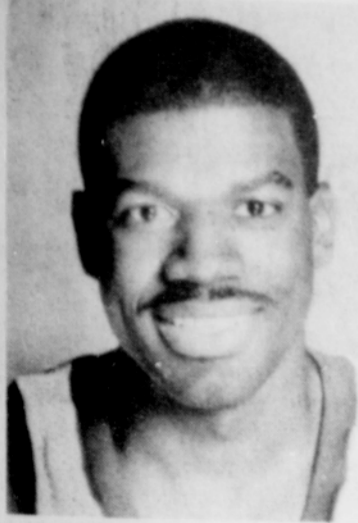
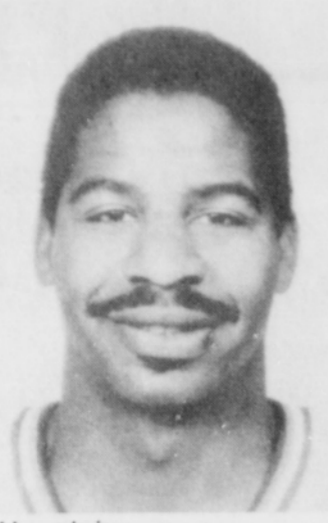


Mychal Thompson: The Lakers Are Fine



Bernard King



Jay Humphries

BY: ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Mychal Thompson, the resident philosopher and team comic for the Los Angeles Lakers laughed when a Portland sportswriter suggested that his team was struggling this season under new coach Mike Dunleavy. "We started off a little slow, but we are on pace to win sixty games this year. We have a very solid basketball team."

Thompson refused to accept the notion of Los Angeles being just an average basketball team and no longer ranks as one of the elite teams in the NBA. "People in Portland are a little blinded by the success of the Blazers this season. They have to maintain that type of play for an entire season, not for just a couple of months. All teams go through highs and lows. The Western Conference, especially our division is highly competitive, and any team can go on a roll at anytime."

Thompson, the former U of Minnesota and Trail Blazer star, has some words of advice for the locals as they trek through their schedule. "Don't get caught up in your own success. You are as good as your last win in this league." Take heed from a man who has won his share of NBA (two) championship rings.

Call it the "Brothers Three" and the Pluggers if you will, but the Milwaukee Bucks (21) are playing some excellent basketball this season. Predicted to finish in the bottom of the Central Division, long dominated by Chicago and Detroit, they are led by Ricky Pierce, Alvin Robertson, and Humphries-"The Brothers", as they are called by some in the Milwaukee black community (they average 52.6

points between them). As for the "Pluggers, that's Jack Sikma, Fred Roberts, Frank Brickowski, Dan Schayes and Brad Lohaus average 47.2 points per contest. Speaking of point production, the Golden State Warriors trio of Mitch Richmond, Chris Mullins, and Tim Harroaway are averaging 71.3 of the 117.9 points their team is scoring. The Warriors are only two games behind the Lakers in the Pacific Division.

If Bernard King does not get selected to the NBA All-Star game next month in Charlotte, the players should boycott the contest. King, currently averaging a league leading 30.2 points per game for the Washington Bullets, shows no signs of the career threatening knee injury that sidelined him for almost two seasons. Recently, he busted the Denver Nuggets for 52 points and is well on to one of his finest seasons as a professional. "No one ever thought I could play at this level again," he said. He should definitely be selected by the coaches because King is not the media darling like Magic or Air Jordan. The system of fans voting for the All-Star starters should be changed.

Phoenix Suns Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons, on the Dec. 7 trade that sent Xavier "The X Man" McDaniel from the Seattle SuperSonics in exchange for Eddie Johnson and two NO.1 draft picks: "I know a lot of teams in the West didn't appreciate it, but I didn't appreciate it when the Lakers got Terry Teagle and Sam Perkins. I didn't appreciate it when the Jazz got Jeff Malone. I didn't appreciate it when the Spurs got Paul Pressey and Portland got Danny Ainge." What does Cotton appreciate? The Suns are 10-2 since the trade for McDaniel.

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#23 Denmark Reid, a sophomore at Jefferson High School, scored 27 points to lead the Demos to an 81-53 win over Marshall last Friday

Photo by: Veronica Green

PIL BOYS SCHEDULE Friday January 11, 1991, 7:30pm

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Grant at Jefferson

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