

Out of Bounds

It's rareness, not "His Airness," sparking NBA season

The shortened, lockout plagued, greedy playered, Jordanless NBA season is only a month and a half into the year, and it is already halfway over. Sounds like a mess. And it is. But it is still staying popular to the fans. Not for the big names on the court, but, rather, for the unexpected stories that surround it.

True basketball fans knew from the start of the season, that we couldn't ignore the game that we have come to love. But we did wonder what the league could do to spark interest with the people that ultimately pay the outrageous salaries of its players.

The biggest story of this rare 1999 season are the Los Angeles Lakers. Every week seems to bring changes to the team as you can see EVERY Sunday on NBC. I have never seen a professional sports team get as much coverage as these Lakers. If L.A. doesn't win the NBA Championship, people will see it as a shock. How

could a team "deserving" enough of so much media coverage, not win it all? Don't be fooled. The Lakers are struggling to gain first place in their division, let alone the NBA.

The 72-10 Chicago Bulls of 1995-96 didn't get this many televised games. They were arguably the greatest team in the history of the NBA, with the greatest player of all time, not some generic imitation the Lakers advertise.

But if you have watched the weekly changes of the Lakers, you have witnessed a new man walking the sidelines (Kurt Rambis), veterans (Glen Rice) replacing young athleticism (Eddie Jones) and the most exciting player in the NBA, Dennis Rodman, picking and choosing what days he will lace up his sneakers.

That is one thing that doesn't change from year to year. Let's just say Rodman has to work extra hard to keep the cameras on him, on a team not willing to share the spotlight. But if L.A. would wake up, they would see they are 11-0 with "The Worm" in the

lineup and 1-3 when he left for "personal problems."

Whether NBC likes to admit it or not, there are other stories and teams worthy to mention. There are five teams with a better record than the Lakers, including two surprises in Orlando and Portland. The Magic are currently in a battle with the Miami Heat for not only the best record in Florida, but in the Eastern Conference. Portland is blazing their trail right to the top of the NBA with no big scorer, just hard working players that compete well together.

Just when Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone thought it was their turn to lead the league in scoring, along came a changed Allen Iverson. Iverson is averaging 29 points per game at the halfway mark and has his 76ers well in position for a long awaited playoff spot.

The rookie class of 1999 looks to be one of the best in recent history. Many young players are changing the league's image from savvy veterans to upbeat, exciting action. Boston's Paul Pierce, Toronto's Vince Carter and Vancouver's Mike Bibby are all playing big. But

JASON SNYDER

the biggest surprise of the rookie class has to be Jason Williams. The Sacramento Kings guard is already being compared to "Pistol Pete" Maravich for his showman-like ability on the court. He has earned himself the nickname, "White Chocolate" by his teammates for his "soulful" game.

Williams, along with Chris Webber and an explosive offense may not have the Kings in playoff contention, but do have fans reminiscing about the "Showtime" days in Los Angeles.

To this point in the NBA, the league has no dominant team or player. And despite some empty seats in the arenas, the basketball excitement is back. Fan enthusiasm is for real and the NBA phrase, "I still love this game!" is being lived up to through the season's rare happenings and flashy new image.

Snyder is the sports editor for the Beacon. Out of Bounds appears weekly on this page.

BEHREND BRIEFS

Penn State Behrend Girls Basketball Camps to be held this summer

The Lady Lions basketball program will be holding three basketball camps this summer. Behrend women's head coach Rosalyn Fornari and assistant Rob Wittman will head the camps.

On July 18, girls, ages 13-18 can attend the "Girls Day Clinic" focusing on individual guard and post play, shooting, footing, defense along with utilizing screens, ball handling and off-season programs. From July 19-23, Behrend will host the "Girls Day Camp" for girls, ages 7-13. A "Little Dribblers Camp" will be available for girls and boys, 5-8, from August 2-6.



Down to the Wire...

Former Minnesota Adviser says Haskins advised her on work for players

By Judith Yates Borger And George Dohrmann Knight-Ridder Newspapers

ST. PAUL - A former University of Minnesota office manager expanded her charges of academic fraud in the men's basketball program Tuesday, saying coach Clem Haskins knew she did course work for players, and advised her about how to make it appear authentic.

"On a couple of occasions he said, 'Just remember, Jan, you can't be too good,'" Jan Gangelhoff said. "The papers can't be too good."

Gangelhoff said Haskins made those remarks during at least three conversations between 1994-96 about former players Courtney James, Micah Watkins and Darrell Whaley. James and Whaley have confirmed that Gangelhoff did course work for them. Watkins has declined comment.

Haskins' attorney Ron Zamansky told the Associated Press on Tuesday that Haskins

was standing by his Monday statement, in which he denied previous allegations by Gangelhoff and Archambault. "They are not true," Haskins said.

