

1987-88 Vintage Basketball Association Finals Preview



72-29 Western Conference Champion Buffalo Blizzard

vs

85-6 Eastern Conference Champion Fresno Stars

Regular Season: Coming off a miraculous 81-1 regular season en route to their first VBA Championship last year, the Fresno Stars find themselves in the Finals for the 3rd straight year. They went 77-5 during the regular season and are 8-1 so far in the playoffs. They finished with the league's 2nd best offense (127.7 ppg), 7th best defense (104.8 ppg) and best differential (22.9). Magic Johnson led the way with a 23.5 scoring average (7th in league) and 9.8 assists/game (4th in VBA). Alvin Robertson added 19.7 points and tied Michael Jordan for the league's top thief with 3.5 takeaways per contest. Patrick Ewing scored 17.7 points and swatted 2.4 balls to tie Akeem Olajuwon for 2nd in the league. The Buffalo Blizzard finished 60-22, just one game behind the division leading El Paso Scorpions. It's their 2nd consecutive trip to the VBA Playoffs, their only two appearances in their 9-year history as an original VBA franchise. They led the league in scoring with a 133.8 average that earned them the league's 3rd best point differential at 9.7. They were led by the terrific trio of Clyde "the Glide" Drexler (22.7 ppg), Mark "Fat Daddy" Aguirre (22.5) and Karl "The Mailman" Malone (21.9). Tom Chambers wasn't far behind at 17.1. Malone was 3rd in rebounding at 11.4 per game and Drexler was 4th in steals (2.6 avg).



Early Playoffs: Fresno earned a bye for winning the Robertson Division. In Round Two, the Stars swept the Callaway Kings with the closest game being game 2, 132-118. Magic averaged 28.0 and Robertson 27.0. Magic dished out 9.8 assists as well. El Paso won the Chamberlain Division so Buffalo, who finished one game out, had to start their playoff journey in Round One. They faced Bucks County and took the series 4-1. Aguirre averaged 23.0 points and Drexler 20.2. Malone was a 19.4 point-14.0 rebound guy. They took on El Paso in Round Two and won game 7 by holding Michael Jordan to 29 minutes and 22 points (he averaged 36.6 during the regular season and had scored 40.5 ppg in the first 6 contests). Aguirre led the way with 20.7. Drexler was good for 19.6 and The Mailman delivered 18.9 points and 10.7 rebounds.

2.11.88

Fresno 185 Buffalo 182

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Final
Fresno	43	35	33	37	16	21	185
Buffalo	40	29	36	43	16	18	182

Fresno	Min	FG	3PT	FT	Reb	Ast	To	St	Bk	Pf	Pts	+/-	GS
Rivers	24:06	3-6	0-0	7-10	0-5	7	5	2	0	4	13	0	10.6
Johnson,M	48:29	12-25	1-3	11-12	0-6	18	1	2	0	2	36	-5	37.5
Kersey	26:51	10-12	0-0	4-6	0-3	3	1	1	2	6	24	+2	20.8
Cage	42:01	6-11	0-0	6-10	3-11	0	3	0	1	6	18	-11	10.9
Ewing	26:04	5-14	0-0	1-3	5-11	4	4	1	2	6	11	+10	6.5
Robertson,A	43:24	17-25	0-0	2-5	2-6	6	5	11	3	5	36	-1	37.0
Pressey	30:55	6-10	1-1	3-3	3-5	3	4	0	0	5	16	+4	10.2
Rasmussen	23:53	10-13	0-0	3-4	1-3	0	1	0	5	5	23	-14	19.3
Oldham	13:24	3-6	0-0	2-2	0-4	0	1	0	0	4	8	+3	3.6
Nealy	7:46	0-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	2	0	0	2	0	-8	-2.8
Acres	3:05	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+5	0.0
TOTAL		72-123	2-4	39-55	15-55	41	27	17	13	45	185	+3	190.5
		.585	.500	.709									

Buffalo	Min	FG	3PT	FT	Reb	Ast	To	St	Bk	Pf	Pts	+/-	GS
Free	24:54	2-11	0-1	4-4	0-1	3	4	0	0	6	8	+1	-2.9
Drexler	40:14	20-38	0-3	3-3	6-8	3	4	4	2	6	43	+8	30.3
Malone	43:33	18-31	0-0	11-15	9-25	2	4	2	1	4	47	-6	40.5
Chambers	39:26	5-18	0-1	12-13	5-8	5	3	1	0	6	22	+7	14.5
Cartwright	31:30	5-11	0-0	12-15	5-12	3	3	0	2	6	22	+6	18.8
Holton	25:49	4-7	0-0	4-4	1-2	9	3	0	0	2	12	-6	12.2
Donovan	25:04	4-10	0-0	1-2	1-1	6	3	2	0	4	9	+4	5.5
Duckworth	21:01	5-9	0-0	3-3	4-6	0	2	0	0	1	13	+2	9.7
Tyler	20:11	1-3	0-0	0-0	0-2	2	0	0	0	0	2	-6	2.3
Crite	15:29	2-4	0-0	0-0	1-6	1	2	2	0	4	4	-1	3.3
Wilson,N	2:49	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	+6	-0.7
TOTAL		66-142	0-5	50-59	32-72	34	30	11	5	39	182	-3	175.1
		.465	.000	.847									

