

NFL standings

American Football Conference										
Eastern Division										
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Baltimore	5	0	0	1.000	128	74				
Miami	4	1	0	.800	108	84				
New England	3	2	0	.600	130	97				
New York Jets	2	3	0	.400	83	107				
Buffalo	1	4	0	.200	42	80				
Central Division										
Houston	3	2	0	.600	93	71				
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	92	71				
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	91	107				
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	79	84				
Western Division										
Denver	5	0	0	1.000	110	33				
Oakland	4	1	0	.800	110	75				
San Diego	3	2	0	.600	81	58				
Seattle	1	4	0	.200	77	149				
Kansas City	0	5	0	.000	65	121				
National Football Conference										
Eastern Division										
Dallas	5	0	0	1.000	144	78				
Washington	3	2	0	.600	77	74				
St. Louis	2	3	0	.400	75	91				
New York Giants	2	3	0	.400	74	120				
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	71	71				
Central Division										
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	74	49				
Detroit	3	2	0	.600	77	82				
Chicago	2	3	0	.400	107	123				
Green Bay	1	4	0	.200	54	82				
Tampa Bay	0	5	0	.000	36	85				
Western Division										
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	47	22				
Los Angeles	3	2	0	.600	97	62				
New Orleans	1	4	0	.200	88	99				
San Francisco	0	5	0	.000	46	107				
Sunday's Games										
Cleveland at Buffalo										
Dallas at Philadelphia										
Denver at Cincinnati										
Green Bay at Tampa Bay										
Houston at Pittsburgh										
New York Giants at Washington										
Oakland at New York Jets										
Seattle at Miami										
Atlanta at Chicago										
New Orleans at St. Louis										
Baltimore at New England										
Detroit at San Francisco										
Kansas City at San Diego										
Monday's Game										
Minnesota at Los Angeles										

Sixers' big guns head Eastern explosion

By NEIL RUDEL
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

In most pro sports, the prior season gives somewhat of an indication of what to expect during the next one. Such is not the case in pro basketball — more specifically, the NBA — which opens this week.

Last year the Portland Trail Blazers peaked at the right time and edged the star-studded Philadelphia 76ers for the league title. Surely, those two teams will have to be reckoned with again, but so will many other clubs, some that didn't even figure in last year's playoffs.

In this, the second year since the merger with the former American Basketball Association, expect — if you can conceive it — even more furious action than last year, a season many experts called the most intense in league history.

Before last year, teams were able to cake walk their way into the playoffs. However, with ABA stars and banner crops of college seniors immigrating, those days are over.

Every team is talented; any team can beat any other team at any time. It does not take a "given day" for an NBA upset.

Here is a composite team analysis of the Eastern Conference:

Atlantic Division

Philadelphia — So many guns. So much firepower. Erving, McGinnis, Collins. Free. They're enough to make Hitler surrender. The question is, will they quit with the Vitals one-on-one action and play team basketball? If

coach Gene Shue can instill this concept the Sixers could well win this year's league championship. If not, look for a shakeup — a replacement for Shue and a situation similar to one of the New York Yankees.

New York — If the Knicks play together and up to their potential, they're a good bet to be the NBA's most improved team. Their new coach, Willis Reed, is a winner. New York has a potent frontcourt comprised of a healthy Spencer Haywood, a rapidly improving Lonnie Shelton and the league's three-time scoring king, forward Bob McAdoo.

While star guard Walt Frazier has been traded to Cleveland his barter, Jim Clemons, will give the Knicks adequate backcourt leadership to couple with the razzle-dazzle of Earl Monroe.

Boston — This is one team that could be on the decline. John Havlicek is 38 and can't run forever. The Celts did acquire veteran guard Dave Bing, who will help a backcourt criticized for lack of depth last year. Count on fierce coach Tom Heinsohn, Celtic pride and tradition to put Boston in the playoffs, but their dynasty days are long gone.

Buffalo — The Braves' organization shakeup was as radical as the Nixon administration's after Watergate. Gone are fancy ballhandler Ernie DiGregorio and prize rookie Adrian Dantley. Just arriving are slick Nate Archibald, high-scoring Billy Knight and bruising Swen Nater. Throw in reliable Randy Smith and Buffalo will be respectable. However, there are too many battleships

in the Atlantic for them to stir up that many waves.

New Jersey — The out-of-New-York Nets. The move has two sides to it, naturally. The Nets needed the change of environment, but then again, the spotlight of New York and its hard-core press might have been an inspiration. This is a club with a cast of no-names but has a solid coach in Kevin Loughery. Post a building permit outside the Net front office.

Central Division

Washington — A good mix of age and youth here. Addition of Bob Dandridge can't hurt. It's a club that's been waiting for years to get to the top. Tom Henderson is emerging as a top playmaker. Mitch Kupchak and Larry Wright are two top rookies figuring to be a year older, a year better. Vets Wes Unself, Elvin Hayes and Phil Chenier have been here before. But the Bullets, Houston and Cleveland are perhaps more evenly matched than any other three division rivals. It should be a dogfight.

Houston — Opened a lot of eyes for its battle against the Sixers in last year's playoffs. Look for John Lucas to assert himself as one of the NBA's top field generals. Moses Malone set a record for most offensive rebounds last year. Add Rudy Tomjanovich, Mike Newlin and Calvin (don't hassle me) Murphy. The Rockets will again be imposing.

Cleveland — The Frazier addition should help the Cavaliers more than the loss of Clemons will hurt. Coach Bill Fitch's club is every dictionary definition of what a team should be. With

talent in Austin Carr, Campy Russell and Bingo Smith, the only commodity the Cavs lacked last year was a leader. Enter Frazier, who still has productive years left. Only problem is a rugged division.

San Antonio — Lots of O. Not much D. The Spurs led the league in total offense last year and also in most points allowed. They do have proven stars George Gervin, James Silas and Larry Kenon but must strive for more consistency if they hope to threaten the top three.

New Orleans — Pete Maravich has complained for years that his only goal is to play with a title team. The Jazz have a Superdome that seats 27,000 but no other stars for people to come see. The addition of Truck Robinson will help but the Jazz need more talent if they hope to be competitive.

Atlanta — If this were a college team, it might make the NCAA's final four. But it's not. It's a pro team; and unless George Steinbrenner buys the franchise they won't be bothersome birds.

Tomorrow, the West.

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(answers to page 4 puzzle)

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