



Metro/Sports

Have a Happy Father's Day

Pacers need more from Smits

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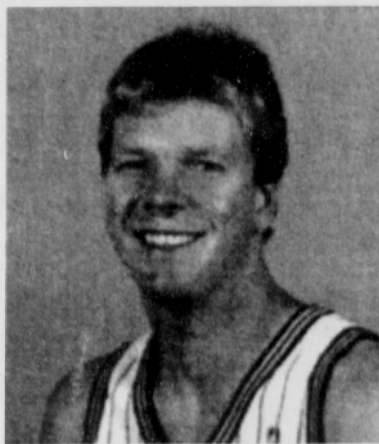
Rik Smits has become the Indiana Pacers regular go-to guy. As in, go to the bench while someone else tries to guard Shaquille O'Neal. The 7-foot-4 Smits, not quick enough either to play in front of O'Neal to deny him the ball or to avoid fouling him when he spins to the basket, has become almost an invisible man in the Pacers' rotation. Early fouls, poor shooting, even worse rebounding all have sapped Smits' effectiveness in the NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. Yet he'll be there, at least for the opening tip, in Game 4 Wednesday night.

"Who are we going to change to?" coach Larry Bird asked Monday.

"We've got to start him, and we've got to try to get him in the scoring area and score some baskets," Bird said. "Defensively, I thought last night he did as well as he's done in the three games, so obviously we'd like to get more out of him, but we just have to wait and see if we do."

The Pacers gave up on the Hack-a-Shaq tactic that failed them in a Game 2 loss in Los Angeles, when they sent O'Neal to the foul line a Finals-record 39 times. Instead, using double-teaming and switching Dale Davis and Sam Perkins on O'Neal, they held him to 33 points—his low for the Finals—and the Pacers won 100-91 to pull within 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

"This is more the Pacer team I'm used to seeing than in Game 1 and Game 2," Smits said. "We were setting the tone. This is more Pacer basketball. We tried



aggressively to double-team, we rotated out of it a lot faster, we limited their open shots, our defense was better."

Even with it coming elsewhere besides Smits. Smits played only 19 minutes, was 3-of-11 from the field and had six rebounds. All six of his points came in the first quarter. In the three games, he is shooting 34 percent, averaging 8.0 points a game and has fewer rebounds than even Jalen Rose or Mark Jackson.

He admits the frustration is getting to

him.

"I know I can play better than this, especially offensively," Smits said. "Yesterday, I really had a good chance, I was able to stay out of foul trouble, got some real good looks at the basket. They just didn't drop for me."

But backing away from O'Neal to avoid fouls and an early trip to the bench won't work either, he said.

"I find if I play aggressively on defense a lot of times I end up playing better on offense later on," Smits said. "If I stay somewhat timid and try to stay away from fouls, it's tough to get going offensively because I'm kind of timid there too."

Bird said Smits seems to be playing "out of synch."

"He's just not getting the job done. But hopefully in the next game we can get something out of him because he is big, he's very capable of scoring points for us. Every point that he gets is going to help us," Bird said.

The Pacers finally got big scoring from Reggie Miller, who had 33 points and hit eight straight free throws in the fourth quarter to protect a one-time 18-point lead. In the series, Miller is 20-for-20 from the foul line but still does not have a fourth-quarter field goal.

Young looks to new roles as father, businessman

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It took Steve Young months to finally decide to give up football. Once he made his mind up, the rest was easy. "Do I want to keep playing? Absolutely," Young said after announcing his retirement Monday, ending a 15-year NFL career highlighted by 13 seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, the team he took to a 1995 Super Bowl title.

"But is it the right time to retire? Yes. I don't want people to think I'm forlorn about this. On the way here with my family, all of us were laughing. This is a celebration for me."

Young, 38, whose plans to leave football became known late last week, made one final trip to the locker room at the 49ers' Santa Clara headquarters to formalize his retirement in front of an audience of family, friends, teammates and coaches. He played his final game last Sept. 27 in Arizona, where a violent hit left him with his fourth concussion in three years.

The choice of the locker room for his farewell to football was deliberate.

"One of the secrets of my success has always been I show up for work every day and I give it all I've got," Young said. "This is where I showed up for work. I guess I wanted to show in many ways, Young said he viewed retirement as a beginning, not an



Steve Young says 'the fire still burns, but not enough' to keep playing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ending. Young was married last spring to Barbara Graham and the couple is expecting a baby in December. He said he's now dedicating himself to being "the best father and husband I can be."

He noted he is the CEO of a fledgling high-tech firm that employs some 120 people in San Francisco, has entered into a business partnership with friend and former teammate Brent Jones on a Silicon Valley startup, and also oversees a variety of charity work through his Forever Young Foundation. Also a lawyer, Young used to help disadvantaged families.

"In many ways, what lies ahead for

me is maybe more important than what I leave behind," Young said. "The talent and skills that I have gleaned from football hopefully will enable me to help others pursue similar dreams."

The retirement news conference comes nearly nine months after Young took the devastating hit that left him unconscious on the turf with his fourth concussion in three years.

