

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports

PORTLAND CONTINUES TO ROLL

CHICAGO LOOKS TO TAKE 2-0 LEAD IN CONFERENCE FINALS

By W. G. Ramirez

After playing the toughest seven games they've had to play all season, against New York, the Chicago Bulls have regained their form and are looking to capture their second straight NBA title.

The Bulls, who are involved with the Cleveland Cavaliers, captured Game 1, of the Eastern Conference finals, 103-89 behind the dynamic duo of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen.

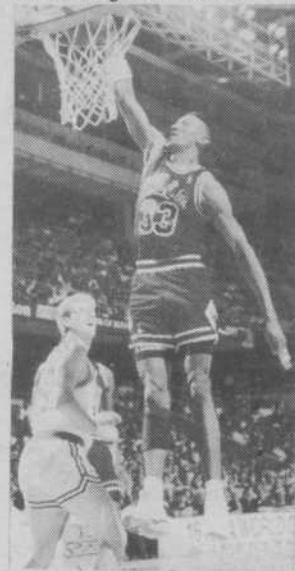
Jordan, who won the NBA's Most Valuable Player earlier this week, scored 33 points while his "partner in crime" Pippen had 29 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

"This was really calm compared to the New York series," said the MVP. "It was an open court out there, a lot of open space that enabled Scottie and I to get out on the wings on the fast break."

Chicago and Cleveland continue their series this evening, in

Chicago.

"I guarantee we'll be a lot sharper in the second game (this evening), said Cavaliers Coach Lenny Wilkens. "You have to play the style you play, our intensity level must go up a notch. We weren't as aggressive (in Game 1) as we should be or as we were against Boston.



SCOTTIE PIPPEN

Both Pippen and Bulls Coach Phil Jackson are anticipating a tough series despite the blowout on Game 1.

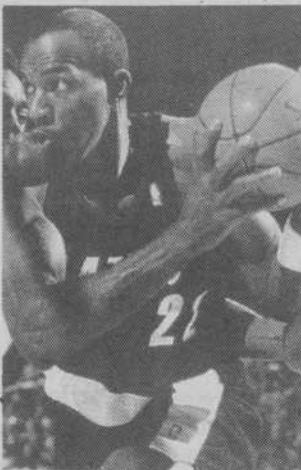
"This series is going to get tougher," said "Pip."

"We anticipate a more aggressive Cleveland team the rest of the series," added Jackson.

In the other half of the NBA's Final Four, the locomotive-like Portland Trailblazers are playing outstanding basketball.

Guard Terry Porter scored a career-high 41 points and MVP runner-up Clyde Drexler added 36 Tuesday night to propel Portland to a 119-102 win over Midwest champion Utah. The Blazers now hold a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference Finals.

"They were sensational," Utah Coach Jerry Sloan said of the Blazers. "I don't know if I've ever seen a team hit the big shots like that."



CLYDE DREXLER

Portland Coach Rick Adelman could not believe the performance of Porter and Drexler as they baffled the Jazz defense scoring 65% of Portland's points.

"You can't play a better game

than Terry played. Clyde had a monster game. He had assists, of course, every time he threw it to Terry, he made it.

"I just sat there in awe," added Adelman.

Porter, who is 26 for 44 from 3-point range during the playoffs hit 12 of 14 from the field, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range in Game 2. Game 3 is scheduled for Friday night in Utah at 5 p.m.

HOCUS-POCUS, THE MAGIC GET THE NO.1 PICK

By W. G. Ramirez

The Orlando Magic performed a bit of wizardry on lottery day to receive the top pick in the NBA draft, June 24, in Portland.

Orlando's General Manager, Pat Williams made it very clear, by presenting an Orlando Jersey to a national television audience, that the Magic would make LSU's 7-foot-1 All-American Shaquille O'Neal the No. 1 pick in this year's draft.

Williams held up the jersey with O'Neal's name and the Number 1 embroidered on the back.

O'Neal had indicated an interest in playing in Los Angeles. Due to the fact that both the Lakers and Clippers were involved in post-season play, neither team was eligible for the lottery. O'Neal's rights would have to be traded, to play in L.A. a move he could force by refusing to sign with Orlando, which is unlikely.

"The shack-attack" issued a statement after the draft had taken place and indicated he was receptive to playing for the Magic.



ALL-AMERICAN SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

"I am excited about my upcoming career in the NBA," expressed Shaquille. "I was particularly happy to see the people of Orlando so complimentary towards me."

Orlando had 10 chances, out of 66, at the No. 1 pick because its 21-61 record was the second-worst this season.

Only Minnesota (15-67) had a worse record and more chances. But the Timberwolves, who had 11 chances came up with the third pick, behind Charlotte.

Allan Briston, the coach of the Hornets, lucked out when Charlotte, who had only 4

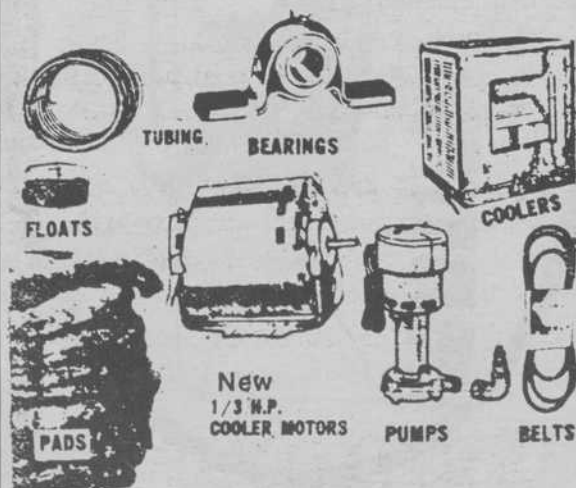
chances, wound up with the No. 2 pick. He said the pick almost certainly would be Alonzo Mourning from Georgetown.

Looking to reinforce the Hornet defense, Bristow commented that, "its leaning more toward Mourning."

If the former Georgetown All-American goes second, that will leave the Timberwolves with an outstanding opportunity to obtain Olympian, Christian Laettner.

The remaining order of the draft will be Dallas, Denver, Washington, Sacramento, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Houston.

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