



SPORTS



BULLS TAKE 3-1 ADVANTAGE OVER PHOENIX IN FINALS

By W.G. Ramirez

For the entire NBA season it seemed that Charles Barkley would finally get his championship ring. The Phoenix Suns ran roughshod over the competition throughout the regular season; And then came the playoffs.

The Suns sort of laid off a bit, taking things nonchalantly, while meeting the L.A. Lakers in the first round. The Lakers gave the Suns a bit of a surprise, winning the first two games in Phoenix.

In the meantime, two-time defending champion Chicago was doing exactly what most people didn't expect - win. The Bulls flew past Atlanta and Cleve-

land in the first two rounds, proving that they definitely still have it.

Subsequently, both teams made the NBA Finals and for the third straight year, it was a match made in heaven - this time, Phoenix v. Chicago.

Michael Jordan won his first NBA title over Magic Johnson and the Lakers. Last year ring #2 came over Clyde Drexler and the Portland Trailblazers. Now it seems that Jordan will be able to place a third ring among his fingers, with Chicago holding a 3-1 advantage over the Suns following Wednesday's 111-105 victory in Game 4.

The Bulls didn't seem like the *Chicago Bulls* of the past two years, falling to the #2 slot in the Eastern Conference behind New York. Following their opening round victories over the Hawks and Cavaliers, Chicago traveled to New York and found themselves down 0-2. Eventually Chicago turned it on and was able to capture one game in New York and take over the home court advantage and eventually capture the series.

"What's at stake is a little more challenging than what you go through for 82 games," explains Jordan.

Obviously this is true for Jordan, who has been able to stroke the net against Phoenix quite frequently. Wednesday night His Airness ripped the twine for 55 points. In the four games played, Jordan is averaging 43.0 ppg.

In Game 4, which was played at a fast pace, it started out quite even and remained that way through the first half.

After Chicago outscored Phoenix in the first quarter 31-27, Jordan outscored the Bulls in the second quarter, tallying Chicago's first 19 points in the period.

Horace Grant punched in a tip-in at 4:30 to push the Bulls ahead 52-43, capping off a 7-0 run. Barkley stopped the run

The 1993 NBA Finals

Game 1, Wednesday
Chicago 100 Phoenix 92
Game 2, Friday
Chicago 111 Phoenix 108
Game 3, Sunday
Phoenix 129 Chicago 121 3OT
Game 4, June 16
Chicago 111 Phoenix 105
Game 5, June 18
Phoenix at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Chicago leads the series 3-1



The
1993
NBA
Finals

SUMMER YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

The Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Ave., will offer a pair of summer youth programs: A Hot Shots tournament takes place at 10 am, Tues., June 22, for ages 6-13. The pre-season event will open the center's Hot Shots program.

Dave McCann, sportscaster for KLAS TV, will lead youth in sports activities and promote the importance of good sportsmanship. Tourna-

ment registration is \$1.50.

The Mighty Tykes Basketball Skills class will instruct 5-7 yr. olds in basic skills, rules, sportsmanship, and offensive/defensive strategies.

The six-week course takes place at 11:30 am, Fridays, beginning June 18. The cost is \$7. Pre-registration is required for both programs.

The Mirabelli Center is operated by the City of L.V.

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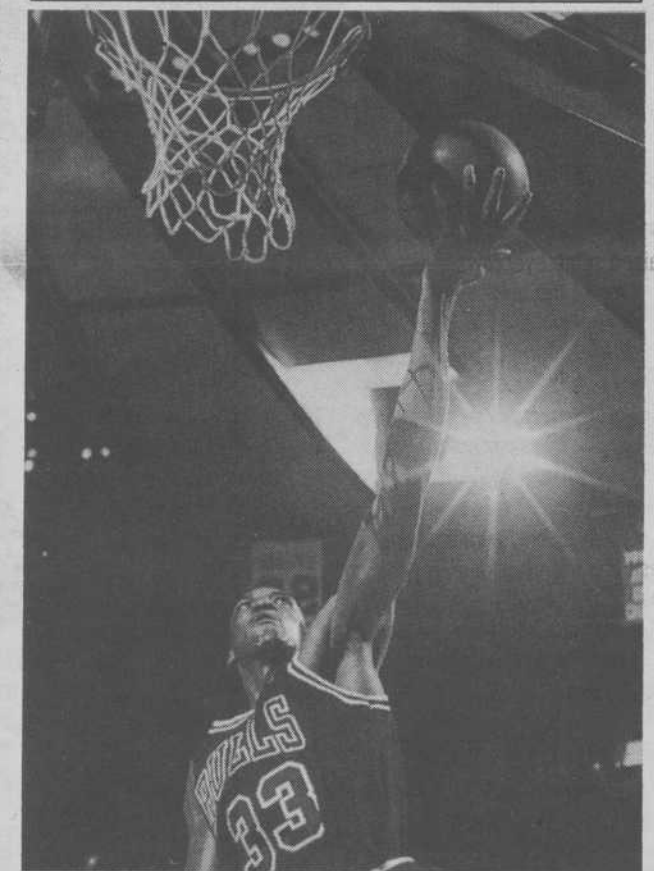
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Scottie Pippen's play has helped extend the Bulls' lead to 3-1 over Phoenix

drilling a short jumper.

With 1:55 left in the half, Dan Majerle nailed two consecutive three-pointers, the second coming with 1:20 left, to pull the Suns within two, 55-53.

As he often does, Jordan answered with a 15-footer, and then came back on the transition to slam over Danny Ainge and push the Bulls' lead back to six 59-53.

Majerle pulled a little "Jordan" of his own with :01 remaining when he forced a shot over MJ, and connected from treyland. Jordan was called for the foul and Majerle went to the

line to complete a possible 4-point play. Majerle's shot didn't go and the Bulls went into the locker room ahead 61-58.

Jordan continued his personal onslaught in the second half finishing the third period with a total of 43 points. The Bulls led by as many as 13, but the Suns rallied behind a 10-2 run, which eventually carried into the fourth quarter, to pull within five.

John Paxson hit a three pointer to end the Suns' rally at 14-2.

With 1:01 left in the contest, Barkley brought Phoenix as (See NBA FINALS, Page 19)