

THE LOCKER ROOM

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.



Lionel Hollins: Conversation With The Train

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Lionel "Train" Hollins, Assistant Coach of the Phoenix Suns, is a very happy man these days. He would be more than happy if the Suns can advance to the NBA Finals in a couple of weeks, but for now he has to wait and fight it out against his old team.

Hollins has good reasons to be happy. He's doing what he wants to do, living where he wants to live, and working for a quality organization. Outside of another NBA Championship ring, what more can a man ask for? Hollins, who played on the Trail Blazers 1977 Championship team, is thankful for having the opportunity to share his experiences as a professional with young players like Kevin Johnson, Mark West, Tim Perry, Andrew Lang, Greg Grant, and Dan Majerle. These young players blend well with Tom Chambers, Eddie Johnson, Jeff Hornacek, and Kurk Rambis. Hollins has plenty of experience to share. In addition to playing with Portland, "The Train" also made stops in Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit, and finally in Houston.

After Tuesday night's game, The Locker Room caught up with the Arizona State University product to see how his adjustment to coaching from playing has been. Has it been difficult?

Hollins: "Well, it really hasn't been. I think the toughest part is you can't go out there and play. As a coach, you don't have any control of the game in terms of physical action because my role is mostly mental and you don't have that physical release. Sometimes, I'm really tired after a game and I

haven't played. Even when I played, I never got tired and it's a different feeling when you don't play. I think that playing to coaching is what you transfer from your head, verbally, to other people in a quick period of time so that they can understand and deal with the situation."

Locker Room: How has Kevin Johnson benefited from your experiences as a professional and knowledge of the game?

Hollins: "Kevin is a very mature person. With a guy like him, you don't just give him bits and pieces of advice because his game is solid. There are a few things that I can tell him through my experiences, but not much. Things like here's where you can get a steal or here's where you can help out on defense--He's learning as a young player and I can't take a lot of credit for his development because he is very teachable. Kevin has all the natural ability, instinct, and mental ability to play this game. He has a great future in the NBA."

Locker Room: What did Portland mean to your professional basketball career?

Hollins: "It was an exciting time and the beginning of my dream to play in the NBA. I had the opportunity to play on a great team and win the championship. I met a lot of people that have been good to me here and I still have friends here. It was a lot of fun in Portland. I have some fond memories."

Locker Room: When you consider the jerseys the Trail Blazers have retired over the years (Maurice Lucas, Bill Walton, Lloyd Neal, and Larry

Steel), do you think that yours should be hung from the rafters considering your contributions?

Hollins: "Well, I stay away from that controversy. My answer to that is it's the Blazers prerogative to put whoever they want up there. If they would honor me with that, I'd be happy. If not, it's not going to take any minutes off my life. I'm still going to go on in this situation and I don't really worry about it. People ask me about it until people in Portland start asking me about it."

Locker Room: Would you like to be an NBA Head Coach one day?

Hollins: "That's an aspiration, but I'm in no hurry. If it never happens, I won't be unhappy because I'm happy with what I'm doing and where I'm living."

Locker Room: What is it like to work under Head Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons? He seems so intense.

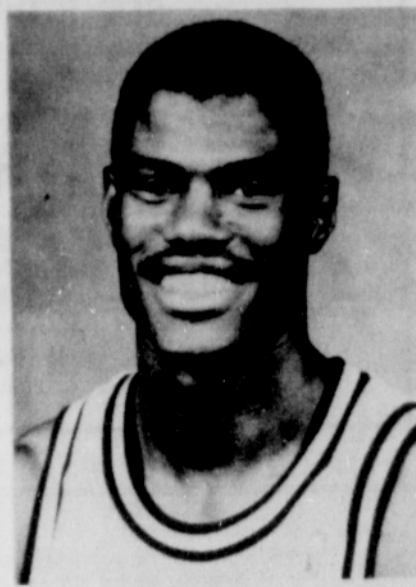
Hollins: "Cotton is a great person to work for. The entire organization is great. We have a good time and we take care of business. We know how to react to situations. I also have the opportunity to teach."

Locker Room: "In basketball, you have to learn to make judgments and decisions on the run, that's what makes it fun and exciting. It's not like baseball where in certain situations you can throw a curveball or bunt in another situation. Basketball is a little more difficult. It's less likely that a person can pick up everything he needs to know in basketball. As you play, you learn forever."

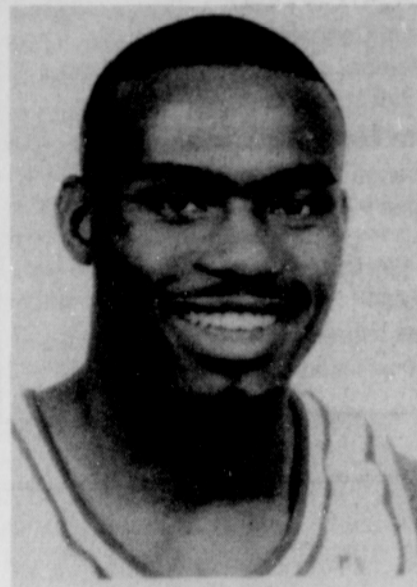
Locker Room: Thanks and good luck in the future.

