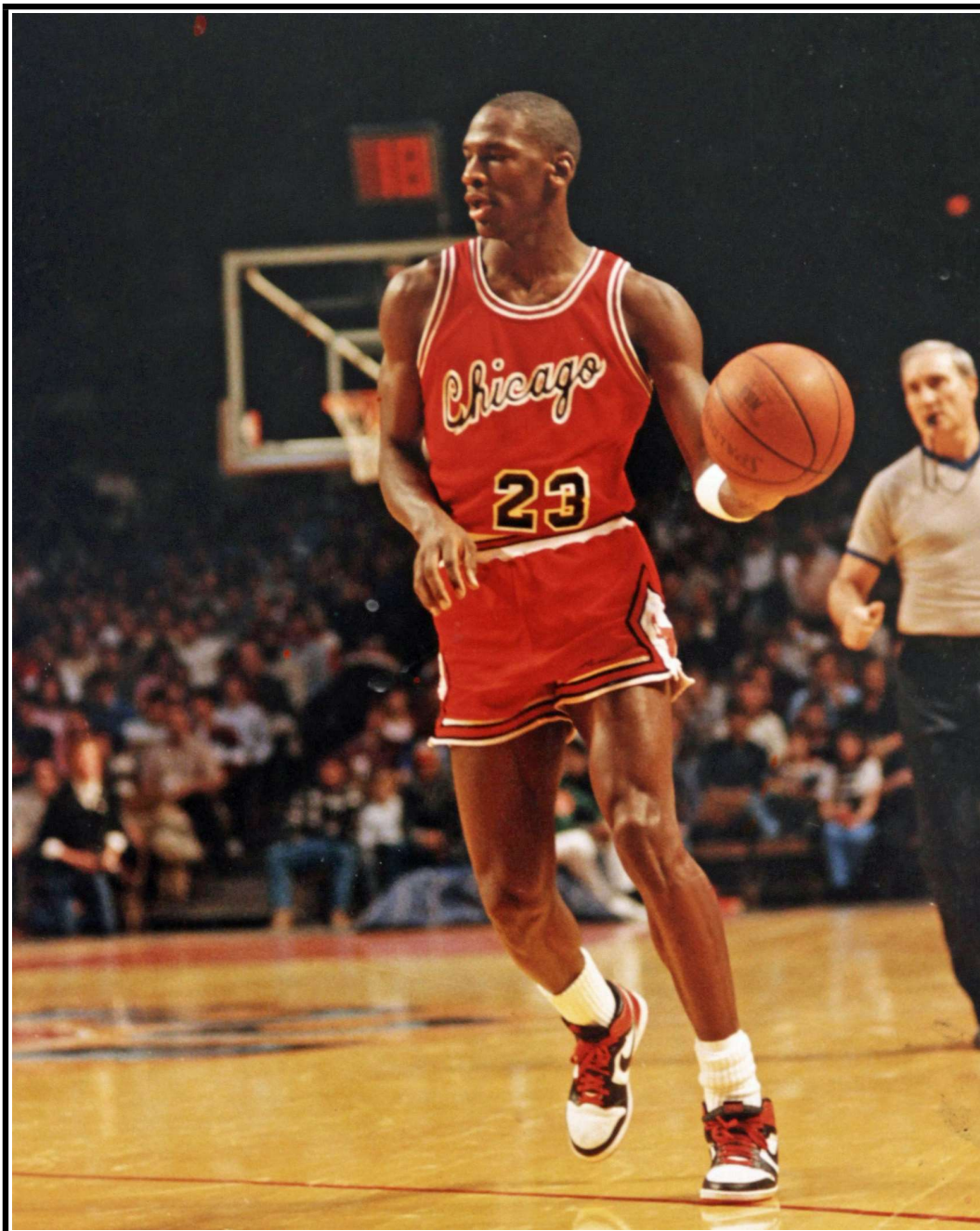


1984-85

VINTAGE

Basketball
Association

Draft Preview



“From purely a star power standpoint, yes, the Class of 1984 is the best ever. There are four Hall of Famers; five if you include Oscar Schmidt, who never actually played in the NBA. But Jordan, by all accounts, is the best player in NBA history. Olajuwon and Barkley are probably among the top 15 players to ever play the game, and Stockton isn't too far behind. Many consider the 90s the 'golden era' of NBA basketball, and the 1984 Draft is the driving force behind that notion.”

----- NBA.com

“Top Players (Career Win Shares): Michael Jordan (214.0), John Stockton (207.7), Charles Barkley (177.2), Hakeem Olajuwon (162.8), Otis Thorpe (106.4), Sam Perkins (105.4), Kevin Willis (81.8), Michael Cage (74.4), Jerome Kersey (69.5), Alvin Robertson (52.1).

The star power at the top of this class is second to none. In NBA history, 20 players have accumulated at least 160 win shares, and four of them (20 percent) were drafted in 1984: Michael Jordan, John Stockton, Charles Barkley and Hakeem Olajuwon. Only two other classes (1960 and 1987) produced multiple members of this club, and 1984 is the only one with at least three such legends.

In their collective careers, Jordan, Stockton, Barkley and Olajuwon combined for 47 All-Star Games, 45 All-NBA teams, 23 All-Defensive teams, 10 scoring titles, nine assist titles, five steal titles, three rebound titles, three block titles, eight NBA championships and seven MVPs. Stockton is the career leader in both assists and steals, Olajuwon is the all-time blocks king and MJ is No. 3 in steals and No. 4 in points.

Every draft class has fingerprints throughout the pages of the NBA's history, but 1984 practically authored the record books.”

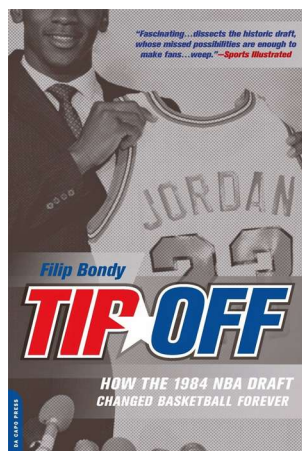
----- Bleacher Report

“The 1984 draft class could have gotten top spot with just Olajuwon and Jordan. Hakeem is one of the greatest big men to ever play the game while MJ is considered by many as the G.O.A.T. Barkley, despite being undersized, is one of the best power forwards in history while John Stockton is still the all-time assists leader.

Robertson was a four-time All-Star while Thorpe and Willis were all solid NBA players that contributed to a couple of NBA championship teams. Even the 131st overall selection, Oscar Schmidt, was an all-time great despite not playing in the NBA. The Brazilian is one of the greatest international players ever and he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

The only reason why the 1984 draft class missed the top spot is that of Sam Bowie. The second overall pick was picked by the Trail Blazers and he was selected ahead of Jordan. Bowie is considered by many as one of the biggest busts in history despite having a nice 11-year career. “

----- sportskeeda.com



“Three Dream Teamers – Michael Jordan (3rd), Charles Barkley (5th), and John Stockton (16th) – all went in the first round. This class has 53 All-Star appearances, a draft-best 39 All-NBA, and a draft-best seven MVP awards.”

----- HoopsHype.com



1984 NBA Draft - Dokument
Łukasz 23 • 56K views • 2 years ago



Charles Barkley

6'5" 275 lbs
Forward



By PHIL JASNER

Most teams in the National Basketball Association would be happy to win 52 games and proceed to the playoffs. The Philadelphia 76ers, however, won 52 and felt as if they had sunk into a deep pit.

The 76ers, who won a massive 65 games in 1982-83 and then lost only one post-season game en route to their first NBA championship in 16 years, were eliminated by the New Jersey Nets in the first round of the '83-84 playoffs. Now they're trying to rediscover the magic of their championship season.

Can they get it back? Will they?

"I want to see us come back with the same sort of dedication that the Boston Celtics showed last season," Coach Billy Cunningham said. "It's something we have to have."

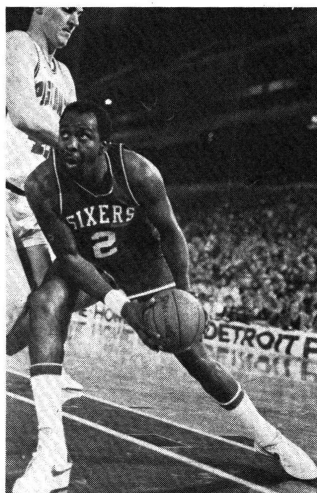
Cunningham has prepared for this season by having individual meetings with each returning veteran. He even made a summertime trip to Houston to visit All-Star center Moses Malone in an effort to find the ingredients that made Malone the '82-83 regular-season and Championship Series Most Valuable Player.

Malone was anything but a disappointment last season, averaging 13.4 rebounds (best in the league) and 22.7 points. But he struggled on tender knees, which are just beginning to show the ravages of 10 professional seasons.

"He sounds to me like a guy who wants to come back and win another championship," Cunningham said. "He's involved in a weight-training program, he's enthusiastic, he wants to win. That's one aspect of him that hasn't changed."

If Philadelphia is to challenge defending champion Boston in the league's deepest division, however, the team must clear up some personal matters. For one, Cunningham must resolve his communication glitch with guard Andrew Toney, a versatile competitor who averaged 20.4 points during the regular season. For another, he must rectify any problems caused by a proposed trade involving forward Julius Erving. A deal that would have sent Erving, the team's popular 34-year-old captain, to the Los Angeles Clippers for Terry Cummings reportedly was close to completion before being called off. Erving, who averaged 22.4 points and 6.9 rebounds last season, said he probably would have retired if the trade had been completed.

"Last season wasn't a season for everything to go right," Cunningham said. "We never reached a level of consistency and stayed there. It wouldn't have had to be the same level as the championship year, because that was so special. But we never found any level."



The 76ers lost their crown but Moses Malone was solid again.

The 76ers certainly have the talent to achieve consistency. In addition to Toney and superstars Malone and Erving, they have guard Maurice Cheeks (12.7 points), who improved tremendously over the season and emerged as the team's best player in the five-game series against New Jersey.

Philadelphia also has fine contributors in forward Bobby Jones, the team's best reserve, and guard Clint Richardson, another good player off the bench. Forward Marc Iavaroni should continue to improve, but significantly more production is needed from center Clemon Johnson when he relieves Malone.

General Manager Pat Williams said he believes last season's playoff loss to the Nets could provide the spark needed to set the 76ers on fire.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
1	Wes Matthews.....	C	Wisconsin '81
2	Moses Malone.....	G	Petersburg, Va. HS
4	Clint Richardson.....	F	Seattle '79
6	Julius Erving.....	G	Massachusetts '72
8	Marc Iavaroni.....	F	Virginia '78
9	Sedale Threatt.....	G	West Va. Tech '83
10	Maurice Cheeks.....	G	West Texas State '78
11	Leo Rautins.....	F-G	Syracuse '83
14	Frank Edwards.....	G	Cleveland State '81
22	Andrew Toney.....	G	Southwestern La. '80
24	Bobby Jones.....	F	North Carolina '74
33	Sam Williams.....	F	Arizona State '81
45	Clemon Johnson.....	C-F	Florida A&M '78

TOP DRAFTIES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Charles Barkley.....	5	F	Auburn
1	Leon Wood.....	10	G	Fullerton State
3	James Banks.....	48	F	Georgia

The 76ers had remarkable luck in the draft, selecting two college standouts: Charles Barkley, the 6-7, 275-pound "Round Mound of Rebound" from Auburn, and Leon Wood, an All-America guard from Cal State-Fullerton and a member of the U.S. Olympic team. Barkley gives Philadelphia, for the first time since the days of George McGinnis, a legitimate power forward, and Wood offers depth in the backcourt.

"A lot of what we face is mental," Williams said. "Two years ago we were at the mountaintop, with the championship and all that goes with it. Now we're climbing out of a deep valley, and good teams tend to respond to circumstances like this."

"We lost all three of our playoff games at home. We lost a seven-point lead with 7 minutes to play in the last one. We were embarrassed. Our performance wasn't what it should have been and neither was our concentration. We didn't have the passion for each and every game, even though we apparently thought we did."

"The next part, of course, is physical. We've added two of the best available college players, and we believe that'll be helpful. I would think we'll be roughly the same team we've been, except deeper, more versatile."

"Can we find the magic? We had it two years ago. We put blinders on every night and just went out and did the job. Unless you've been through it, nobody can fathom what that took."

And Cunningham has no taste for the alternative.

"I tried to find something positive in what happened to us," the coach said. "Things I had never been able to do in May and June, I figured I'd have time, enjoy them while I could. There'd be a golf tournament here, a camp appearance there."

"But when they began coming up I found myself not wanting to do them. I knew where I wanted to be, and I couldn't be there. It was frustrating. It's not something I'd look forward to again."

The division, meanwhile, is getting stronger. The powerful Celtics are at the top, the Nets are developing rapidly, the New York Knicks are established playoff contenders and the Washington Bullets are climbing quickly with the addition of such talented players as forward Cliff Robinson and guard Gus Williams.

And Philadelphia?

"We can think in terms of winning another title," Williams said. "We have to think that way. In a town as demanding as Philadelphia, what else is there?" ■

Phil Jasner covers the Philadelphia 76ers for the Philadelphia Daily News.

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	21	PHI	NBA	PF	82	60	28.6	5.2	9.5	.545	0.0	0.1	.167	5.2	9.5	.548	.546	3.6	4.9	.733	3.2	5.3	8.6	1.9	1.2	1.0	2.5	3.7	14.0
1985-86	22	PHI	NBA	PF	80	80	36.9	7.4	13.0	.572	0.2	0.9	.227	7.2	12.1	.598	.580	5.0	7.2	.685	4.4	8.4	12.8	3.9	2.2	1.6	4.4	4.2	20.0
1986-87 *	23	PHI	NBA	PF	68	62	40.3	8.2	13.8	.594	0.3	1.5	.202	7.9	12.3	.643	.606	6.3	8.3	.761	5.7	8.9	14.6	4.9	1.8	1.5	4.7	3.7	23.0
1987-88 *	24	PHI	NBA	PF	80	80	39.6	9.4	16.0	.587	0.6	2.0	.280	8.9	14.1	.630	.604	8.9	11.9	.751	4.8	7.1	11.9	3.2	1.3	1.3	3.8	3.5	28.3
1988-89 *	25	PHI	NBA	PF	79	79	39.1	8.9	15.3	.579	0.4	2.1	.216	8.4	13.2	.636	.594	7.6	10.1	.753	5.1	7.4	12.5	4.1	1.6	0.8	3.2	3.3	25.8
1989-90 *	26	PHI	NBA	SF	79	79	39.1	8.9	14.9	.600	0.3	1.2	.217	8.7	13.7	.632	.608	7.1	9.4	.749	4.6	6.9	11.5	3.9	1.9	0.6	3.1	3.2	25.2
1990-91 *	27	PHI	NBA	SF	67	67	37.3	9.9	17.4	.570	0.7	2.3	.284	9.3	15.1	.614	.589	7.1	9.8	.722	3.9	6.3	10.1	4.2	1.6	0.5	3.1	2.6	27.6
1991-92 *	28	PHI	NBA	SF	75	75	38.4	8.3	15.0	.552	0.4	1.8	.234	7.9	13.2	.597	.567	6.1	8.7	.695	3.6	7.5	11.1	4.1	1.8	0.6	3.1	2.6	23.1
1992-93 *	29	PHO	NBA	PF	76	76	37.6	9.4	18.1	.520	0.9	2.9	.305	8.5	15.2	.561	.545	5.9	7.7	.765	3.1	9.1	12.2	5.1	1.6	1.0	3.1	2.6	25.6
1993-94 *	30	PHO	NBA	PF	65	65	35.4	8.0	16.1	.495	0.7	2.7	.270	7.2	13.4	.541	.518	4.9	7.0	.704	3.0	8.1	11.2	4.6	1.6	0.6	3.2	2.5	21.6
1994-95 *	31	PHO	NBA	PF	68	66	35.0	8.1	16.8	.486	1.1	3.2	.338	7.1	13.6	.521	.518	5.6	7.5	.748	3.0	8.1	11.1	4.1	1.6	0.7	2.2	3.0	23.0
1995-96 *	32	PHO	NBA	PF	71	71	37.1	8.2	16.3	.500	0.7	2.5	.280	7.5	13.9	.539	.521	6.2	8.0	.777	3.4	8.1	11.6	3.7	1.6	0.8	3.1	2.9	23.2
1996-97 *	33	HOU	NBA	PF	53	53	37.9	6.3	13.1	.484	1.1	3.9	.283	5.2	9.2	.569	.526	5.4	7.8	.694	4.0	9.5	13.5	4.7	1.3	0.5	2.8	2.9	19.2
1997-98	34	HOU	NBA	PF	68	41	33.0	5.3	10.9	.485	0.3	1.2	.214	5.0	9.7	.520	.497	4.4	5.8	.746	3.5	8.1	11.7	3.2	1.0	0.4	2.2	2.8	15.2
1998-99	35	HOU	NBA	PF	42	40	36.3	5.7	12.0	.478	0.1	0.6	.160	5.6	11.4	.495	.482	4.6	6.4	.719	4.0	8.3	12.3	4.6	1.0	0.3	2.4	2.1	16.1
1999-00	36	HOU	NBA	PF	20	18	31.0	5.3	11.1	.477	0.3	1.3	.231	5.0	9.8	.510	.491	3.6	5.5	.645	3.6	6.9	10.5	3.2	0.7	0.2	2.2	2.4	14.5
Career			NBA		1073	1012	36.7	7.9	14.5	.541	0.5	1.9	.266	7.4	12.7	.581	.558	5.9	8.1	.735	4.0	7.7	11.7	3.9	1.5	0.8	3.1	3.1	22.1

Sam Bowie
7'1" 260 lbs
Center



By STEVE DUIN

After years of playing it cozy, keeping their cards close to the vest, the Portland Trail Blazers have bet the house limit in a bid to become 1984-85 National Basketball Association champions.

