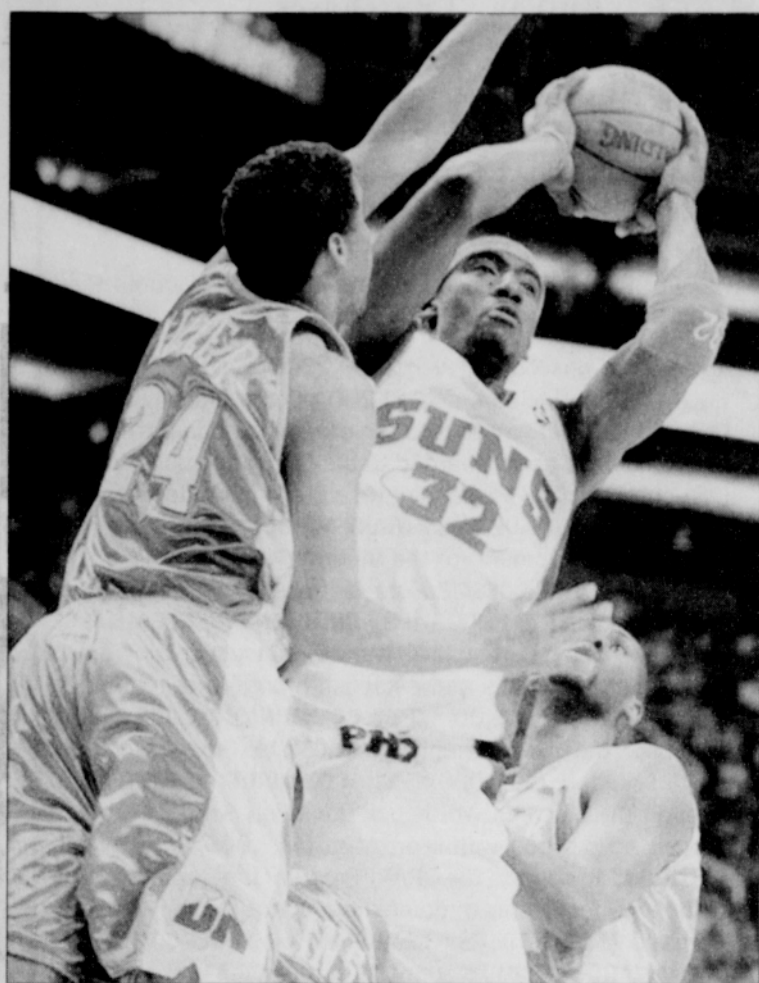


SPORTS



The Denver Nuggets triple-team Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire in the second quarter Monday in Phoenix. (AP photo)

Suns Earn Best Record in NBA

The Phoenix Suns didn't need to beat the Denver Nuggets to clinch home-court advantage throughout the NBA playoffs. They blew them out anyway.

The Suns will have the extra game of every playoff series at home.

Joe Johnson scored 18 of his 26 points in a 44-point first quarter in which the Suns shot 71 percent and took a 19-point lead. Amare Stoudemire also scored 26 points, Shawn Marion had 18 and Quentin Richardson 16 in the Suns' 62nd victory, tying the franchise record set by the 1992-93 team that made it to the NBA Finals.

"That might be one of my best quarters," Johnson said. "It

was a lot of fun, I have to admit. My shot was falling, and guys were finding me. We had 44 points in the first quarter. You couldn't ask for too much better than that."

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni couldn't find anything wrong with the first half.

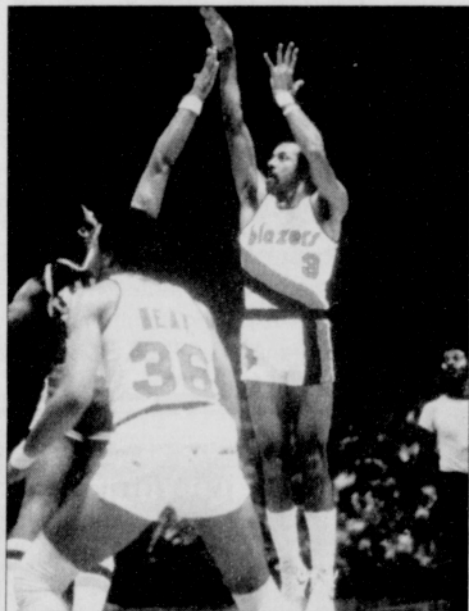
"I don't think we can play any better than that," he said. "You'd have to ask Joe if he can play any better than that. I mean, it was mind-boggling. And the rest of them - Steve Nash takes two shots and hits two 3s. We came out and really took care of business. I just feel like we're getting our energy and our focus back at a good time."

