

## Is There A Doctor At The Table?

Trading away Julius (Dr. J) Erving and Bob McAdoo would be good reason to call the good doctor--for an examination to find out if one's intellectual faculties are still intact.

A trade of the two NBA superstars is exactly what did happen in an abbreviated league run by fanatics of the hardwood sport, Bill Daughtry and Tony Taylor of Mount Vernon, NY. And the trade, it turned out, was instrumental in helping one team---Kansas City Kings--win the championship of The All-Star Association.

A little background is necessary before delving into The Trade, however. First, Daughtry and Taylor formed the 12-team, two-conference Association from the 1975-76 NBA/ABA cards. It was a draft league with trading permitted. Taylor directed the teams in the City Conference; Daughtry in the Suburban Conference. A 17-game season was played, followed by playoffs.

Because of the composition of each team, trades involving "superstars" were commonplace, although the Erving-McAdoo caper was still a blockbuster.

### GOODBYE DR. J, BIG MAC--HELLO COWENS, DANDRIDGE

Although the Doctor and Big Mac led Kansas City to a quick start, the team opted for more rebounding and versatility by sending them away in separate transactions for Bob Dandridge (Phoenix) and Dave Cowens and Moses Malone (both from Cleveland). The front line trio carried K.C. on to a title as the team compiled a 14-3 regular-season and 19-4 overall record. Cowens wound up the league's leading rebounder with 16.8 retrieves per game.

Meanwhile, Phoenix wound up third in the Suburban Conference and Cleveland was fourth in the same. McAdoo did finish second in scoring with a 34.5 point-per-game outburst, three points shy of Billy Knight of Philadelphia's phenomenal scoring pace.

### A LOOK AT THE CITY CONFERENCE

Few of the teams in either division were easy pickings. The New York Nets, for example, finished just a game behind K.C. in the regular-season and lost in the conference playoff by only two points, 106-104. The Nets featured a no-turnover backcourt of Walt Frazier and Pete Maravich and center Artis Gilmore. Frequently they routed foes.

The Philadelphia 76ers had scoring dynamo Knight but lost out in their championship bid when the point whiz was sidelined by injury in a late-season game...Buffalo dropped under .500 because of its defense--a lack of it--as Gary Barnes poured in 30.4 points a game and Dan Issel and Wes Unseld gave him up-front support...Seattle, always combative, lost four games by less than 10 points, one a 104-102 thriller to the Knicks...Rudy Tomjanovich was the main man for New Orleans, which marched to a different drummer when on defense and attempting to rebound.

### SUBURBAN WON BY KNICKS

Featuring a cast of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bobby Jones, John Havlicek, Calvin Murphy and Campy Russell, the N.Y. Knicks were favored to win the league. Untimely foul problems involving Jabbar and a late-season shooting slump forced the Knicks to settle for a 12-5 record--still good enough to win the Suburban Conference.

But the conference was the only thing the Knicks won as second-place Denver destroyed them in the playoffs, 122-109. Denver was plagued by injuries most of the abbreviated season--but had a lot of firepower when Bob Lanier, Earl Monroe and Spencer Haywood were healthy at the same time.

An erratic defense was the reason for Phoenix's 9-8, third-place showing. McAdoo and Nate Archibald were dazzling at times, and even Clifford Ray had his moments in the pivot (such as when he scored 32 points in an 118-106 ambush of the Knicks). Ray didn't find the hoop that well in most games, however, and his misfirings and Archibald's defensive shortcomings hurt the

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Suns in the long run.

Lack of defense could also be inscribed on the basketball tombstone of Cleveland as the Cavs certainly had the offense, what with Erving and George Gervin...Indiana was Daughtry's "pet project," since Gus Williams (Mount Vernon High, class of '71) was on the team. Although a winner but four times, Indiana has potential to reverse record in upcoming campaign, because of Maurice Lucas, David Thompson and Williams...Golden State is another that has to improve. Warriors, led by Randy and Phil Smith, Bill Walton, George McGinnis and Rick Barry, lost 11 of first 12 games before closing out by winning three of final five. The Warriors had super starters, but little bench talent.

Standings, leaders, playoff results:

City	Conference	Won-Lost	GB	Suburban	Conference	Won-Lost	GB
Kansas City		14	3	-	N.Y. Knicks	12	5
N.Y. Nets		13	4	1	Denver	10	7
Philadelphia		11	6	3	Phoenix	9	8
Buffalo		8	9	6	Cleveland	7	10
Seattle		5	12	9	Indiana	4	13
New Orleans		5	12	9	Golden State	4	13

#### Scoring

Knight (PHI)	37.5
McAdoo (PHO)	34.5
Barnes (BUF)	30.4
Lanier (DEN)	30.1
Gilmore (NYN)	28.7

#### Rebounding

Cowens (KC)	16.8
Jabbar (NYK)	15.5
Kunnett (CLE)	14.4
Lanier (DEN)	14.3
Ray (PHO)	13.7

#### Assists

Simpson (PHI)	7.9
Watts (DEN)	7.4
Archibald (PHO)	6.9
Westphal (NO)	6.4
Maravich (NYN)	5.9

#### Playoffs:

First Round - Denver 120, Phoenix 111; N.Y. Nets 100, Philadelphia 87

Conference - Denver 122, N.Y. Knicks 109; Kansas City 106, N.Y. Nets 104

Championship - Denver 102, Kansas City 93

Kansas City 109, Denver 95

Kansas City 109, Denver 107

Kansas City 130, Denver 103

Kansas City 125, Denver 102

League MVP: McAdoo

Playoff MVP: Dandridge

One-on-One Champ: Tomjanovich

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