

Bird, Erving team up

Dynamic duo leads Indiana to title in mini-replay

How would you like to have Julius Erving, the famed Dr. J, and Larry Bird on the same basketball team?

It should be no contest, right? Add in the likes of Dan Roundfield, Tree Rollins and Maurice Cheeks and make it double no contest.

It was more of a contest than Russ Lemmon thought it would be, however, as the coach of the Indiana Kings in the Rocky Mountain S-O-M Sports Association had an upward climb in the playoffs after a third-place finish in a 24-game regular-season.

Nine teams comprised the all-draft all-star Rocky Mountain Association's basketball replay so the talent was evenly distributed. Indiana, with Bird and Dr. J, was loaded, of course. But so were such teams as the Minnesota Nordiques, which had Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Isiah Thomas, Kelly Tripucka and Dennis Johnson; the California Sails, with Jack Sikma, Alex English and George Gervin, and the Florida Blazers, led by Magic Johnson.

And how about the Illinois Fighting Illini, with the big two of Adrian Dantley and Moses Malone?

SUPREME COURT RULES

The winner of the regular-season turned out to be none of the above as the Washington Supreme Court, coached by Mike Harrison, rang up an 18-6 record - setting a league mark for wins - with California two games back.

Washington featured Bernard King, who averaged 28.3 points, and Reggie Theus, 22.8, on offense and the rebounding of Artis Gilmore, 9.2.

Adrian Dantley, coached by Phil Miller, was the 1983 Player of the Year, edging Magic Johnson. Dantley led the league in scoring with a 39.6 average, while Johnson was first in steals (3.79 per game) and third in assists (10.58) plus was a surprising second in rebounding (10.5).

Indiana, meanwhile, struggled to a third-place finish as Erving averaged 23.5 points and Bird 20.6, the latter's good enough for only the 17th spot on the scoring list.

KINGS RULE IN PLAYOFFS

The Indiana Kings came alive in the playoffs, though, and dispatched the Jabbar-led Nordiques in the second round, three games to none, and then repeated the conquest of California in the semifinals, 3-0.

Washington lived up to its regular-season showing by blitzing Illinois, 3-0, in the semifinals.

Here's how the championship series came out:

GAME 1: Indiana 113, Washington 101 - Ray Williams connected on 11 of 15 field goal attempts and finished with 26 points, while Dan Roundfield added 23 points and a game-high 11 rebounds for the ers...Erving had 14 points, Bird 12...Indiana shot at a .573 (43-75) clip and Washington .569 (41-72) from the field...John Moore had 19 points, John Lucas 18 for the losers.

GAME 2: Washington 121, Indiana 119 - Washington outscored Indiana by 14-12 count in overtime for margin of victory...Moore had 23 points and 13 assists for winners, who had seven players in double figures...Gilmore hauled down 12 rebounds for the Court crew, Bird had equal number for Indiana...Washington shot a blistering .625 (50-80) from field in shooting down Kings, who got 28 points from Erving (12-21 from floor), 22 from Bird and 20 from Ray Williams. Kings shot at a .561 clip (50-89).

GAME 3: Washington 120, Indiana 115 - Washington again shoots a phenomenal percentage, .671 (51-76), and gun downs Kings...Gilmore is Player of Game after sinking 11 of 13 shots for 22 points...Bernard King scored 25, Theus 21 and Lucas dishes out 18 assists...Erving had 27 points, Bird 20 for the Kings, who netted 42 of 80 shots for .525.

GAME 4: Indiana 124, Washington 107 - Theus goes wild, swishing 13

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of 20 shots from the floor and 10 of 13 free throws to finish with a whopping 36 points, but it isn't enough as Indiana evens series...Washington could squeeze off only 64 shots (sinking 38 for .594 percentage), however, as Supreme Court committed 28 costly turnovers...Gilmore added 22 points...Indiana was led by Bird, playing his best game of the playoffs, who pumped in 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Bird netted 7 of 19 shot from the field but was a Wild Bill Hickok at the charity stripe, connecting on 15 of 16 chances...Erving, 9 of 11 from the field, chipped in 21 points and Maurice Cheeks had 10 assists...Indiana also had 14 steals.

GAME 5: Indiana 122, Washington 96 - Mike Gale came off the bench to give the Kings a big lift, scoring 19 points on 5-6 floor shooting and 9-10 accuracy from the line...Again Washington was plagued by turnovers, giving up the ball 27 times, and again Indiana had 14 steals, with Ray Williams and Cheeks each having three thefts...Erving (11-18) poured in 24 points and Bird had 17...King topped Washington's scoring with 20...Indiana shot .558 (43-77) and was 36 of 45 from the line.

GAME 6: Indiana 111, Washington 108 - Unsung Brian Taylor was named Player of the Game after scoring 21 points (8-11) as Indiana captures series, 4-2...Erving (7-10) had 20 and Bird (8-15) 19 points, plus Bird had 10 rebounds...Turnover trouble haunted Washington again as 24 were committed...King led the Court with 26 points (9-14) while Gilmore had 18 to go with 10 rebounds...Washington again blistered the basket, shooting a scorching .641 (41-64) but again the shot total was down because of the miscues...Indiana shot at a 58.1 percent (43-74) clip.

Standings and leaders:

	W	L	GB	Playoffs
Washington	18	5	-	1st Round: Minnesota d. Utah, 2-1
California	16	8	2	Hawaii d. Arizona, 2-0
Indiana	14	10	4	2nd Round: Indiana d. Minnesota, 3-0
Florida	13	11	5	California d. Hawaii, 3-1
Illinois	12	12	6	Illinois d. Florida, 3-1
Minnesota	10	14	8	Semifinals: Indiana d. California, 3-0
Arizona	10	14	8	Washington d. Illinois, 3-0
Hawaii	8	16	10	
Utah	7	17	11	

Scoring

Dantley IL	39.6
Gervin CA	30.5
Jabbar MN	29.2
B.King WA	28.3
Malone IL	26.2
Issel HA	25.8
R.Williams IN	23.6
Erving IN	23.5
Sikma CA	22.9
Theus WA	22.8
Wilkes FL	22.4
Tripucka MN	22.0

Rebounding

Malone IL	17.5
M.Johnson FL	10.5
Parish FL	10.5
Sikma CA	10.3
MThompson AZ	10.2
Bird IN	10.1

Assists

J.Moore WA	14.6
Nixon UT	10.59
M.Johnson FL	10.58
Bratz CA	8.3
Cheeks IN	8.3
Ransey HA	8.3

Field Goal %

Gilmore WA	206-294 (.701)	M.Johnson FL	3.79
B.King WA	291-438 (.664)	Cheeks IN	2.83
Dantley IL	356-540 (.659)	M.Richardson HA	2.13

Steals

Free Throw %

C.Jones MN	47-51 (.922)
Sikma CA	166-181 (.917)
Vandeweghe AZ	77-86 (.895)

Blocks

Lister IL	185 (7.7)
Jabbar MN	120 (5.0)
Gilmore WA	103 (4.3)

3-Point Shooting

R.Lee MN	13-29 (.448)
Toney UT	24-54 (.444)
Winters FL	18-43 (.419)

All-Star Game: East 161, West 116

Dantley was MVP after scoring 30 points for East, which connected on 64 of 105 shots for .610 percentage. King had 20 points, Malone 16 rebounds and John Moore 13 assists for the winners, plus Robert Parish blocked four shots. Kelly Tripucka's 17 points topped the scoring for the West, which got only eight points from Jabbar (4-10).