The Blazers, always a big man away from being the center of attention in the Pacific Division, finished second to Los Angeles last season with a 48-34 record and then began their off-season early after succumbing quietly to Phoenix in the league playoffs.

That off-season was not without controversy.

The Blazers enlisted attorney Alan Rothenberg to explain the salary cap to the advisors of two collegiate big men, Akeem Olajuwon of the University of Houston and Georgetown's Patrick Ewing. Scheduled to flip a coin with the Houston Rockets for the right to make first selection in the college draft, Portland was guaranteed no worse than the second choice. By enlisting Rothenberg, the Blazers were trying to find out about the availability of undergraduates Olajuwon and Ewing.

When reports of Rothenberg's adventures reached the NBA office, Commissioner David Stern postponed the coin flip and initiated an investigation into the possibility of illegal contact between the Blazers and the undergraduates. Stern finally ruled that Portland had acted in good faith, but with bad judgment. He fined the club \$250,000.

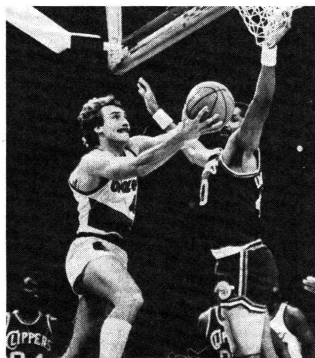
Talk about upping the ante. While Executive Vice President Harry Glickman dismissed the fine as "not much more than a traffic ticket," team President Larry Weinberg was incensed by Stern's knock on his integrity.

But Weinberg maintained his poker face, even as Portland lost the coin flip and the chance to add Olajuwon to a team that compiled the sixth best record in the NBA. The Blazers, undaunted, upped the stakes even more by drafting 7-foot-1 center Sam Bowie and acquiring 6-8 forward Kiki Vandeweghe from Denver in the biggest trade of the off-season.

Vandeweghe did not come cheap. He cost the Blazers 6-6 forward Calvin Natt, a 16.2-point scorer last season, 6-10 center Wayne Cooper, 6-3 guard Lafayette Lever and two high draft picks.

Strange as it may seem, however, the Blazers traded away nothing they really needed for the answer to Coach Jack Ramsay's prayers.

"Put it (the trade) in the context of the team," said Ramsay, who has orchestrated more wins (703) than any NBA coach other than Boston's Red Auerbach. "Our front-line players do not shoot well at all.



Jim Paxson's solid 1983-84 season put him on the All-NBA Second Team.

Teams dared us to shoot from the outside, and those are dares I don't want our players to accept.

"When Cooper wasn't hitting from the outside, that became a huge problem for us. No matter what mix we had on the floor, there was only one perimeter shooter on the squad."

That solitary gunman was team captain Jim Paxson, who averaged 21.3 points per game last season.

"By the end of the season, teams were packing it in against us," Ramsay said. "We had to score from the basket area or we wouldn't score. That made for a hard offensive game. You saw Calvin getting fewer opportunities in the basket area than the year before."

"With Vandeweghe, we not only add a perimeter shooter but a better passer. That opens up our inside game. Teams will not be able to (pack it in) as they have before."

Ramsay might have said "teams," but he meant Lakers. Portland has long suffered from the Long Beach complex, living in the shadow of Los Angeles. The Blazers barely challenged the Lakers last

year, a mismatch Ramsay could no longer stomach.

"From the outside looking in, if the Blazers stayed pat the way they were, they were stuck behind L.A.," said Vandeweghe, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, a couple of beaches away from the Forum. "They're an awfully good team, but L.A. is too tough. They (the Blazers) had rebounders inside but they didn't have someone who ran the break and spread the offense like Jim Paxson does in the frontcourt. They had to change up. Portland needed to do something to catch up."

"They did. They can compete with L.A. now. They can compete with anybody now. Excuse me, we can compete with anybody."

Geographical bearings aren't all Vandeweghe needs to adjust. He must pay more attention to defense, a fundamental that wasn't too fundamental in the Denver philosophy of professional basketball.

Vandeweghe, the leading scorer in the NBA over the last two years (4,481 points), finished third in last season's scoring race with a 29.4 average. He may be the one to rejuvenate the faithful but increasingly morose Memorial Coliseum crowds, but all hands agree that Bowie is the key to Portland's chances of running down the Lakers. The Blazers passed on 6-6 Olympian Michael Jordan in favor of the brittle big man, who missed two years at Kentucky with a fractured tibia in his left leg.

"You don't win a world championship with a guard," Vandeweghe said when asked to enter the Bowie-Jordan draft debate. "And there's Paxson. If Jordan came in, he wouldn't have started ahead of Paxson no matter how well he played."

"You do win (a championship) with a dominating guy inside. Bowie is not going to be that the first year, but in a couple years he will be. He was as good as anyone else when he first came in."

If Bowie prospers, Portland will start him in the pivot, with 6-10 Mychal Thompson (15.7 points per game, 8.7 rebounds) and Vandeweghe at the forwards. No team in basketball will have better passers on its front line, though quite a few will have better rebounders.

Paxson and Darnell Valentine (10.2 points) will start at the guards, with 6-7 Kenny Carr, who put together his best pro season with a 15.7 average, 6-7 Clyde Drexler (7.7 points) and 6-9 Audie Norris the first guys off the bench.

Is that a team that can beat the rest of the world? The Lakers-Blazers series may determine whether Portland is bluffing or finally has all the cards. ■

Steve Duin covers the Portland Trail Blazers for the Oregonian in Portland.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
4	Jim Paxson	G	Dayton '79
14	Darnell Valentine	G	Kansas '81
22	Clyde Drexler	F-G	Houston '84
24	Audie Norris	C	Jackson State '82
31	Peter Verhoeven	F	Fresno State '81
34	Kenny Carr	F	North Carolina St. '78
43	M. Thompson	C-F	Minnesota '78
55	Kiki Vandeweghe	F	UCLA '80

TOP DRAFTTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Sam Bowie	2	C	Kentucky
1	Bernard Thompson	19	F-G	Fresno State
2	Steve Colter	33	G	New Mexico State
6	Tom Scheffer	117	C	Purdue

*Selected in 1977 by Indiana; played last seven seasons in Europe.

The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook ★

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	23	POR	NBA	C	76	62	29.2	3.9	7.3	.537	0.0	0.0		3.9	7.3	.537	.537	2.1	3.0	.711	2.7	5.9	8.6	2.8	0.7	2.7	2.3	3.7	10.0
1985-86	24	POR	NBA	C	38	34	29.8	4.4	9.1	.484	0.0	0.0		4.4	9.1	.484	.484	3.0	4.2	.708	2.4	6.2	8.6	2.6	0.6	2.5	2.3	3.7	11.8
1986-87	25	POR	NBA	C	5	5	32.6	6.0	13.2	.455	0.0	0.0		6.0	13.2	.455	.455	4.0	6.0	.667	2.8	3.8	6.6	1.8	0.2	2.0	3.0	3.8	16.0
1987-88	26	Did Not Play (injury—leg)																											
1988-89	27	POR	NBA	C	20	0	20.6	3.5	7.7	.451	0.3	0.4	.714	3.2	7.3	.438	.467	1.4	2.5	.571	1.8	3.5	5.3	1.8	0.4	1.7	1.7	2.2	8.6
1989-90	28	NJN	NBA	C	68	54	32.5	5.1	12.3	.416	0.1	0.5	.323	5.0	11.8	.420	.422	4.3	5.6	.776	3.0	7.1	10.1	1.3	0.6	1.8	1.8	3.1	14.7
1990-91	29	NJN	NBA	C	62	51	30.9	5.1	11.7	.434	0.1	0.4	.182	5.0	11.3	.442	.437	2.7	3.7	.732	2.8	4.9	7.7	2.4	0.7	1.5	2.3	2.8	12.9
1991-92	30	NJN	NBA	C	71	61	30.7	5.9	13.3	.445	0.1	0.4	.320	5.8	13.0	.448	.449	3.0	3.9	.757	2.9	5.3	8.1	2.6	0.6	1.7	2.1	3.0	15.0
1992-93	31	NJN	NBA	C	79	65	26.5	3.6	8.1	.450	0.0	0.1	.333	3.6	8.0	.451	.451	1.8	2.3	.779	2.0	5.0	7.0	1.6	0.4	1.6	1.5	2.9	9.1
1993-94	32	LAL	NBA	C	25	7	22.2	3.0	6.9	.436	0.0	0.2	.250	3.0	6.7	.440	.439	2.9	3.3	.867	1.1	4.2	5.2	1.9	0.2	1.1	1.7	2.6	8.9
1994-95	33	LAL	NBA	C	67	10	18.3	1.8	4.0	.442	0.0	0.2	.182	1.7	3.8	.453	.446	1.0	1.3	.764	1.1	3.2	4.3	1.8	0.3	1.2	1.4	2.7	4.6
Career			NBA		511	349	27.6	4.2	9.2	.452	0.1	0.2	.302	4.1	9.0	.456	.456	2.5	3.3	.748	2.3	5.2	7.5	2.1	0.5	1.8	1.9	3.0	10.9

Michael Cage

6'9" 235 lbs
Forward



By CHRIS COBBS

The Clippers have a new address and new blood in the front office, but the same old dreary prospects.

After six seasons in San Diego, none of which resulted in a finish higher than fifth place, the Clippers moved 120 miles north to the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Clippers Owner Donald T. Sterling did so without National Basketball Association approval—a la pro football's Al Davis, owner of the Los Angeles Raiders—and promptly found himself the defendant in a \$25 million lawsuit that could take years to settle.

Sterling challenged the NBA because he hopes the change of venue will cause a bit of the Los Angeles Lakers' magic to rub off on his team—and because he wants to reverse the club's flow of red ink. Season-ticket sales in Los Angeles took off on a promising note, setting a pace that would be double the level in San Diego. But with the glut of sports franchises in Los Angeles and the paltry performance of the Clippers over the years, it realistically will take more than proximity to the Lakers to make the Clippers an artistic and financial success.

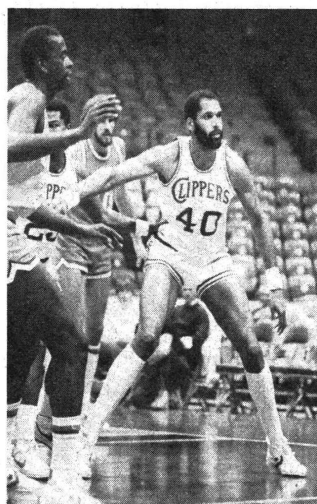
The club's lack of stability also has been partly responsible for its permanent spot in the Pacific Division cellar, and the trend continued this year with General Manager Paul Phipps' decision to move to Denver. His successor, Pete Babcock, resigned after three months on the job, leaving the Clippers' management—which was without a telephone and temporarily evicted from its office in Los Angeles by Olympic officials who needed the space—as jumbled as ever. Former Nuggets General Manager Carl Scheer moved in to fill the void.

To complicate matters even more, the club approached the season with four free agents (Bill Walton, Greg Kelsner, Derek Smith and Ricky Pierce) and three first-second-round draft picks unsigned.

It will require skill and patience for Coach Jim Lynam to bring a semblance of control to this chaotic situation.

Lynam, a protege of Portland Coach Jack Ramsay, is beginning his second year with the Clippers. His lessons as a rookie—to block out what he can't control and to trust his intuition—should be useful this time around.

"I think I will have a better feel for the players this year," Lynam said. "At the start of last season, we were groping blindly on several issues, like how many minutes to play Bill Walton and how to get him into a rotation with James Donaldson. We won't have to experiment with those two anymore."



James Donaldson's game improved greatly when he started alongside center Bill Walton.

A career-threatening knee injury suffered by forward Michael Brooks forced Lynam to use Walton, a center, as a power forward on the same front line with Donaldson for the last two months of the season. The combination of the two big centers worked out well as Donaldson's confidence grew and the team's rebounding and running game improved.

But Lynam still sees plenty of room for improvement, especially in the ability of his big men to handle the ball.

"I don't think we had a forward or center with more assists than turnovers for most of the year," Lynam said (Walton and Brooks were the only exceptions, and their numbers of assists and turnovers were almost even).

Donaldson was particularly prone to turnovers early in the season, but after

being paired with Walton, he found it easier to pick out the open man. He also made 61.3 percent of his field goals and averaged 8.7 rebounds per game over the final two-thirds of the season.

Lynam plans to keep Donaldson paired with Walton, who averaged 12.1 points and 8.7 rebounds in 55 games last year. If Walton is able to stay healthy, as he did in the second half of last season, the Clippers will have the biggest front line outside of Houston.

Kelsner, a 6-7 veteran who is coming off his best season since 1980-81, is the primary backup at forward. The return of Brooks, however, would be the biggest boon for the Clippers.

Responsible for the bulk of the scoring will be small forward Terry Cummings, who began last season taking medication for an irregular heartbeat but managed to cope with uncertainty about his condition.

"It was lurking in the back of his head for half of last year, but he seems to have regained a free and easy mind-set," Lynam said.

Cummings, the team's leading scorer (22.9 points) and rebounder (9.6) last season, can become one of the league's top players if he sharpens his defense and his ability to move without the ball.

Guard Norm Nixon had a solid season in which he averaged 17 points while running the offense and supplying outside shooting. His backcourt mate, third-year man Smith, came into his own last season with a strong finish. Smith averaged 17 points per game down the stretch and was impressive on defense and on the boards.

Lynam expects similar contributions from guard Lancaster Gordon, the Clippers' top draft pick. Gordon, a second-team All-America from Louisville, is blessed with pure athletic ability, much like Smith, his former college teammate.

The Clippers are quietly optimistic about their other first-round choice, Michael Cage, a 6-9 power forward from San Diego State. "He won't get gang-tackled in the pros like he was by college defenses," Lynam said.

Another promising rookie is 6-11 Jay Murphy, a good passer and perimeter shooter from Boston College whose draft rights were acquired from Golden State for veteran center Jerome Whitehead.

While the Clippers' draft choices should boost the club, the franchise still is far from fielding an imposing team. The Clippers appear destined to make a much less spectacular debut in Los Angeles than their nomadic counterparts in football, the Raiders. ■

Chris Cobbs covers the Los Angeles Clippers for the Los Angeles Times.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
1—	Billy McKinney	G	Northwestern '77
7—	Michael Brooks	F	La Salle '80
10—	Norm Nixon	G	Duquesne '77
12—	Rory White	F	South Alabama '82
18—	Derek Smith	F	Louisville '82
20—	Greg Kelsner	F	Michigan State '79
24—	Craig Hodges	G	Long Beach State '82
25—	Ricky Pierce	G	Rice '82
32—	Bill Walton	C-F	UCLA '74
34—	Terry Cummings	F	DePaul '83
40—	James Donaldson	C	Washington State '79

TOP DRAFTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1—	Lancaster Gordon	8	G	Louisville
1—	Michael Cage	14	F	San Diego State
2—	Jay Murphy	31	F	Boston College

*Rights acquired from Golden State for Jerome Whitehead.

