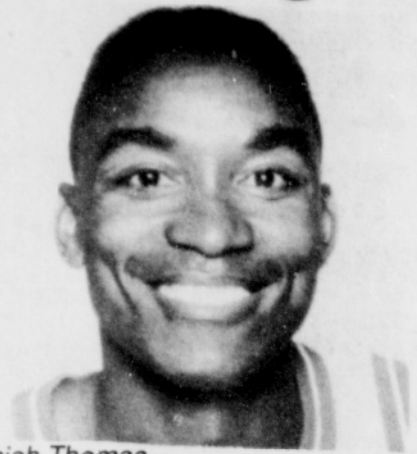




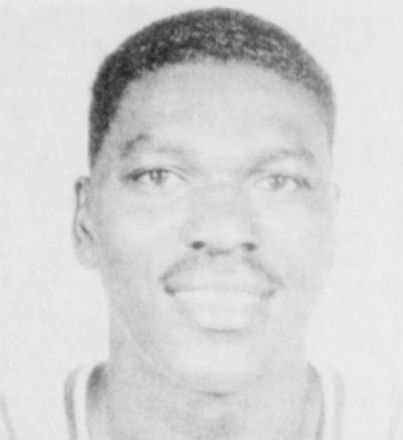
THE LOCKER ROOM

Larry Smith Igniting The Rockets

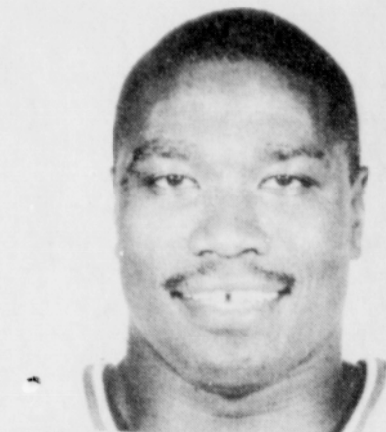


Isiah Thomas

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.



Akeem Olajuwon



Larry Smith

Most NBA experts predicted the demise of the Houston Rockets after All-Star center Akeem Olajuwon, the teams "bread and butter", went down with an eye injury. Rumors spread quickly that the Rockets were easy pickings. Tell that to Larry Smith, the man who replaced Olajuwon in the pivot, because the word never reached him.

Smith averaged over 13 rebounds per contest in helping Houston to an impressive 31-23 record (as of this publication date). An 11 year veteran out of Alcorn State, Smith enjoys the dirty work and he leaves the scoring to Vernon Maxwell (16.7), Kenny Smith (17.0 and 78 assists), and Otis Thorpe (18.2 and ten rebounds). Maxwell scored 51 points in a 107-103 victory against the Cavs.

"We'll be happy when Akeem comes back and everything's back to normal, but in the meantime, there are a lot of guys on this team with talent besides Akeem. We're proving it", said Smith. Thorpe, who leads the NBA with 429 consecutive games played, Smith, and Maxwell have provided the Rockets with a triple scor-

ing threat, but Smith's rebounding has kept the Rockets very competitive and only four games behind San Antonio.

"I try to keep moving a lot, keep active around the boards," he said. "Sometimes guys don't put a body on me because I'm so small, and they say, 'This little guy isn't going to get in there for a rebound.' So my size kind of works to my advantage, and I always try to get good position."

Smith entered the season as one of only 11 active players to average at least ten rebounds for their careers.

"Everyone loves to shoot", he said, "but if you want to play, you do what the coaches tell you to do. I don't try to do anything special. That's the way I've been doing it for 11 years now. Just do what the coaches want and don't complain too much. I don't have the size or height (6-7, 230 lbs) that other guys have, so I just try to work as hard as possible and do the best job I can." Look for the Rockets to be even better when Akeem returns.

Isiah Thomas, another injured All-Star, said that to play in the NBA, players need inner drive and mental toughness. His childhood in Chicago laid the foundation for his toughness, motivation, and drive. Thomas also had

big brothers to push him around and teach him how to be humble.

"When I was growing up, I always played with older kids. I never played with kids my own age or size. I wanted to be with my brothers, Preston and Larry because I was so much smaller than them, I always got picked last. That was hard, but when I got with my own age group, I was so confident in my skills and in my demeanor.

"I wanted to prove to my brothers and their friends that I deserved to play with them. I don't think I ever proved that. That's what keeps me driving, even today. I'm always afraid to stop and say 'OK, I belong now', because to this day, I always feel there is someone out there that doesn't think I've proven myself". If the Detroit Pistons intend to "threepeat," they had better prove to the rest of the league that they can win without Thomas, who is out for the season with a wrist injury.

Shortshakes: A closer look at David Robins on next week and the "I Have A Dream Foundation". Hey Mark Bryant, hope your foot is healing properly. Miss talking to you in the Locker Room.

DeFazio Bill Would Force Allies To Pay Fair Share

Saying U.S. taxpayers are being unfairly stuck with the tab for Persian Gulf crisis, Oregon Democratic Rep. Peter DeFazio introduced legislation which would tax imports from allied countries not making good on their promises to help with the cost of the war.

