

Abdul-Jabbar signs 2-year, \$5 million deal

By KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who already owns a string of "mosts" in the NBA, has added another — salary.

The 40-year-old center, who led the Los Angeles Lakers with 32 points in their championship-clinching victory over Boston last Sunday, has signed a two-year contract with the club that will pay him more than \$5 million.

The contract calls for \$2 million for next season and \$3 million in 1988-89, according to a source close to the negotiations, with the second-year salary the richest ever in team sports.

Jim Rice of the Boston Red Sox reportedly makes \$2.4 million per year, Dan Quisenberry of the Kansas City Royals \$2.3 million, and George Brett of the Royals \$2.2 million. The highest-paid basketball player, Moses Malone of the Washington Bullets, reportedly earns \$2.45 million annually.

Abdul-Jabbar's agreement also calls for him to

be a coaching consultant, working with the Lakers' centers for five years after he quits playing.

The Lakers obviously would like to land David Robinson, the Navy center who may become a free agent after he completes his two-year military obligation — coinciding with the end of Abdul-Jabbar's playing career.

San Antonio owns the first pick in this year's college draft and is expected to draft Robinson.

Abdul-Jabbar initially planned to quit after next season, but Lakers owner Jerry Buss approached him and his attorney, Leonard Armato, with an offer to play two more years.

The center's contract was announced by Buss at a party for the players Tuesday night.

"Naturally, we're very happy to have Kareem back for two more years," Buss said in a statement issued by the team. "He remains a major force in the league and on this team, and there is no reason to believe that his productivity will diminish in the near future."

"I'm very pleased about the fact I'll be able to continue with the Lakers through the 1988-89

season," Abdul-Jabbar said in the statement. "I'm very flattered the Lakers had the confidence to sign me for that long, and I hope that the relationship will continue to be mutually beneficial."

A six-time Most Valuable Player in the league, Abdul-Jabbar averaged 17.5 points a game this season, lowest of his career, as Laker Coach Pat Riley decided to shift more of the scoring load onto Magic Johnson. Johnson became the Most Valuable Player both in the regular season and the Championship Series.

Abdul-Jabbar has played an NBA-record 18 seasons and is the league's all-time leading scorer. He would become the first NBA player to play 20 seasons.

"Playing 20 seasons wasn't something I was trying to do, but it looks like I'll have a shot at it," Abdul-Jabbar said. "It's already enough seeing I'm the only 18-year man."

The deal caps another outstanding season for Abdul-Jabbar, who had just won his fifth NBA title — and fourth with the Lakers in the '80s.



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Barkley and Person clash once again

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The setting was far removed from the coliseum of the National Basketball Association, but Charles Barkley and Chuck Person played like the national title was at stake.

The rising NBA stars and former Auburn teammates ran, sweated and pushed each other through a Birmingham Summer League game Tuesday night at Birmingham-Southern College.

Both said they were out of shape, but they played the entire game and guarded each other, finishing with nearly identical statistics. Barkley had 23 points, 14 rebounds, two assists and three blocked shots. Person had 32 points, 14 rebounds, three assists and two blocked shots.

Person played an aggressive game. His outside shot wasn't as sharp as usual, but he drove to the basket frequently. Barkley was more of a crowd-pleaser, blocking a layup attempt, making a slam dunk and sending Person sprawling on the floor at one point.

"It was fun," said Person, the NBA's Rookie of the Year. "I'm out of shape. My wife and I just got back from our first anniversary trip to Hawaii. This is the first playing I've done since the end of the season."

Red Sox 4, Indians 0
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TORONTO — Lou Whitaker and Matt Nokes hit solo home runs and Frank Tanana pitched three-hit ball

Philly

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his pernicious fiscal policy has made the Eagles a club that weighs the dollar much heavier than the team record.

Some of the decisions since Ryan took over boggle the imagination. A number of veteran players, many still starters in other NFL uniforms, were virtually given away. Pro football people still can't believe that the Eagles just dropped quarterback Ron Jaworski, making him a free agent who can sign with any

team without compensation to the Eagles.

The 70ers also are owner-dominated. Owner Harold Katz, like Giles, could be a case of where a little knowledge is dangerous. He, too, is a super fan who became an owner. Like Giles he's followed his sport since he was a kid. He has electronic equipment at home that enables him to watch games nationwide.

Katz took over the general manager's powers from Pat Williams, although Williams remained as general manager. Now that Wil-

liams is gone to the new Orlando Magic franchise, John Nash takes Katz' orders.