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	23	LAC	NBA	PF	75	41	21.5	2.9	5.3	.543	0.0	0.0		2.9	5.3	.543	.543	1.3	1.8	.737	1.7	3.5	5.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.1	2.2	7.1
1985-86	24	LAC	NBA	PF	78	12	20.1	2.6	5.5	.479	0.0	0.0	.000	2.6	5.4	.482	.479	1.4	2.2	.649	2.2	3.2	5.3	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.4	2.3	6.7
1986-87	25	LAC	NBA	PF	80	76	36.5	5.7	11.0	.521	0.0	0.0	.000	5.7	10.9	.522	.521	4.3	5.8	.730	4.4	7.1	11.5	1.6	1.2	0.8	2.1	2.8	15.7
1987-88	26	LAC	NBA	PF	72	70	36.9	5.0	10.6	.470	0.0	0.0	.000	5.0	10.6	.471	.470	4.5	6.6	.688	5.2	7.9	13.0	1.5	1.3	0.8	2.2	2.7	14.5
1988-89	27	SEA	NBA	PF	80	71	31.7	3.9	7.9	.498	0.0	0.1	.000	3.9	7.8	.502	.498	2.5	3.3	.743	3.5	6.1	9.6	1.6	1.2	0.7	1.6	2.3	10.3
1989-90	28	SEA	NBA	C	82	82	31.6	4.0	7.9	.504	0.0	0.0		4.0	7.9	.504	.504	1.8	2.6	.698	3.7	6.3	10.0	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.1	2.8	9.7
1990-91	29	SEA	NBA	C	82	55	26.1	2.8	5.4	.508	0.0	0.0	.000	2.8	5.4	.511	.508	0.9	1.4	.625	2.2	4.6	6.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.0	2.4	6.4
1991-92	30	SEA	NBA	PF	82	69	30.0	3.7	6.6	.566	0.0	0.1	.000	3.7	6.5	.572	.566	1.3	2.1	.620	3.2	5.6	8.9	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.0	2.9	8.8
1992-93	31	SEA	NBA	C	82	66	26.3	2.7	5.1	.526	0.0	0.0	.000	2.7	5.1	.528	.526	0.7	1.6	.469	3.3	4.8	8.0	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	2.2	6.1
1993-94	32	SEA	NBA	C	82	42	20.8	2.1	3.8	.545	0.0	0.0	.000	2.1	3.8	.546	.545	0.4	0.9	.486	2.0	3.4	5.4	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.6	2.2	4.6
1994-95	33	CLE	NBA	C	82	21	24.9	2.2	4.1	.521	0.0	0.0	.000	2.2	4.1	.524	.521	0.6	1.1	.602	2.5	4.4	6.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.8	5.0
1995-96	34	CLE	NBA	C	82	80	32.1	2.7	4.8	.556	0.0	0.0	.000	2.7	4.8	.557	.556	0.6	1.1	.543	3.5	5.4	8.9	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.7	2.6	6.0
1996-97	35	PHI	NBA	C	82	24	15.2	0.8	1.7	.468	0.0	0.0		0.8	1.7	.468	.468	0.2	0.5	.463	1.4	2.5	3.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.4	1.8
1997-98	36	NJN	NBA	C	79	17	15.2	0.5	1.1	.512	0.0	0.0	.000	0.5	1.1	.518	.512	0.3	0.5	.556	1.5	2.4	3.9	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.3	1.3
1998-99	37	Did Not Play (retired)																											
1999-00	38	NJN	NBA	C	20	7	12.1	0.6	1.2	.500	0.0	0.0		0.6	1.2	.500	.500	0.2	0.2	1.000	1.7	2.4	4.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.5	1.4
Career			NBA		1140	733	26.1	2.9	5.7	.515	0.0	0.0	.000	2.9	5.6	.517	.515	1.4	2.2	.664	2.8	4.8	7.6	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.0	2.3	7.3

Tony Campbell
6'7" 215 lbs
Forward



By CHARLIE VINCENT

Chuck Daly predicted it last winter while coaching the Detroit Pistons to their first National Basketball Association playoff appearance since the 1976-77 season.

"The summer will be even more interesting than the season," Daly said with his club en route to a 49-33 record and a second-place finish in the Central Division (one game behind Milwaukee).

Over the summer, General Manager Jack McCloskey finally obtained the one ingredient almost everyone agreed had been missing from the Pistons' lineup—a superb power forward. Plus, (for a change) he signed his first-round draft choice without experiencing months of negotiating agony.

There was, however, more to the summertime story than the acquisition of Dan Roundfield from Atlanta (in exchange for Cliff Levingston, the rights to Antoine Carr and two second-round draft choices) and the signing of 6-foot-7 small forward Tony Campbell from Ohio State. It involved the future of Kelly Tripucka, who averaged 21.3 points per game last season for Detroit.

The Pistons and Tripucka found themselves at loggerheads. Tripucka, through agent Bob Woolf, wanted to test the free-agent market, a perfectly natural approach for a man who has averaged more than 20 points in each of his three NBA seasons; the Pistons, faced with a ballooning payroll, hoped to get him at a bargain-basement price.

Tripucka was thinking in terms of \$750,000 a year, while the Pistons were thinking more like \$500,000. Either would be a healthy increase over the \$225,000 that Tripucka's original contract called for when he came out of Notre Dame.

Woolf and McCloskey dickered without success through last season, and at mid-summer the general manager made a new offer to Tripucka. The proposal was accompanied by an appraisal of Tripucka's skills that is certain to leave the 25-year-old forward unhappy for some time. Citing the fact that "they (Woolf and Tripucka) turned down the original offer and (considering) the entire year that Kelly had," McCloskey lowered his offer to the man who, along with guard Isiah Thomas, has helped to make the Pistons' offense one of the league's best.

Never recognized as a defensive force, Tripucka may have seen his stock diminish after New York's Bernard King bombed the Pistons with 36, 46, 46, 41 and 44 points in the '84 playoffs.

Detroit, though, has no small forward who can match Tripucka's offensive



Bill Laimbeer played in every game, averaged 17.3 points and had over 1,000 rebounds in helping Detroit make the playoffs last season.

skills. True, the Pistons are so high on Campbell that, immediately after signing him, they offered to trade durable veteran Terry Tyler. Never, though, did they anticipate that Campbell might have to fill Tripucka's spot.

McCloskey insisted that the Pistons would match any offer Tripucka received.

Through it all, Daly remained in the background and on the golf courses, as was the case in the previous summer when McCloskey failed to sign Carr, the Pistons' No. 1 draft choice in '83.

After last winter's success (Detroit posted the fifth-best record in the NBA

and led the league in attendance), much is expected of this season's Pistons.

The addition of Roundfield makes the Pistons favorites in the Central Division. But there remains the nagging doubt about his health. The 31-year-old Detroit native has been limited to 63, 61, 77, 73 and 73 games in the last five seasons because of minor but nagging injuries.

Roundfield's biggest concern, though, is that fans will expect too much of him.

"When Moses (Malone) went to Philadelphia," Roundfield explained, "everybody said, 'This is it.' . . . I hope nobody does that when I come back to Detroit. But if they sign Kelly, I think we'll be equal to Boston and Philadelphia and those teams."

Daly hopes to enter his second season as Detroit coach with a strong nucleus of Thomas (21.3 points, 11.1 assists and 2.49 steals per game last year), Roundfield, Tripucka, Bill Laimbeer (a 6-11 center who finally has made believers of doubters), John Long and Vinnie Johnson. With Campbell joining Kent Benson and Earl Cureton as top reserves, the Pistons will be even deeper than a year ago—provided Tripucka is on hand.

Who knows, things might even be more interesting around Detroit during the 1984-85 season than they were over the summer. ■

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
7	Kelly Tripucka	F	Notre Dame '81
11	Isiah Thomas	G	Indiana '83
15	Vinnie Johnson	G	Baylor '79
22	David Thirkill	F-G	Bradley '82
23	Earl Cureton	F-G	Detroit '80
24	Ray Tolbert	F	Indiana '81
25	John Long	G	Detroit '78
32	Dan Roundfield	F	Central Michigan '75
40	Bill Laimbeer	C	Notre Dame '79
41	Terry Tyler	F	Detroit '78
54	Kent Benson	F-C	Indiana '77
	Dudley Bradley	G	North Carolina '79

TOP DRAFTIES

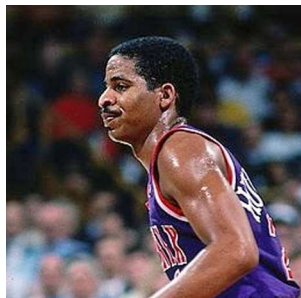
Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Tony Campbell	20	F	Ohio State
2	Eric Turner	32	G	Michigan
3	Greg Jones	49	G	West Virginia

*Selected in 1983 draft by Indiana; played in CBA last season.

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	DET	NBA	SF	56	0	11.2	2.3	4.7	.496	0.0	0.0	.000	2.3	4.7	.498	.496	1.0	1.3	.800	0.7	0.9	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.1	1.2	1.9	5.6
1985-86	23	DET	NBA	SF	82	1	15.8	3.6	7.4	.484	0.0	0.1	.222	3.6	7.3	.487	.485	0.7	0.9	.795	1.0	1.9	2.9	0.5	0.8	0.1	1.0	2.0	7.9
1986-87	24	DET	NBA	SF	40	0	8.3	1.4	3.6	.393	0.0	0.1	.000	1.4	3.6	.401	.393	0.6	1.0	.615	0.5	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.9	1.0	3.5
1987-88	25	LAL	NBA	SF	13	1	18.6	4.4	7.8	.564	0.1	0.2	.333	4.3	7.5	.571	.569	2.2	3.0	.718	0.6	1.5	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.2	2.0	3.2	11.0
1988-89	26	LAL	NBA	SF	63	2	12.5	2.5	5.5	.458	0.0	0.3	.095	2.5	5.1	.481	.461	1.1	1.3	.843	0.8	1.2	2.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	1.7	6.2
1989-90	27	MIN	NBA	SG	82	81	38.6	8.8	19.3	.457	0.1	0.7	.167	8.7	18.6	.468	.460	5.5	6.9	.787	2.5	3.0	5.5	2.6	1.4	0.4	3.1	3.2	23.2
1990-91	28	MIN	NBA	SG	77	71	37.6	8.5	19.5	.434	0.2	0.8	.262	8.3	18.7	.441	.439	4.6	5.8	.803	2.1	2.4	4.5	2.8	1.6	0.6	2.5	2.6	21.8
1991-92	29	MIN	NBA	SF	78	41	31.3	6.8	14.6	.464	0.2	0.5	.351	6.6	14.1	.467	.469	3.1	3.8	.803	1.8	1.9	3.7	2.9	1.1	0.4	2.1	2.6	16.8
1992-93	30	NYK	NBA	SF	58	13	18.3	3.3	6.8	.490	0.0	0.1	.400	3.3	6.7	.491	.492	1.0	1.5	.678	1.0	1.7	2.7	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.9	2.6	7.7
1993-94	31	TOT	NBA	SF	63	14	19.3	3.6	8.1	.443	0.1	0.4	.250	3.5	7.7	.455	.450	1.5	1.9	.783	1.2	1.7	3.0	1.3	0.8	0.2	1.3	2.1	8.8
1993-94	31	NYK	NBA	SF	22	11	17.2	2.9	5.8	.492	0.0	0.1	.333	2.8	5.7	.496	.496	1.4	1.7	.811	1.3	1.5	2.7	1.4	0.9	0.0	1.3	2.7	7.1
1993-94	31	DAL	NBA	SF	41	3	20.4	4.0	9.4	.427	0.1	0.6	.240	3.9	8.8	.440	.435	1.6	2.0	.771	1.2	1.9	3.1	1.2	0.7	0.3	1.3	1.8	9.7
1994-95	32	CLE	NBA	SF	78	0	14.5	2.1	5.0	.411	0.2	0.5	.357	1.9	4.5	.417	.430	1.7	2.0	.830	0.8	1.2	2.0	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.8	1.6	6.0
Career			NBA		690	224	22.0	4.6	10.1	.456	0.1	0.4	.254	4.5	9.7	.463	.460	2.3	2.9	.790	1.3	1.7	3.1	1.5	0.8	0.2	1.6	2.2	11.6

Jay Humphries

6'3" 185 lbs
Guard



By STEVE WESTON

There was just no accounting for the Phoenix Suns last season. In fact, that's what many people were calling them throughout the 1983-84 campaign—a bunch of no-accounts.

The Suns, rocked by a 5-13 start, had to rally to win their last six games to finish at 41-41 and avoid the franchise's first losing season since 1976-77. That surge carried into the playoffs, where Phoenix beat Portland and Utah before carrying Los Angeles to six games in the Western Conference championship series.

But as far as Coach John MacLeod is concerned, that finish did not compensate for the team's disastrous regular season, and he vows that the Suns' account will be paid in full.

"We'll get the effort like the Phoenix Suns used to get," said MacLeod, serving notice that laggardly ways will not be tolerated. "We can't afford to have another month like we had at the beginning of last year, and we won't. We didn't get the effort that's required. . . . There has to be pain involved."

MacLeod does not lay all the blame on his team, which, shaken by the preseason trade of Dennis Johnson for Rick Robey, later suffered from a lack of cohesion.

"I didn't do a very good job early," MacLeod said. "The blame goes right on my shoulders."

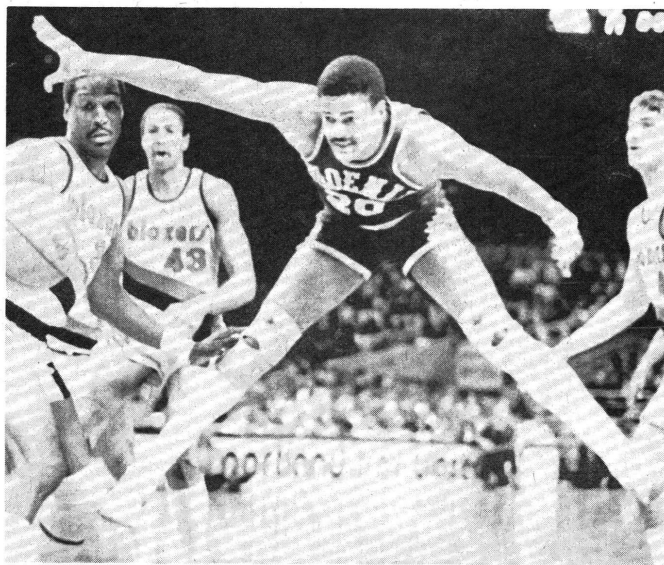
MacLeod, who was especially upset with the team's defensive and rebounding efforts, said his players will be in better physical shape than they were a year ago.

"A lot of times we were beaten because we died out there," he said. "I thought a lot of times we got out-hustled. We're not going to get that again."

Robey, a 6-foot-11, 230-pounder who played backup center for Boston, had a disappointing first year with Phoenix, averaging just 5.6 points and 3.2 rebounds per game. He was disabled much of the season and was uncomfortable as a power forward, an unnatural position for him. He is not likely to switch, however, unless veteran Alvan Adams—who has been shopped around—is traded. In addition, Robey was unable to work out last summer because of an operation on his infected left foot.

Leading the way in the frontcourt is small forward Larry Nance, the Suns' best player last year. Nance, one of the pre-eminent slam-dunkers in the National Basketball Association, averaged 17.7 points, 8.3 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots in his third season.

Veteran forward Maurice Lucas capped a good season (15.9 points, 9.7 re-



Maurice Lucas and the Suns rallied to win their last six games to finish at .500 last season.

bounds) with a strong playoff effort and then decided to test his value in the free-agent market. He is a likely contract hold-out but is expected to return to Phoenix.

