

NBA PLAYOFFS OFFER CHANCE AT GREATNESS

National Basketball Association

Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks, Phoenix's Charles Barkley and Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon, along with San Antonio's David Robinson and Atlanta's Danny Manning, have received their share of personal accolades, but none has attained the ultimate prize—an NBA championship. The same is true for

such perennial All-Stars as Clyde Drexler of the Portland Trailblazers and Karl Malone and John Stockton of the Utah Jazz. That could change for any of them, or others in their situation, in the next two months.

Four times in the last five years, the Knicks' championship hopes were dashed by the Chicago Bulls. Last season, Michael Jordan and the Bulls over-

came the Knicks' home-court advantage and an 0-2 start to sweep the next four games en route to a third consecutive NBA title.

If injured point guard John Starks returns to the lineup for the playoffs, as expected, and Derek Harper, Charles Oakley, Anthony Mason and Hubert Davis continue to support Ewing in the Knicks' offense, New York

could be tough to beat in the East.

Among the Knicks' toughest rivals in the East are the Atlanta Hawks, much improved this season under Coach Lenny Wilkens. The Bulls could also spell trouble in the East, as they vie for their fourth straight title, only achieved by the Boston Celtics, when they captured eight in a row from 1956 through 1966.

Orlando seems to be the most dangerous of the other East Playoff clubs. The Magic, with the inside power of Shaquille O'Neal, the perimeter threats posed by Dennis Scott and Nick Anderson and the all-around brilliance of rookie Anfernee Hardaway, present a problem for any team they face.

In the Western Conference, the Seattle SuperSonics own the best record in the NBA and last year reached the seventh game of the Conference Finals before being ousted by Phoenix. The addition of Detlef Schrempf and Kendall Gill to a roster that includes Shawn Kemp, Gary Payton, Ricky Pierce and Nate McMillan, brings Seattle the full potential of being a championship team.

Coach George Karl has the depth to play the pressure defense that has bedeviled opponents all year.

Phoenix, the defending Western Conference champion, has been plagued by injuries to key players this season, but they remain an experienced, Playoff-tested team.

The Western Conference champion—whichever team it may be—will likely have to go through Texas, where Houston and San Antonio have both had strong seasons. Both squad's centers are believed to be the leading candidate for MVP honors. Olajuwon is playing perhaps the best basketball of his 10-year career, and the odd couple of Robinson and Dennis Rodman has given the Spurs a spark.

Not to be taken for granted in the West are Utah, Portland, Golden State and Denver. While the Jazz and Blazers hold the necessary experience, the young Warriors and Nuggets are lethal and could be early-round spoilers for any of the higher seeds.

JONES

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up poor like everyone else, I just happened to get into a profession that has, thank God, paid off for me. Whatever you think you can do, you can make it! Don't stop trying, even if someone tells you 'you can't make it.' You've got to follow your instincts."

Jones will be following one instinct come Friday night; that is to duplicate the same feat he achieved August 10, 1989—beat John Michael Johnson!!!

OSCAR CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL TRACK MEET HELD



Youngsters participate in Lollipop Race at First Annual Oscar C. Cunningham Memorial Track Meet.

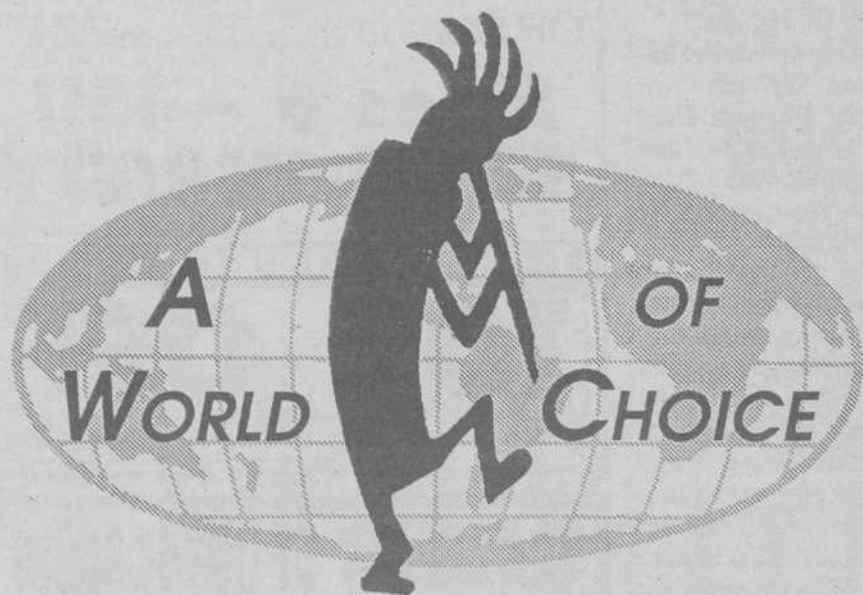
On Saturday, April 16, 1994, the Southern Nevada USA Track & Field Association, in conjunction with the Oscar Cunningham Foundation, presented The Oscar C. Cunningham Memorial Track Meet at Las Vegas High School.