Before that, the seven-time Pro Bowler used his fearlessness, scrambling ability and passing accuracy to win two league MVP Awards. He also the 49ers to a 49-26 win over San Diego in the 1995 championship game. He won two other Super Bowl rings

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affair. "There will be a no-host buffet and bar. Food, beer and wine is included in the ticket price."

"The organization does tremendous work for kids, they teach children respect, punctuality, and other constructive, employable living fundamentals. The organization also primarily works with underrepresented kids," Dean said. PAST is a 501 C 3 not-for profit organization which provides Tennis Instruction, Family Tennis Events, Junior Coaches Training, Work-Study Programs, College Internships, Scholarships, and Mentoring and Tutoring for high school students.

Instructors include Bob Boozer, former professional tennis player and U.S. Tennis Player Nancy Osborne, and Don Johnson of Kids 'N Tennis. The organization's Tennis Instruction Program builds upon the basic tennis competencies students learn in grade school and middle school physical education classes. The six week instructional program provides students with an understanding of basic fundamentals and stroke techniques as well as learning sportsmanship and the rules of play. PAST instruction also prepares students to more effectively move into the USA Pathway Program.

PAST Family Tennis Events are designed to promote family and neighborhood unity through tennis. Activities include free clinics, community tournaments, and social activities.

PAST's Junior Coaches Training provides 14-18 year old tennis players with the opportunity to learn how to

teach and mentor elementary and middle school children. The program includes on-court instructional training, guidelines for mentoring children, and lessons in character development, responsibility and good citizenship. PAST junior coaching graduates can also utilize their skills in the USA Pathway Program.

The organization's Work Study Programs reward high school students who demonstrate promise and dedication in PAST programs with paid after-school and summer employment in the tennis industry through collaboration with local tennis organizations.

PAST College Internship programs help broaden the pool of the organizations by hiring and training college students to coach high school teams.

The organization's Scholarships provide tennis opportunities to minority and underserved elementary and middle school students. Financial assistance is available to help pay for instructional programs, tournament fees, tennis lessons, tennis equipment and travel, even college education. PAST also enhances students opportunities for scholarships in the USA Pathway programs.

Mentoring and Tutoring are inherent in each of the aforementioned programs, drawing on a variety of community resources to help mentor and tutor participating students. PAST also provides upper level students with mentoring experience useful in USA Pathway's 1-2-3 program. The volunteer, non-profit organization works with select

schools to introduce the life-long sport of tennis to inner-city kids while assisting them to be good learners and future productive citizens.

For the past four years, PAST has promoted membership, discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, and the development of living fundamentals for children, said PAST Honorary Member Dr. Ernest Hertzog, Past Asst. Supt. for Portland Public Schools. Other Honorary Members include Oregon State Senator Avel Gordly, Portland Mayor Vera Katz, Dr. Matthew Prophet, Past PPS Asst. Supt., and other community leaders. PAST will host the 2000 Pacific Coast Championship, PCC, in Portland Sept. 1-4.

The event will mark the first time that the annual tournament will be in the northwest in its 79-year-history.

"I think it's important because children and minorities who've been long underrepresented in the sport will have an opportunity to play, enjoy the sport, and get some exposure," Dean said.

PAST has brought together a group of stellar organizations and civic leaders to ensure a successful tournament. Partners in this venture want to make the "Year 2000 Pacific Coast Tennis Championships" the best ever.

The organization is hosting the PCC multicultural tennis tournament to help stimulate increased interest in tennis by a segment of Portland citizens long served by the sport. The fee to attend "A Black Tie and Tennis Shoe Affair," is \$30 per person. Off Street Parking is Available. Ticket information is available from Rufus Dean at (503) 449-3192 or by email at concepts1unlimited@yahoo.com.

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street and who complain that the proposed new right of way would funnel traffic directly at their homes. Makinster said he would support an arrangement in which the street was closed for the time being to all but city vehicles. "I've fought this probably harder than anyone in this

room," Makinster said, "but if you could say that the (new Emerson) street would be closed at 34th, you'd have 12 signatures of support tonight." This puts the case in the city's court. The city, and particularly transportation commissioner Charlie Hales, is strongly opposed to the

vacation of existing streets. In this case, Hales proposed as a compromise that Emerson might be relocated. Hales' aide Jillian Detweiler told Concordia the city thinks in terms of future as well as proposed uses for land, and that maintaining as many through streets as possible gives people more "choices," and the chance to disperse the traffic. "The more you channel people to a few choices, the more traffic jams you have," she said. To cut off access to 34th, as Makinster suggested, "You'll need to make a strong case to City Council as to why we should deviate from city policy," she said. One resident complained that a chance to regain a grocery store on the site, which neighbors have called for since the Wilshire Park Sentry Market closed in 1994, was being jeopardized by the 34th street residents. Concordia land use chair Hector Roche rejected this argument. "Our job is to support ALL the neighbors," he said.

PENINSULA LITTLE LEAGUE

**End of the season
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