



Willie Wood, former NFL all-pro and San Diego Chargers' coaching staff member, smiles with his wife, Shiela in background as he answers questions at a news conference in Philadelphia, where he was named the new head coach of the Philadelphia Bell of the WFL. He is the first Black to be named to a head coaching position in modern times.

Wood joined Bell this year as defensive coordinator. He succeeded Ron Waller, who quit as head coach last week.

Spurs Brag About Leaping Rookie

The San Antonio Spurs are bragging about the leaping abilities of a rookie who is short by professional basketball standards.

He is Henry Ward, a product of Jackson State whose jumping so impressed Spurs' coach Bob Bass he was signed to an American Basketball Association contract at the end of the team's summer rookie-free agent camp.

"Here is a man who measures only 6-4 and he shoots his jump shot on a downward angle," Bass said.

"On a layup, he can take the ball, extend it

out from his chest and be even with the basket," added all-star forward George Gervin.

During the rookie tryouts, Ward unleashed the best "explosion jump" to touch 11-1. This was starting with both heels on the floor, no rock-step, no running start.

Ward said he once jumped to 42 inches above his normal arm reach with a one-step start.

In his last season at Jackson State, Ward blocked 114 shots in 28 games leading his team to the Southwestern Athletic Conference title with a 25-3 record, in-

cluding 15 blocks in a game against Maryland Eastern Shore and he was injured the last 10 minutes of the contest.

Bass said Ward would be playing guard, with an occasional move to forward, for the Spurs.

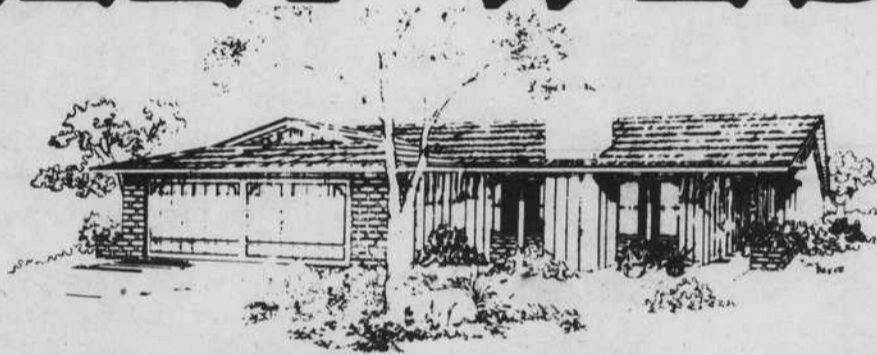
Ward was picked seventh by the Spurs in the ABA draft and had been invited to the NBA Cleveland tryout camp.

"Playing pro ball to me is like a dream come true. I've been waiting for this a long time and I am determined to make it."

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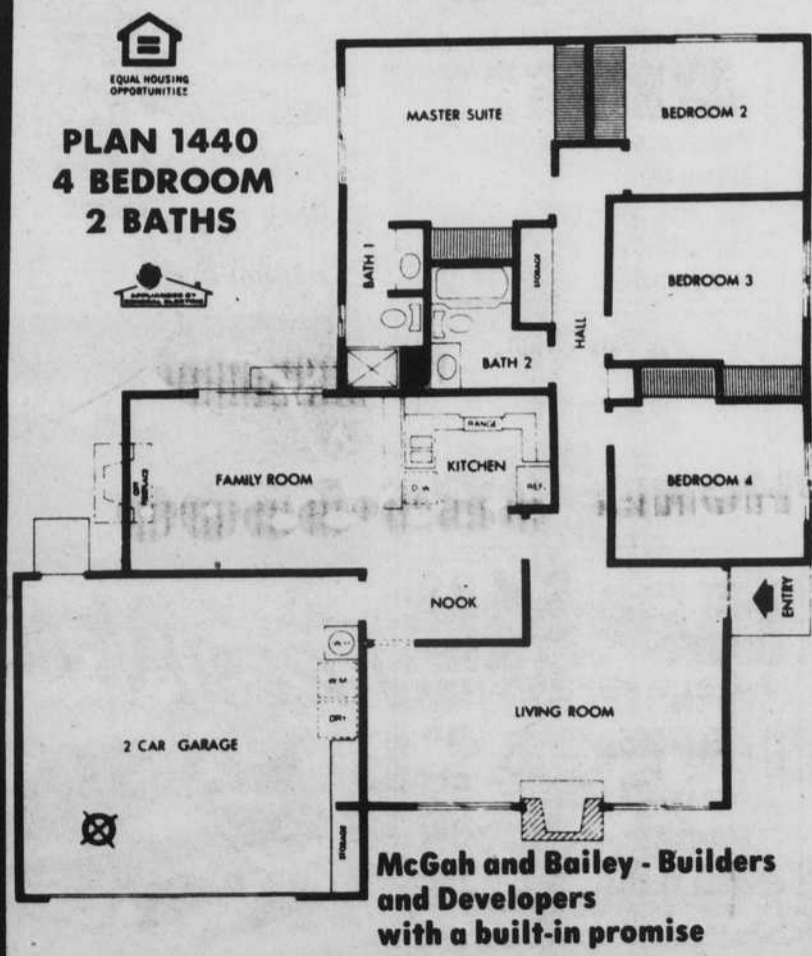
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