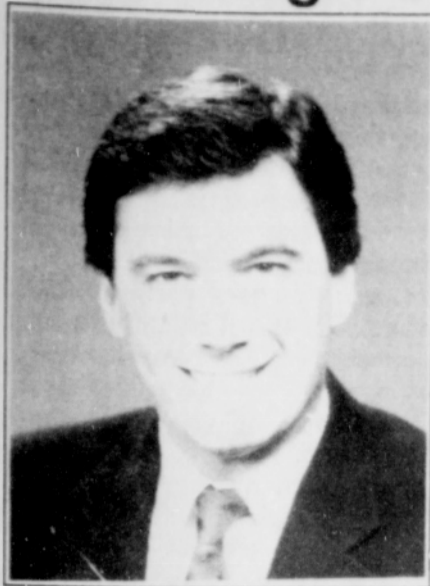




THE LOCKER ROOM

Magic Johnson: The Assist King



Steve Dunn, KATU

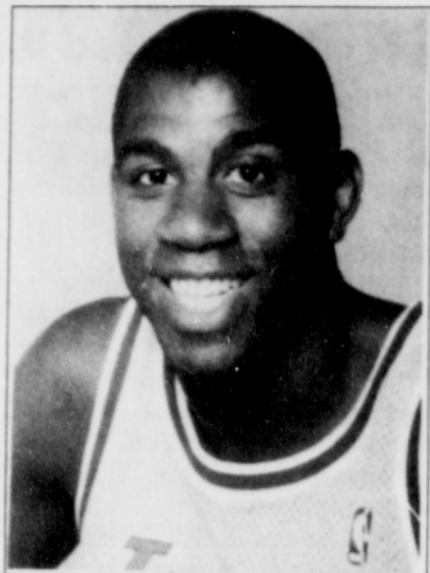
BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Magic Johnson grew up in Lansing, Michigan idolizing former Detroit Piston/Washington Bullet great Dave Bing, now the President of a very successful steel manufacturing company and Oscar "Big O" Robertson of the old Cincinnati Royals. He could not have picked better heroes.

A very successful businessman like Bing, Johnson is about to be the NBA's all-time assist record held by Oscar Robertson established between 1961-73. A member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, Robertson is flattered that Johnson held him in high esteem as a youth and happy to see him break the record. "Magic is a tremendous athlete," he said. "He's been very consistent over the years. Records are made to be broken. I saw Magic in Charlotte (during the NBA All-Star game) and I had a chance to chat with him. I didn't mention the record because it's not a big deal to me." Ironically, both Johnson and Robertson needed 12 NBA seasons to reach their totals. Robertson finished his career with 9,887. Magic is sure to finish with many more.

"Passing the ball has always been my favorite part of the game," said the Michigan State product. I never think about breaking records. I just play hard and try to win championships. No problem with championships, Johnson has five NBA Championship rings. Earlier this season, Johnson joined the "Big O" as the only other guard to score over 16,000 points and hand out over 9,000 assists.

*President George Bush honored Phoenix Suns point guard supreme Kevin Johnson for his outstanding work with youngsters in his hometown of Sacramento, CA. The "Daily Point of Light" award recognizes an individual, group or organization that claims society's

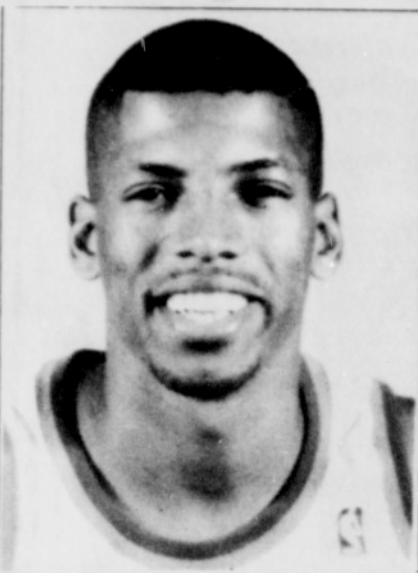


Earvin Johnson

problems as their own while taking direct and consequential action to address those problems. Johnson is the founder of the St. HOPE (Helping our People Excel) Academy in Sacramento, which is an after school educational and recreational program for young people between the ages of 8 and 17. At St. Hope volunteer teachers and community members tutor the students, lead community service activities, and help the youth focus on education, respect, and self confidence.

*Air Michael Jordan is chewing bubble gum and eating burgers all the way to his accountant. There are two new products associated with Jordan, like he needs the cash, these days. "Hang Time" bubble gum will soon be appearing in stores in original, strawberry and grape flavors. The wrapper for the gum will contain both a picture of Jordan and his signature. A "McJordan Special Sandwich?" Yes! Get this, it consists of a quarter pound burger topped with smoked bacon, cheese, barbecue sauce, mustard, onions, and pickles. The sandwich will be available until April 18 at 350 McDonalds restaurants in the Chicago area/Northern Indiana. Go for it Michael!

