



Western Conference Finals

63-26 West Division Contender Minnesota Muskies

vs

66-23 West Division Champion Sun Valley Bobcats

Regular Season: The Sun Valley Bobcats were the league's highest scoring team, setting a VBA record with a 129.9 average. They finished with 62-20 record; best in the Western Conference. Dan Issel was the team's MVP and leading scorer. He averaged 26.9 points, 5th best in the league. He scored 40 or more 8 times, with two of those surpassing 50. Rookie #2 overall, James Worthy, surprised the league by averaging 21.0 points. Jamaal Wilkes added 20.0 ppg to the mix and has been the most-consistent Bobcat thru the league's first 4 years. He is now third on the all time VBA scoring list with 7,119 total points. Minnesota had the league's 3rd best record and led the VBA with 98.3 pts per 100 possessions. Only Oklahoma had fewer turnovers than MNM. Kiki Vandeweghe led the league in scoring with 29.5 points. He edged out Moses Malone with a good April. The Chief, Robert Parish averaged 20.3 per game and was 3rd in the league with a 10.9 rebound average. Rickey Green led the league in taking the ball away (2.9 steals) and passing it away (10.7 assists).



Playoffs: Both Sun Valley and Minnesota took 7 games to defeat their round one foes. The Muskies defeated a scrappy Costa Mesa Condors team for the 2nd year in a row. Vandeweghe was unstoppable. He averaged 40.4 points per game and is the leading scorer in the playoffs. Parish averaged 21.6 points and 10.6 boards. Jim Paxson was good for 18.0 ppg. Issel stayed consistent thru round one as the Bobcats' leading scorer. He averaged 25.6 per contest against Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and the Philadelphia Fire. Julius Erving, who didn't have his usual regular season, lived up to his clutch reputation, upping his scoring by 5 points per game to 22.7. Silk contributed at a 22.6 pace.

Head-to-head: Sun Valley won 8 of 10 meetups during the regular season. Issel increased his average to 32.2 ppg. Worthy averaged 23.2. Wilkes (18.9) and McAdoo (18.7) were just below 19 points. Vandeweghe scored 29.0. Parish was good for 19.0 pts and 10.7 reb. Green averaged 11.4 dimes.