Blazer Herm Gilliam Dead at 58 Championship Team Player Remembered

Former Trail Blazer Herm Gilliam, who played on Portland's 1976-77 NBA Championship team, died Saturday at his home from a heart attack, the team said. He was 58.

Gilliam, a former player at Purdue and a guard on the Portland Trail Blazers' only NBA championship, lived in Portland. He played eight seasons in the NBA, averaging 10.8 points and 3.8 assists a game.

He played for Cincinnati, Buffalo, Atlanta and Seattle before spending his final season, 1976-77, with the Trail Blazers. Port-



Herm Gilliam played on Portland's World Championship team.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRAIL BLAZERS ARCHIVES

land beat Philadelphia in six games that year to claim the NBA title.

Gilliam was the Cincinnati Royals' first-round draft pick, eighth overall, out of Purdue in 1969. He had seven points and 11 rebounds in the Boilermakers' 92-72 loss to UCLA in the 1969 NCAA championship game.

He averaged 15.9 points a game in three seasons at Purdue and was All-Big Ten as a senior in 1969.

The Blazers held a moment of silence for Gilliam before Sunday night's 100-82 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Life Saving Device Honors Eddie Barnett

An automated external defibrillator has been granted to Grant High School in honor of Eddie Barnett II, the student who died in February during a varsity basketball game.

The donation was made by the American Heart Association in partnership with Medtronic. AED's are small, portable and safe devices that can reverse ventricular fibrillation (quivering

of the heart's lower chambers), the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest.

Cardiac arrest, which is different from a heart attack, is the stopping of the heartbeat and can be brought on by injury or illness. Survival is directly linked to the amount of time between the onset of sudden cardiac arrest and defibrillation.

On May 21, additional

defibrillators will be presented at the annual Heart Walk, which raises money for cardiovascular

research and programs, and will honor people of all ages affected by heart disease and stroke.

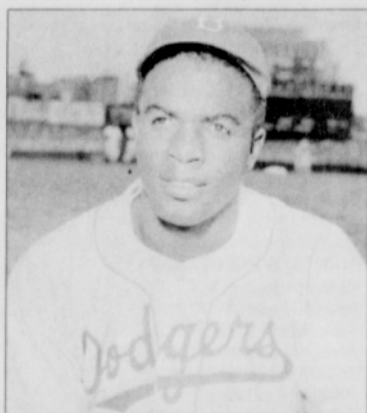
Robinson Honored Dodgers celebrate 58 years of crossing color line

(AP) - No matter how many players pass through the Dodgers' clubhouse, Jackie Robinson will remain the heartbeat of an enduring and endearing franchise that was the first to integrate the major leagues.

That point was driven home at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on Friday night when Rachel Robinson, Jackie's widow, was on hand with daughter Sharon to mark the 58th anniversary of her husband's first major league game and the breaking of the color line.

Two "Jackie Robinson Day" logos with circumferences as large as the pitcher's mound were painted on the field. Adding to the significance of the occasion was the fact that this season marks the 50th anniversary of the Dodgers' only World Series title in Brooklyn.

The Dodgers took the field against the San Diego Padres in replicas of the old road uniforms with "Brooklyn" spelled out. And for one night their fans were transported back to baseball's Golden Era, when Robinson



Jackie Robinson

played second base and revolutionized the game.

The 1955 season was bitter-sweet for Robinson, who at age 36 had to share third base duties with Don Hoak. Robinson played the first six games of the World Series, but sat out the clincher at Yankee Stadium because of a sore Achilles' tendon.

He went 0-for-3, reached on an error and scored the go-ahead run as the Dodgers won 5-3 before a crowd of 25,623.

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