The Sixers had some early success under Katz, winning the NBA title in 1982-83. Ever since, the record steadily has declined and the club has fallen further behind its chief divisional rival, the Boston Celtics. Once, the Sixers, Celtics and Lakers were the cream of the league. The Celtics and Lakers still are there, but such teams at Detroit, Milwaukee and Atlanta appear to have passed Philadelphia.

Katz has been the target of strong criticism from 70ers' fans for last year's Moses Malone trade. He sent Malone, a perennial top scorer and rebounder, to Washington in a deal that brought Jeff Rutland to Philadelphia.

Rutland, with a history of health problems, played only 67 of 182 games the two seasons prior to coming to Philadelphia. He reinjured his knee, played in only five games last season, and last week, unable to pass a team physical, retired from professional basketball.

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Baseball

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for Atlanta, which handed San Francisco its fifth straight loss.

Murphy's seventh-inning homer crossed up the strategy of San Francisco Manager Roger Craig, who brought in right-hander Randy Rookus to face Murphy and sent left-handed reliever Keith Comstock from the mound to right field.

Murphy hit the first pitch over the right field fence and Craig then removed Rookus and brought Comstock back to pitch.

Mahler, 4-7, retired the first 14 batters he faced before Bob Brenly homered. Mahler left for a pinch-hitter in the sixth after retiring 18 of the 19 batters he faced.

Expos 9, Mets 1
MONTREAL — Bryn Smith pitched a five-hitter and Mike Fitzgerald hit a grand slam as the Expos routed Sid Fernandez.

Smith, 5-2, pitched his first complete game since Aug. 30, 1986. Smith, who hadn't survived the seventh inning in his nine previous starts, struck out four and walked four.

Fernandez, 8-3, gave up eight hits in four innings and was victimized by two costly errors as he lost for the first time in his last five decisions. He allowed seven earned runs, the most he has given up in one game in his career. The grand slam was the first Fernandez ever has given up and Fitzgerald's first.



Roger Clemens

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Clemens, 5-6, struck out a season-high 12, including Joe Carter four times, and walked two in his third shutout and sixth complete game of the season. He had gone 0-2 in three starts since he beat Cleveland 1-0 in Boston on May 27.

Brewers 8, Twins 5
MILWAUKEE — When Milwaukee Manager Tom Trebelhorn told his team to get more aggressive he meant hitting the ball, not the Twins.

The Brewers had 15 hits and also triggered a bench-clearing brawl in beating Minnesota 8-6 yesterday. The Twins had won the last 10 meetings between the clubs dating back to Aug. 26.

"I was not overly impressed with the way we played four of the last five games," Trebelhorn said.

The first altercation occurred after Minnesota's Gene Larkin homered and the next batter, Steve Lombardozzi, was hit in the back by a pitch from pitcher Mark Clear. Lombardozzi attempted to go after Clear but was restrained by home plate umpire Ken Kaiser. Left fielder Dan Gladden was ejected from the game after shouting at Clear and Kaiser.

When order was restored, Dutera, the next Twins hitter, grounded to third. Jim Paciorek threw to second baseman Jim Gantner to force Lombardozzi. Gantner completed the double play with the throw to first as he was being bowled over by Lombardozzi.

over seven and two-thirds innings as Detroit beat Toronto 3-2 before a sellout crowd.

The crowd of 46,227 was the second-largest home crowd in Toronto history.

Detroit's Alan Trammell went 0-for-4, snapping his hitting streak at 21 games — longest in the majors this season.

Howser

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understood," he said in an interview in 1985. "I'm never going to be one of those who sits tongue-in-cheek and says anybody can manage a big league ballclub."

He also believed the player-manager relationship was crucial to a team's long-term outlook.

"If you don't have their respect, you don't have a chance," he said. "When I say respect, I don't mean

that they have to idolize you, or think you can do no wrong. But they have to believe that you're on top of the game, that you can do the little things it takes to win — preparation, knowledge, the ability to handle different players and different situations. Most people think your job is from the first to the ninth innings, but that's not true."

Howser's loyalty to friends cost him a good job on one occasion and landed him in jail on another.

In 1980, after 10 years as a Yankees coach, he realized a longtime dream and became manager of the team. The Yankees won 103 games that year, more than any other major league club, and breezed to the AL East title. But the Royals, under first-year manager Frey, swept New York in three straight playoff games, including a bitter second-game loss when Willie Randolph was thrown out

trying to score.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner publicly scalded third base coach Mike Ferraro for sending Randolph home and demanded Howser fire him. But Howser, whose friendship with Ferraro went back to their playing days, would not do so, and resigned.

"No man could ever have a more loyal friend than Dick," a teary-eyed Ferraro said.

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