

SPORTS

NBA Draft Order

The order of selections for the 1998 NBA Draft to be held June 24 at General Motors Place in Vancouver:

1. Los Angeles Clippers
2. a-Vancouver
3. Denver
4. Toronto
5. b-Golden State
6. Dallas
7. Sacramento
8. Philadelphia
9. c-Milwaukee
10. Boston
11. d-Detroit
12. e-Orlando
13. Orlando (from Washington)
14. Houston

15. Orlando (from New Jersey)
16. f-New York
17. Minnesota
18. Toronto (from Portland)
19. Milwaukee (from Cleveland)
20. Atlanta
21. Charlotte
22. Los Angeles Clippers (from Miami)
23. Denver (from Phoenix)
24. San Antonio
25. Indiana
26. Los Angeles Lakers
27. Seattle
28. Chicago
29. Utah

NBA Today

Indiana at Chicago (8:30 p.m. EDT). The Pacers try to even the Eastern Conference Final series at 1 against freshly crowned MVP Michael Jordan and the Bulls.

Karl Malone and John Stockton, Jazz, combined for 55 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists in Utah's 99-95 win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

SPORTS STANDINGS 1998 SPRING STANDINGS

BASEBALL	W	L	To	FINAL	W	L
Madison-F	15	2	R,G	SOFTBALL	16	1
Roosevelt-L	13	4	M,B,W,JM	Franklin-M	16	1
Grant-C	11	6	M,R,R,F,L,W	Madison-F	14	3
Cleveland-G	10	7	M,M,R,W,G,L	Wilson	13	5
Lincoln-R	10	7	G,C,M,R,W,F,M	Cleveland	11	7
Wilson-J	10	7	G,L,M,M,J,M,R,C	Benson	8	10
Franklin-M	8	9		Grant	7	11
Benson-JM	4	13		Lincoln	7	11
Marshall-B	4	13		Marshall	7	11
Jefferson-W	0	17		Roosevelt	6	12
FINAL				Jefferson	0	18
MENS TENNIS	W	L	To	FINAL	W	L
Lincoln	9	0		GIRLS TENNIS	9	0
Grant	8	1	L	Lincoln	7	2
Wilson	7	2	G,L	Cleveland	7	2
Benson	6	3	W,G,L	Grant	7	2
Roosevelt	5	4	W,L,G,B	Wilson	7	2
Cleveland	4	5	R,G,W,B,L	Marshall	5	4
Franklin	3	6	G,C,B,R,W,L	Franklin	4	5
Marshall	2	7		Benson	3	6
Madison	1	8		Madison	2	7
Jefferson	0	9		Roosevelt	1	8
FINAL				Jefferson-M	0	9
MENS TRACK	W	L	I	FINAL	W	L
Franklin	7	0		GIRLS TRACK	7	0
Grant	6	1		Lincoln	7	0
Benson	5	2		Grant-forfeit from W	6	1
Cleveland	4	3		Benson	5	2
Madison	4	3		Wilson-forfeit to G	5	2
Wilson	4	3		Cleveland	4	3
Lincoln	2	5		Franklin	3	4
Jefferson	1	6		Madison	3	4
Marshall	1	6		Jefferson	2	5
Roosevelt	1	6		Roosevelt	1	6
FINAL				Marshall	0	7
MENS GOLF	W	L	I	FINAL	W	L
Franklin*	8	1		GIRLS GOLF	6	0
Wilson*	8	1		Lincoln	6	0
Lincoln	7	2		Wilson	5	1
Grant	6	3		Cleveland	4	2
Cleveland	5	4		Franklin	3	3
Madison	5	4		Benson	2	4
Benson	3	6		Roosevelt	1	5
Roosevelt	2	7		Grant	0	6
Marshall	1	8				
Jefferson	0	9				

*Franklin beat Wilson in dual 5/19/98

JORDAN WINS FIFTH NBA MVP AWARD

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

An air of finality has surrounded Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls this season, a factor that helped Jordan win the Most Valuable Player award in a landslide.

Jordan won the fifth MVP award of his career Monday after receiving 92 first-place votes to 20 for Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz.

Gary Payton of Seattle finished third with three first-place votes, and Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers received one first-place vote from an international media panel.

