

# ENTERTAINMENT



## The Locker Room

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

At thirty-five years old, Dennis "DJ" Johnson is a young man in the game of life, but old on the basketball court, especially in the National Basketball Association.

Moments after the Boston Celtics' loss to the Trailblazers, he limped out of the designated treatment room, where work-related bumps and bruises are treated or iced down. He looked like a battle weary soldier just off the battlefield. Thirteen years is a long time in the trenches.

"I guess you could say that I've been around the block a couple of times," he smiled. "I would be the first to say that I don't run as fast or jump as high as I used to. How long I'll be around, I do not know, but as long as I'm about to contribute to the success of the team I plan to be around." It has been said that athletes know when it is time to leave the game, Johnson feels that his day is coming soon.

DJ has always been labeled as a "teener" by NBA experts. He is not a true point guard or a natural shooting guard, but he gets the job done. Johnson is respected for his defense. He earned NBA All-Defensive First Team honors six times and the Second Team three times. He has also played on three NBA Championship teams (two in Boston and one in Seattle).

"He has adjusted himself into different roles throughout his career," said Jimmy Rodgers, coach of the Celtics. "He has come off the bench and he has started, but that is nothing new. Johnson has always been the consummate professional, able to do anything that is asked of him.

In terms of productivity, Johnson's statistics are at an all time low. He is averaging less than double figures for the first time in his career and slowed by a tear of his quadriceps muscle in his right leg. Still, Larry Bird feels that you can't look at the numbers all the time. He says that Johnson contributes in more ways than one.

"Our entire front line made the All-Star team," said Bird, speaking of himself, Robert Parish and Kevin McHale. "We don't always need DJ to score points. He is an excellent defender and he comes to play every night, regardless of his physical condition. He is a player and on top of that, we are winning."

With the Celtics bringing on some young players, Johnson's role has been to provide leadership and lessons of the game to the less experienced player. Charles Smith, rookie guard from Georgetown, is a big fan of Johnson.

"There isn't much that he hasn't seen in this league," said Smith. "He's easy to talk with and he knows basketball, especially defense. He has really helped me a lot."

A second round hardship pick by Seattle in the 1976 NBA draft out of Pepperdine, Johnson has scored over 15,000 points and dished out 5,000+ assists. He has also been (1981) named to the All NBA First Team, shares NBA record for the most free throws (12) in a half vs. the Lakers in 1984, and he was named Playoff MVP in 1979.

"I've had some good experiences in the league," he said. "I'm thankful, too." When questioned about when an athlete knows that it's time to hang it up again, Johnson was more specific.

"When I lose my enthusiasm for the game I'll hang it up," he said. "Right now, I'm still having fun and having fun is what it's all about."

## Short Shakes

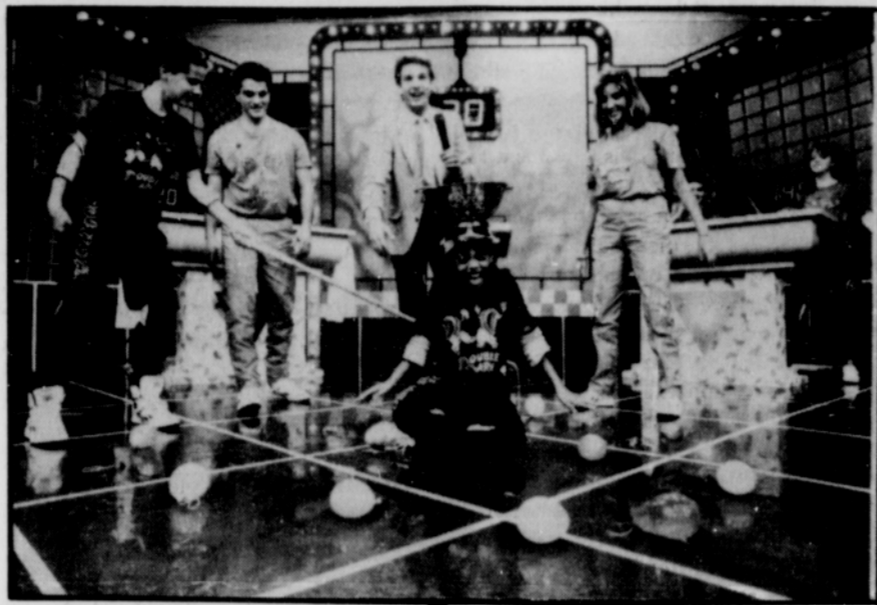
If you have never experienced a NBA All-Star Game, make arrangements to attend in Charlotte next year and I guarantee you a great time. Miami was the ultimate host city. The weather, beaches, fun spots, etc.

Special thanks to my D.C. homeboy Wesley Mitchell and his wife Yolanda for the good time down there. Also, thanks to André Hawkins of Nike, Inc. and TWA for sending my bags to Seattle. You forced me to wear brown shoes when I arrived back to Portland. Yo Ramses, how did you like the turkey sandwich and Almond Joy? Thanks for the memories Miami!



## PARAGON CABLE JOINS NICKELODEON IN SPONSORING THE "DOUBLE DARE" ROADSHOW PRESENTED BY SUNKIST

The "Double Dare" Roadshow Will Be At Mall 205 From February 23-25



Paragon Cable is joining Nickelodeon and Sunkist in presenting the "Double Dare" Roadshow. Nickelodeon's popular television game show for kids is coming to Mall 205, located at 9900 S.E. Washington Street, in Portland on February 23. Personal appearances by "Double Dare" celebrities add excitement and fun to this unique mall event.

The "Double Dare" Roadshow Presented by Sunkist, kicks off on Friday, February 23 at 3:00 pm, when the famous obstacle course opens to kids of all ages. On Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, the "Double Dare" celebrities perform a non-televised version of the stage show, randomly selecting members of the audience to participate and ask questions about the show. "Double Dare," is the trend-setting, fast-moving TV show that challenges children of all ages. Obstacles featured in the "Double Dare" Roadshow include:

**In One Ear:** This obstacle fulfills the old cliché "in one ear and out the other." Kids climb in and out of a head with

protruding ears and look at the world from inside out.

**Popcorn Popper:** Kids wiggle and giggle their way through a giant popcorn popper filled with huge pieces of popcorn.



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**Down The Hatch Slide:** Kids climb up the tongue steps and into a giant mouth, then slide down the hatch.

**The Super Sunkist Juice Works:** Designed to tickle the taste buds and the funny bone, this new super-secret obstacle will make its debut at the road show.



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