James Edwards, who took over for Adams as the starting center last year, left room for improvement after averaging 14.7 points and 4.8 rebounds. He will continue to start, but Adams (unless traded) will be used when more movement and ball handling are needed.

MacLeod has been impressed with second-round draft choice Charles Jones, a 6-8, 215-pound rookie from Louisville. Jones will compete with veterans Charles Pittman, Alvin Scott (who also can play

guard) and Mike Sanders for a backup forward job.

Outside of Walter Davis, the Suns' weak spot is the backcourt. Davis led the team in scoring (20 points), assists (5.5 average) and free-throw shooting (86.3 percent) to post his best all-around season in his seven years in the NBA. But alongside Davis is Kyle Macy, who averaged just 10.1 points a year ago. Second-year man Rod Foster added 8.3 points as a reserve but was the team's third-worst shooter, hitting only 44.8 percent of his field-goal attempts.

Phoenix did little to improve its backcourt situation by drafting only three guards, including first-round choice Jay Humphries from Colorado. The Suns showed their faith in Humphries by giving him a multiyear contract, but it is doubtful that he ever will be a dominant player in the pros.

In addition, veteran guard Paul Westphal will not be back after losing his contract dispute in arbitration.

The outlook obviously is not rosy for the Suns, who will have to make a phenomenal team effort to reach the playoffs for the eighth consecutive season. ■

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
4	Kyle Macy	G	Kentucky '80
6	Walter Davis	G	North Carolina '77
7	Mike Sanders	F	UCLA '82
8	Rick Robey	C-F	Kentucky '78
10	Rod Foster	G	UCLA '83
14	Alvin Scott	F	Oral Roberts '77
20	Maurice Lucas	F	Marquette '74
22	Larry Nance	F	Clemson '81
32	Charles Pittman	F	Maryland '82
33	Alvan Adams	C-F	Oklahoma '75
53	James Edwards	C	Washington '77

TOP DRAFTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Jay Humphries	13	G	Colorado
2	Charles Jones	36	F-C	Louisville

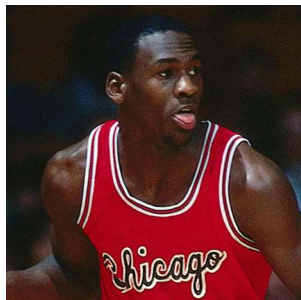
Steve Weston covers the Phoenix Suns for the Phoenix Gazette.

★ The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	PHO	NBA	SG	80	39	25.8	3.5	7.8	.446	0.1	0.3	.200	3.4	7.6	.454	.449	1.8	2.1	.829	0.4	1.7	2.1	4.4	1.3	0.1	2.1	2.6	8.8
1985-86	23	PHO	NBA	PG	82	82	33.3	4.3	9.0	.479	0.0	0.4	.138	4.2	8.6	.493	.482	2.4	3.1	.767	0.7	2.5	3.2	6.4	1.6	0.1	2.3	2.7	11.0
1986-87	24	PHO	NBA	PG	82	82	31.5	4.4	9.2	.477	0.1	0.3	.185	4.3	8.9	.488	.480	2.4	3.2	.769	0.8	2.4	3.2	7.7	1.4	0.1	2.4	2.9	11.3
1987-88	25	TOT	NBA	PG	68	33	26.6	4.2	7.9	.528	0.0	0.3	.167	4.1	7.6	.540	.531	1.6	2.3	.732	0.7	1.8	2.6	5.8	1.2	0.1	1.9	2.6	10.0
1987-88	25	PHO	NBA	PG	50	33	31.1	5.3	9.7	.545	0.1	0.3	.188	5.2	9.4	.558	.549	2.1	2.8	.741	0.9	2.1	3.0	7.1	1.2	0.1	2.2	3.1	12.7
1987-88	25	MIL	NBA	PG	18	0	14.0	1.1	3.0	.370	0.0	0.1	.000	1.1	2.9	.385	.370	0.5	0.8	.643	0.3	1.0	1.3	2.3	1.1	0.1	1.1	1.3	2.7
1988-89	26	MIL	NBA	PG	73	50	30.4	4.7	9.8	.483	0.3	1.3	.266	4.4	8.5	.516	.501	1.8	2.2	.816	1.0	1.6	2.6	5.5	1.9	0.1	2.2	2.6	11.6
1989-90	27	MIL	NBA	PG	81	81	34.8	6.1	12.4	.494	0.3	0.9	.300	5.9	11.5	.508	.504	2.8	3.5	.786	1.0	2.3	3.3	5.8	1.9	0.1	1.9	3.1	15.3
1990-91	28	MIL	NBA	PG	80	80	34.1	6.0	12.0	.502	0.8	2.0	.373	5.3	10.0	.528	.533	2.4	3.0	.799	0.7	2.0	2.8	6.7	1.6	0.1	1.9	3.0	15.2
1991-92	29	MIL	NBA	PG	71	71	31.8	5.3	11.3	.469	0.6	2.0	.292	4.7	9.3	.508	.496	2.7	3.5	.783	0.6	2.0	2.6	6.6	1.7	0.2	2.1	3.0	14.0
1992-93	30	UTA	NBA	SG	78	20	26.1	3.7	8.4	.436	0.2	1.0	.200	3.5	7.5	.466	.447	1.3	1.7	.777	0.5	1.3	1.8	4.1	1.3	0.1	1.7	3.0	8.8
1993-94	31	UTA	NBA	SG	75	19	21.6	3.1	7.1	.436	0.5	1.3	.396	2.6	5.9	.444	.471	0.8	1.0	.750	0.5	1.2	1.7	2.9	0.9	0.1	1.3	2.2	7.5
1994-95	32	TOT	NBA	SG-PG	18	0	11.2	0.4	1.9	.235	0.1	0.2	.500	0.3	1.7	.200	.265	0.1	0.2	.500	0.2	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.9	1.9	1.1
1994-95	32	UTA	NBA	SG	12	0	12.4	0.3	2.1	.160	0.2	0.3	.667	0.2	1.8	.091	.200	0.0	0.0		0.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.0	1.0	2.1	0.8
1994-95	32	BOS	NBA	PG	6	0	8.7	0.7	1.5	.444	0.0	0.2	.000	0.7	1.3	.500	.444	0.3	0.7	.500	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.8	1.7	1.7
Career			NBA		788	557	29.3	4.4	9.3	.476	0.3	0.9	.297	4.2	8.4	.496	.491	2.0	2.5	.782	0.7	1.9	2.5	5.5	1.5	0.1	1.9	2.8	11.1

Michael Jordan

6'6" 195 lbs
Guard



By BOB LOGAN

What's this? The Chicago Bulls gleefully waving reams of money at their No. 1 draft choice?

Can these be the same owners who always gave the late George Halas of the Bears a tussle for Chicago's nickel-squeezing award? Yes, it's true, but this National Basketball Association franchise has suddenly decided it's time to play games on a basketball court instead of federal court.

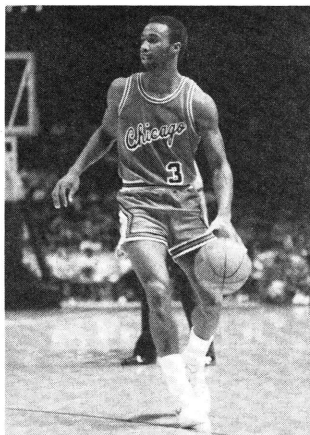
That's why the Bulls tried hard to break a longstanding tradition of forcing their top draft pick to hold out, miss all or part of training camp and, as a consequence, get off to a slow start. Over the years, the fact that the rest of the Bulls followed suit in the bad-start department seemed to escape notice in the executive suite.

In keeping with another Bulls tradition, the past off-season was considerably more exciting than the previous regular campaign. A franchise at rock bottom after losing 109 games in two years, the Bulls finally see a glimmer of light filtering down the shaft. The key is Michael Jordan. The signing of Jordan without delay (or any kind of hassle) could be a signal that another Chicago team is ready to shed its laughingstock label—provided Jordan is really as good as he looked in the Olympic Games.

"We're going to pay Michael Jordan big bucks and we'll be happy to do it because he deserves that kind of contract," General Manager Rod Thorn said. "A lot of NBA players don't earn the money they make, but Michael will be a bargain for the Bulls on the floor and at the gate."

In relative terms, Thorn is dead right. Jordan's megabucks will be pocket change to Bill Wirtz and other super-rich Bulls owners (who include the New York Yankees' George Steinbrenner and the Kansas City Chiefs' Lamar Hunt). Wirtz inherited a financial empire when his father, Arthur M. Wirtz, died last year. The Bulls, hockey Black Hawks and Chicago Stadium comprise only the toy department of the Wirtz fortune (estimated at about a half-billion dollars).

So, a court judgment that could cost the Wirtz estate and other defendants up to \$18 million actually caused a sigh of relief. There was genuine fear of a \$40 million antitrust bite, along with an outright awarding of the Bulls franchise to Marv Fishman, a Milwaukee real-estate man. Fishman had purchased the Bulls for \$3.2 million in 1972, but his deal was rejected by an unprecedented NBA vote. Instead of knuckling under, Fishman sued the Wirtzes, charging they had orchestrated a conspiracy among NBA owners who also were involved in hockey.



Ennis Whatley will again direct the Bulls' backcourt in 1984-85.

The civil suit dragged through a decade and two trials before a federal judge awarded Fishman triple antitrust damages plus costs and lawyer's fees that could approach \$20 million when appeals are exhausted. Oddly enough, the staggering sum might turn out to be a victory for Bulls owners that could translate into on-court success.

Almost in spite of themselves, the Bulls took a long first stride in that direction when they made North Carolina all-everything Jordan their first selection and the third player to be plucked overall in the 1984 NBA draft. If center Sam Bowie had been available, the Bulls might have let Jordan get away, a decision that could have been justified only if Akeem Olajuwon were still on the boards.

"I feel like Donald Dell and I are engaged," Bulls Vice President Jonathan Kovler said over the summer after nego-

tiating with Jordan's agent. "It took the Bulls 40 years to get where they are now. Maybe we can do it quicker."

Unless Jordan reaches his limitless potential instantly, though, the Bulls figure to have a tough time making the playoffs in the take-no-prisoners Eastern Conference. As in 1983-84, the entire five-team Atlantic Division appears playoff bound.

That leaves only three postseason spots for the Central, but the Bulls by no means are out of the picture. They won't be riddled by last season's crippling dissension, and Jordan isn't the only addition to a roster that has some talent lurking in the shadows of two straight disastrous seasons.

The trade of guard Mitchell Wiggins and two draft choices to Houston for center Caldwell Jones shored up the Bulls at their weakest point. Asking Dave Corzine to battle NBA behemoths and Chicago Stadium boobirds for 40 minutes a night was a ticket to a 27-55 record, one game worse than the Bulls' dismal finish of the season before. Coach Kevin Loughery conceded that Corzine probably would divide pivot duties with Jones, a canny veteran who has played 11 pro seasons.

"Dave can score and rebound and C.J. is a defensive player who can block shots," Loughery noted. "Together, they'll give us a lot better balance at center."

If Thorn was able to re-sign free-agent forward David Greenwood, the Bulls will be solid up front, with Orlando Woolridge's aerobic slam dunks handling the show-biz end and Greenwood doing the pick-and-shovel work. Second-year man Sidney Green hopes to shake off back trouble and prove he's an NBA player, and Rod Higgins also is capable of contributing.

Projecting Jordan and Quintin Dailey at off guard, there should be no lack of backcourt firepower this time around. Loughery doesn't think soft-spoken playmaker Ronnie Lester is tough enough, so draft picks Butch Hays of California and Mark Halsel of Northeastern will get a look. Still, Ennis Whatley likely will remain the floor leader after a reasonably good rookie showing.

With Jordan and Jones joining the Chicago cast, it will be difficult—if not impossible—for the Bulls to continue their lackluster play.

"Nobody better come to camp figuring they already have a job," Loughery warned. "We need improvement in everything."

Best of all for Bulls fans, management now seems willing to pay the price for that improvement. ■

Bob Logan covers the Chicago Bulls for the Chicago Tribune.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
0	—O. Woolridge	F	..... Notre Dame '81
3	—Ennis Whatley	G	..... Alabama '85
12	—Ronnie Lester	G	..... Iowa '90
21	—Sidney Green	F	..... Nev.-Las Vegas '83
22	—Rod Higgins	F	..... Fresno State '82
27	—Caldwell Jones	C-F	..... Albany State '73
32	—Steve Johnson	C	..... Oregon State '81
33	—Jawann Oldham	C	..... Seattle '80
34	—David Greenwood	F	..... UCLA '79
40	—Dave Corzine	C	..... DePaul '78
44	—Quintin Dailey	G	..... San Francisco '83
54	—Wallace Bryant	C	..... San Francisco '82

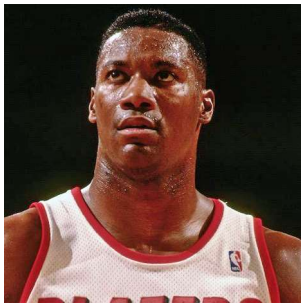
TOP DRAFTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	—Michael Jordan	3	F-G	North Carolina
2	—Ben Coleman	37	F	Maryland
4	—Mark Halsel	77	G	Northeastern

★ The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS	
1984-85	★	21	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	38.3	10.2	19.8	.515	0.1	0.6	.173	10.1	19.2	.526	.518	7.7	9.1	.845	2.0	4.5	6.5	5.9	2.4	0.8	3.5	3.5	28.2
1985-86	★	22	CHI	NBA	SG	18	7	25.1	8.3	18.2	.457	0.2	1.0	.167	8.2	17.2	.474	.462	5.8	6.9	.840	1.3	2.3	3.6	2.9	2.1	1.2	2.5	2.6	22.7
1986-87	★	23	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	40.0	13.4	27.8	.482	0.1	0.8	.182	13.2	27.0	.491	.484	10.2	11.9	.857	2.0	3.2	5.2	4.6	2.9	1.5	3.3	2.9	37.1
1987-88	★	24	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	40.4	13.0	24.4	.535	0.1	0.6	.132	13.0	23.7	.546	.537	8.8	10.5	.841	1.7	3.8	5.5	5.9	3.2	1.6	3.1	3.3	35.0
1988-89	★	25	CHI	NBA	SG	81	81	40.2	11.9	22.2	.538	0.3	1.2	.276	11.6	21.0	.553	.546	8.3	9.8	.850	1.8	6.2	8.0	8.0	2.9	0.8	3.6	3.0	32.5
1989-90	★	26	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	39.0	12.6	24.0	.526	1.1	3.0	.376	11.5	21.0	.548	.550	7.2	8.5	.848	1.7	5.1	6.9	6.3	2.8	0.7	3.0	2.9	33.6
1990-91	★	27	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	37.0	12.1	22.4	.539	0.4	1.1	.312	11.7	21.3	.551	.547	7.0	8.2	.851	1.4	4.6	6.0	5.5	2.7	1.0	2.5	2.8	31.5
1991-92	★	28	CHI	NBA	SG	80	80	38.8	11.8	22.7	.519	0.3	1.3	.270	11.5	21.5	.533	.526	6.1	7.4	.832	1.1	5.3	6.4	6.1	2.3	0.9	2.5	2.5	30.1
1992-93	★	29	CHI	NBA	SG	78	78	39.3	12.7	25.7	.495	1.0	2.9	.352	11.7	22.7	.514	.515	6.1	7.3	.837	1.7	5.0	6.7	5.5	2.8	0.8	2.7	2.4	32.6
1993-94		30	Did Not Play (Minor League Baseball—Birmingham Barons)																											
1994-95		31	CHI	NBA	SG	17	17	39.3	9.8	23.8	.411	0.9	1.9	.500	8.8	21.9	.403	.431	6.4	8.0	.801	1.5	5.4	6.9	5.3	1.8	0.8	2.1	2.8	26.9
1995-96	★	32	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	37.7	11.2	22.6	.495	1.4	3.2	.427	9.8	19.4	.506	.525	6.7	8.0	.834	1.8	4.8	6.6	4.3	2.2	0.5	2.4	2.4	30.4
1996-97	★	33	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	37.9	11.2	23.1	.486	1.4	3.6	.374	9.9	19.5	.507	.516	5.9	7.0	.833	1.4	4.5	5.9	4.3	1.7	0.5	2.0	1.9	29.6
1997-98	★	34	CHI	NBA	SG	82	82	38.8	10.7	23.1	.465	0.4	1.5	.238	10.4	21.5	.482	.473	6.9	8.8	.784	1.6	4.2	5.8	3.5	1.7	0.5	2.3	1.8	28.7
1998-99		35	Did Not Play (retired)																											
1999-00		36	Did Not Play (retired)																											
2000-01		37	Did Not Play (retired)																											
2001-02	★	38	WAS	NBA	SF	60	53	34.9	9.2	22.1	.416	0.2	0.9	.189	9.0	21.2	.426	.420	4.4	5.6	.790	0.8	4.8	5.7	5.2	1.4	0.4	2.7	2.0	22.9
2002-03	★	39	WAS	NBA	SF	82	67	37.0	8.3	18.6	.445	0.2	0.7	.291	8.1	18.0	.450	.450	3.2	4.0	.821	0.9	5.2	6.1	3.8	1.5	0.5	2.1	2.1	20.0
Career				NBA	1072	1039	38.3	11.4	22.9	.497	0.5	1.7	.327	10.8	21.2	.510	.509	6.8	8.2	.835	1.6	4.7	6.2	5.3	2.3	0.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	30.1

Jerome Kersey
6'7" 220 lbs
Forward



By STEVE DUIN

After years of playing it cozy, keeping their cards close to the vest, the Portland Trail Blazers have bet the house limit in a bid to become 1984-85 National Basketball Association champions.

