



by Roy Lee Jernigan
Sports Editor

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

The Lakers take it all in '85

The greatest thing about writing a weekly sports column is the time that is allowed to see the whole picture. If you haven't detected my eastern bias by now I'll make it easy for you: I was rooting for Boston. K. C. Jones had a little to do with it, but I honestly thought that Boston had the better team.

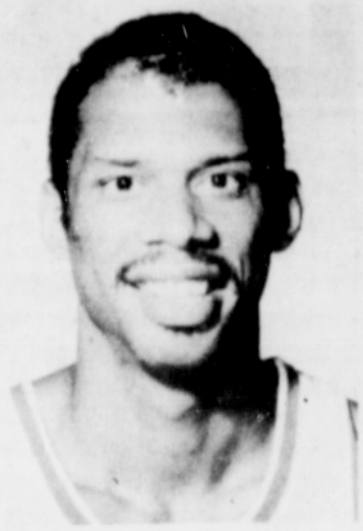
Magic called it; the best team did in fact win. The Los Angeles Lakers are the 1985 NBA World Champions. The Lakers took the title in the 6th game in the famed old Boston Garden.

Another benefit of writing weekly, for die-hard sports fans, is, I don't have to waste our time with a bunch of worthless statistics. The final score was 111-100 and Kareem showed his hips. All of the nonsense about the team that controlled the boards would win the game went up in smoke. Boston out-rebounded the Lakers 54-44 in the final game. So much for stats. The home team advantage theory went out the window in this series also, and L.A. won twice in Boston and the Celts won a game in L.A.

Now that we've eliminated the stats, let's get to the heart of the series — the players. Kareem must have taken that first game embarrassment personally, because he smoked Robert Parish for the rest of the series. I couldn't believe how bad Parish looked in Game 6. "The Chief" played as though his hands were made of stone. Reaching for the ball and looking for Kareem simultaneously is a definite boo boo.

Magic Johnson has to get my vote for the most complete ball player in the league. Guarding a man 6'9", with speed, continually bringing it to you from all angles, has to be the epitome of an exercise in futility. Magic is just a bigger Oscar Robertson and that, friends, is scary.

Worthy, Rambis and Kupchak played some good ball too and their efforts can't be ignored but here's a flash for you. Michael Cooper was the killer diller. Every basket that Coop made was like a knife in Boston's heart. Think about the number



KAREEM ABDUL JABBAR

of times he drilled the net from the top of the circle while playing that 2-man game with Kareem. His baskets seemed to come at the most crucial times, too. Whenever Boston would make a run, Riley would get Coop in there and suddenly L.A. would move out. I said that to set this up. He not only played on the offensive end, he shut Bird down cold. Poor shooting is just as much good defense as it is a poor shooting night. Bird could only make a shot when he could get someone to pick Cooper off and roll to the hoop. I'm not taking anything away from Bird, but absolutely no one has given Cooper credit for the defensive job that he did on Bird. Think about it.

Pat Riley is still another example that former NBA players make better coaches in this league. Riley was terrific. I'm actually a bit embarrassed that his coaching skills had escaped me before now. Riley had his team prepared for everything in Boston's arsenal. He substituted liberally and flawlessly throughout the playoffs. The Lakers played so many people that everyone on the team was ready to respond to Riley's call. The Lakers played basketball with imagination and instinct and I enjoyed watching it. Why do I think that former players make better coaches? The best example that I can give is the fact that four coaches in the Conference

Championship games were all former NBA players: Pat Riley and Doug Moe in the west and Billy Cunningham and K. C. Jones in the east.

Boston's side of the ledger won't take long because it's pure and simple, they just couldn't put the ball in the hole. That leads us directly to Larry Bird and his dismal shooting performance in the final series. Blood just couldn't buy a basket against the laker quickness. There's no doubt that Bird can think out there but natural instincts will win out in the long haul of a 7-game series. A poor shooting Larry Bird is better than most players in the league but the Celtics desperately needed the real Bird. Not letting the press make excuses for his performance has to be admired and respected when you consider how the media tries so hard to tout him as the greatest player in the history of the league after only 6 seasons. Bird displayed a glaring deficiency in matching quickness with opposing forwards in the league but he also showed that he is not, by any means, a one dimensional player. Larry didn't have to deal with quick forwards until the Laker series. That, coupled with the defense of Michael Cooper, can cause a lot of shots to hit the front of the rim.