*If the Portland Trail Blazers expect to win the NBA Championship this season, they had better find a Johnson to sit at their bench because they won't play much. Why? Because the last nine NBA champs have had a Johnson on their roster. Let's see, there was Magic Johnson with our neighbors to the south in 1982, 1985, 1987, and 1988. Reggie and Clemon Johnson with the 76ers in 1983. Dennis Johnson with the Celtics in 1984 and 1986; and of course Vinnie "Micro-Wave" Johnson with the Pistons in 1989 and 1990. Best Johnson candidates for the 1990-91 season? Magic Johnson and Kevin Johnson of the Suns. Best regards to Vinnie, Eddie



Kevin Johnson

in Seattle, and Avery in San Antonio. There seems to be a shortage of good Johnson's around the league. Thank Harvey Pollack, Philadelphia 76er's Statistical Information Director for the research on this one.

*Bob Bullock, the quick wit-cine-matographer for KATU-TV 2 has done it again. He always finds a way to outdo himself. By now, most readers have heard about the Sir Charles Barkley spitting incident where he showered an eight-year-old girl instead of an adult heckler. Well, Bullock thought that most of the major publications around the U.S.A. blew a great opportunity for a headline. The headline you ask? "When The Spit Hits The Fan!" Stay tuned to more from Bob "Bullet" (that's because he's quick) Bullock...

*More on Magic Johnson: Another KATU-TV 2 person, Steve "I Use To Have A Jumper", Dunn shaped one of the best "Magic" stories heard to date. Dunn, a graduate of Central Michigan University, had the opportunity to watch Johnson play as a tenth grader back in 1975. "He was 'Magic' then", said the weekend reporter/anchor. "I remember telling my dad after the game that Johnson was the greatest basket ball player I ever saw. He still is. Even back then, he had so much poise, style, and confidence. He really put on a show that night and the place was packed. He scored 37 points in only three quarters of action. When he checked out of the game, Johnson shook every player on our teams (Howell High) hand and waved to the crowd. He was a class act."

Johnson, who attended Lansing Everett, defeated Dunn's school rather handily for those who had a burning desire to know the outcome. "He's what legends are made of", said Dunn.

Portland plays host this Saturday to the Los Angeles Lakers in a nationally televised contest.

Economy Shows Slight Improvement

The Economic Activity Report of the PURCHASING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF OREGON, released recently, shows some improvement in the economy of Oregon/S.W. Washington. The PMAO Industrial Index rose to -7.1% from January's -17.1%. According to Dr. Alan Raedels, C.P.M., Business Survey Committee Chair and Portland State University professor, the improvement was due to advances in the Metals and Electronics sectors. The Equipment sector took a steep decline to -27.1% from +11.4%. The Production Index moved positive for the first time since June, 1990. Improvements were noted in several sectors.

Trends all seem to be slightly positive. Perhaps we are looking at the beginning of something good.

The PMAO Wholesale Index dropped again in February. The -20% is down from -12.2% the previous month. All indices were down with the exception of Prices. Inventories moved positive reflecting the slowdown in sales.

The PURCHASING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF OREGON is an organization of over 400 members committed to education and research in the fields of purchasing and materials management. Collectively the membership is responsible for over \$6 Billion in annual purchases.

WHAT IS 230-2121?

230-2121 is a seven digit non-emergency number that you can dial 24 hours a day for non-emergency police response. Using the non-emergency police number keeps the emergency number available for true emergencies. Examples of when to call this number are:

* Any situation which is not occurring now, or does not require immediate police response

NBA home-court advantage means little.

by Aaron Fentress

With only a few games remaining for playoff bound NBA teams there's a frantic race to muscle into position for home-court advantage in the playoffs.

But does home-court advantage really matter?

The Los Angeles Lakers, Chicago Bulls, Boston Celtics and Portland Trailblazers all have a shot during the last week of the season to capture home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. But history shows that it's not home-court that winds championships, it's the best team.

Just looking at the NBA finals results of the past 11 years, dating back to when Magic Johnson and Larry Bird entered the league, you realize that home-court advantage only served to help two teams. But before I state my case, let me set some basis for my arguments.

First off the most telling statistic in the finals is the amount of games it takes to win the title. If the series goes seven games then it can be determined that the teams were evenly matched. But if the series is a sweep or only goes five or even six games, then it can be determined that a margin of victory of 4-0, 4-1 or 4-2 demonstrates that one team was superior than the other. Now to make my point.

Of the last 11 championships decided, the team with home-court advantage did indeed win eight of the 11 titles.

But, of those eight championships, four were decided on the road in the building which housed the team with home-court disadvantage. Meaning that it took four teams with home-court advantage less

than seven games to win the title and they did it on the road. Also, of the eight championships won by the team with home-court advantage, only two went the distance of seven games, three went

six games, one went five games and two were sweeps.

