in the N.B.A. in assists and third in steals. He was ranked in the top ten in rebounding but his average slipped slightly, yet he still leads all guards in this category. With his ten rebounds against the Blazers, Johnson needs only forty-five assists to

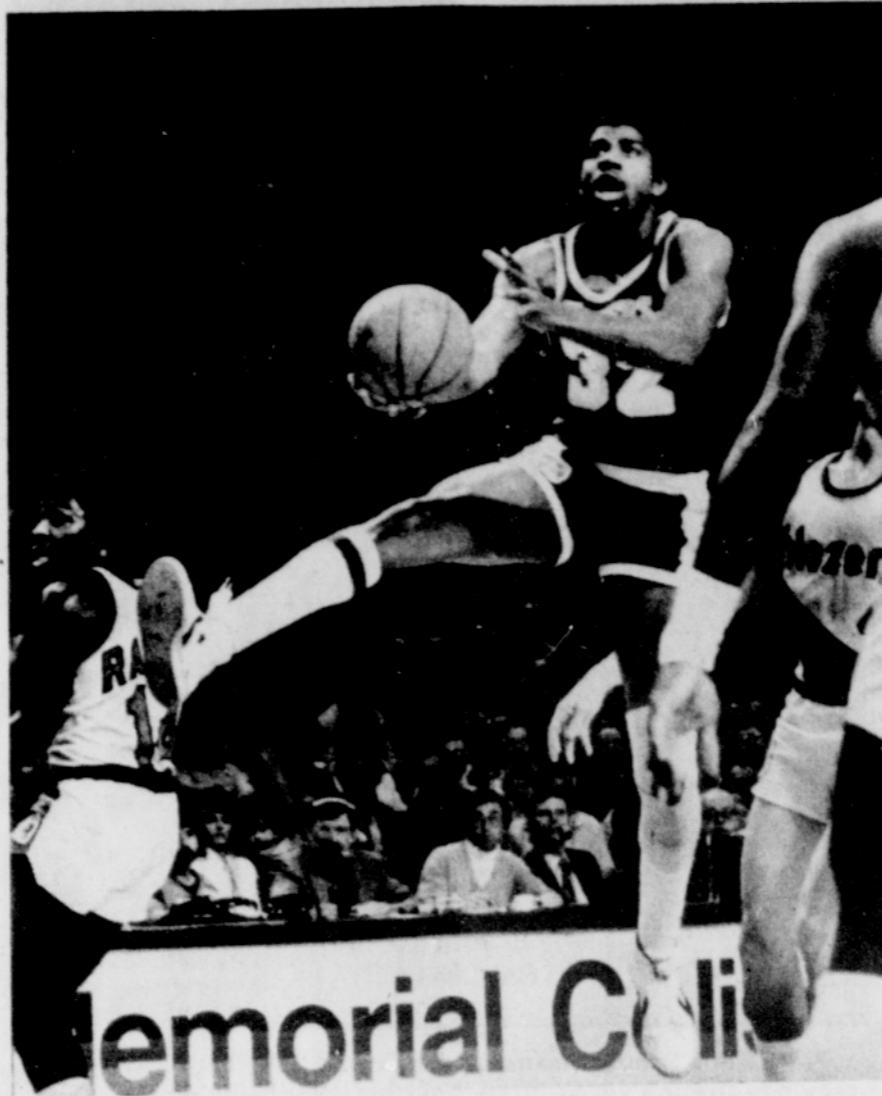
become the first N.B.A. player in ten years to have 600 rebounds and 600 assists in the same season (Havlicek, Boston, 1971-72). Johnson's 19.0 scoring average is third behind Abdul-Jabbar and Jammal Wilkes.

When questioned about whether the Lakers could win without Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as suggested by several sportswriters around the country, "Magic" was quick to assess the value of the "Big Fella" in spite of his being close to winding up his wonderful career.

"Listen Bro, Kareem means a great deal to me and this organization. People think that we don't need him because we won a few basketball games without him and that's not true. We need him bad. Kareem is a big money player. He blocks shots, rebounds, scores, and he is a winner. Sure, we can go a stretch of games and win without him but there's no way we can go 82 hard games without him. He's our leader and inspiration," said Johnson.

Earlier in the season, a frustrated "Magic" told sportswriters in Utah that he wanted to be traded or then-coach Paul Westhead had to be terminated because he did not agree with his coaching philosophy. At the time, Johnson believed that the team was to "robotlike" and not fastbreaking enough. A few days later Westhead was relieved of his duties and replaced by former Laker Pat Riley even though Laker owner Jerry Buss contended that Johnson's comments had nothing to do with it.

