



1987-88 Eastern Conference Finals

55-32 Havlicek Division Champion Mt. Dora Hurricanes

vs

81-5 Robertson Division Champion Fresno Stars

Regular Season: After scorching the VBA's regular season last year with an 81-1 record and posting a 12-2 playoff record en route to their first VBA Championship, the Fresno Stars followed that with a 77-5 campaign. They finished with the league's 2nd best offense (127.7 ppg), 7th best defense (104.8 ppg) and best differential (22.9). Magic Johnson led the way with a 23.5 scoring average (7th in league) and 9.8 assists/game (4th in VBA). Alvin Robertson added 19.7 points and tied Michael Jordan for the league's top thief with 3.5 takeaways per contest. Patrick Ewing scored 17.7 points and swatted 2.4 balls to tie Akeem Olajuwon for 2nd in the league. Mount Dora was 51-31, good for 2nd place in the Eastern Conference. They were 9-9 though when leading scorer, Kevin McHale (20.4 ppg) was sitting out with injuries. Shooting Guard Jeff Malone averaged 18.3 points and Jack Sikma lead the team with 9.1 rebounds per game and he also added 14.4 points on the scoring end.



Playoffs: Both teams enjoyed first round byes. Mount Dora then faced divisional rival and two-time champion franchise, the Rocky Mountain Express. After Rocky Mountain won game one on the 'Canes home court, Mt. Dora came back with four straight, close game victories. The Express couldn't defend McHale. He was the leading scorer in all 5 games with a 36.4 average and tallied 54 in game 3. Malone scored 16.0/game and John "Hot Plate" Williams averaged 14.6. The Stars swept the Callaway Kings with the closest game being game 2, 132-118. Magic averaged 28.0 and Robertson 27.0. Magic dished out 9.8 assists as well.

Head-to-head: During the regular season, the Hurricanes won only one of their six matchups. Ewing led the Stars in scoring against Mt. Dora with a 21.0 average. Robertson was at 18.2 and Magic at 17.2. Michael Cage averaged 12.2 rebounds. For the Hurricanes, McHale averaged 19.8 ppg with Malone and Rodney McCray each at a 15.8 clip.