The Blazers, always a big man away from being the center of attention in the Pacific Division, finished second to Los Angeles last season with a 48-34 record and then began their off-season early after succumbing quietly to Phoenix in the league playoffs.

That off-season was not without controversy.

The Blazers enlisted attorney Alan Rothenberg to explain the salary cap to the advisors of two collegiate big men, Akeem Olajuwon of the University of Houston and Georgetown's Patrick Ewing. Scheduled to flip a coin with the Houston Rockets for the right to make first selection in the college draft, Portland was guaranteed no worse than the second choice. By enlisting Rothenberg, the Blazers were trying to find out about the availability of undergraduates Olajuwon and Ewing.

When reports of Rothenberg's adventures reached the NBA office, Commissioner David Stern postponed the coin flip and initiated an investigation into the possibility of illegal contact between the Blazers and the undergraduates. Stern finally ruled that Portland had acted in good faith, but with bad judgment. He fined the club \$250,000.

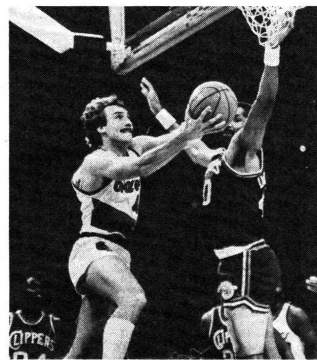
Talk about upping the ante. While Executive Vice President Harry Glickman dismissed the fine as "not much more than a traffic ticket," team President Larry Weinberg was incensed by Stern's knock on his integrity.

But Weinberg maintained his poker face, even as Portland lost the coin flip and the chance to add Olajuwon to a team that compiled the sixth best record in the NBA. The Blazers, undaunted, upped the stakes even more by drafting 7-foot-1 center Sam Bowie and acquiring 6-8 forward Kiki Vandeweghe from Denver in the biggest trade of the off-season.

Vandeweghe did not come cheap. He cost the Blazers 6-6 forward Calvin Natt, a 16.2-point scorer last season, 6-10 center Wayne Cooper, 6-3 guard Lafayette Lever and two high draft picks.

Strange as it may seem, however, the Blazers traded away nothing they really needed for the answer to Coach Jack Ramsay's prayers.

"Put it (the trade) in the context of the team," said Ramsay, who has orchestrated more wins (703) than any NBA coach other than Boston's Red Auerbach. "Our front-line players do not shoot well at all.



Jim Paxson's solid 1983-84 season put him on the All-NBA Second Team.

Teams dared us to shoot from the outside, and those are dares I don't want our players to accept.

"When Cooper wasn't hitting from the outside, that became a huge problem for us. No matter what mix we had on the floor, there was only one perimeter shooter on the squad."

That solitary gunman was team captain Jim Paxson, who averaged 21.3 points per game last season.

"By the end of the season, teams were packing it in against us," Ramsay said. "We had to score from the basket area or we wouldn't score. That made for a hard offensive game. You saw Calvin getting fewer opportunities in the basket area than the year before."

"With Vandeweghe, we not only add a perimeter shooter but a better passer. That opens up our inside game. Teams will not be able to (pack it in) as they have before."

Ramsay might have said "teams," but he meant Lakers. Portland has long suffered from the Long Beach complex, living in the shadow of Los Angeles. The Blazers barely challenged the Lakers last

year, a mismatch Ramsay could no longer stomach.

"From the outside looking in, if the Blazers stayed pat the way they were, they were stuck behind L.A.," said Vandeweghe, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, a couple of beaches away from the Forum. "They're an awfully good team, but L.A. is too tough. They (the Blazers) had rebounders inside but they didn't have someone who ran the break and spread the offense like Jim Paxson does in the frontcourt. They had to change up. Portland needed to do something to catch up."

"They did. They can compete with L.A. now. They can compete with anybody now. Excuse me, we can compete with anybody."

Geographical bearings aren't all Vandeweghe needs to adjust. He must pay more attention to defense, a fundamental that wasn't too fundamental in the Denver philosophy of professional basketball.

Vandeweghe, the leading scorer in the NBA over the last two years (4,481 points), finished third in last season's scoring race with a 29.4 average. He may be the one to rejuvenate the faithful but increasingly morose Memorial Coliseum crowds, but all hands agree that Bowie is the key to Portland's chances of running down the Lakers. The Blazers passed on 6-6 Olympian Michael Jordan in favor of the brittle big man, who missed two years at Kentucky with a fractured tibia in his left leg.

"You don't win a world championship with a guard," Vandeweghe said when asked to enter the Bowie-Jordan draft debate. "And there's Paxson. If Jordan came in, he wouldn't have started ahead of Paxson no matter how well he played."

"You do win (a championship) with a dominating guy inside. Bowie is not going to be that the first year, but in a couple years he will be. He was as good as anyone else when he first came in."

If Bowie prospers, Portland will start him in the pivot, with 6-10 Mychal Thompson (15.7 points per game, 8.7 rebounds) and Vandeweghe at the forwards. No team in basketball will have better passers on its front line, though quite a few will have better rebounders.

Paxson and Darnell Valentine (10.2 points) will start at the guards, with 6-7 Kenny Carr, who put together his best pro season with a 15.7 average, 6-7 Clyde Drexler (7.7 points) and 6-9 Audie Norris the first guys off the bench.

Is that a team that can beat the rest of the world? The Lakers-Blazers series may determine whether Portland is bluffing or finally has all the cards. ■

Steve Duin covers the Portland Trail Blazers for the Oregonian in Portland.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
4	Jim Paxson	G	Dayton '79
14	Darnell Valentine	G	Kansas '81
22	Clyde Drexler	F-G	Houston '84
24	Audie Norris	C	Jackson State '82
31	Peter Verhoeven	F	Fresno State '81
34	Kenny Carr	F	North Carolina St. '78
43	M. Thompson	C-F	Minnesota '78
55	Kiki Vandeweghe	F	UCLA '80

TOP DRAFTTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Sam Bowie	2	C	Kentucky
1	Bernard Thompson	19	F-G	Fresno State
2	Steve Colter	33	G	New Mexico State
6	Tom Scheffler	117	C	Purdue

*Selected in 1977 by Indiana; played last seven seasons in Europe.

The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook ★

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	POR	NBA	SF	77	0	12.4	2.3	4.8	.478	0.0	0.0	.000	2.3	4.8	.482	.478	1.5	2.4	.646	1.2	1.4	2.7	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.9	6.1
1985-86	23	POR	NBA	SF	79	2	15.4	3.3	5.9	.549	0.0	0.1	.000	3.3	5.9	.556	.549	2.0	2.9	.681	1.7	2.0	3.7	1.1	1.1	0.4	1.4	2.6	8.5
1986-87	24	POR	NBA	SF	82	8	25.5	4.5	8.9	.509	0.0	0.3	.043	4.5	8.7	.524	.510	3.2	4.4	.720	2.5	3.6	6.0	2.4	1.5	0.9	1.8	4.0	12.3
1987-88	25	POR	NBA	SF	79	75	36.6	7.7	15.5	.499	0.0	0.2	.200	7.7	15.3	.502	.500	3.7	5.0	.735	2.7	5.6	8.3	3.1	1.6	0.8	2.0	3.8	19.2
1988-89	26	POR	NBA	SF	76	76	35.7	7.0	15.0	.469	0.1	0.3	.286	6.9	14.7	.472	.471	3.4	4.9	.694	3.2	5.0	8.3	3.2	1.8	1.1	2.2	3.6	17.5
1989-90	27	POR	NBA	SF	82	82	34.7	6.3	13.2	.478	0.0	0.2	.150	6.3	13.0	.485	.480	3.3	4.8	.690	3.1	5.4	8.4	2.3	1.5	0.8	1.8	3.7	16.0
1990-91	28	POR	NBA	SF	73	72	32.3	5.8	12.2	.478	0.1	0.2	.308	5.8	12.0	.481	.480	3.2	4.5	.709	2.3	4.3	6.6	3.1	1.4	1.0	2.0	3.4	14.8
1991-92	29	POR	NBA	SF	77	76	33.2	5.2	11.1	.467	0.0	0.1	.125	5.2	11.0	.470	.468	2.3	3.4	.664	3.1	5.1	8.2	3.2	1.5	0.9	2.0	3.3	12.6
1992-93	30	POR	NBA	SF	65	50	26.4	4.3	9.9	.438	0.1	0.4	.286	4.2	9.4	.445	.444	1.8	2.8	.634	1.9	4.3	6.2	1.9	1.2	0.6	1.3	2.8	10.6
1993-94	31	POR	NBA	SF	78	6	16.4	2.6	6.0	.433	0.0	0.1	.125	2.6	5.9	.438	.434	1.3	1.7	.748	1.7	2.6	4.2	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.8	2.7	6.5
1994-95	32	POR	NBA	SF	63	0	18.1	3.2	7.8	.415	0.1	0.4	.259	3.1	7.3	.424	.422	1.5	2.0	.766	1.5	2.6	4.1	1.3	0.8	0.6	1.0	2.7	8.1
1995-96	33	GSW	NBA	SF	76	58	21.3	2.7	6.6	.410	0.0	0.2	.176	2.7	6.4	.418	.413	1.3	1.9	.660	2.0	2.8	4.8	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.0	2.7	6.7
1996-97	34	LAL	NBA	SF	70	44	25.2	2.8	6.4	.432	0.2	0.9	.262	2.5	5.5	.461	.451	1.0	1.7	.602	1.6	3.6	5.2	1.3	1.7	0.7	1.1	3.1	6.8
1997-98	35	SEA	NBA	SF	37	2	19.4	2.6	6.3	.416	0.0	0.3	.100	2.6	6.0	.430	.418	1.1	1.8	.600	1.5	2.1	3.6	1.2	1.4	0.4	1.0	2.8	6.3
1998-99	36	SAS	NBA	SF	45	0	15.5	1.5	4.4	.340	0.1	0.3	.214	1.4	4.1	.349	.348	0.1	0.3	.429	0.9	2.0	2.9	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.7	2.0	3.2
1999-00	37	SAS	NBA	SF	72	18	18.2	2.0	4.9	.412	0.0	0.1	.000	2.0	4.8	.423	.412	0.4	0.6	.707	0.8	2.3	3.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	2.2	4.5
2000-01	38	MIL	NBA	SF	22	2	11.0	1.5	3.1	.464	0.0	0.0	.000	1.5	3.1	.471	.464	0.4	0.7	.500	0.4	1.7	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.6	3.3
Career			NBA		1153	571	24.4	4.1	8.8	.465	0.1	0.2	.201	4.0	8.6	.472	.467	2.0	2.9	.690	2.0	3.5	5.5	1.9	1.2	0.7	1.4	3.0	10.3

Akeem Olajuwon

7'0" 250 lbs
Center



The warm afterglow of a second straight victory in the National Basketball Association pre-draft coin toss still was lighting up the face of Houston Rockets Owner Charlie Thomas when somebody approached him through the crowd in the commissioner's office.

Ralph Sampson in 1983. Akeem Olajuwon in 1984. How about Patrick Ewing in 1985, the person suggested jokingly.

"I'll promise you this," Thomas said, through an ear-to-ear smile. "If I'm back here again next year, (General Manager Ray) Patterson and (Coach Bill) Fitch won't be with me."

But hadn't Patterson just received a lifetime contract a couple of weeks earlier?

"Yeah," Thomas said, "so I'll declare him legally dead."

Indeed, it is time for the Rockets to rejoin the land of the living after two consecutive seasons at the bottom of the Midwest Division, the bottom of the Western Conference and the top of the drafting heap.

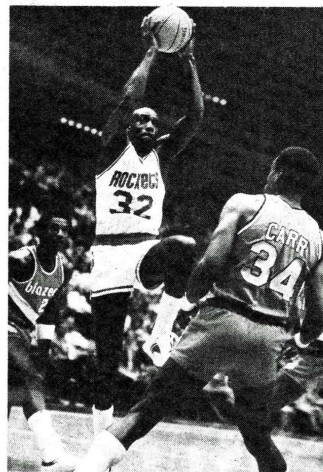
In fact, the Rockets have been so successful in the draft the last two years that the league's Board of Governors went so far as to change the procedure. Gone is the coin flip between the worst two teams in each conference. In its place is a seven-team lottery for all of the clubs that fail to qualify for the playoffs.

But the change was too late to keep the Rockets from building the biggest front line in the NBA. With the 7-foot-4 Sampson, 7-foot Olajuwon and 6-7 Rodney McCray, all of whom can run, leap and block shots, Houston will have no excuse if it fails to escape the cellar.

Sampson, of course, was the prize when the Rockets won the coin flip in 1983. He promptly showed his worth by becoming the first unanimous choice as NBA Rookie of the Year since Lew Alcindor/Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1970. While being voted the league's top rookie every month of the season, Sampson averaged 21 points (the team high) and 11.1 rebounds (fifth in the league) per game.

McCray, after overcoming a back injury and a late start due to contract haggling, came on strong at the end of the season to establish himself as another tough big man. The first-round 1983 pick (he was the third player selected overall) just missed making the All-Rookie first team.

And then there's Olajuwon, the native of Lagos, Nigeria, who became a basketball success story in almost less time than it takes to process a passport application.



Lewis Lloyd's playing time may drop considerably with Ralph Sampson now at forward.

For all practical purposes, Olajuwon was taught how to play the game when he arrived at the University of Houston in 1981, and within three years he was an All-America and the main reason the Cougars were in the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament each of those seasons.

With Olajuwon playing alongside Sampson, who now is the world's tallest forward, the Rockets could be tougher to get inside than Ebenezer Scrooge's wallet.

"They could be awesome," said Marty Blake, who directs the NBA's scouting services. "I hear so many people say they wonder about the ability of Sampson and Olajuwon to play together in the same lineup. But that's not the problem that goes through my mind. I keep wondering how anybody else in the NBA is going to stop them."

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
1	Phil Ford	G	North Carolina '78
2	James Bailey	F	Rutgers '79
3	Craig Ehlo	G	Washington State '83
11	Major Jones	F	Albany State '76
15	Mitchell Wiggins	G	Florida State '83
20	Terry Teagle	G	Baylor '82
22	Rodney McCray	F	Louisville '83
30	Allen Leavell	G	Oklahoma City '79
32	Lewis Lloyd	F-G	Drake '81
33	Robert Reid	F	St. Mary's (Tex.) '77
42	Wally Walker	F	Virginia '76
50	Ralph Sampson	C-F	Virginia '83

TOP DRAFTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Akeem Olajuwon	1	C	Houston
3	Jim Petersen	51	F	Minnesota

"We're talking about two of the finest big men to enter the league in the last 10 years. Our studies show that, on the average, a team gets an opportunity to draft any center at all about once every 15½ years. Here is Houston with two of the best in two straight seasons. Theoretically, this could be one of the best front lines ever to play the game."

