celebrity pipeline
BY JAY BOBBIN

Were you dreaming of 'White Christmas'?

"White Christmas"

Q: Why was "White Christmas" so hard to find on TV this latest holiday season? – Dave Jenkins, Westerville, Ohio

A: It was a matter of knowing when and where to look. AMC traditionally has been the seasonal home of the 1954 Bing Crosby-Danny Kaye classic, and while the picture still could be found there, it was pretty much relegated to the overnight hours last month ... with more-contemporary attractions such as "Love Actually" and "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" getting the prime evening scheduling.

However, Sundance offered a feast of "White Christmas" on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, running it continuously for the better part of 24 hours – thus emulating what TBS and TNT traditionally do each year with "A Christmas Story," and setting up a rivalry of sorts between two of the most beloved of all holiday movies, though there were plenty of chances to catch both within that time span.

Send questions of general interest via email to tvpipeline@gracenote.com. Writers must include their names, cities and states. Personal replies cannot be sent.
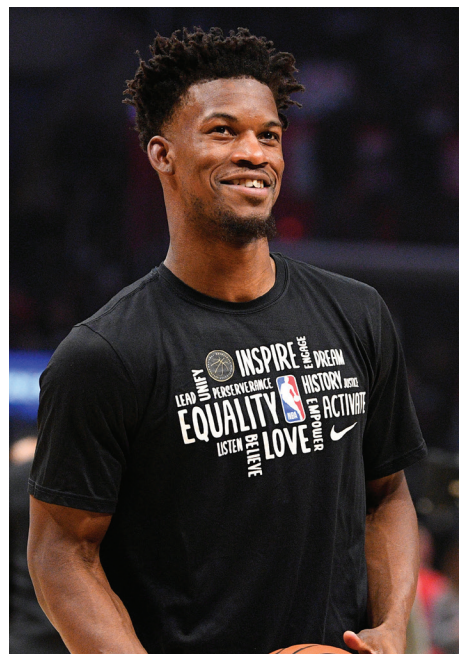
player profile
BY GEORGE DICKIE

Butler, Heat ready to go to the next level

Last season, the Miami Heat seemingly came out of nowhere to make a run to the NBA Finals.

In 2020-21, they have targets on their backs as the reigning Eastern Conference champs. And the player likely to get the most attention from opposing teams is their small forward Jimmy Butler.

Indeed, the man known as "Jimmy Buckets" was a monster during this past fall's postseason, averaging 22.2 points per game and 48.8 percent shooting, to go along with 6.5 rebounds, six assists and two steals. In the NBA Finals he was even better. Without much production from stars Goran Dragic and Bam Adebayo, Butler put the Heat on his back against an overpowering Lakers team, averaging 26.2 points, 9.8 assists, 8.3 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game. Included in that was a 40 point/13 assist/11 board effort in a Game 3 victory, one of two the Heat were able to muster against the eventual champs.

The 31-year-old five-time All-Star sat out the preseason after closing out the Finals just two months earlier but he's ready to go and looking forward to playing with a cast that includes Dragic, Adebayo and KZ Okpala, the Heat's No. 1 draft pick in 2019 whom Butler believes is destined for greatness. Of course, an 82-game regular season and three tiers of playoffs will tell if that mix adds up to an NBA title.

Butler and the Heart can be seen in action Thursday, Jan. 14, when they pay a visit to the Philadelphia 76ers in the opening game of a TNT doubleheader.

FULL NAME: Jimmy Butler III
BIRTH DATE: Sept. 14, 1989
BIRTHPLACE: Houston
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6 feet, 7 inches/230 pounds
DRAFT: Selected in the first round (30th overall) by the Chicago Bulls in 2011
TEAMS: Chicago Bulls (2011-17); Minnesota Timberwolves (2017-18); Philadelphia 76ers (2018-19); Miami Heat (2019-present)
POSITION: Forward
NO.: 22
COLLEGE: Marquette (majoring in communications)

sports quiz
BY GEORGE DICKIE

Movers

Questions:

1) Who began his 14-team head-coaching career with the Carolina Cougars of the ABA in 1972?

2) Who led four teams to American League division titles and managed the New York Yankees in five separate stints?

3) Who coached eight NHL teams from 1977 to 2002?

4) This NFL coach was noted for turning also-rans into contenders, as he did with four teams from 1983 to 2006. Name him.

5) Whose five-team NBA coaching career included two stops with the Golden State Warriors?

6) This five-time MLB manager's career included stops with both New York teams. Who is he?

7) Who coached six NBA teams from 1969 to 2005, registering the most losses and third-most wins of anyone in league history?

8) This Hall of Famer coached five teams from 1967 to 2002 and is the NHL's winningest coach. Name him.

Answers:

1) Larry Brown
2) Billy Martin
3) Roger Neilson
4) Bill Parcells
5) Don Nelson
6) Joe Torre
7) Lenny Wilkens
8) Scotty Bowman