Hollins: Thank you.

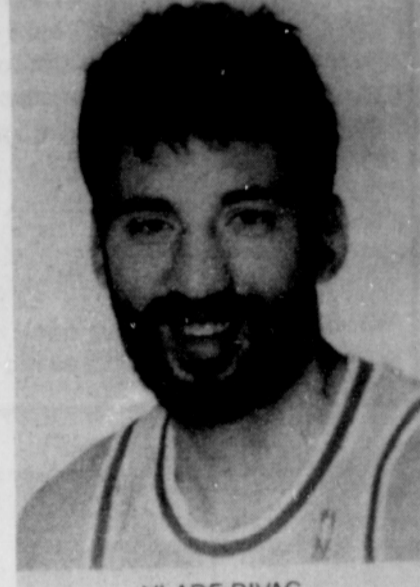
ROBINSON, HARDAWAY UNANIMOUS CHOICES FOR NBA ALL-ROOKIE TEAM



DAVID ROBINSON



TIM HARDAWAY



VLADE DIVAC

Center David Robinson of San Antonio, the unanimous choice as the Minute Maid Orange Soda NBA Rookie of the Year, and point guard Tim Hardaway of Golden State, the floor leader for the league's highest scoring offense this season, both were unanimous choices for the 1990 NBA All-Rookie Team as selected by the league's 27 head coaches.

Robinson and Hardaway received the maximum 52 points on 26 First Team votes from the coaches, who were asked to vote for First and Second teams, regardless of position, and who were not permitted to vote for members of their own team. Two points were awarded for a First Team vote and one for a Second Team vote.

Joining Robinson and Hardaway on the First Team were Vlade Divac of the LA Lakers (40 points), Miami's Sherman Douglas (39) and Minnesota's Pooh Richardson (33).

Selected to the All-Rookie Second Team were Charlotte's J.R. Reid (28 points), San Antonio's Sean Elliott (26), Chicago's Stacey King (23), Utah's Theodore "Blue" Edwards (20½) and Miami's Glen Rice (20).

Robinson ranked 10th in the NBA in scoring with 24.3 ppg, second in rebounding with 12.0 rpg and third in blocked shots with 3.89 bpg. He helped lead the Spurs to a franchise-record 56-26 mark.

Hardaway, who averaged 14.7 ppg, ranked ninth in the league in assists with 8.7 apg and 10th in steals with

2.09 spg. He helped the Warriors average a league-leading 116.3 ppg, marking only the second time in history that the league's highest-scoring offense has been directed by a rookie point guard.

Following are the complete voting results for the 1990 NBA All-Rookie First and Second Teams:

First Team		Pts.
David Robinson, San Antonio	52	52
Tim Hardaway, Golden State	52	52
Vlade Divac, LA Lakers	40	40
Sherman Douglas, Miami	39	39
Pooh Richardson, Minnesota	33	33

Second Team		Pts.
J.R. Reid, Charlotte	28	28
Sean Elliott, San Antonio	26	26
Stacey King, Chicago	23	23
Theodore Edwards, Utah	20½	20½
Glen Rice, Miami	20	20

Other rookies receiving votes: Cliff Robinson (18 points), Nick Anderson (15½), Dana Barros (12), Sam Mitchell (7), Shawn Kemp (5), B.J. Armstrong (4), Sarunas Marciulionis and Todd Lichti (3), and Michael Smith, Alexander Volkov, Mookie Blaylock and Michael Ansley one apiece.

LIONS LOOK TO PISTONS FOR MARKETING, BROADCAST EXPERTISE

The Detroit Pistons have entered into a season-long marketing and promotional relationship for 1990-91 with the NFL's Detroit Lions in what is believed to be the first partnership of its kind between two independent pro sports franchises.

The Pistons' broadcast division, Glass-Palace Productions, has also secured the preseason broadcasting rights for the Lions, and will be responsible for all aspects of television production for those four games.

"NFL teams have just in the past five years ventured into the arena of sports marketing," said Lions Executive Vice-President and CEO Chuck Schmidt. "The philosophy in the past was, 'The game sells itself.' The Pistons came to us with a very competitive broadcast package and a track record that is one of the best in pro sports. The further we got along into the negotiations,

it became obvious to us that this (agreement) was our best option."

"This is something our entire organization is very excited about," said Pistons CEO Tom Wilson. "I think the Lions' willingness to consider this type of partnership speaks volumes for their progressive attitude. This unique marriage allows both of us to maximize our combined resources so the Lions can take advantage of marketing and promotional opportunities throughout the season."