The allegations made on Tuesday depart from Gangelhoff's previous accounts, in which she said Haskins had no direct knowledge of her role on behalf of players. During a news conference at a downtown Minneapolis hotel, with her attorney Jim Lord occasionally whispering in her ear, she said she often discussed players' academic progress with the coach.

"In the beginning, when I first started helping the players, he would call and we would talk about players' homework, what assignments they had to get done and how they were doing in class," Gangelhoff said.

"He would say 'Student X got a 'D' in this class. Now he'll have to get a 'B' in this class or he might not be eligible to play,'" Gangelhoff said. "Implying do whatever it took to get a 'B' in that class so he'll be eligible."

Gangelhoff was flanked by her sister, Jeanne Payer, and former Gophers basketball player Russ Archambault. ABC television's "20/20" news

program flew Archambault to the Twin Cities on Tuesday morning for an interview to be aired Friday. Money charges

Archambault, who was dismissed from the basketball team in February 1998 as a sophomore because of disciplinary problems, said he received money from Haskins about eight to 10 times, but he could not recall the total amount of the payments.

Some of Archambault's allegations also were inconsistent with his previous statements, including comments he made to the Pioneer Press on March 1.

At that time, he said Haskins gave him two payments totaling \$600 to pay for a window broken during a fight at a Minneapolis tavern. But on Tuesday, he said he remembers getting \$400 in two equal payments from Haskins to pay for the window. The bar owner has denied the incident ever occurred.

Archambault also repeated earlier allegations that he first received money from Haskins Dec. 20, 1996, when he said the coach gave him \$200 in a Williams Arena restroom.

Archambault said he was dismissed from the team because of curfew

violations and fighting.

"But I got no ax to grind to get back at the coach," Archambault said.

Asked if they were calling Haskins a liar, Gangelhoff and Archambault both replied, "Yes."

Charges and counter charges earlier in the day, University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof said Gangelhoff's lawyer, Lord, was "irresponsible" for charging that the university investigation into academic fraud is a coverup.

Lord disagreed. "Bear in mind that the law firm that is doing this investigation has an ultimate end task," Lord said. "That is to minimize the sanctions from the NCAA on the University of Minnesota."

But Michael Glazier, partner with Bond, Schoeneck & King, the law firm investigating the allegations, called Lord's statement "inaccurate."

"The charge President Yudof gave me and my firm is to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a factual report," Glazier said. "There has not been any decision about what role any attorney will play with the

NCAA investigation."

Lord said Gangelhoff and Archambault will both testify under oath for the university's investigators and he called on the university to ask all witnesses to do the same.

According to Glazier, it is not common practice for any witness to testify under oath because there is no punishment, such as perjury, for anyone who lies to an investigator looking into charges of academic fraud.

At the press conference, Gangelhoff presented copies of some of the course work she says she wrote for the players, but did not indicate whether she would turn over the materials to university investigators.

First meeting. As if there was not sufficient drama at Tuesday's news conference, television producers for "20/20" staged a reunion of Gangelhoff and Archambault, their first meeting in more than a year.

Gangelhoff was instructed to wait on the Stone Arch Bridge in downtown Minneapolis for Archambault's arrival with a film crew at the ready.

"This is all so weird," Gangelhoff said, minutes before Archambault was cued and allowed to meet her on the bridge. "But I am so happy to see Russ. I am extremely proud of him."

Gangelhoff has said she was closer to Archambault than to any other player.

Gangelhoff said she joined Haskins and Archambault's parents for dinner at a downtown restaurant during his recruiting visit in 1995. She also said Haskins and assistant coach Charles Cunningham called her the night Archambault was dismissed from the team.

"They tried to convince me that Russ was being kicked off the team for being Russ," Gangelhoff said. "They wanted me to say that was OK. But I wouldn't. And I told them that they had an opportunity to do what no one at the University of Minnesota had ever done - graduate (an American Indian basketball player) - and they blew it."

Down to the Wire will feature a new sports wire article every week.

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INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals Swimming

Individual (M, W)
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SPRING 1999



Modified Softball

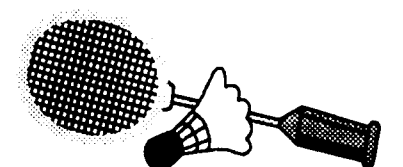
M, W, Coed
Registration Deadline: April 2
Play starts on April 5



Season will last four weeks

Badminton

Singles (M, W)
Doubles (M, W, Coed)
Registration Deadline: April 9
Play starts on April 12



Season will last two weeks

Spring semester Intramural schedules are available in the IM office and on the Reed and Erie Hall IM boards.