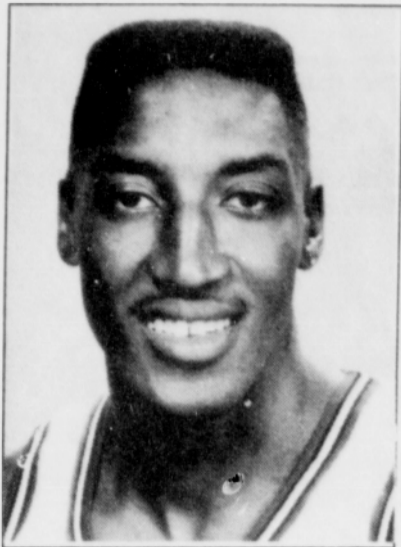


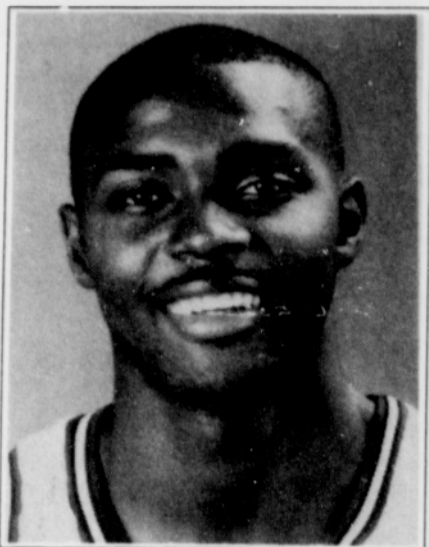


THE LOCKER ROOM

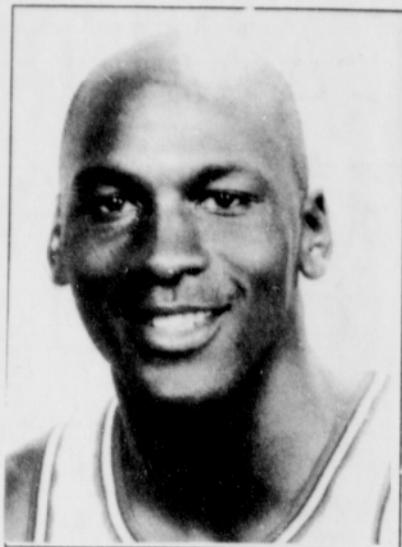
New Bulls On The Blocks



Scottie Pippen



Horace Grant



Michael Jordan

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.

There was considerable speculation by NBA followers and experts as to whether the National Basketball Association could survive the future retirement of Boston's Larry Bird and Los Angeles Laker guard supreme Magic Johnson. From the looks of the NBA Finals, Air Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls look as if they will carry the league for the next decade and work some magic of their own before the week's out. It's very difficult to imagine Chicago blowing three chances to win one game, especially with two games being played on their home floor.

What happened to the Los Angeles Lakers? After splitting the first two games in Chicago, fans/experts, etc... predicted that the Lakers would handle the young Bulls in five or six games. Make that five years. There is nothing like the spring of fresh legs. They run faster, jump higher, and last longer in the heat of battle. Magic Johnson, who is as good as any player ever to put on a pair of tennis shoes, has got to be tired of seeing Scottie Pippen, Michael Jordan and Horace Grant in his face all game long or in his sleep for that matter. Magic Johnson has never worked harder to bring the basketball up the court.

When it comes to half-court defense, the Chicago Bulls are the new "Bad Boys" in the NBA. Byron Scott should be listed on the side of a milk

carton and Big Name James (Worthy) is not the same on one good ankle. The Lakers look so bad that some folks are wishing that the Portland Trail Blazers had prevailed against them. Maybe next year. Anyway, where is the Laker bench? Why is A.C. Green playing limited minutes after carrying them on his back against the locals? Questions, questions, questions, and more questions. It was the hope, though not on record, of the Locker Room that Los Angeles defeat the Bulls to make Portland look good. You know, defeated by the World Champion Lakers in last year's playoffs kind of rhetoric that they print during the pre-season. It would have been nice, even nicer had the Blazers made it to the finals against the Bulls like Sports Illustrated predicted. Magic might not have another opportunity to win another NBA Championship, but why feel sorry for him? He has five rings stored away in some safe or security box. It is time to change the guard or pass the torch. What better person than Air Jordan to pass it to. Julius Erving passed it to him.

Although now situated in a different conference, the Chicago Bulls and the Lakers have met four previous times in the NBA Playoffs. Between 1968 and 1973, the Bulls and Lakers squared off in four Playoff series, when both were members of the Western Conference. Los Angeles was victorious in all four series, and prior to the current

Finals the Lakers had an overall record of 16-7 in games against the Bulls. The two teams first met in 1968, when the Lakers trounced the Bulls 4-1. LA later lost in six games to the Boston Celtics, who were led by Sam Jones, Bill Russell, and John Havlicek. Starting in 1971, the Lakers and Bulls faced each other for three straight years, with two of those series going the full seven games. In 1971, the Lakers took the Bulls 109-98 to win Game 7. The following year, enroute to the 1972 NBA Title (Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor, and Jerry West), Los Angeles swept Chicago 4-0 in the Western Conference Semifinals once again. The teams met for the final time in the Western Conference Playoffs in 1973's Semifinal round, and the Lakers got the best of the Bulls in seven games, winning the clincher 95-92 at the Great Western Forum.

It has been a long time coming, but this one is for Bob "Butterbean" Love, Chet Walker, Jerry Sloan, Bob Boozer, Clifford Ray, and Stormin' Norman Van Lier.

