



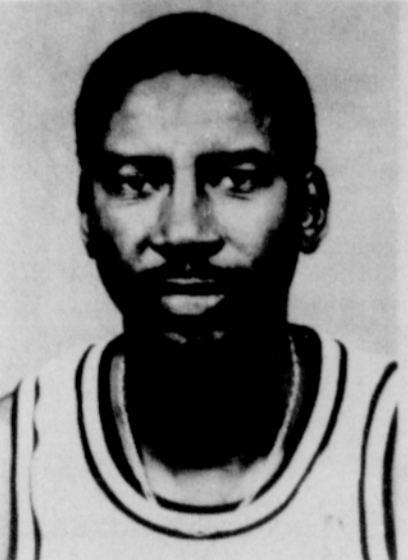
THE LOCKER ROOM

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.



Caldwell Jones: The Last Go Around

By Ulysses Tucker Jr.
Caldwell Jones of the San Antonio Spurs says that he is ready to get on with another life, one outside of the National Basketball Association. Jones is part of a dying breed, players who played in the old American Basketball Association, and a legend in his own right. Jones has seen plenty of basketball since he started his career with the San Diego Conquistadors in 1973. When he mentions players he played against



Caldwell Jones
and with, names like Connie Hawkins, Julius Erving, Lloyd Free, Rick Barry, George Gervin, Roger Brown, Moses Malone, Mel Daniels, and a host of others come to mind. Moses Malone is the last player, after Jones retires at the end of the playoffs, with ABA experience in the NBA. "I've seen them all," he said with a smile.
A native of McGehee, Arkansas, Jones is one of four brothers (Wilbert, Major, and Charles) with NBA credentials.

Jones is quick to point out that his brother Oliver was a big influence on the "brothers" because he was the first to leave the family farm and go to college. Oliver's enrollment at Albany State College established a family pipeline that placed a Jones in the pivot for 18 straight years.

Standing 6-foot-11 and 225 lbs., Caldwell has never been known as a great scorer. In fact, his highest NBA scoring average is 12.7 (Philadelphia, 1979) and his career average is only 6.2 points per game.

"He gives you so much more than scoring," said Spurs Coach Larry Brown. "Caldwell gives you experience, leadership, stability, and things that don't show up in the stat sheet. He's been great for our young players and for the organization."

If Caldwell Jones is to leave behind a legacy in the NBA, it will be because of his outstanding shot blocking and rebounding skills. Jones was a member of the All-NBA Defensive Team (1981 & 1982 Philadelphia) and ranks fourth in total NBA games played (1,299). He

also ranks third in blocked shots (4,317) and eighth in rebounding (7,663). Jones has played in Philadelphia, Chicago, Houston and Portland.

"I've had a great time playing basketball," said Jones. "I have no regrets about anything."

When questions about what his exact career plans are, Jones was not really clear, but he says that he has several options. All he wants to do now is concentrate on eliminating the Portland Trail Blazers from the playoffs.

Ironically, Jones served as a backup center for Portland last season and signed as a free agent with San Antonio last summer.

Jones, who has played in three NBA Finals without a victory, would like to go out victorious. The Spurs have a talented young team with David Robinson, Willie Anderson, Rod Strickland, David Wingate, and Terry Cummings, certainly has a good shot at the title. "This would definitely have to be the year," he said. "We have a very good group of guys and one of the best coaches in the league. I like our chances."

What advice would you offer a young player like David Robinson, considering what you have learned and seen throughout your basketball career?

"I would and I have, tell him to just relax and let things come to him," said Jones. "He is a great player already and David is going to get better. All he has to do is just be patient, work hard, and everything will come his way. He has a great future in this league..."

Many were surprised that Jones decided to retire after this season as he is in excellent shape and has no history of injuries. He attributes his physical stability to his participation in softball during the off season.

"I love softball," he said. "I've been playing competitive baseball or softball for as long as I can remember. As far as retiring is concerned, I just want to go out like I came into the league, very quietly..."

PENINSULA PARK LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK: TRAILBLAZERS



Row 1 - Lamont Walker, George Davis, Dennis Nathan, Timmy Cheeks, Derrick Bell, Gary McClendon, Dan Grinder; Row 2 - Larry Porter, Alan Bell, Ricky Cabine, Nate Chandler, David Jackson, Donald Green Jr., Deon Dorn, Byron Hammick, Matt Todd, Coach

Pierce Wins Miller Lite NBA Sixth Man Award



David Robinson skys for a slam--photo by Veronica Green



Ricky Pierce

Ricky Pierce of the Milwaukee Bucks, who led his team and all NBA reserves in scoring this season with a career-high 23.0 ppg average, was named the winner of the 1990 Miller Lite NBA Sixth Man Award for outstanding contributions by a non-starter.

Pierce received 77 of a possible 92 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Indiana's Detlef Schrempf received eight votes to finish second in the balloting.

This marks the second time in his eight-year NBA career--he also won in 1987--that Pierce, who averaged 29.0 minutes off the bench in the 59 games he played in, has won the Sixth Man Award. Boston's Kevin McHale is the only other player to receive the award twice since its inception in 1983.

Cummings: "Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord..."