But realistically, that front line will not return the Rockets to playoff contention unless gaping holes in the backcourt are plugged. Last season the Rockets lacked both a point guard and a consistent perimeter shooter.

In his first season in Houston, Fitch achieved mixed results by splitting the quarterbacking duties between Phil Ford and Allen Leavell. Ford has the temperament to play the position, but, at only 28, he has lost the explosiveness that once placed him among the best in the league. And Leavell never has reached his physical potential.

Fitch has hinted that he will try 6-8 forward-guard Robert Reid, who returned from a one-year retirement to average 14 points, at the point position. It is doubtful, however, that Reid's ball-handling ability will allow him to play there full time.

Lewis Lloyd was resurrected from Golden State's scrap heap last season and wound up as the Rockets' second-leading scorer with a 17.8 average. But Lloyd's forte is running the floor, filling the lanes and finishing off the fast break with a driving layup or a double-clutching fade-away.

He is no more dependable as an outside shooter than Reid, who is an excellent transition player but never has shot 50 percent from the floor in six NBA seasons. That would leave the perimeter shooting to Mitchell Wiggins, who was acquired during the off-season from Chicago for Caldwell Jones, and Terry Teagle, a first-round draft choice in 1982 who has not panned out.

Shoring up the defense is this year's priority. The Rockets ranked 19th in that category last season, giving up an average of 113.7 points per game.

"Sure, there's work to be done," Patterson said. "But that's true with every team in the league, even (defending NBA champ) Boston."

"Now that we've got a combination of Ralph and Akeem, we've got a chance to become the most exciting team in the NBA, as well as the best somewhere down the line."

For this season, though, a simple return from the dead will suffice. ■

Fran Blinebury covers the Houston Rockets for the Houston Chronicle.

★ The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	HOU	NBA	C	82	82	35.5	8.3	15.3	.538	0.0	0.0		8.3	15.3	.538	.538	4.1	6.7	.613	5.4	6.5	11.9	1.4	1.2	2.7	2.9	4.2	20.6
1985-86	23	HOU	NBA	C	68	68	36.3	9.2	17.5	.526	0.0	0.0		9.2	17.5	.526	.526	5.1	7.9	.645	4.9	6.6	11.5	2.0	2.0	3.4	2.9	4.0	23.5
1986-87	24	HOU	NBA	C	75	75	36.8	9.0	17.8	.508	0.0	0.1	.200	9.0	17.7	.509	.509	5.3	7.6	.702	4.2	7.2	11.4	2.9	1.9	3.4	3.0	3.9	23.4
1987-88	25	HOU	NBA	C	79	79	35.8	9.0	17.5	.514	0.0	0.1	.000	9.0	17.5	.516	.514	4.8	6.9	.695	3.8	8.3	12.1	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.1	4.1	22.8
1988-89	26	HOU	NBA	C	82	82	36.9	9.6	19.0	.508	0.0	0.1	.000	9.6	18.9	.511	.508	5.5	8.0	.696	4.1	9.4	13.5	1.8	2.6	3.4	3.4	4.0	24.8
1989-90	27	HOU	NBA	C	82	82	38.1	9.8	19.6	.501	0.0	0.1	.167	9.8	19.5	.502	.501	4.7	6.5	.713	3.6	10.4	14.0	2.9	2.1	4.6	3.9	3.8	24.3
1990-91	28	HOU	NBA	C	56	50	36.8	8.7	17.1	.508	0.0	0.1	.000	8.7	17.1	.510	.508	3.8	4.9	.769	3.9	9.8	13.8	2.3	2.2	3.9	3.1	3.9	21.2
1991-92	29	HOU	NBA	C	70	69	37.7	8.4	16.8	.502	0.0	0.0	.000	8.4	16.8	.503	.502	4.7	6.1	.766	3.5	8.6	12.1	2.2	1.8	4.3	2.7	3.8	21.6
1992-93	30	HOU	NBA	C	82	82	39.5	10.3	19.5	.529	0.0	0.1	.000	10.3	19.5	.532	.529	5.4	7.0	.779	3.5	9.6	13.0	3.5	1.8	4.2	3.2	3.7	26.1
1993-94	31	HOU	NBA	C	80	80	41.0	11.2	21.2	.528	0.1	0.2	.421	11.1	20.9	.529	.530	4.9	6.8	.716	2.9	9.1	11.9	3.6	1.6	3.7	3.4	3.6	27.3
1994-95	32	HOU	NBA	C	72	72	39.6	11.1	21.5	.517	0.0	0.2	.188	11.0	21.2	.520	.517	5.6	7.5	.756	2.4	8.4	10.8	3.5	1.8	3.4	3.3	3.5	27.8
1995-96	33	HOU	NBA	C	72	72	38.8	10.7	20.8	.514	0.0	0.2	.214	10.6	20.6	.517	.515	5.5	7.6	.724	2.4	8.4	10.9	3.6	1.6	2.9	3.4	3.4	26.9
1996-97	34	HOU	NBA	C	78	78	36.6	9.3	18.3	.510	0.1	0.2	.313	9.3	18.1	.512	.512	4.5	5.7	.787	2.2	7.0	9.2	3.0	1.5	2.2	3.6	3.2	23.2
1997-98	35	HOU	NBA	C	47	45	34.7	6.5	13.5	.483	0.0	0.1	.000	6.5	13.4	.486	.483	3.4	4.5	.755	2.5	7.3	9.8	3.0	1.8	2.0	2.7	3.2	16.4
1998-99	36	HOU	NBA	C	50	50	35.7	7.5	14.5	.514	0.1	0.3	.308	7.4	14.2	.518	.517	3.9	5.4	.717	2.1	7.4	9.6	1.8	1.6	2.5	2.8	3.2	18.9
1999-00	37	HOU	NBA	C	44	28	23.8	4.4	9.6	.458	0.0	0.0	.000	4.4	9.5	.461	.458	1.6	2.5	.616	1.5	4.8	6.2	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.7	2.0	10.3
2000-01	38	HOU	NBA	C	58	55	26.6	4.9	9.8	.498	0.0	0.0	.000	4.9	9.8	.499	.498	2.1	3.4	.621	2.1	5.3	7.4	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	2.4	11.9
2001-02	39	TOR	NBA	C	61	37	22.6	3.2	6.9	.464	0.0	0.0	.000	3.2	6.8	.466	.464	0.8	1.4	.560	1.6	4.4	6.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	2.4	7.1
Career			NBA		1238	1186	35.7	8.7	17.0	.512	0.0	0.1	.202	8.7	16.9	.514	.513	4.4	6.2	.712	3.3	7.8	11.1	2.5	1.7	3.1	3.0	3.5	21.8

Alvin Robertson 6'4" 190 lbs Guard



By JERRY BRIGGS

May we have a moment of silence in memory of the late, great San Antonio Spurs!

They jingled and jangled with flair during their glory days. Going into the 1983-84 season, San Antonio had captured three straight Midwest Division titles (averaging 51 regular-season victories) and made 10 straight playoff appearances (three in the ABA and seven in the NBA). But suddenly, without warning, the Spurs died.

After missing out on postseason competition for the first time in the franchise's NBA history, the Spurs find themselves in a grave situation as they head into the 1984-85 campaign.

Only in a new coaching staff, headed by 13-year veteran Lowell (Cotton) Fitzsimmons, and in Olympian Alvin Robertson, the Spurs' first-round draft choice, can the fans find cause for renewed optimism.

Fitzsimmons, however, begs to differ. He refuses to believe that a group of players led by 32-year-old All-Star guard George Gervin, 35-year-old center Artis Gilmore and 28-year-old forward Mike Mitchell can fall that far that fast.

"I know we have problems," admitted Fitzsimmons, who completed a six-year hitch in Kansas City last year after earlier stops in Phoenix, Atlanta and Buffalo. "I'm not naive. There are reasons you go from top to bottom, but I feel we can work this out.

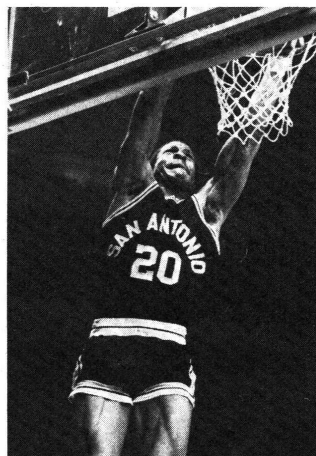
"I don't think this team is ready to shovel the dirt onto the coffin. I know I'm not."

Undoubtedly, the spirited confidence of Fitzsimmons will help the Spurs in their quest to subdue Midwest Division upstarts Utah, Dallas and Houston. Utah and Dallas rose up from the depths of the Midwest Division last season to finish 1-2, respectively, while the Spurs dropped all the way to fifth.

Fitzsimmons brings plenty of experience and a 512-546 record into San Antonio. If nothing else, his presence will serve as a stabilizing influence on a team ripped apart by a coaching change last December.

The hiring and early-season firing of Morris McHone as head coach has been criticized as a management blunder that ultimately pushed the team into its early tailspin. Other critics have blamed veterans Gervin, Gilmore and Mitchell for a leadership void. Whatever the reason, when General Manager Bob Bass took over as interim coach after McHone's firing, his problems were compounded by a horrifying string of injuries to key players that magnified the team's internal problems and its weak, inexperienced bench.

Ironically, a victory by Fitzsimmons' Kings late last season eliminated the



Gene Banks needs to toughen up on the defensive end in 1984-85.

Spurs from the playoff picture.

"Just as an outsider looking in," he said, "it didn't look like they were playing as hard as they could—at times. Now I'm not saying they never played hard, but my philosophy is that you should play hard whether you are winning or losing. If things are going bad, that's when you have to gut it up."

Even if Fitzsimmons can rekindle the kind of enthusiasm it takes to play winning basketball, he will have another major problem to deal with—size.

Aside from the 7-foot-2, 260-pound Gilmore, the front line consists of the 6-7 Mitchell and 6-8 Gene Banks.

A trade for a big forward was a major topic of discussion during the off-season. It never happened, but that wasn't because of a lack of effort. Spurs' Owner Angelo Drossos admitted shortly after the season that he had offered anyone on his roster plus \$1 million to Los Angeles Clippers Owner Donald Sterling for Terry Cummings.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
00	Johnny Moore	G	Texas '79
4	John Paxson	G	Notre Dame '83
10	Ron Brewer	G	Arkansas '78
11	Fred Roberts	F	Brigham Young '82
15	John Lucas	G	Maryland '76
20	Gene Banks	F	Duke '81
22	Charles Jones	F	Albany State '79
31	Mark McNamara	C	California '82
34	Mike Mitchell	F	Auburn '78
42	Edgar Jones	F-C	Nevada-Reno '79
44	George Gervin	G	Eastern Michigan '72
53	Artis Gilmore	C	Jacksonville '71

TOP DRAFTES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Alvin Robertson	7	G	Arkansas
3	Joe Binion	57	F	N.C. A&T
4	Ozell Jones	90	C	Fullerton State

tings. Sterling refused.

Thus Fitzsimmons' starting lineup likely will be the same one that went 11-20 under McHone in 1983—Gilmore, Mitchell, Banks, the 6-8 Gervin and 6-3 Johnny Moore.

The top reserves off the bench should include 6-10 forward Edgar Jones, 6-10 Fred Roberts, 6-4 rookie guard Robertson, 6-2 John Paxson, 6-3 John Lucas and 6-4 Ron Brewer.

When NBA fans talk about Spurs' personnel, they always start with Gervin.

The 12-year veteran from Eastern Michigan has won four NBA scoring titles. His agents and representatives also hold unofficial Spurs' records for making noise about contract renegotiations. They did it again this summer.

"I feel it's best for everyone that I don't say anything," Gervin said about his contract.

Concerning Fitzsimmons, The Iceman (25.9 points per game last year) noted, "He's coming in here at the ideal time. It can't get any worse."

Gilmore, a 13-year pro, might disagree. He spent enough time in Chicago to know better.

Gilmore, however, is working hard to prevent that from happening in San Antonio this year. The man who is considered among the strongest players in the league is lifting weights during the off-season for the first time in his career.

"I have to think that everyone will come back with a more positive attitude this time," said Gilmore, who averaged 15.3 points, 10.3 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots last year while missing 18 games because of injuries.

When Gilmore was on the injured list in March, Mitchell carried the team. The six-year veteran averaged 29.9 points a game during the month and finished the year with a 23.3 average, eighth best in the league.

Moore suffered through a nightmarish season in which he fractured the index finger on his right (shooting) hand, missed 23 games and temporarily lost his starting job to Lucas.

Banks, the name mentioned most often in the summer trade rumors, played well sporadically. His defensive problems are best illustrated by the three players who branded the Spurs for 50 points or more in single games last year—Golden State's Purvis Short (57), New York's Bernard King (50) and Denver's Kiki Vandeweghe (50).

Banks, a player who excels in the transition game, averaged 13.1 points and 7.3 rebounds. ■

Jerry Briggs covers the San Antonio Spurs for the San Antonio Light.

The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook ★

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS	
1984-85	22	SAS	NBA	SG	79	9	21.3	3.8	7.6	.498	0.1	0.1	.364	3.7	7.5	.501	.502	1.6	2.1	.734	1.5	1.9	3.4	3.5	1.6	0.3	2.1	2.7	9.2	
1985-86	★	23	SAS	NBA	SG	82	82	35.1	6.9	13.3	.514	0.1	0.4	.276	6.8	13.0	.521	.518	3.2	4.0	.795	2.2	4.0	6.3	5.5	3.7	0.5	3.1	3.6	17.0
1986-87	★	24	SAS	NBA	SG	81	78	33.3	7.3	15.6	.466	0.2	0.6	.271	7.1	15.0	.474	.471	3.0	4.0	.753	2.3	2.9	5.2	5.2	3.2	0.4	3.0	3.3	17.7
1987-88	★	25	SAS	NBA	SG	82	82	36.3	8.0	17.2	.465	0.3	1.2	.284	7.7	16.0	.478	.475	3.3	4.5	.748	2.0	4.1	6.1	6.8	3.0	0.8	3.1	3.7	19.6
1988-89		26	SAS	NBA	SG	65	65	35.2	7.2	14.8	.483	0.1	0.7	.200	7.0	14.1	.497	.488	2.8	3.9	.723	2.4	3.5	5.9	6.0	3.0	0.6	3.6	4.0	17.3
1989-90		27	MIL	NBA	SG	81	81	32.1	5.9	11.7	.503	0.0	0.3	.154	5.8	11.4	.513	.505	2.4	3.3	.741	2.8	4.1	6.9	5.5	2.6	0.2	2.7	3.5	14.2
1990-91	★	28	MIL	NBA	SG	81	81	32.1	5.4	11.2	.485	0.3	0.8	.365	5.1	10.4	.493	.497	2.5	3.2	.757	2.4	3.3	5.7	5.5	3.0	0.2	2.6	3.4	13.6
1991-92		29	MIL	NBA	SG	82	79	30.0	4.8	11.2	.430	0.8	2.6	.319	4.0	8.7	.462	.466	1.8	2.4	.763	2.1	2.1	4.3	4.4	2.6	0.4	2.7	3.2	12.3
1992-93		30	TOT	NBA	SG	69	54	29.1	3.6	7.8	.458	0.6	1.8	.328	3.0	6.0	.496	.495	1.2	1.9	.656	1.6	2.3	3.9	3.8	2.2	0.3	1.9	3.2	9.0
1992-93		30	MIL	NBA	SG	39	32	27.3	3.6	7.4	.479	0.4	1.4	.309	3.1	6.0	.519	.509	1.1	1.8	.629	1.2	2.3	3.5	4.0	2.3	0.2	2.0	3.1	8.7
1992-93		30	DET	NBA	SG	30	22	31.4	3.6	8.3	.434	0.8	2.2	.343	2.8	6.1	.467	.480	1.3	1.9	.690	2.0	2.4	4.4	3.6	2.2	0.3	1.9	3.3	9.3
1993-94		31	Did Not Play (injury—back)																											
1994-95		32	Did Not Play (injury—back)																											
1995-96		33	TOR	NBA	SG	77	69	32.2	3.7	7.9	.470	0.5	2.0	.272	3.2	5.9	.535	.503	1.4	2.1	.677	1.4	3.0	4.4	4.2	2.2	0.5	2.4	3.5	9.3
Career			NBA		779	680	31.7	5.7	11.9	.477	0.3	1.0	.295	5.4	10.8	.494	.490	2.3	3.1	.743	2.1	3.1	5.2	5.0	2.7	0.4	2.7	3.4	14.0	

John Stockton 6'1" 175 lbs Guard



By LEX HEMPHILL

The Utah Jazz, taking a page right out of George Orwell's novel "1984," was simply "doubleplusoutrageous" last season. That descriptive word might have become a part of Orwell's Newspeak dictionary if Big Brother had watched over the Jazz throughout the 1983-84 season. What the Jazz did transcended any conventional means of description. The franchise that ranked among the most inept in league history over the last decade suddenly broke free of its cocoon and floated to prominence in the National Basketball Association.