"April 15th is the day that all Americans have to settle up with Uncle Sam," said Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield). "All we're asking is that our allies do the same."

Deploying and supporting more than 400,000 troops in the Persian Gulf cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$13 billion before the war started on January 15. Cost estimates for the 43-day old war range between \$500 million and \$1 billion per day.

Last fall, Treasury Secretary Brady and Secretary of State Baker made several visits to allied nations to obtain commitments to help pay the cost of the war. Of the \$53 billion pledged by U.S. allies to date, only \$15 billion has been received.

The legislation would require the allies to pay their bills by April 15 or risk having their exports this country subject to a 2 percent tariff.

Of the \$10.7 billion for the war effort pledged by Japan, only about \$1 billion had been received by February 22. Kuwait has promised to pay \$16 billion but only \$3.5 billion has been contributed. Germany has pledged \$6.5 billion, of which \$3 billion has been received.

"Some of the nations that stand to gain the most from the free flow of oil from the Middle East have paid the least," DeFazio said. "Our troops have done their part. Now its time for our allies to do theirs."

Rep. Lane Evans (D-ILL.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, cosponsored DeFazio's bill. "American servicemen and women put their lives on the line," Evans said. "We can't let their families and average taxpayers now pay all the bills because countries like Japan and Germany won't carry the freight."

The lawmakers said the U.S. imports more than \$145 billion in products from the five major nations still in arrears on their war payments. In 1990 the U.S. imported \$90 billion in products from Japan, \$28 billion from West Germany, and \$18 billion from South Korea.

Jefferson Advances to Tournament



Pictured #15 Tyrell Owens.

Photo by Veronica Green

In class 4A sub-tournament action last Saturday, Jefferson beat Beaverton 55-50 to advance to the 16-team state championship tournament held at the memorial coliseum March 5-9. Jefferson and Wilson will represent the P.I.L. at this years tournament.

Jessie Jackson Talks About "Common Ground" and Corporate Responsibility

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

A Whirlwind trip to the Pacific Northwest last Wednesday enable Reverend Jackson to reach large audiences with his two current themes, "Common Ground and Corporate Responsibility. The first topic centered around his position that timber workers and environmentalists have a common interest. The second addressed such "runaway" American corporations as Nike, who do their manufacturing overseas.

A Roseburg, Oregon work-force of about 800 timberland lumber workers were attentive as Mr. Jackson struck out boldly on new territory -- the concept that die-hard environmentalists and those contemplating economic disaster as the forests are "closed down" actually had a "Common Ground". They were told that both groups had a considerable, long-term stake in the preservation of the forest of this country. That jobs, resources and the environment equally depended upon "planned" timber harvests.

A bold move indeed considering the audience 'and' the locale. In Portland, Rev. Jackson enjoyed the rapt attention of over 300 young people at Grant High School. He interspersed an

overall theme of educational preparation and self-discipline with attention getting and topical citations of black inventors. For instance, Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask (respirator) being used by the military in the Middle East, and by Israel. The audience was very responsive.

A query by one student, "What message can I take back to Nike?", brought the firm reply, "CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY".

Jackson expanded his answer with the observation that Nike, like a number of American firms, employs cheap labor in Asia to produce merchandise imported back here to sell at markups of over 1000%: "\$10.00 production cost in Asia and \$180.00 retail in America." "When I say 'Corporate Responsibility', I intend that everyone understand that such corporations do not create jobs in America."

Reverend Jackson also spoke at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and at a South East side ballroom under the auspices of the Rainbow Coalition, the local chapter of PUSH is headed by Mr. Delane Garner. He advises that the emphases of the local group will be the Black Family and that they will work amicably with all other sectors of the community.

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Could the Mariners see a pennant....

by Aaron Fentress

...In 1991? No.

The 1991 Mariners are still a mere clone of past Mariner clubs that have compiled a 363-446 record over the last five seasons. Seattle's five year winning percentage of .449 ranks second to last in the American League and worst in the AL's West Division. The Mariners have yet to come up with a winning season in their 15-year franchise history but have managed to produce back-to-back seasons in which they upped their win total from the previous year. But no pennants look to be hanging in the next couple of years.

The dominance of the Oakland Athletics in the AL West was slightly threatened by the Chicago White Sox last season, who surprised everyone with a 94-68 record, second best in the AL. In fact, the White Sox won their season series with Oakland, but it wasn't enough. Oakland finished the season nine games ahead of Chicago and 26 ahead of Seattle. It's going to take some time for the Mariners to even catch Chicago, let alone Oakland. Both teams have shown that they know how to stay competitive and keep themselves from sliding by upgrading their talent in the off season; something Seattle has rarely done.

...In the future? Maybe.

The Mariners have their franchise player in Ken Griffey Jr. Now they need to keep him and build around him. Griffey is considered by many to be the best young talent in the game and is the only Mariner to ever start in an All-Star Game.

