

Mid-Coastal completes another replay

Surprise! Teams have better away records than in NBA

The secret of success in play-by-mail leagues (and oftentimes the secret of a league's success) is how frequently a team wins on the road. When everyone wins at home and loses on the road, eyebrows are raised, members suspect foul play (or muggings) when sending their team on the road, and eventually the league crumbles.

The Mid-Coastal Basketball Association's sixth season (based on the 1977-78 season cards), however, witnessed the home team winning 60.6 percent of the time and the visiting team taking away a triumph 138 times in 350 games. In fact, the team that won it all, Brian McCusker's Saskatoon Huskies, had a 16-3 record away en route to an overall 36-8 mark.

All told, 16 teams completed the 44-game regular-season, plus playoffs. Three of the coaches had to "double-up" after three dropped out, but all considered it was one of the MCBA's most successful seasons. Technical fouls were added to the game and a preseason schedule (two to four games) was played to familiarize new coaches to PBM basketball.

Emery Kurts, longtime commissioner of the MCBA who guided both the Phoenix Chiefs and Scottsdale Thunderbirds in the role of coach, sent along a 50-page yearbook on the league's latest achievement.

Other coaches included: Willis Ringen (Beattie Beetles), Phil Meade (Boston Shooting Stars), Bill Luther (Brooklyn Shamrocks), Wayne Wheeler (Cardston Comets), Ned D'Arostino (Norriton Pojams People), David Beruh (Gettysburg Bullets), Jeff Harris (Harris Hawks), Willis and Terry Ringen (Medford Celtics), Jim Werschler (Regina Royals), Terry Ringen (Ringen's Roadrunners), Brian McCusker (Saskatchewan Sasquatches and Saskatoon Huskies), and Larry Salay (The Legion).

HOORAY FOR THE HUSKIES!

McCusker, a perennial loser in past MCBA ventures, turned things around and won his first league title by, first of all, drafting George Gervin and Artis Gilmore from the ABA dispersal draft before the 1976-77 season. "Also," adds McCusker, "I stopped making so many trades, started to stick more with the players I drafted and old faithfuls like Elmore Smith, Steve Mix and Steve Hawes were also important to my title drive."

Gervin averaged 31 points and was second in scoring, plus he shot a career-high 52 percent from the field, while Gilmore set a team record with 55.4 percent field goal accuracy. Garnell Millman, Phil Smith, who keyed numerous fourth-quarter callies, and Cedrick Maxwell were also part of a winning combination.

Bob Lanier almost single-handedly turned Jeff Harris' Hawks into a champion, averaging 35.9 points and leading the league in scoring. The Hawks won their division and reached the final round of the playoffs where they lost in six games to the Huskies.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the MVP for the second straight year--Dave Cowens was the only other player to achieve that distinction--after averaging 30.9 points and 13.3 rebounds for Scottsdale.

Highs and lows, as reported by Kurts, who's become an avid jogger the last couple of years and even ran in a race with members of the Phoenix Suns, were as follows: Scoring - Lanier (35.9) and Alvin Scott of the Chiefs (1.8). Rebounding - Moses Malone of East Norriton (17.6) and diminutive Charlie Criss of the Beattie Beetles (0.5). Field goal percentage - Ollie Johnson of Ringen's Roadrunners (.588) and Gus Williams of Boston Shooting Stars (.405). Free throw percentage - Rick Barry of Medford Celtics (.958, 161 of 168 attempts) and Elvin Hayes (.597). Assists - Kevin Porter of the Blues (9.5) and Mark Landsberger of the Chiefs (0.1). All statistics were based on a minimum of 36 games played to qualify.

Standings, leaders and playoff results:

(continued on next page)

<u>Atlantic East</u>				<u>Artic West</u>			<u>Scoring</u>		
W	L	GB		W	L	GB			
Saskatchewan	30	14	-	Huskies	36	8	-	Lanier HAR	35.9
Scottsdale	25	19	5	Blues	29	15	7	Gervin HUSK	31.0
Brooklyn	24	20	6	Regina	25	19	11	Jabbar SCOT	30.9
The Legion	18	24	11	Cardston	20	24	16	Erving REG	27.9
								Wedman GETT	27.6
<u>Capital East</u>				<u>Century West</u>					
W	L	GB		W	L	GB			
Harris	26	18	-	Phoenix	26	18	-	McAdoo SASK	27.5
Boston	24	20	2	E.Norriton	17	27	9	W.Davis PHO	26.5
Beattie	19	24	6½	Gettysburg	8	36	18	Thompson RING	26.1
Ringen's	16	27	9½	Medford	7	37	19	Cowens BLUE	25.7
								Walton BROOK	24.5

<u>Rebounding</u>		<u>Field Goal %</u>		<u>Free Throw %</u>	
Malone NORR	17.6	O.Johnson RING	.588	Barry MEO	.958
Cowens BLUE	16.4	Paultz BEAT	.587	Newlin PHO	.943
Webster SASK	13.4	Jabbar SCOT	.582	Brown SCOT	.925
McAdoo SASK	13.4	Lanier HAR	.576	Gale BOS	.907
Jabbar SCOT	13.3	Neal LEG	.575	Thompson RING	.901
Lanier HAR	13.2	Issel PHO	.571	Murphy NORR	.896
Walton BROOK	13.1	Dawkins LEG	.561	Cowens BLUE	.884

Playoffs: Boston d. Brooklyn, 3-2. Regina d. Cardston, 3-0.
Round Two - Harris d. Scottsdale, 4-3; Saskatchewan d. Boston, 4-3;
 Blues d. Phoenix, 4-1; Huskies d. Regina, 4-1.
Conference Championships - (East) Harris d. Saskatchewan, 4-2; (West)
 Huskies d. Blues, 4-0.
MCBA Championship - Huskies d. Harris, 4-2 [113-105, 98-104, 114-97,
 90-101, 109-83, 108-106].