Utah's coming-out party had three highlights:

- Competitively, Utah achieved unparalleled success. The Jazz recorded its first-ever winning season (45-37), its first-ever playoff berth and its first-ever division title. Four of the team's starters (Adrian Dantley, Darrell Griffith, Rickey Green and Mark Eaton) won individual league statistical titles and the fifth (Thurl Bailey) won All-Rookie Team honors. The Jazz won its opening playoff series against Denver, 3-2, before falling to Phoenix in six games.

- The franchise, which was born in 1974, got some much-needed, league-wide respect, not just on the floor but in other areas. Utah played host to the league meetings in June and entertained its lodge brothers admirably.

- Financially, the Jazz finally got out of debt. The Saudi Arabian-born Khashoggi brothers, whose \$600 million Triad America project has energized the Salt Lake City economy, purchased half the team in late June. At the time, Owner Sam Battistone was about to be called for his \$6 million bank note and probably would have had to sell the team to an out-of-town buyer. The debt was finally erased after 10 years.

Voila!

In one crazy, historic year, the Jazz won games, won respect and got out of debt. But the disbelievers still are wondering if the Jazz's balloon has been inflated right up to the point of bursting.

Frank Layden, the team's coach and general manager, might be wondering the same thing. Layden became the first man in history to win both Coach of the Year and Executive of the Year honors (both The Sporting News and NBA) in the same season. He enjoyed his moment in the sun, but never made the mistake of taking himself too seriously.

Layden preached throughout the 1983-84 season that the Jazz players had to remember who they really are. Now the ball's in his court. After all the awards and



Mark Eaton was better than anyone could have imagined last year.

one-liners had been put into mothballs, Layden was asked to describe the state of his team for 1984-85. "Fragile would be a good word," he said.

Many people will be looking for the Jazz to collapse this season. How, they ask, can a team remain as injury-free as the Jazz did last season? And how can the Jazz expect to beat up again on the Pacific Division? Utah was 20-10 last year against strong Pacific Division teams, with four of those losses to the powerful Los Angeles Lakers.

A lot could depend on whether 30-year-old John Drew (the team's third-leading scorer at 17.7 points per game) and 31-year-old Rich Kelley (its second-leading rebounder at 6.5) can continue to make good contributions. Both re-signed with the Jazz after testing free agency during the off-season. Both were major surprises last season after coming to Utah in deals that were made out of financial necessity

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
4	Adrian Dantley	F	Notre Dame '77
11	Mitch Anderson	F	Bradley '82
14	Rickey Green	G	Michigan '77
20	Bob Hansen	G	Iowa '83
22	John Drew	F	Gardner-Webb '76
31	Jerry Eaves	G	Louisville '82
33	Tom Boswell	F	South Carolina '75
35	Darrell Griffith	G	Louisville '80
41	Thurl Bailey	F	North Carolina St. '83
44	Rich Kelley	C	Stanford '75
45	Jeff Wilkins	F-C	Illinois State '77
53	Mark Eaton	C	UCLA '82

TOP DRAFTES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	John Stockton	16	G	Gonzaga
3	David Pope	62	F	Norfolk State

(Dominique Wilkins was traded to Atlanta for Drew and Freeman Williams and Danny Schayes was traded to Denver for Kelley). Drew and Kelley combined to make the trade look good, but can they do it again?

The Jazz underlined another delicate question when it drafted point guard John Stockton (Gonzaga) in the off-season. All-Star Rickey Green has turned 30 and still is being asked to play at a break-neck pace. Jerry Eaves, a two-year member of the Jazz, has not worked out on the point.

But overall, there are many more pluses than minuses. Green, the team's catalyst who led the league in steals (2.65 per game), has missed only six games in his last three years as a Jazz starter. If he can continue to play a full schedule, he'll keep the Jazz up-tempo and dangerous.

The 28-year-old Dantley, who led the NBA last season with a 30.6 scoring average, needs only to become more of an uplifting influence on his teammates. If he can acquire the penchant for making his teammates better—like a Larry Bird, a Julius Erving or a Bernard King seem to do—he can join the highest echelon of the league's stars. His physical ability and individual determination already rank among the best.

Griffith is only 26 and improved markedly last season. He is one of the best long-range jump shooters in the game, as evidenced by his league-leading 36.1 percent three-point field goal-shooting average. Bailey, having adjusted to the rigors of the long NBA season, really took off after Layden reinserted him into the starting lineup in mid-March. And Eaton, the best shot blocker in the league last year (4.28 per game), seems capable of reaching his preseason goal of averaging 10 rebounds per game. He managed 7.2 last season.

The Jazz, which recorded a 35-12 home record (including playoffs), will be rewarded with a more appealing home schedule in 1984-85. The club has pared its Las Vegas schedule from 11 games (5-6 last year) to six.

Whether or not the Jazz can reach the lofty heights it attained last season is questionable. But at least the team is pointed in a better direction than it was in any of its other 10 preseasons.

"I think we've got to look ahead," said Layden, who doesn't buy the idea that the Jazz rose too high, too quickly, in 1983-84. "We've got to look to defend our Midwest Division title and move on in the playoffs. We've got to think positive. We don't want to make a step backward." ■

Lex Hemphill covers the Utah Jazz for the Salt Lake Tribune.

The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook ★

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	UTA	NBA	PG	82	5	18.2	1.9	4.1	.471	0.0	0.1	.182	1.9	3.9	.481	.474	1.7	2.4	.736	0.3	1.0	1.3	5.1	1.3	0.1	1.8	2.5	5.6
1985-86	23	UTA	NBA	PG	82	38	23.6	2.8	5.7	.489	0.0	0.2	.133	2.8	5.5	.501	.491	2.1	2.5	.839	0.4	1.8	2.2	7.4	1.9	0.1	2.0	2.8	7.7
1986-87	24	UTA	NBA	PG	82	2	22.7	2.8	5.6	.499	0.1	0.5	.179	2.7	5.2	.528	.506	2.2	2.8	.782	0.4	1.5	1.8	8.2	2.2	0.2	2.0	2.7	7.9
1987-88	25	UTA	NBA	PG	82	79	34.7	5.5	9.6	.574	0.3	0.8	.358	5.2	8.8	.594	.589	3.3	4.0	.840	0.7	2.2	2.9	13.8	3.0	0.2	3.2	3.0	14.7
1988-89	26	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	38.7	6.1	11.3	.538	0.2	0.8	.242	5.9	10.5	.561	.547	4.8	5.5	.863	1.0	2.0	3.0	13.6	3.2	0.2	3.8	2.9	17.1
1989-90	27	UTA	NBA	PG	78	78	37.4	6.1	11.8	.514	0.6	1.4	.416	5.4	10.3	.528	.540	4.5	5.5	.819	0.7	1.9	2.6	14.5	2.7	0.2	3.5	3.0	17.2
1990-91	28	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	37.8	6.0	11.9	.507	0.7	2.0	.345	5.3	9.9	.541	.537	4.4	5.3	.836	0.6	2.3	2.9	14.2	2.9	0.2	3.6	2.8	17.2
1991-92	29	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	36.6	5.5	11.5	.482	1.0	2.5	.407	4.5	9.0	.503	.527	3.8	4.5	.842	0.8	2.5	3.3	13.7	3.0	0.3	3.5	2.9	15.8
1992-93	30	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	34.9	5.3	11.0	.486	0.9	2.3	.385	4.5	8.7	.513	.526	3.6	4.5	.798	0.8	2.1	2.9	12.0	2.4	0.3	3.2	2.7	15.1
1993-94	31	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	36.2	5.6	10.6	.528	0.6	1.8	.322	5.0	8.8	.570	.555	3.3	4.1	.805	0.9	2.3	3.1	12.6	2.4	0.3	3.2	2.9	15.1
1994-95	32	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	35.0	5.2	9.6	.542	1.2	2.8	.449	4.0	6.9	.580	.607	3.0	3.7	.804	0.7	2.4	3.1	12.3	2.4	0.3	3.3	2.6	14.7
1995-96	33	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	35.5	5.4	10.0	.538	1.2	2.7	.422	4.2	7.2	.582	.596	2.9	3.4	.830	0.7	2.1	2.8	11.2	1.7	0.2	3.0	2.5	14.7
1996-97	34	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	35.3	5.1	9.3	.548	0.9	2.2	.422	4.1	7.1	.587	.598	3.4	4.0	.846	0.5	2.2	2.8	10.5	2.0	0.2	3.0	2.4	14.4
1997-98	35	UTA	NBA	PG	64	64	29.0	4.2	8.0	.528	0.6	1.4	.429	3.6	6.6	.550	.567	3.0	3.6	.827	0.5	2.0	2.6	8.5	1.4	0.2	2.5	2.2	12.0
1998-99	36	UTA	NBA	PG	50	50	28.2	4.0	8.2	.488	0.3	1.0	.320	3.7	7.2	.511	.507	2.7	3.4	.811	0.6	2.3	2.9	7.5	1.6	0.3	2.2	2.1	11.1
1999-00	37	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	29.7	4.4	8.8	.501	0.5	1.5	.355	3.9	7.4	.530	.530	2.7	3.1	.860	0.5	2.1	2.6	8.6	1.7	0.2	2.2	2.3	12.1
2000-01	38	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	29.2	4.0	7.9	.504	0.7	1.6	.462	3.3	6.3	.514	.551	2.8	3.4	.817	0.7	2.1	2.8	8.7	1.6	0.3	2.5	2.4	11.5
2001-02	39	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	31.3	4.9	9.5	.517	0.3	1.0	.321	4.6	8.5	.539	.534	3.4	3.9	.857	0.7	2.5	3.2	8.2	1.9	0.3	2.5	2.5	13.4
2002-03	40	UTA	NBA	PG	82	82	27.7	3.8	7.8	.483	0.4	1.0	.363	3.4	6.8	.500	.505	2.9	3.5	.826	0.6	1.8	2.5	7.7	1.7	0.2	2.2	2.2	10.8
Career			NBA		1504	1300	31.8	4.7	9.1	.515	0.6	1.5	.384	4.1	7.6	.541	.546	3.2	3.9	.826	0.6	2.1	2.7	10.5	2.2	0.2	2.8	2.6	13.1

Kevin Willis

7'0" 240 lbs
Center



After watching the same basic core of players perform in a middle-of-the-league manner through three coaching regimes and half a decade, the Atlanta Hawks finally have taken the wise option. They have decided to make repairs before the roof collapses.

Not bothering to be subtle, they announced the start of a three-year restructuring program and put veteran players up for auction. It was a major disappointment when other National Basketball Association clubs bid seriously on only one of them—star forward Dan Roundfield, Atlanta's second-leading scorer last season.

The Hawks looked over the offers for Roundfield and decided to send the eight-year veteran to Detroit for forward Cliff Levingston, the rights to forward Antoine Carr and second-round picks in 1986 and '87.

"We've brought in good athletes," Coach Mike Fratello said. "That's the key—athletes."

The need for a major overhaul became apparent to everybody when the Hawks finished the regular season with just nine road victories and then were routed by Milwaukee in the playoffs.

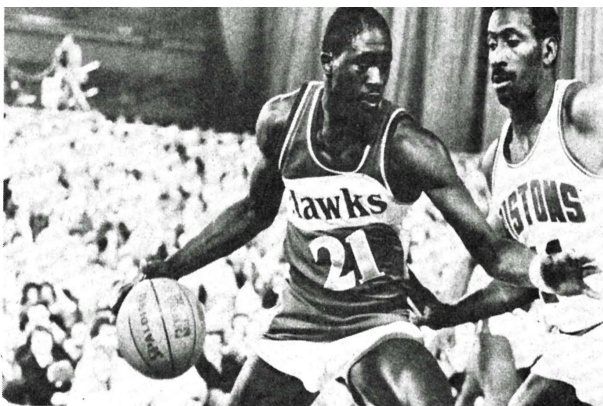
Though the Hawks are brightening their future by casting their lot with younger talent, their present situation in Atlanta remains uneasy. Public interest is low and the team will play a dozen 1984-85 "home games" in New Orleans, a city that is trying to recapture the NBA's attention. Those home-away-from-home games and the emphasis on youth likely will result in fewer victories than last season's 40.

"If you're 29, don't apply," Vice President and General Manager Stan Kasten said as he prepared to unload some sluggish veterans who command a hefty salary.

Atlanta management was surprised that no one would offer more than middle-level talent for center Wayne (Tree) Rollins, who finished second in the NBA with 3.6 blocked shots per game and made the league's All-Defensive Team. But a four-year, \$3 million contract for a center who averages 8.6 points and 7.7 rebounds a night was the likely reason.

The 29-year-old Rollins also has been criticized for lackadaisical play. Hawks President J. Michael Gearon describes him as "docile." Rollins didn't enhance his status in Atlanta when he refused to practice the last six weeks of last season after bruising his heel and he annoyed Fratello when he left several games with minor injuries.

The Hawks likely will give 7-foot rookie



Flamboyant forward Dominique Wilkins is the undisputed star of a youthful Hawks team.

Kevin Willis plenty of playing time at center. Though his skills are unpolished, the Hawks' first-round draft choice out of Michigan State is aggressive, enthusiastic, fast and strong.

Fast and strong are the adjectives in the Hawks' rebuilding program. Levingston and Carr both fit that description. So does third-round draft pick Bobby Parks, the 6-5 swingman from Memphis State who will try to grab a spot in the Hawks' backcourt. Another guard candidate is 6-4 Walker Russell, the brother of former NBA player Campy Russell. Walker had a couple of brief shots with the Pistons before a tour in the Continental League and a subsequent tryout camp performance impressed Fratello and his coaches.

Another prospect for the Atlanta backcourt is Stewart Granger, a first-round draft choice of Cleveland in '83 who averaged just 4.5 points per game last sea-

son for the Cavs. Granger came to the Hawks along with forward John Garriss in an off-season deal for veteran guard Johnny Davis, who struggled much of last year after early-season injuries. Parks, Russell and Granger will compete with second-year men Glenn (Doc) Rivers (9.3 points per game) and Randy Wittman (4.5) for playing time.

Atlanta's forward line is the team's strength. Leading the way are 6-8 Dominique Wilkins, 6-7 Sly Williams, who was limited to 13 games last season when he broke his thumb in October and his foot in January, Levingston and Carr. If this group holds together and if Willis can strengthen the center position, the Hawks might be able to keep their heads above water. If anybody falters, 6-10 Rickey Brown, 6-10 Scott Hastings and 6-8 Garriss will be waiting in the wings.

With Roundfield gone, Wilkins, a 21.6 scorer last season (17th in the league), will have to emerge as the team leader in his third NBA season. He will need help.

Williams says he is ready to have a good year and could be the starting power forward. But Levingston, at 6-8 and 230 pounds, played that position in Detroit, where he averaged 7.3 points, seven rebounds and 25 minutes per game.

The 6-9 Carr, who spent last season in Italy, was a pleasant surprise when he weighed in at 243 solid pounds, 18 above his playing weight at Wichita State.