To "Magic's" disbelief, sportswriters criticized him and fans booed him at every arena the Lakers performed in, even at the Forum. He was labeled as the spoiled brat with the long-term million dollar contract and a cry baby. Now that



Memorial Coli

"MAGIC" JOHNSON

(Photo: Jimmy Robinson)

the smoke has cleared from the incident, and the Lakers are standing alone on the top of the N.B.A. Western Division—the nasty cries and critical articles are gone.

"Yeah, people are starting to forget about it," he said. "They used to treat me so bad and boo me but now they are just into good basketball. I guess you could say that I'm winning them back over around the league and our fans respect good

basketball. I hated for people to have passed judgment on me so quickly. Some probably still have that negative perception about me but I don't worry about it. They don't know me. As long as I can relate to the young people of the world, I could care less about what they think. They're the ones I care about. They respect me. I just want to relate to the young folks out here—that's who I care about."

## NBA expands Pro Am teams

by Ron Sykes

Jim McMillian, Harthorne Wingo, John Williamson, Al Skinner, Dick Garrett, Frankie Sanders, Johnny High, Willie Norwood, Sam Worthen, Ollie Taylor Ralph Simpson and Wali Jones. . . . Once NBA starters, but where are they now?

They are all playing in the NBA/Pro Am leagues, that's where. These city leagues, which consist of anywhere from six to 12 teams in 10 NBA franchise cities, are the brainchild of Joe Axelson, the NBA's Vice President, Operations, and are being developed by Cecil Walkins, NBA Referee Development administrator. All leagues are independently organized adult leagues run by state or city agencies, civic organizations and top independent amateur basketball leagues.

Last season, the NBA established six pilot training programs for referees in Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York and San Francisco.

After a recent Pro Am Directors meeting in Chicago, the various city league directors decided to allow other Pro-Am cities to participate in this national NBA program on an associate membership basis.

Leagues will function at their own expense under modified NBA/Pro Am league guidelines for the first two years in Chicago, Detroit and Greater Ohio (Cleveland-Columbus-Toledo). Plans for San Antonio to link up with Dallas and Waco to form a Southwest Texas Pro Am league are now in progress, while on the West Coast, Seattle and Portland AAU teams will combine to form a Sea/Port Pro Am league. Finally, New York City has consolidated with Westchester and New Jersey to form the Greater New York/New Jersey Pro Am league.

The purpose of the Pro Am league is to provide organized leisure time basketball activity for young adults, competing alongside top amateur, collegiate, semi-pro and exprofessional athletes in NBA local franchise cities.

The program also serves as a "grass roots" part of the NBA Referee Acquisition program, and is also being used as an additional promotional outlet to aid the local NBA team in selling basketball in its hometown city. Although the latter will not apply to the Trailblazers, who regularly draw their 12,666 fans.

Look for Portland/Seattle entry to begin play next season.

## On the road to New Orleans

While many are talking about the road to New Orleans, the site of the 1982 National Collegiate championship, being held on March 29, others are just happy to be en route to such places as Raleigh, N.C., St. Louis, Mo., Birmingham, Ala., and Provo, Utah. The field of 48 has now been reduced to 16, and after the smoke clears this weekend there will be just four and those are the gifted few that will dance on Bourbon Street.

Oregon State, after downing Pepperdine 70-51, is one of those happy to be in the quarterfinals. After all these Beavers had tried unsuccessfully on three other occasions to make it past the first round.

But, then, we should remember that this is a different OSU team and one that I predicted earlier would go a long way.

In the East North Carolina be-

hind Sam Perkins and James Worthy should have little trouble beating Alabama at Raleigh. The Midwest being played at St. Louis will see Houston beating Missouri in a squeaker and Kansas St. flying past Boston College. Then Kansas St. should outlast Houston in the final. In the midwest being played at Birmingham. . . UAB should beat Ralph Sampson's Virginia team and the Louisville Cardinals get the nod over Minnesota of the Big-ten. Louisville will beat University of Alabama at Birmingham for the midwest title. In the west being played at Provo. . . Fresno State will take on the number one seed Georgetown. The Hoyas are on a roll, but if they aren't careful Fresno will roll them right back to D.C. We see this as a good one. But if you're betting take Fresno with

points. Oregon State, No. 4 against Idaho, No. 6. In their only other meeting the Vandals completely dominated the Beavers, winning 70-59. This one will be different. Take OSU and the Beavers to win the West title and dance on Bourbon Street.