By Ulysses Tucker Jr.
Photo by Veronica Green
Psalms 100 in the Holy Bible suggest that saints "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Terry Cummings of the San Antonio Spurs takes it literally and practice what he preaches.
An ordained Pentecostal minister/evangelist of the fundamental Church of God in Christ, he is an excellent musician and well respected basketball player. He plays synthesizer, saxo-

rebounds in game four. For a great majority of the games, Cummings has been matched up against Buck Williams. He has a lot of respect for Buck's style of play and aggression on the basketball court. Buck has respect for Cummings also.

"Terry is a very physical player too," said Williams, who is averaging 9.6 rebounds and 15.4 points per game. "He's competitive like myself and he's not afraid to hold his ground. You have

last May. Milwaukee was perfect for him, considering that he was a Chicago native and popular in the community. After the shock of the trade went away and the reality set in, Cummings realized that San Antonio has a potential powerhouse with David Robinson to build around. "It made the trade real easy to accept," he said.

Coach Larry Brown of the Spurs called Cummings one of the most disciplined athletes he has ever coached and had the opportunity to be around.

"Terry is a good athlete and human being," said Brown. "He's involved in church, his community, and he's a family man. Every team needs a guy like him and he is good for the young guys. Guys like Terry and Caldwell make my job as a coach very easy. Both are good leaders on and off the court."

Cummings gives the credit to his parents for the discipline and spirituality. He said that they (John and Berda) were good role models and very supportive. Cummings is the fifth of 13 children. His parents used reason and logic to teach their children right from wrong instead of force.

"I learned from my parents that it's better to talk than to chastise," he said. "I talk to my sons (Robert Tyrell, 8, and Sean, 3) as much as possible... they don't want me to just nod my head and say, 'That's right or that's good.' They want me to explain." Cummings has been married to his high school sweetheart for ten years this summer (Vonnie). He met her at Carver high school in Chicago.

When questioned about Portland's aggressive offensive rebounding and whether or not they respect the Spurs, Cummings said that they should.

"They've been more aggressive in some situations than we have, but I think they respect us," he said. "We've played them real tough on the road and at home. During the regular season, we won just as many games and we played them tough then. It's been a good series so far."

An All-American at DePaul University, Cummings hopes to produce a contemporary gospel album one day. He enjoys listening to James Cleveland, The Winans, Commission, and Amy Grant. Cummings recently released his first music (gospel) video. "I like different kinds of music," he said.

Should the Spurs outlast the Blazers in the NBA playoffs, not only will Terry and his congregation make a "joyful noise unto the Lord," the entire city will.

NBA To Help Fight Child Abuse

The National Basketball Association, in an effort to bring attention to the growing problem of child abuse in the United States, donated all 40 of its network television promotional spots during the first weekend of the NBA Playoffs for special public service announcements addressing the problem.

The spots are sponsored by the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA). They aired three times during each of the four NBA Playoff broadcasts on CBS and four times on each of the seven Turner Network Television (TNT) cablecasts during the last weekend in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The spots, created as a public service by the New York ad agency of Follis and Verdi, will continue to air throughout the NBA Playoffs in May and June. They feature appearances by NBA players Bill Cartwright of the Chicago Bulls, Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers and Mark Eaton of the Utah Jazz.

Reports of child abuse rose 10% in this country last year, the largest increase in that statistic since 1985, according to a recent NCPCA survey. A total of 2.4 million reports of child abuse and neglect were recorded by the country's child welfare system in 1989,



Bill Cartwright

and there were 2,237 child abuse-related deaths recorded in that year alone.

"We're very grateful that the NBA has made such an unprecedented donation with its athletes and its television time to help heighten awareness for the fight against child abuse," said Dr. Anne Cohn, NCPCA Executive Director. "The NCPCA believes that child abuse can be prevented, and that public education is the first and most important step."

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- Interesting Cultural Columns
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Appearing Weekly In Your Neighborhood

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Experience teacheth fools,
and he is a great one that
will not learn by it.



--photo by Veronica Green

Terry Cummins grabs a rebound away from Mark Bryant of Portland

phone, and piano. Cummings also plays against the likes of Karl Malone, Charles Barkley, Kevin McHale, and Portland's Buck Williams for a living in the National Basketball Association. Music, writing poetry and preaching comes natural for "TC" (as he is called by his friends). Though he is a gifted athlete, Terry has been working hard towards one of his innermost dreams, an NBA Title. "People say that we are a couple of years away from a title, but I want one this year," he said.

Against the Trail Blazers in the second round of the NBA playoffs, Cummings is averaging 24.6 points, 9.6 rebounds, and shooting .567 from the field. He has a game high 35 points and 11

to concentrate on him all the time because he can beat you shooting, with his rebounding, and he can pass the ball. Terry is a good all-around player."

An NBA All-Star in 1985 and 1989 with the Milwaukee Bucks, Cummings has played in at least 2,500 minutes in every NBA season. As Rookie of the Year in 1983 (San Diego Clippers), he was the first rookie since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to lead his team in scoring and rebounding. He has missed only 25 out of 631 games in his NBA career with Milwaukee and San Antonio. Cummings has fouled out only 5 times in his career.

Cummings was shocked, at first, when the Milwaukee Bucks traded him south