The Hawks will be lucky to make the playoffs, but after three straight first-round playoff losses, they appear to be pointed in the right direction. ■

Jeff Denberg covers the Atlanta Hawks for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
2	Walker Russell...	G	Western Michigan '82
10	Randy Wittman...	G-F	Indiana '83
21	D. Wilkins.....	F	Georgia '83
25	Glenn Rivers.....	G	Marquette '84
30	Tree Rollins.....	C	Clemson '77
31	Rickey Brown.....	F-C	Mississippi State '80
34	Mike Glenn.....	G	Southern Illinois '76
35	Sly Williams.....	F	Rhode Island '79
44	Scott Hastings.....	F-C	Arkansas '82
53	Cliff Levingston...	F	Wichita State '83
	—Stewart Granger	G	Villanova '83

TOP DRAFTEES

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Antoine Carr.....	8	F	Wichita State
1	Kevin Willis.....	11	C	Michigan State
3	Bobby Parks.....	58	G	Memphis State

*Rights acquired with Cliff Levingston from Detroit for Dan Roundfield. Carr was selected in 1983 draft, but played in Italy last season.

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1984-85	22	ATL	NBA	PF	82	19	21.8	3.9	8.4	.467	0.0	0.1	.222	3.9	8.3	.470	.468	1.5	2.2	.657	2.2	4.2	6.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.3	2.8	9.3
1985-86	23	ATL	NBA	PF	82	59	28.0	5.1	9.9	.517	0.0	0.1	.000	5.1	9.8	.520	.517	2.1	3.2	.654	3.0	5.6	8.6	0.5	0.8	0.5	2.2	3.6	12.3
1986-87	24	ATL	NBA	PF	81	81	32.4	6.6	12.4	.536	0.0	0.0	.250	6.6	12.3	.538	.537	2.8	4.0	.709	4.0	6.5	10.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.1	3.9	16.1
1987-88	25	ATL	NBA	PF	75	55	27.9	4.7	9.2	.518	0.0	0.0	.000	4.7	9.1	.520	.518	2.1	3.3	.649	3.1	4.2	7.3	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.8	3.2	11.6
1988-89	26	Did Not Play (injury—knee)																											
1989-90	27	ATL	NBA	PF	81	51	28.1	5.2	9.9	.519	0.0	0.1	.286	5.1	9.9	.521	.520	2.1	3.0	.683	3.1	4.8	8.0	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.8	3.2	12.4
1990-91	28	ATL	NBA	PF	80	80	29.7	5.6	11.0	.504	0.1	0.1	.400	5.5	10.9	.505	.506	2.0	3.0	.668	3.2	5.6	8.8	1.2	0.8	0.5	1.9	2.9	13.1
1991-92 *	29	ATL	NBA	PF	81	80	36.6	7.3	15.1	.483	0.1	0.5	.162	7.2	14.7	.493	.485	3.6	4.5	.804	5.2	10.4	15.5	2.1	0.9	0.7	2.4	2.8	18.3
1992-93	30	ATL	NBA	PF	80	80	36.0	7.7	15.2	.506	0.1	0.4	.241	7.6	14.9	.512	.509	2.5	3.8	.653	4.2	8.7	12.9	2.1	0.9	0.5	2.7	3.3	17.9
1993-94	31	ATL	NBA	PF	80	80	35.8	7.8	15.7	.499	0.1	0.3	.375	7.7	15.4	.501	.502	3.4	4.7	.713	4.2	7.9	12.0	1.9	1.0	0.5	2.4	3.1	19.1
1994-95	32	TOT	NBA	PF	67	63	35.7	7.1	15.1	.466	0.0	0.2	.200	7.0	14.9	.470	.467	3.1	4.4	.690	3.4	7.5	10.9	1.3	0.9	0.5	2.4	3.2	17.2
1995-96	33	TOT	NBA	PF	75	60	28.5	4.3	9.5	.456	0.0	0.1	.111	4.3	9.4	.461	.457	1.9	2.7	.708	2.8	5.7	8.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.1	3.4	10.6
1996-97	34	HOU	NBA	PF	75	32	26.2	4.7	9.7	.481	0.0	0.2	.143	4.6	9.5	.487	.482	1.9	2.7	.693	1.9	5.5	7.5	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.6	2.9	11.2
1997-98	35	HOU	NBA	PF	81	74	31.2	6.6	12.9	.510	0.0	0.1	.143	6.5	12.8	.513	.511	3.0	3.8	.793	2.9	5.5	8.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	2.1	2.9	16.1
1998-99	36	TOR	NBA	C	42	38	29.0	4.5	10.6	.418	0.0	0.0	.000	4.5	10.6	.420	.418	3.1	3.7	.839	2.6	5.7	8.3	1.6	0.7	0.7	2.0	3.2	12.0
1999-00	37	TOR	NBA	PF	79	1	21.3	3.0	7.2	.415	0.0	0.0	.333	3.0	7.2	.415	.416	1.7	2.1	.799	2.5	3.6	6.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.2	3.2	7.6
2000-01	38	TOT	NBA	C	78	22	23.5	3.9	8.8	.441	0.0	0.1	.167	3.9	8.8	.443	.441	1.4	1.9	.769	2.3	4.6	6.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.1	2.8	9.3
2001-02	39	HOU	NBA	PF	52	5	16.6	2.4	5.5	.440	0.0	0.0	.000	2.4	5.4	.442	.440	1.3	1.7	.747	2.0	3.7	5.8	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.9	6.1
2002-03	40	SAS	NBA	C	71	6	11.8	1.7	3.6	.479	0.0	0.0	.000	1.7	3.6	.482	.479	0.7	1.2	.614	1.2	2.0	3.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.7	4.2
2003-04	41	SAS	NBA	C	48	0	7.8	1.5	3.1	.467	0.0	0.0	.000	1.5	3.1	.470	.467	0.5	0.8	.615	0.8	1.3	2.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	1.3	3.4
2004-05	42	ATL	NBA	C	29	5	11.9	1.2	3.1	.389	0.0	0.1	.000	1.2	3.0	.398	.389	0.6	0.8	.739	1.0	1.6	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.8	3.0
2005-06	43	Did Not Play (retired)																											
2006-07	44	DAL	NBA	PF	5	0	8.6	1.0	2.6	.385	0.0	0.0		1.0	2.6	.385	.385	0.4	0.4	1.000	0.4	1.2	1.6	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	2.2	2.4
Career			NBA		1424	891	26.9	5.0	10.2	.487	0.0	0.1	.211	5.0	10.1	.491	.488	2.1	3.0	.713	2.9	5.5	8.4	0.9	0.7	0.5	1.8	2.9	12.1

Cliff Robinson

6'9" 220 lbs
Forward



By DAVID DuPRE

The Washington Bullets will still bang, bump, push, shove and intimidate their National Basketball Association opponents. They just won't be doing quite as much of it this season. They won't have to.

The Bullets, who played the NBA champion Boston Celtics tight in the first round of last year's playoffs, decided it was time for a change. For the last four seasons, Coach Gene Shue thought the deliberate, slowdown style was the only way his Bullets could compete. The fans complained, and even the players grumbled about the restraints put on their creativity. The game had ceased to be fun to watch or play in the nation's capital.

Well, those days are over. Good times are on the horizon over Capital Centre once again. No more boredom and plodding around for these Bullets. It's going to be run-and-gun time again.

The acquisition of two players, Gus Williams from the Seattle SuperSonics and Cliff Robinson from the Cleveland Cavaliers, and a commitment by Shue and Owner Abe Pollin to entertain will make the change-over possible.

Adding Williams, one of the NBA's top assists men, and Robinson, one of its best rebounders, to a team already boasting the Beef Brothers duo of Jeff Ruland and Rick Mahorn, whirlwind guard Frank Johnson and shooter Jeff Malone, makes the Bullets look like a completely different team.

"This is the beginning of a new Bullet era," said Pollin, whose team finished last in the Atlantic Division in 1983-84 with a 35-47 record. "Capital Centre will be jumping again."

The Bullets had coveted Williams ever since he averaged 28.6 points a game when the Sonics beat Washington in the 1979 NBA Championship Series.

"He's as exciting a player as there is in the league," General Manager Bob Ferry said. "We want to run and few guards in the league are better at creating opportunities for that than him."

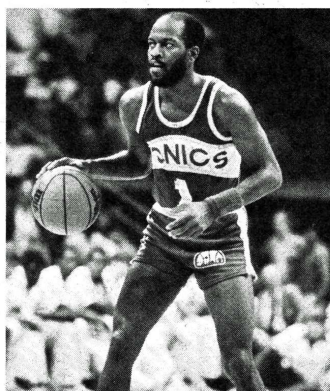
The 6-foot-2 Williams was Seattle's second-leading scorer last year with an 18.7 average. He also was seventh in the league in assists with an 8.4 average and third in steals with a 2.36 mark.

He will team in the Bullets' backcourt with Johnson, who has almost as much speed and quickness as Williams does.

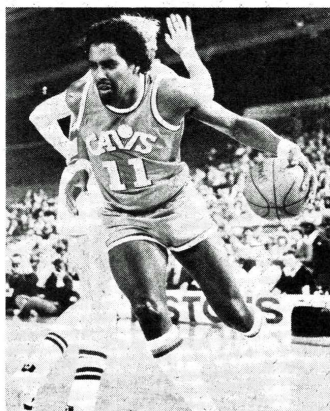
Playing alongside Ricky Sobers (who was dealt to the Sonics in the Williams trade), Johnson was primarily the point guard last year and averaged 12 points and 6.9 assists a game.

Shue said Johnson and Williams will share the ball-handling duties.

"I don't like the point-guard, shooting-



With Gus Williams (above) and Cliff Robinson playing with the Bullets, Washington will be a different team.



VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	College
1	Gus Williams	G	Southern Cal '75
3	Guy Williams	F	Washington State '83
11	Cliff Robinson	F	Southern Cal '79
13	Bryan Warrick	G	Saint Joseph's '82
15	Frank Johnson	G	Wake Forest '81
23	Charles Davis	F	Vanderbilt '81
24	Jeff Malone	F	Mississippi State '83
25	Darren Daye	G	UCLA '83
30	Mike Gibson	F	S.C.-Spartanburg '82
31	Joe Kopicki	F	Detroit '82
42	Greg Ballard	F	Oregon '77
43	Jeff Ruland	F-C	Iona '81
44	Rick Mahorn	C	Hampton Inst. '80
54	Tom McMillen	F-C	Maryland '74

*Missed last season because of a knee injury.

TOP DRAFTEE

Rd.	Name	Pick	Pos.	College
1	Tom Sewell†	22	G	Lamar

†Rights acquired from Philadelphia for a 1988 No. 1 draft choice.

guard thing, anyway," Shue said. "I much prefer two guards who can do both." He has them.

Johnson is only 6-2 himself, but the Bullets' muscle up front might enable Washington to get away with starting two little guards.

Robinson, a 6-9½, 230-pounder, was eighth in the league in rebounds last season with 10.3 a game and also averaged 17.8 points for Cleveland.

"We're going to run now," an elated Ferry said. "In Robinson, we got the scoring we needed. He can not only run and jump, but he has an outside shot, too. He gives us so much flexibility. He can play with anyone else we use on the front line. He is a proven top-quality power forward. We aren't taking a chance with him. We know he can play."

No matter what the worth of Robinson and Williams is to the Bullets, the key man is still Ruland. At 6-10 and 240 pounds, the veteran of three NBA seasons has blossomed into one of the premier inside players in the league. Most coaches concede that only Moses Malone is more devastating as a post-up player.

Ruland tied for second in the NBA in rebounding last season (12.3) and finished 15th in scoring (22.2). He led the Bullets in minutes played, total points, scoring average, offensive, defensive and total rebounds, field goals, field-goal percentage, free throws attempted and free throws made and he was third on the Bullets in assists and second in blocked shots.

The one statistic Ruland is not proud of, however, is his turnover total. He topped the league with 342 errors.

Washington's trades sent a message loud and clear to the rest of the league—the Bullets are willing to do whatever is necessary to rebuild the franchise into a league power.

Historically, Pollin has been one of the league's most conservative spending owners. He was a longtime proponent of a salary cap.

Prior to the deals for Robinson and Williams, the team's payroll was a scant \$1.89 million, second lowest in the league (to the Indiana Pacers). Pollin reportedly is paying Williams \$750,000 a year and Robinson about \$450,000, so the tightwad label is no longer operative for Pollin.

"In the past, I said we didn't have the talent to compete with teams like Boston, Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York and the other elite teams," Shue said. "Now we do. We've been going through a rebuilding process the past two years and the deals we made speed that up a great deal." ■

David DuPree covers the Washington Bullets for the Washington Post.

★ The Sporting News 1984-85 Basketball Yearbook

Season	Age	Tm	Lg	Pos	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	3P	3PA	3P%	2P	2PA	2P%	eFG%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1979-80	19	NJN	NBA	PF	70		23.7	5.6	11.9	.469	0.0	0.1	.250	5.6	11.8	.470	.470	2.4	3.5	.694	2.5	4.7	7.2	1.4	0.9	0.5	2.0	2.5	13.6
1980-81	20	NJN	NBA	PF	63		28.9	8.3	17.0	.491	0.0	0.0	1.000	8.3	17.0	.490	.491	2.8	3.9	.718	1.9	5.7	7.6	1.7	0.9	0.8	2.9	3.4	19.5
1981-82	21	TOT	NBA	PF	68	59	32.0	7.6	16.8	.453	0.0	0.1	.000	7.6	16.8	.455	.453	3.3	4.6	.709	2.6	6.4	9.0	1.8	1.3	1.5	2.2	3.3	18.5
1981-82	21	KCK	NBA	PF	38	30	32.3	8.5	18.6	.455	0.0	0.1	.000	8.5	18.6	.457	.455	3.3	4.7	.694	2.2	6.3	8.5	1.9	1.2	1.6	2.3	3.2	20.2
1981-82	21	CLE	NBA	PF	30	29	31.5	6.5	14.5	.451	0.0	0.0	.000	6.5	14.5	.452	.451	3.2	4.4	.729	3.0	6.5	9.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	2.1	3.4	16.3
1982-83	22	CLE	NBA	PF	77	75	33.8	7.6	16.0	.477	0.0	0.1	.000	7.6	15.9	.479	.477	2.8	3.9	.708	2.5	8.6	11.1	1.9	0.8	0.8	2.9	3.5	18.0
1983-84	23	CLE	NBA	C	73	70	32.9	7.3	16.2	.450	0.0	0.0	.500	7.3	16.2	.450	.450	3.2	4.6	.701	2.1	8.2	10.3	2.5	0.7	0.4	2.6	2.7	17.8
1984-85	24	WSB	NBA	PF	60	37	31.2	7.0	14.9	.471	0.0	0.1	.333	7.0	14.9	.471	.472	2.6	3.6	.742	2.4	6.8	9.1	2.5	0.9	0.8	2.7	3.1	16.7
1985-86	25	WSB	NBA	SF	78	78	32.9	7.6	16.1	.474	0.0	0.1	.250	7.6	16.0	.475	.475	3.4	4.5	.762	2.3	6.4	8.7	2.4	1.3	0.6	2.6	2.8	18.7
1986-87	26	PHI	NBA	PF	55	30	28.8	6.1	13.3	.464	0.0	0.1	.000	6.1	13.2	.466	.464	2.5	3.3	.755	1.6	4.0	5.6	1.6	1.6	0.5	2.2	2.7	14.8
1987-88	27	PHI	NBA	SF	62	51	34.0	7.8	16.8	.464	0.0	0.1	.222	7.8	16.6	.466	.465	3.4	4.7	.717	1.9	4.7	6.5	2.1	1.3	0.6	2.6	3.1	19.0
1988-89	28	PHI	NBA	SF	14	13	29.7	6.4	13.4	.481	0.0	0.1	.000	6.4	13.3	.484	.481	2.3	3.1	.727	1.4	4.0	5.4	2.3	1.2	0.1	2.4	2.6	15.1
1989-90	29	Did Not Play (other pro league—Italy)																											
1990-91	30	Did Not Play																											
1991-92	31	LAL	NBA	PF	9	0	8.7	1.2	3.0	.407	0.0	0.1	.000	1.2	2.9	.423	.407	0.8	0.9	.875	0.8	1.3	2.1	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.4	3.2
Career			NBA		629	413	30.7	7.1	15.3	.468	0.0	0.1	.184	7.1	15.2	.469	.469	2.9	4.0	.722	2.2	6.2	8.3	2.0	1.0	0.7	2.5	3.0	17.2