There's no way to describe the performance of Kevin McHale. Even you Laker fans have to acknowledge his ability as a player. Sure, he goes over the back when he's trying for the defensive rebound. Sure, he pushes off when he's jockeying for position under the hole; they all do. There's one other thing for sure, too. Kevin McHale is a ball player.

One last note: Blazers fans can now take solace in the fact that the team which eliminated them from the playoffs were the eventual 1985 NBA World Champions.

Lite NBA/Pro Am Basketball League Portland

Don't dismay, basketball fans, there's still more ahead. This time around it will be a little closer to home.



Howard Avery, of the Suns, caught doing what he does best: controlling the ball and orchestrating his team's offense. (Photo: Jernigan)



Former Grant All-Star, Richard Hollis (center), appears to be an interested spectator at the Lite NBA/Pro-Am Summer League at Irving Park. (Photo: Jernigan)

The 1985 Lite Beer Pro/Am Summer League has officially begun. The action will be taking place at Irving Park and all of the local skywalkers have been fueled up by the NBA playoffs. It will be a repeat of the same fast paced, grueling basketball that you witnessed last year in the Kuz-ins Summer League. The only change has been the sponsors. Due largely to the efforts of Wally Scales, Director of Community Relations for the Portland Trail Blazers, the 1985 Summer League has taken on the flavor of an NBA contest. There's a 24-second clock and a 3-point circle to add to the excitement.

The Kuz-ins, Byron, Tracy and Dennis are still running the league and they have upgraded their efforts of last year. The community needs what is being offered over at Irving Park, so let's go over and lend some support and see some good basketball.

Space permitting, I will attempt to print the schedule each week so you can see your favorite teams in action. In an attempt to whet your appetites, I'll run down a few of the players and their teams. I'll start with my main man, Howard Avery. I coached Howard a few years ago, so maybe I'm partial, but I think he's the best guard that ever came out of this state. If you have never seen Howard play, check him out. Howard is playing for the Suns.

The Lakers are strong and boast the high-powered guard combo of Terrel Cage and Greg West. Bobby Flowers, Mark Strutt, and Mark Radford make this squad a definite contender.

The Rockets are led by last year's MVP, Ricky Lee and former Grant star, Andy Mott. Amos "Silk" Allen has former Jefferson standouts, Phil Hopson and Keith Jackson, running with him on the Nets.

The 76ers will rely heavily on the dirty left hand of Charles "Duffy" Jernigan. The name alone should strike enough fear for at least 30 points, "Duffy." The Bucks are led by LeRoy Ellis and Jimmy Winters.

Trail Blazers ticket hike

The Portland Trail Blazers announced Wednesday that prices will increase next season on less than half of the tickets available in Memorial Coliseum.

Increases are from \$19.50 to \$22.50, from \$15.50 to \$18.00 and from \$14.50 to \$16.00.

There will be no increases for tickets priced at \$13.50, \$12.50, \$10.50, \$8.50 and \$7.50.

In a letter to season ticket holders, the club pointed out the necessity for additional revenue to remain competitive in the NBA.

Part of the revenue will come from gate receipts and part from ancillary programs such as radio, television and cable.

AN AMERICAN LEGEND IN THE MAKING.



AND A LEGEND MADE THE AMERICAN WAY.

Not many years ago, Danny Sullivan was driving a taxicab in New York. Now he's driving the Penske/Miller American 200+ mph Indianapolis 500 entry.

In the years in between, Danny proved himself. In Formula Three. In Formula One. In Can-Am. And in CART.

Just like Danny and Indy car racing, Miller is also uniquely American.

It's a beer that's been made the American way for over 100 years. Ever since Frederic Miller put his beer into clear glass bottles, so that everyone could see just how good and pure a beer could be.

So next time you're in the mood for a cold one, grab yourself a Miller.

It has purity you can see. Quality you can taste. And, like Danny and Roger Penske, a record of success.



MADE THE AMERICAN WAY.



See Danny Sullivan drive the Miller Indy car at the Portland 200 on June 16

Someday... You might have a Baby!



DON'T RISK RUBELLA! (German Measles)



SPECIAL BULLETIN



Are you tired of your hair being a part of a science project? Does it look like a classroom experiment?

Well — Lashay's has the answer to your problems. They have the best line of products to suit your needs, also a courteous professional staff that will take care of your hair care needs. And if your hands are out of place, we have a manicurist at

LASHAY'S PLACE

3806 N. Williams Ave. • 281-3136

(By Appointment Only)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 284-7722

A Public Service of the Portland Observer