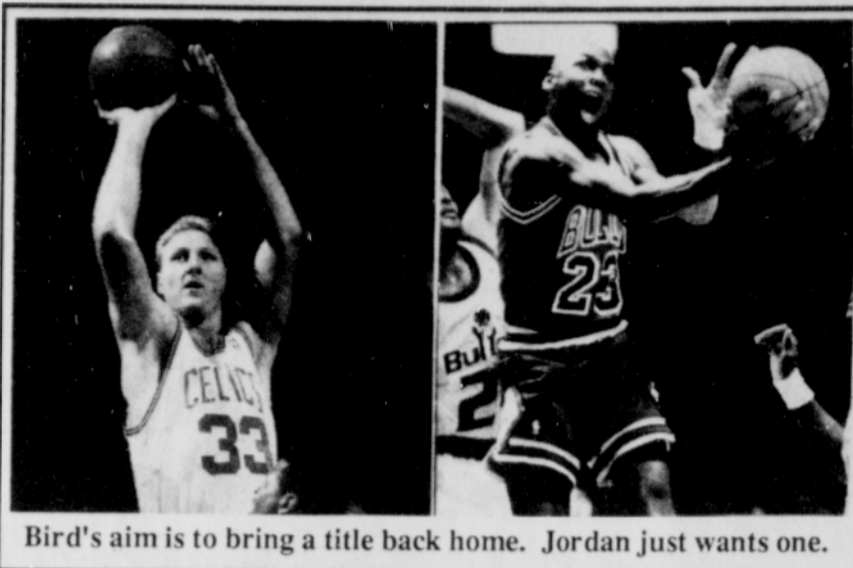
If a series goes six games then there would have been an even split of three games at home apiece. If the series goes five games, as did last years match up between Portland and Detroit, then the home-court disadvantage team actually played more games at home than the team with home-court advantage.

Everyone that remembers last years NBA Finals knows that after winning one game in Detroit, Portland returned home tied 1-1. The Blazers were then swept three straight at home to lose the series 4-1. Some home-court advantage.

The two teams that actually did need their home-court advantage were the 83-84 Celtics who defeated the Lakers at home in game seven and the 87-88

Lakers who defeated Detroit at home in game seven. These two teams needed that seventh game at home to win the title in two close championship matches. The other nine champions either didn't need the advantage, or didn't have it to begin with.

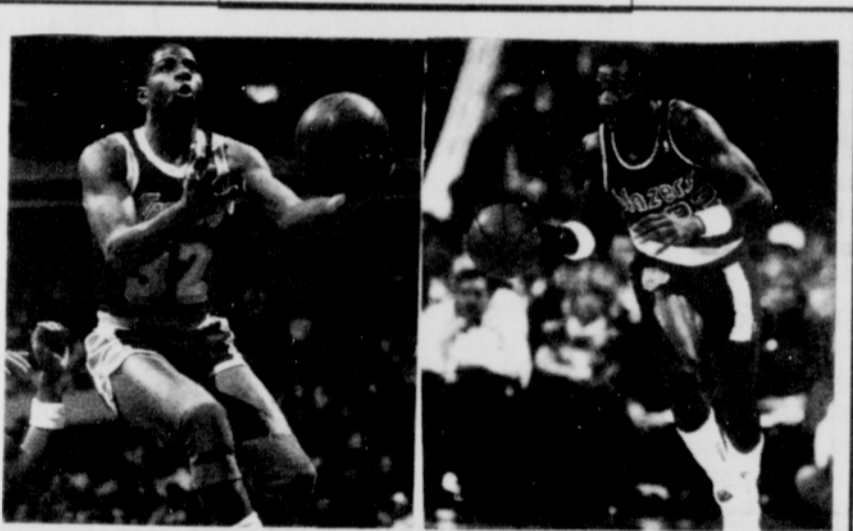
Point made, home-court advantage doesn't win championships, the best team does.



Bird's aim is to bring a title back home. Jordan just wants one.

Year	Teams	Won in
79-80	LA(4) - Philly(2)	Philly
80-81	Boston(4) - Houston (2)	Houston
81-82	LA(4) - Philly(2)	LA
82-83	Philly(4) - LA(0)	LA
83-84	Boston(4) - LA(3)	Boston
84-85	LA(4) - Boston(2)	Boston
85-86	Boston(4) - Houston(2)	Boston
86-87	LA(4) - Boston(2)	LA
87-88	LA(4) - Detroit(3)	LA
88-89	Detroit(4) - LA(0)	LA
89-90	Detroit(4) - Portland(1)	Portland

Team with home-court in bold



Magic won two titles on the road. Drexler has lost one at home.

Blazer Watch



Photo by Veronica Green

Portland stays on top of the Pacific Division with 6 games remaining in the regular season. The Blazers play at San Antonio tonight, then return to the Memorial Coliseum to host the Lakers Saturday afternoon.

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