"The NBA and its teams are known for their innovative marketing and promotional ideas, and that helped the league set an attendance record this past season. The Lions' desire to form a partnership with us is another illustration that the NBA serves as a successful model for other pro sports leagues."

Scott, Jackson Head List of Early Entry Candidates

Junior forward Dennis Scott of Georgia Tech, who led the ACC in scoring this past season, and sophomore guard Chris Jackson of Louisiana State, a two-time SEC Player of the Year, head a list of 13 early entry candidates for the 1990 NBA Draft.

Also applying for early entry were Kelvin Ardister of Pensacola Junior College; Herb Barthol of Cleveland State; Gabe Estaba of South Alabama; David Shon Henderson of Idaho; Sean Higgins of Michigan; Marcus Liberty of Illinois; Ken Miller of Loyola of Illinois; Jerrod Mustaf of Maryland; Jesse Spinner of Grambling State; Per Stumer of Loyola Marymount and Kenneth Williams of Elizabeth City (NC) State College.

Carl Herrera, a junior at the University of Houston, claims to have sent from his home in Venezuela a letter to the NBA office renouncing his remaining eligibility which was postmarked prior to the filing deadline. Although the letter had not arrived as of Sunday, May 20, if the letter arrives with the proper postmark he will be eligible for the draft.

Underclassmen wishing to forgo their remaining college eligibility to apply for the 1990 NBA Draft had to submit a letter to the league office postmarked no later than midnight Sunday, May 13.

Following is a complete list of the players who have applied for early entry into the 1990 NBA Draft, which will be held June 27 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York:

Player	School/Team	Year	Ht.
Kelvin Ardister	Pensacola JC	Jr.	6-6
Herb Barthol	Cleveland State	Jr.	6-11
Gabe Estaba	South Alabama	Jr.	6-7
David Shon Henderson	Idaho	Jr.	6-2
Sean Higgins	Michigan	Jr.	6-9
Chris Jackson	Louisiana State	So.	6-1
Marcus Liberty	Illinois	Jr.	6-8
Ken Miller	Loyola-Illinois	Jr.	6-8
Jerrod Mustaf	Maryland	So.	6-10
Dennis Scott	Georgia Tech	Jr.	6-8
Jesse Spinner	Grambling State	Jr.	6-10
Per Stumer	Loyola-Marymount	Jr.	6-7
Ken Williams	Elizabeth City (NC) St.	So.	6-9



AARON AT BAT

League Differences

What are the real differences between the National and American leagues? Of course there are some very basic differences, the biggest being the American League allows a designated hitter. But there also are some other, subtle differences.

The designated hitter is a real "star saver" for American-League teams. Because designated hitters bat for pitchers, American-League teams get more innings out of their pitchers and, consequently, don't have to carry as many pitchers on their rosters. Hitting burns out pitchers faster in games and in years. If there had been designated hitters when Mickey Mantle was playing, he probably could have played a couple more seasons.

Having a designated hitter certainly makes for better offensive play, and the fans like that. They want to see a lot of runs scored.

I played all but two of my years in the National League. The last two I played for the American-League Milwaukee Brewers as a designated hitter. Making the transition from playing the whole game to being just a designated hitter was not easy. I was used to getting into the whole rhythm of the game, shifting from defense to offense and so on. Suddenly, all I had to do between trips to the plate was think about that last time I was up with bases loaded and popped up!

But I found the real difference in league play to be the strike zone. The umpires in the American League call the strike zone higher and a bit bigger than they do in the National League. Because there is much more of a target to throw to, American-League pitchers work the ball around the plate more than they do in the National League.

Believe it or not, a big reason for the differences in the strike zone is that National-League umpires wear their chest protectors on the inside of their jackets while the American-League umpires wear their chest protectors on the outside of their jackets. Wearing their chest protectors on the outside prevents American-League umpires from squatting down as low as the National-League umpires. Other than that, the umpiring from league to league is basically the same.

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- If you've worked for two years for the same employer (or in the same occupation) and you have a good credit record, move ahead 1 space.
- Stop here and compute your Adjusted Income. That's your total gross monthly income, less federal withholding taxes. Write your answer here and move on.
- Multiply your Adjusted Income (from space 2) by 0.38, then subtract \$150 and write the answer here. Then move on to the next space.
- Add up all your monthly debts (car, loan, credit purchase, credit card, child support and alimony payments you owe every month) and then add \$150. Fill in the total here and go to space 5.
- You're almost home. Multiply your Adjusted Income (from space 2) by 0.53, subtract the amount on space 4, and write the result here. Now move along.

START

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

6. Write the smaller amount of either space 3 or space 5 here. As a general rule, that's the maximum amount you can afford for a monthly house payment (including property taxes).

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PLEASE NOTE: Individual circumstances vary as do lender's requirements for qualifying a prospective buyer for a home mortgage. The formula here is intended only to provide you with a general idea of how a lender may view your financial condition as it applies to a home purchase. For further information on loan requirements, talk to your real estate agent or local lender.

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