The track meet topped off a tribute to Cunningham who had the anniversary of his death, April 12, set aside by Governor Bob Miller, as Oscar Cunningham Day.

(See Track Meet, Page 24)

Photos by Jesse Graham

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LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ LIGHT WEIGHT TRAINING CLASS

Adults who wish to tone their muscles in a gentle way can register for the light weight training class at the Mirabelli Community Center. Classes begin April 22, and continue every Friday thereafter, at 9:15 a.m. The six week course is \$16. Registration will continue through April 15 at the Mirabelli Center, 6200 Elton Ave.

This program is being offered by the City of Las Vegas. Call 229-6359.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PRIVATE RACQUETBALL LESSONS

The City of Las Vegas Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road, offers private racquetball lessons to anyone 13 or older. Instruction takes place evenings, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning April 27. Registration continues through April 26. The cost is \$24 for six weeks.

Basic rules, equipment, safety practices, basic game strategies, and proper court positioning will be covered. Students will also have time for practicing. Call 229-6563.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TAE KWON DO CLASSES

Tae Kwon Do classes are now being offered at the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 No. "J" Street. The program takes place Tuesdays at 4 p.m., and is designed for youth 5-15 years old. Registration is \$15, and is now being accepted.

Sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, the class focuses on the fundamentals of Tae Kwon Do, Kata's flexibility and retention. Call 229-6374.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CHUCK MINKER SPORTS COMPLEX NEW HOURS

The City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities announces expanded hours of the Chuck Minker Sports Complex. The facility, located at 275 N. Mojave Rd., and Stewart Ave., is now open 7 a.m. weekdays. Closing remains at 9:30 p.m.

Weekend hours have also been expanded. Saturday programming now continues until 5 p.m. New Sunday hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Chuck Minker Sports Complex is a full service health club offering aerobics, racquetball, basketball, volleyball, wallyball, gymnastics, self-defense classes, first aid, and CPR workshops. The facility is equipped with weight rooms, fitness equipment, saunas, Jacuzzis, showers, and dressing rooms. Daily fees are accepted for specific programs or memberships are available.

For more information, call the Sports Complex at 229-6563.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 3RD ANNUAL CHALLENGERS 5K RUN

The third annual Challengers 5K Run and One Mile Fun Walk to benefit the Challengers Swim Team for individuals with disabilities will be held on Sunday, April 24, at the Meadows Mall. The Challengers Swim Team is a sports organization that is "Challenging Disabilities Through Athletics."

This foundation will help raise money to provide scholarships for athletes unable to pay the minimal fee for the program, swim suits and equipment, and to provide a travel budget to allow our swimmers to compete outside the Clark County area.

The event features a U.S.A. Track & Field sanctioned 5K race and a one mile fun walk/run to start at 7:00 a.m. and the 5K at 7:30 a.m. Incorporated in the 5K will be a mother/daughter and mother/son competition, based on the lowest combined times, in which awards are given.

Another special award will be given to the Mother of the most representatives registered under her name to participate either in the 5K or Mile walk.

There will be a drawing, with the grand prize of four (4) round trip tickets to San Diego, compliments of Southwest Airlines. All participants will receive a souvenir T-shirt, refreshments, and one drawing ticket. The first five (5) finishers in each division in the 5K will receive an award.

Entry forms are available at KNPR 95.5 New Country Radio, Elite Health Foods, and most sporting goods stores. Registration and packet pick-up will be held on Saturday, April 23, at the Meadows Mall in Penney's Court. For further information call 658-9361.