"It's ironic in a way that the reason Malone won it last year - sort of the sentimental career achievement thing - is the reason Jordan won it this year, even though Jordan had the better statistical season last year and Malone had a better statistical season this year," John Jackson of the Chicago Sun-Times said.

Jackson was one of three Chi-

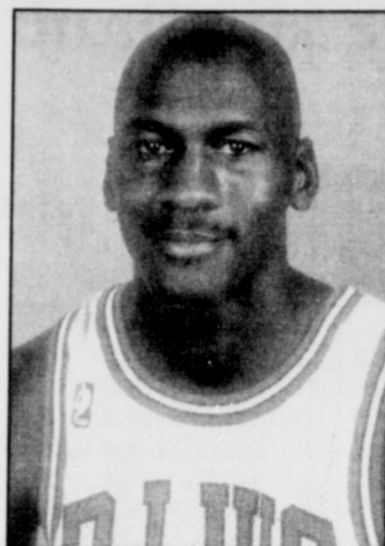
cago-area writers who voted for Malone last season, drawing the wrath of Bulls fans who inundated their voice mails with angry messages.

"I've got to admit, there's a smidgen of guilt because of what I did last year," Terry Armour of the Chicago Tribune said.

The third writer, Kent McDill of the Arlington Heights Herald, again voted for Malone.

"Both teams won the same number of games, and my question has always been how many games would the Bulls win without Michael vs. how many would the Jazz win without Karl?" McDill said. "My answer always seems to come back to the Bulls would win more without Michael than the Jazz would without Karl, making Karl most valuable."

Jordan led the league in scoring for the 10th time, although his 28.7 average was his lowest since his second year in the league.



He also had some of his worst career numbers in shooting percentage (46.5), free-throw percentage (78.4), rebounds (5.8) and assists (3.5). But the voters rewarded him for leading the Bulls to a 62-20 record - tied with Utah for the best in the

league - despite the absence of teammate Scottie Pippen for 35 games following foot surgery.

Malone's average dropped from 27.4 in 1996-97 to 27.0 this season, and his field-goal percentage dropped from 55 to 53 percent.

The Jazz went 11-7 when John Stockton was sidelined by knee surgery early in the season, while Chicago went 24-11 before Pippen rejoined the team.

"That's the confusing aspect of the MVP. No one has defined it clearly," Jordan said. "I like to think my reason for winning is my consistency - to constantly step on the court each and every night and be a threat, force teams to double-team and triple-team me - and yet still be able to succeed in those situations."

Jordan was presented with the award by Hall of Famer Bill Russell - another five-time MVP winner.

Coach Bird Is Pacers' New Weapon



Larry Bird

By HANK LOWENKRON

Having Larry Bird as coach gives the Indiana Pacers a weapon they've

never had in the playoffs, according to Reggie Miller.

"He's instilled belief amongst the players. His hard-work attitude as a player, he's brought that to the coaching ranks. Every time he takes the floor, he's very well prepared," Miller said Friday. "Practices are very crisp. There's no downtime or lag period. He's very professional about everything he does."

Bird, no stranger to battling the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan from his playing days, coaches against them in the first playoff meeting ever between the teams.

The best-of-7 Eastern Conference finals began Sunday in Chicago, where the Pacers will head after prac-

ticing here again today.

Miller and many of his teammates are in the conference finals for the third time in five years, while the Bulls are there for the eighth time in 10 years.

The Pacers lost their previous trips in the conference finals in seven games, to New York in 1994 and to Orlando the following year.

"The Knicks and the Magic were just as special, but there's probably more significance because you're playing Chicago, and they're defending champions," Miller said. "It's going to be a tough series."

Bird has warned his players that there is more to the Bulls than Jordan, who is averaging 32.1 points in

the playoffs.

"Michael brings fear every time he touches the ball, but there's other players there too," Bird said. "Scottie Pippen is probably the second best player in the league. (Dennis) Rodman is the best rebounder, so they've got a lot of weapons."

The Pacers are confident this is a better team than the ones that lost in their previous trips to the conference finals.

"Maybe we were missing pieces, missing effort, missing some talent," Antonio Davis said of those series. "I kind of think we've got it all now. It's just a matter of going out and making sure you don't waste opportunity."

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