More on OSU: As a team, OSU is averaging 16.6 assists per game, an assist ratio of .608. The Beavers are forcing an average of 20.0 turnovers a game by opponents and are averaging 8.6 steals per game. So to say Lester Conner is on a roll would be an understatement. The 6-4, All-American guard leads OSU in scoring, rebounding, and steals. No small feat for a guard.

### Interstate Tax Service

Are you paying too much to have your income tax return prepared? We offer competent service at economical prices.

- Personal Returns • Business Returns • Out Of State Returns

Open 11 am-5 pm. Call for appt.

<b>Same-Day Service</b> <b>Short Form</b> 1040A & 40S (including earned income credit) <b>\$10<sup>00</sup></b> (interest with exclusion)		<b>2-3 Day Service</b> <b>Long Form</b> 1040 & 40 Sch. A—Deductions Sch. B—Interest etc. <b>\$24<sup>00</sup></b> and up
--	---	---

Since 1966 • Licensed Tax Consultant

**5510 N. Interstate Ave.**  
**Portland, OR 97217 • 283-6014**

## JIM FISHER DATSUN

10115 S.E. STARK • MALL 205  
• 226-2260

# "Where the Week Never ENDS!"

**OUR PARTS and SERVICE DEPARTMENTS ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK TIL 5:30 PM**

**That's Right! ...**

## 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Excellent Buys on Used Imports & Domestic

- 1979 Datsun 210 2 dr Beautiful brown finish with tan interior, 4 spd, good economy at an economy price. Stk no 299A. . . . . \$2995
- 1978 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 4 cyl, 4 spd, less than 25,000 mi on this extra clean model. Stk no 28062A. only . . . . . \$2995
- 1977 Datsun 210 2 dr 4 cyl, automatic very nice car at a nice price. Stk no 28037B . . . . . \$2695
- 1976 Datsun B210 2 dr 4 cyl, automatic, with terms available to fit your budget. Stk no 31997, only . . . . . \$2495
- 1978 Honda Civic Hatchback 4 cyl, 4 spd, bright blue paint with extra clean blue interior. Stk no 31987, only . . . . . \$2995
- 1976 Datsun 710 2 dr 4 spd, vinyl top, flawless condition, less than 44,000 mi. Stk no 32016, only. . . . . \$2995
- 1981 Datsun 310 2 dr, hatchback, 4 spd, 4 cyl, front wheel driv, good economy. Stk no 3278A, only . . . . . \$4995
- 1980 Datsun Long Bed 4x4 4 spd, locking hubs, sliding rear window & more, go 4-wheeling. Stk no 31998. Only . . . . . \$5995
- 1980 Datsun 200SX Hatchback, 5 spd, SL package, AM/FM/cassette, on board computer, plus much more. Stk no 25012A, only \$5679
- 1980 Ford Fiesta Hatchback, extra sharp car with 4 spd, front wheel drive, 10 miles. Stk no 3329A, only . . . . . \$3895
- 1980 Chevrolette Chevette 4 dr, 4 spd, extra clean, hard to find model, deep maroon finish. Stk no 32020, only . . . . . \$4295
- 1980 Toyota Corolla 2 dr, 4 spd, 4 cyl, AM/FM/Stereo. It's extra clean and it's priced right. Stk no 32023, only . . . . . \$4795
- 1979 Honda Civic 3 dr, sharp metallic silver with black interior, roof rck, vinyl top. Stk no 31981, only . . . . . \$3495

## JIM FISHER DATSUN

10115 S.E. STARK • MALL 205  
• 226-2260

### Need 7 bucks today?

An easy, relaxing way to pick up cash—all that's required is a plasma donation. We pay \$ 7 for each donation & special bonuses enabling you to earn up to \$ 75 a month. Come in today!



BRING THIS AD FOR NEW DONOR BONUS!

**Alpha**  
PLASMA CENTERS

427 S.W. 11th  
2705 S.E. Ankeny

For More Information Call  
**223-4199**

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!

**Expert consultation on your transportation needs on both new and used cars.**

**RON TONKIN**  
CHEVROLET-HONDA CO  
122 N.E. 122nd Ave.  
255-4100  
"THE ONLY DEALER"

Saturday Parts & Service "Out 122nd Way"