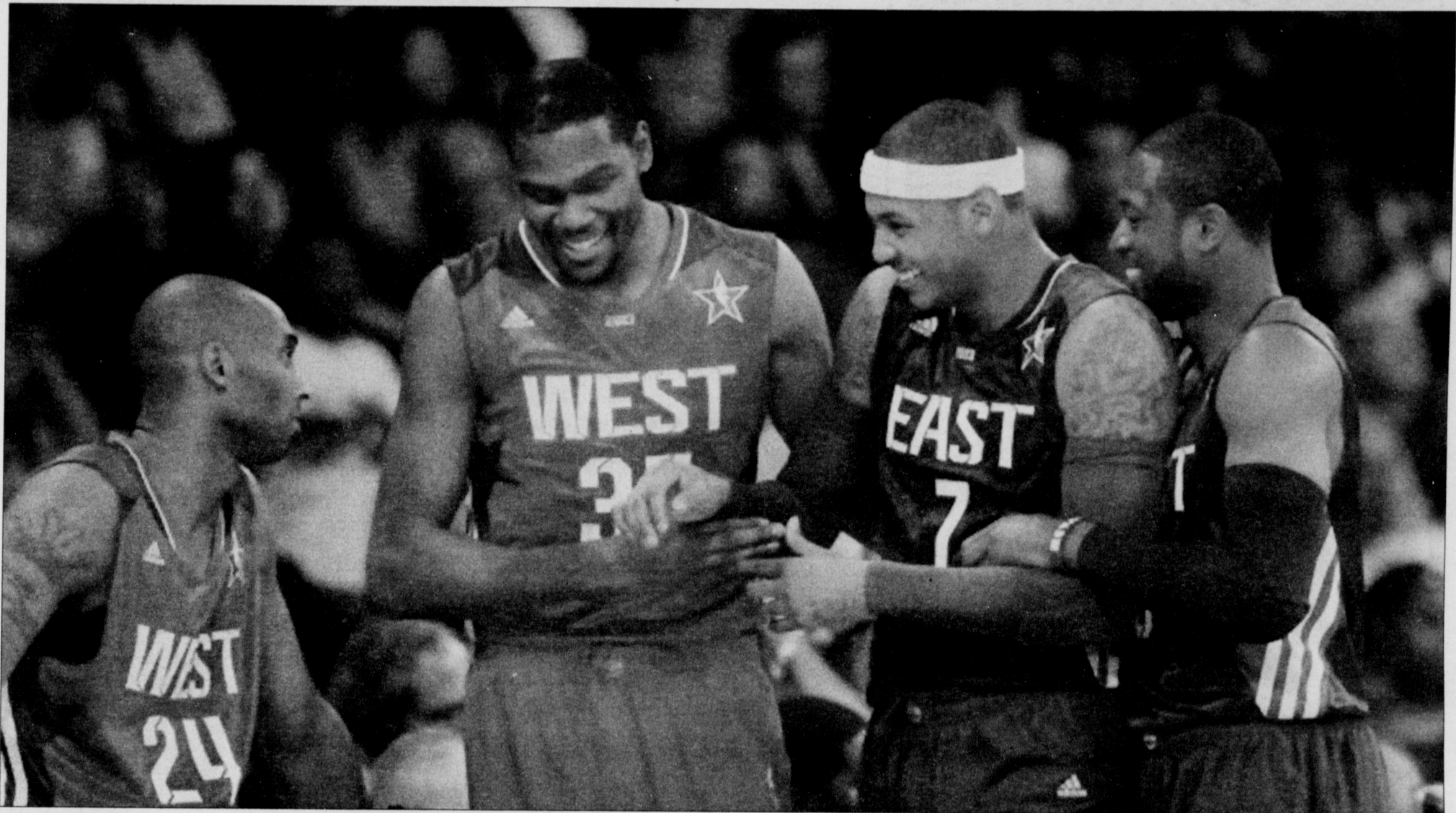


# SPORTS



NBA All-Stars (from left) Kobe Bryant and Kevin Durant of the West Team, and Carmelo Anthony and Dwyane Wade of the East Team laugh during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday in Houston. (AP photo)

## Kobe Leads West to NBA All-star Win

(AP) -- The NBA's career scoring leader in the All-Star game, Kobe Bryant has never been just about offense.

"I'm known for my defense," Bryant said. "I can defend. I'm pretty smart with my defense."

Pretty good, too. Ask LeBron James.

Bryant blocked James' jumper, turning it into a dunk by Kevin Durant that helped the Western Conference put away the East 143-138 on Sunday.

Bryant may not leap like Blake Griffin, but he can still get up when he needs to, especially when the defenseless part of the All-Star game is over and it's time to stop somebody - even the league's best player.

On Michael Jordan's 50th birthday, the players most often compared to him turned the final minutes into a 1-on-1 duel, and it went to Bryant - the guy Jordan said he'd pick between the two based on his five championship rings. That's one

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THE ORIGINAL

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