# Chicago and New York — Down To The Wire

By W.G. Ramirez

Only twice in the history of the NBA, 46 years to be exact, has a team succeeded in winning their third straight NBA Championship. Next Thursday, April 29, the Chicago Bulls will enter the playoffs striving for that

The Minneapolis Lakers were the first team to achieve the feat, winning the title from 1952-54. The league's most prominent team ever, the Boston Celtics, streaked to eight straight titles from 1959-66.

The one problem for the Bulls though, is that they don't know if they're going to be the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Chicago's familiar role at



CHARLES V.S. MICHAEL? --- If this is the scene for the NBA Finals, it will mark the third straight year that Michael Jordan had to face one of his fellow Dream Teamers. Ist-Magic Johnson, 2nd-Clyde Drexler, and now, Sir Charles.

#1, which includes home-court New Jersey. advantage throughout the conference playoffs, is in jeopardy with the New York Knicks leading the way. The Knicks are up 1-1/2 games on Chicago after last night's 105-74 victory over

The Bulls and Knicks will square off Sunday morning, the final day of the regular season, in what could be a battle for the Eastern Conference bragging rights. Chicago will face Detroit

and Charlotte, Thursday and Friday respectively, before resting on Saturday for Sunday's collision. The Knicks, however, will only play one more game, Friday in Philadelphia, before the showdown.

"We make no bones about our desire to have the best record in the East," said New York Coach Pat Riley. "We know how important the home-court advantage is, and we want to establish a home bass so that when teams come in they know it's going to be tough." The Knicks have been the toughest defensive team this season, while being led on offense by Patrick Ewing and John Starks.

The Cleveland Cavaliers, arguably the hottest team in the East, with ten consecutive victories, are hungry, confident, healthy and well prepared. Being that they are the conference's #3 seed, they fall in the same bracket with #2. The Cavaliers won their season series against Chicago but lost it to the Knickerbockers. If the Bulls and Knicks ache at all during the playoffs

the healthy Cavs could prevail.

The Boston Celtics hold a three-game lead over New Jersey for the #4 seed while Charlotte, Indiana, Atlanta and Detroit remain in contention for the final three post-season berths.

Charlotte and Atlanta are tied for the 6th and 7th position. Indiana looks solid in the #8 spot although losing to Cleveland 111-95 last night. Detroit remains in the hunt but has only a slim chance to make the cut

being three games out and with only three games left.

In the Western Conference, the Phoenix Suns went flawless during the month of December, going 14-0 and continuing their onslaught on the NBA. The Suns have clinched the best record in the league and have attained the home-court advantage throughout the NBA Playoffs.

Sir Charles Barkley has fulfilled his goal in becoming the (See NBA, Page 22)

### 'Black Family-Heritage Day'

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## ASGB AND REEBOK HOST ATLANTA YOUTHS



Visiting the 1993 Super Show exhibit as guests of Reebok and the ABSG, Atlanta youths had an opportunity to meet Atlanta Hawks (1 to r), Jon Koncak, Duane Ferrell and Dominique Wilkins

ATLANTA, GA -- In an effort to expose minority youth to career opportunities available in the athletic footwear and sporting goods industry, Reebok International Ltd., and the Association of Black Sporting Goods Professionals (ABSG), played host to a group of high school age youths from the City of Atlanta as they toured the 1993 Super Show exhibit held recently at the Georgia World Congress Center.

The students, who represented a cross-section of educational, fitness and youth advocacy organizations including: Exodus; Project Catalyst; Kids Gym USA; the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization, and the Atlanta Fulton Commission on Children and Youth; were escorted around Super Show by members of the Association of Black Sporting Goods Professionals, all of whom are employed by companies who participated in the exhibit. Each ABSG guide answered questions and offered insight into the career possibilities the athletic footwear and sporting goods industries present.

Following the tour, the teens attended a reception hosted by Reebok, during which they had the opportunity to interact with a variety of black sporting goods professionals and youth advocates. In addition, Reebok invited the students to apply for an 8-week summer internship in the company's Atlanta office which was established in conjunction with the Super Show tour event.



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