Next time you're in North Carolina, specifically in Greensboro, Charlotte, or Wilmington, check out "Flight 23" owned by--you guessed it--Michael Jordan. Jordan's parents, his older brother and younger sister have joined forces as an enterprising crew behind a very successful sporting goods chain (5 stores). The stores carry a complete line of Nike apparel and licensed NBA products.

Blazer fans and Portland media need to face harsh reality, it's over

by Aaron Fentress

If Portland had a Major League Baseball team or an NFL franchise then the bad memories of the Trail Blazer's collapse would have been forgotten by now. It would be time to pay attention to the baseball team and prepare for the 1991 NFL season. But Portland doesn't have a baseball or football team. So what does Portland sports fans and the sports media do? They dwell on the past. Somebody please shoot somebody so we can put this Blazer crap to rest until October.

Last Thursday, June 6, The Oregonian ran a 12 page spread reviewing the 1990-91 Trail Blazer season. The headline read "The one that got away." What got away? Is a championship implied here? If it is then the Portland media and fans need to get a clue and realize that the Blazers were no closer to an NBA championship than any other final-four team of the past 10, 20, 30... hell, since the NBA began.

If we are to assume that the Blazers are great then we must assume that the 1987 Dallas Mavericks, who took the Lakers to seven games in the Western Conference Finals, are great. We must also assume that the 1985 Denver Nuggets were great, they took the Lakers to six, like the Blazers did this year. If every team that doesn't quite make it to the finals is great, then there is no greatness, just mediocrity.

Another thing that bugs me is the fact that everyone northwest of sanity looks to the blazers best record as an indication of their greatness. But will these same people admit that the 1990 Lakers were the best team last year despite not even making it to the conference finals? The Lakers had the best record that year. In fact it was identical to that of this years blazers, 63-19. The answer to this is no.

Portland fans believe; that the Detroit Pistons were the best team in the NBA last year but only because they beat the blazers. This undoubtedly leaves the blazers as the second best team in the NBA and the best in the west, because they made it to the finals.

So were to believe that the blazers were the best team in the west last year because they made it to the finals. Then, were supposed to believe that they are the best team in the league this year because they had the best regular season record.

All this over blown hype about the blazers in Portland wouldn't be so bad if they at least had one ring in the last few years. It's arguable that the Lakers should have beaten the Pistons in 1989 if Magic Johnson and Byron Scott weren't out with injuries. Arguable, because the Lakers won the championship in 1987 and 1988. But is it arguable to assume that the blazers should have won the championship this year simply because they made it to the finals last year and won the regular season race this year?

If the blazers and their fans insist on treating this season as "the one that got away," then they can look to see a few more get away in upcoming years. The blazers are not that good and here's why....

The blazers are by no means great because not only did they lose to the Lakers, but they lost to them in six games while possessing the home-court advantage. Which is all you get by having the best regular season record, and we saw how much that meant.

The blazers are by no means great because they lost two games in the first round to Seattle. Two games to the eighth seed in the playoffs. Championship tams sweep the first round. In fact it's considered a crime for the number one seed to even lose one to the number eight seed. Needless to say, no team has won the NBA championship after losing one game in the first round since the sixteen team format was introduced in 1984.

The blazers are by no means great because they can't win on the road in the playoffs. The blazers were 1-6 on the road in the playoffs. The Lakers meanwhile were 4-2. Enough said.

It's pretty much a given that the blazers are an extremely gifted and dangerous team and worthy to be called champions. But lets let them prove it before we actually do. Then it will mean something.

NE Student To Visit France



Khalil T. Edwards is a 7th grader at Catlin Gable School. He will be leaving this week with his class for a three week visit to France. He will visit several cities there. Khalil has taken french for five years, and while he enjoys the language, he plans to attend Howard University or MOore College after his tenure at Catlin Gable. He has aspirations of becoming a film maker or a writer. He is the youngest of five children.

Khalil's older brother James Edwards is in the military stationed in Germany. The brothers are hoping for at least a brief visit before Khalil returns to the states.

Khalil's parents are: Antonette and Keith Edwards.

Correction



Erica and Karis

In our last issue, phone numbers for Erica N. Mashia and Karis J. Stoudamire were listed incorrectly. Please note correction: 284-1771

City of Portland Proclaim Professor Ali Muhammad Day



Pictured from left to right Harold Williams/Coalition of Blackman, Professor Ali Muhammad and Don Williams/Washington Martial Artist.

Ali Muhammad teaches modern self defense. His martial arts career spans over three decades. During his career, Ali has earned third degree black belts in Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido; seventh degree black belts in Kenpo, Ju-Jitsu, and is a registered professor of Karate. His style

of Afaqsirat is unique and universal. Additional credits include, being ranked second in the United States in Arnis-sticks. Professor Ali is considered among his contemporaries as Quintessential in the martial arts community.



Champs Of The Budweiser Hoops Classic--Prevost Foushee (far left), Budweiser national ethnic marketing manager; Jo Jo White (far right), former NBA all-star; and Tom Mataya, manager, Anheuser-Busch Entertainment Marketing Group, pose with the winning team at the second annual Budweiser Hoops Classic, held at the Palace at Auburn Hills in Michigan, home of the Detroit Pistons. The Budweiser Hoops Classic was the culmination of a three-month-long radio promotion held in 20 markets across the country.

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St Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church Father's Day Bar-B-Que

A Father's day barbecue will be held by the Men's Club of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church at 120 N. E. Knott starting at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 15, 1991. This annual feast features fine food and supports many worthy programs through a donation of \$5.00. For further information, please contact St. Philip's at 281-5802.

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