



# SPORTS

## BULLS CRUISE PAST HAWKS; SUNS STRUGGLE WITH L.A.

By W.G. Ramirez

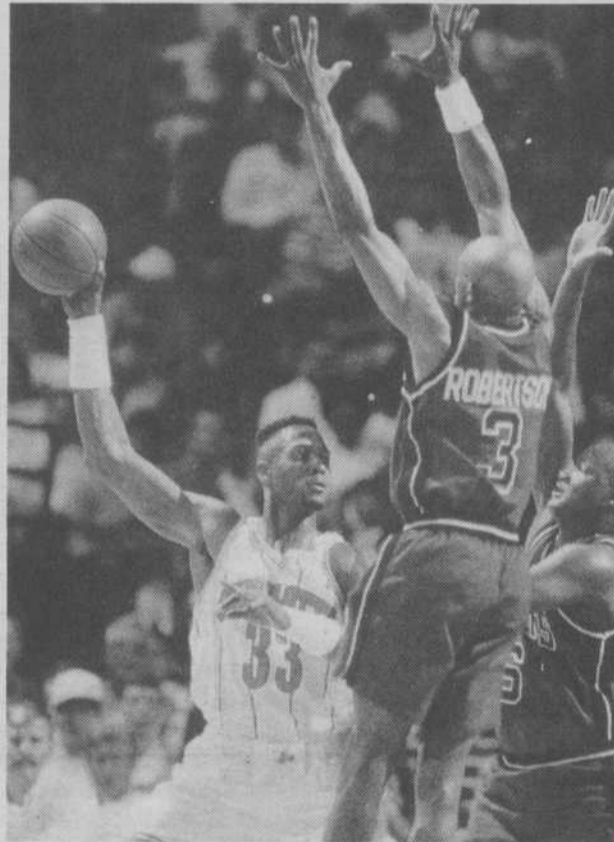
Before the start of the NBA Playoffs, the defending world champion Chicago Bulls were pegged as one of the teams that would struggle in the first round. Teams such as New York, Cleveland and Phoenix were looked upon as the heavyweights in the post-season.

Now that *everyone* is eating crow, the Knicks, Cavaliers and Suns are still tangled in the first round while Chicago is enjoying time off after sweeping Atlanta 3-games-to-0. The Bulls, who at times fought off close leads, cruised past the Hawks 114-90, 117-102 and 98-88. Chicago survived a scare in the third quarter of Game 3 when superstar Michael Jordan went down with a foot injury. Jordan went into the locker room to have his ankle re-taped and returned in the fourth quarter to lead the Bulls to their series sweep of Atlanta.

"The way (Chicago) took apart the Hawks, Chicago is the team to fear," explained Sports Analyst Jimmy Spats. "Although

it sounds funny, the Bulls have turned out to be the darkhorse. Everyone spoke of Cleveland and New York, but right now, in the Eastern Conference, the Bulls are the team to beat." Spats' exclusive service rode the coattails of the Bulls, releasing them to all his clients during the series. Like the NCAA Tournament, many of Spats' clients work exclusively with him during the NBA Playoffs. Through Wednesday night's games, which Spats went undefeated, he had a NBA Playoff record of 9-3, (75% winners). Chicago will meet the winner of the Cleveland-New Jersey series which is currently led by the Cavaliers 2-games-to-1.

Cleveland moved within one victory of advancing to the 2nd round by topping the Nets 93-84 Wednesday night in New Jersey. As they have throughout the playoffs, tempers continued to flare when Cleveland's Gerald Wilkins was ejected from the game for elbowing New Jersey guard Drazen Petrovich. Game 4 is scheduled for Friday night in



**GET OFF ME BOY!!!** - Charlotte Hornets rookie sensation Alonzo Mourning, has helped turn the expansion franchise into an NBA contender. Mourning sank a jumper in the waning seconds of Game 4 against Boston, to lift Charlotte to a 104-103 victory. Charlotte awaits the winner of the N.Y.-Indiana series.

New Jersey.

The Eastern Conference's top-seed New York looked to be on their way to a sweep, until facing the Pacers Tuesday night in Indiana. Knicks guard John Starks was ejected from the game after head butting Reggie Miller in the third quarter. Miller's free throws tied the game 59-59, igniting a 10-point run and a 19-4 spurt, leaving Indiana ahead

78-63.

Indiana kept their hopes alive by crushing N.Y. 116-93. Game 4 is scheduled for tonight in Indiana. The winner of this series will face the rising stars in Charlotte.