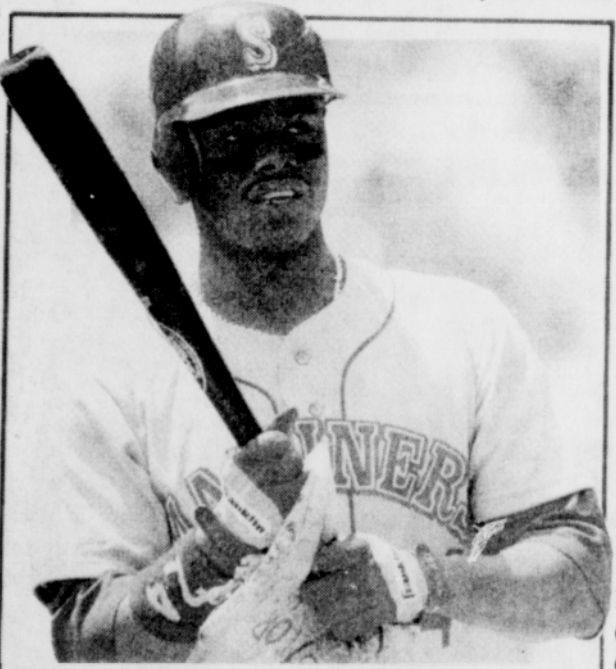
Griffey finished among AL leaders in batting average (.300), total bases (287) and slugging percentage (.481). Griffey demonstrated improving power by knocking out 22 homers and his defensive play in center field ranks him as the best at his position in the AL. But can the Mariners keep him?

With the skyrocketing salaries in major league baseball, it won't be long before Griffey demands to be included in the four-to-five million dollar club. And if the Mariners don't pay him, he

won't hesitate to leave. Especially if the Mariners are still losing.

If the Mariners do get smart and make Griffey a lifetime member of the Mariners, their only worry will be surrounding him with complimentary talent. The good news for the Mariners is that their farm system is finally showing signs of producing some players worthy of playing with Griffey.

The Mariners have a history of



With Griffey, all the Mariners need to do is surround him with talent to contend.

bad management of their farm talent. Their minor league affiliates have only produced six players for the Mariners who began their career with the organization.

In the late 80s, the Mariners demonstrated that they couldn't assess talent as a series of bad draft picks left their minor league cupboard bare. But the organization rallied last season and according to most expert reports produced the third best class of prospects in the AL. If all these players pan out, the Mariners can look to start filling the win column in years to come.

First baseman Tino Martinez heads the list of prospects for the Mariners. Although Martinez faltered in his major league debut at the end of last season batting, 1-for-28, Martinez has demonstrated that he is a talented left-handed hitter. In 1990 Martinez batted

.320, hit 17 homers and knocked in 93 RBIs for the Mariners Triple-A team. If Martinez can overcome last season's major league slump, he could be called upon to help the Mariners' offense this season, which is exactly what they need.

Last season, the Mariners placed two players among the league leaders in batting, Griffey and Edgar Martinez (.302). And although the Mariners finished seventh as a team at .259 they also finished 11th in hits, 13th in home runs, 12th in fewest men left on base and consequently 13th in runs. The Mariners biggest concern for the future is offense.

If the Mariners can put together a lineup they will be competitive because the Mariners have put together a young talented pitching staff that could become a force to be reckoned with.

The Mariners traded Mark Langston in 1989 in an un-popular trade which may have turned into a deal that could secure the Mariners pitching staff.

In the Langston trade the Mariners landed Randy Johnson (14-11, 3.65 ERA), Brian Holman (11-11, 4.01 ERA) and Gene Harris (3-0, 2.35 ERA in Triple-A). If these three can consistently improve then the Mariner staff, led by number one starter

Erik Hanson (18-9, 3.24 ERA) and Scott Bankhead, who should recover from injury that forced him to only pitch 13 innings in 1990, should continue to be stable.

In 1990 the Mariner staff finished third in the AL in ERA (3.69), third in fewest hits allowed (1,319) and number one in strike-outs (1,064).

In the bull-pen the Mariners have one of the premiere closers in the game. Mike Schooler had 30 saves in 34 opportunities while posting a 2.25 ERA and limiting batters to a .227 batting average.

For die hard Mariner fans who have been waiting for a winner the waiting may still have to be endured. But if the present improvements shown by the Mariners continue and the young prospects pan out, the waiting may not be for much longer.

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APRIL 17 & 24

Sunriver Accepts Entries For Annual Chili Cook-Off

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting entries for the Fifth Annual Chili Cook-Off Extravaganza combining food, fun, and entertainment on Saturday, June 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Sunriver Village Courtyard. Festivities begin on Friday, June 28 with an introduction party for all judges and contestants.

This years official International Chili Society sanctioned district cook-off will feature the largest first place cash prize in Oregon; \$400 for first place, \$250 for second, and \$150 for third place. Trophies will also be awarded for first place in Showmanship, Best Booth, and People's Choice divisions. Winners will be eligible to advance to the state competition. All resort contestants will be eligible for the Resort Challenge Cup.

Everyone is invited to enter the cook-off; businesses, restaurants, resorts, and private individuals. For complete rules, information, and an application, contact the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce at 593-8149.

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