1988-89 Western Conference Finals

71-21 Chamberlain Division Runner-Up Buffalo Blizzard
vs
75-13 Chamberlain Division Champion Costa Mesa Condors

Regular Season: The Costa Mesa Condors, tied their 1985-86 Championship season record of 71-11, good for 2nd best in the VBA this year. This is their 6th straight appearance in the Western Conference Finals. They had the VBA's best offense with 126.5 points per game and surpassed even Fresno with a 97.5 power rating and point differential (18.5). Once again, Akeem Olajuwon was the league's top rebounder with 12.2 boards per game. He was 2nd in steals with 3.0 and 3rd in blocks with 2.6. He also topped the Condors with 21.2 points per game. Isiah Thomas added 21.0 points and 11.4 assists(5th). Kevin McHale came over in a trade deadline deal to average 20.3 points and assist CMC in going 21-0 in March & April. The Blizzard finished 63-19 this season after defeating Costa Mesa in 7 games to advance to last year's VBA Finals. They scored 125.1 ppg, 2nd in the league and had the 3rd best point differential (10.6). They were led by their Big 4: Karl Malone (25.4 pts, 10.2 reb), Clyde Drexler (22.5 ppg), Tom Chambers (19.9 pts) and Mark Aguirre (17.5).

Playoffs: Costa Mesa earned a Round One bye while Buffalo swept the Washington Wizards. The Mailman delivered the knockout punch, tallying 34.5 ppg. Aguirre averaged 24.0 in the 4 contests. In the Conference Semis, BUF went on to beat the Sun Valley Bobcats in 6 games. Drexler was Game MVP in all 4 wins, averaging 31.5 points and 9.5 rebounds for the series. Chambers really had SVB puzzled scoring 26.3 per contest. Malone was good for 25.8/13.0. The Condors faced the Minnesota Muskies in their Semi-Final match-up. McHale paid more dividends, leading CMC with a 24.2 average. Zeke contributed 22.0 points and 12.2 dimes. Rolando Blackman stepped up to tally a 20.8 scoring average.

Head-to-head: Costa Mesa won 5 of the 8 head-to-head games during the regular season. Drexler (34.5) and Aguirre (24.2) were Buffalo's top scorers in the H2H games. Blackman topped CMC by scoring 23.5 vs. the Blizzard. Thomas produced 22.8 points and 12.8 assists; Olajuwon 20.3 points and 11.9 boards.