

1989-90 Vintage Basketball Association Finals Preview



71-23 Eastern Conference Champion Fresno Stars

vs

71-19 Western Conference Champion Minnesota Muskies

Regular Season: The three-time champion Fresno Stars had a 63-19 record during the regular season tied for second behind the 69-13 Costa Mesa Condors. They finished tied for the league's best offense (126.9 ppg), leading the league in rebounds and coming in 2nd in assists. They also had the VBA's 2nd best differential (14.0). Magic Johnson scored 23.8 points and dished out 11.5 assists, but yielded team scoring honors to Patrick Ewing (26.5 ppg). Ewing led Fresno with 10.5 rebounds and led the VBA with 3.9 blocks. Jerome Kersey was solid with 15.5 point average. Charles Barkley led Minnesota with 27.2 ppg (5th in league) and topped Muskie regulars with 10.5 rebounds. Larry Bird joined the club on February 24th and proceeded to average 25.2 points, 8.7 rebounds and 7.9 assists. MNM was 26-6 with him on the roster. Robert Parish chipped in 15.7 points and 9.4 rebounds; Danny Ainge tallied 15.2 points and 7.6 dimes.



Early Playoffs: Fresno didn't have to play in round one and got a wake up call in their first series as So Cal won games 2 and 3 to take a 2-1 advantage. Fresno rebounded and won games 4-6 by an average of 30.3 points. Ewing averaged 27.8 points and gathered 9.8 rebounds per contest. Magic scored 19.8 points and dished out 11.8 assists. Doc Rivers scored 17.3 points in the four games he played. Sir Charles tallied 33.3 ppg 12.0 boards in the round two sweep of the Pittsburgh Pisces and rookie #1 overall pick David Robinson. Larry Bird scored 18.5 in the four games.

Conference Finals: In the **Eastern Finals**, Fresno defeated the Callaway Kings in six games with Patrick Ewing name Eastern Conference Finals MVP. He averaged 24.8 pts, 10.8 reb, 2.2 blk and 1.2 stls. The **Western Finals** saw Minnesota not only upset, but sweep the Costa Mesa Condors who had the VBA's best record. Larry Legend took home the MVP trophy with 27.3 pts, 8.5 reb, 6.5 ast, 1.8 blk, 1.5 stls.