The Hornets disposed of the aged Boston Celtics in four games. Following a 30-point trouncing of the Celtics on Monday, Charlotte looked as if

they'd continue the onslaught on Wednesday. The Hornets carried a 15-point lead into the third quarter until Boston came storming back to maintain a 103-102 lead with just seconds remaining in the game. Rookie sensation Alonzo Mourning buried a jumper as time expired to give Charlotte the 104-103 win and the 2nd round berth.

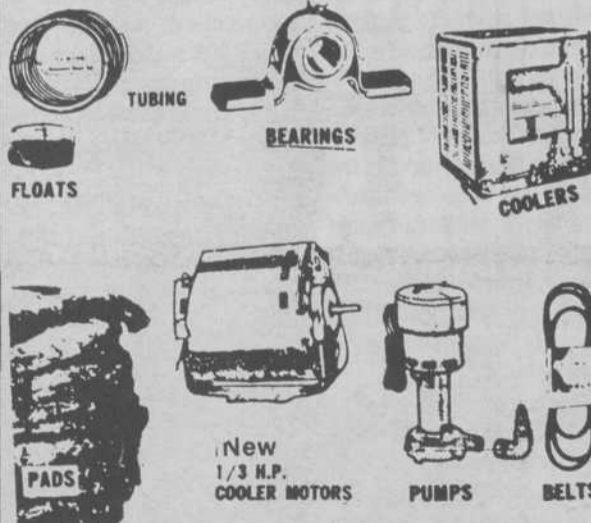
In the wild, wild, West, the Los Angeles Lakers defied the odds by stunning the Suns in Games 1 & 2, in Phoenix, to take a commanding 2-games-to-0 lead back to L.A. After attaining the league's best record and sweeping L.A. during the regular season, the Lakers didn't seem to have a chance. But

behind the strong, inspired play of Lakers veterans James Worthy, A.C. Green and Vlade Divac, the Lakers surprised the fans of Phoenix, sweeping their beloved Suns 107-103 and 86-81.

Tuesday night the two squared off in what could have been a history making night. Behind two clutch free throws by guard Kevin Johnson with 7.9 seconds remaining, the Suns narrowly escaped with a 107-102 victory. L.A. and Phoenix will meet in Game 4 tonight at the Great Western Forum. The Suns will need to win tonight, if they want to re-gain homecourt advantage for Game 5. If L.A.

(See NBA, Page 15)

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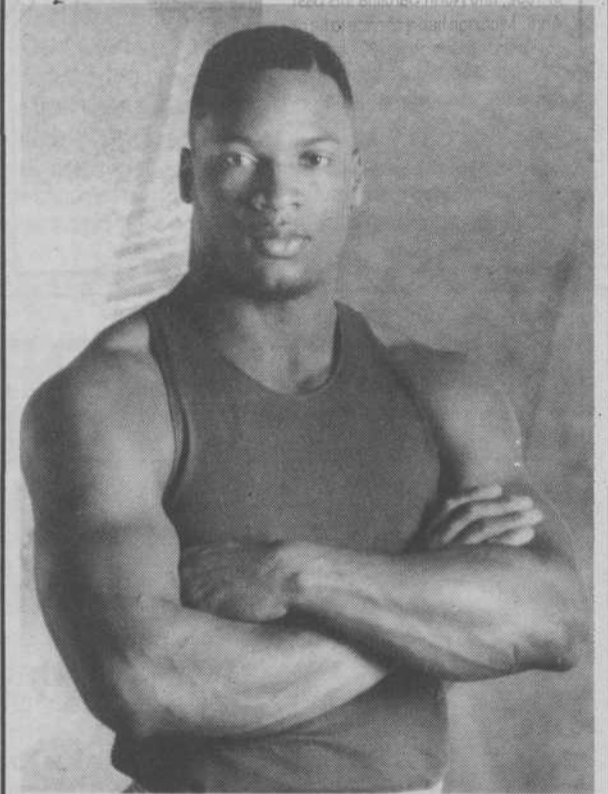
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**BO JACKSON TO STAR ON ALL  
NEW EBONY/JET SHOWCASE**



Super athlete Bo Jackson will star on an exciting new Ebony/Jet Showcase this weekend.

Jackson, the powerhouse athlete who once starred simultaneously in the NFL and baseball's American League, talks about his momentous home run in the first game of his current season with the White Sox. Bo describes how the hit fulfilled a promise that he made to his mother who died last year. A major endorser for the Nike Corporation with his famous "Bo Knows" commercials, Bo also talks about his gratitude to the company for standing by him through his much-publicized hip replacement surgery.

Consult local listings for air date and time.