

# Phoenix Basketball begins 10th season

Changes in Strat-O-Matic Basketball have come and gone over the years, but the Phoenix S-O-M Basketball Association (SBA) has continued to roll dice right along.

Now entering its 10th season, the SBA is probably the longest running basketball league in existence. It would be hard to top it since the league's inception was 1973, the first year of S-O-M Basketball.

It started humbly, with three coaches and teams in 1973, and gradually built to its current eight-team alignment. The SBA is face-to-face and plays a 42-game season, divided into sections to maintain interest.

Only half the NBA teams are drafted from, however, to maintain the league's status of avoiding an all-star look. Three players per team can be protected or saved after each season, with the rest put back into the draft, which is based on reverse order of finish.

Another notable achievement of the SBA is a league guide that has career records and statistics. It's a 40-page work of art that's currently awaiting inclusion of the SBA's latest season, based on 1981-82 in S-O-M ('80-81 real-life).

## NEW GAME IS MUCH BETTER

Regarding the new version of S-O-M Basketball, which coincided with the start of the SBA's most recent season, Gary Graber, one of the league's charter members, reports: "We all agree that the new version is much better than the old one. We have adopted some rule changes, though, in order to suit our requirements."

Basically, the SBA uses the basic version of the new game, but with many of the advanced game options, such as fastbreaks and passing. It's worked out quite well statistically.

As far as this past season, the Shamrocks, coached by Stuart Goodman, compiled the best record, 28-14. Moses Malone, true to real-life, ruled the scoring and rebounding statistical charts, averaging 35.4 points and 14 rebounds. Adrian Dantley was second in scoring with a 33.1 average.

The SBA, despite a succession of good happenings, did suffer one loss last season when Ron Pittman moved to North Carolina to attend school. Pittman departed after 12 games, reducing the SBA's coaching lineup to six. A replacement for the face-to-face league couldn't be found, so the season continued on.

Two Phoenix residents, Shaun Adams and Gary Butler, have signed on for the current season, however.

## TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARIES

Here's a look at the teams in the SBA for the latest completed season:

**SHAMROCKS** (Stuart Goodman) - No. 1 team in offense (124.6) and rebounding (52.2)...Good balance with Artis Gilmore at center, Julius Erving at small forward...Sidney Moncrief and Billy Knight made up the backcourt and Kermit Washington teamed with Gilmore to provide upfront muscle...Goodman was chosen coach of the year.

**KNOTS** (Don Cornelison) - Mostly Boston Celtics players, with Tiny Archibald running fast-break and Larry Bird and Robert Parish on front line...Norm Nixon and Cedric Maxwell were the other starters...Ranked No. 1 in assists (28.9 per game), but suffered from lack of defense at times.

**86ERS** (Gary Graber) - Outstanding backcourt when Magic Johnson was healthy, as World Free and Michael Ray Richardson also roamed there and teamed to form SBA's best running game...Kareem Abdul-Jabbar also was 86ers' property.

**COPPER STATE** (Dave Cornelison) - Featured MVP Malone and forward Marques Johnson...Other positions were inconsistent, however, as Bobby Jones and Mitch Kupchak were the other Forwards and Kevin Porter and  
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Jamaal Wilkes the backcourt, all lacking in consistency...Bad luck seemed to plague this basically solid team.

HUSSARS (Neil Graber) - Led league in defense (114.4) but had little firepower, especially from backcourt of Mo Cheeks and Quinn Buckner. ..Bernard King was main man, operating at small forward, while age was problem for center Bob Lanier and Wes Unseld.

NEW ENGLAND MUSKETEERS (Mike Goldstein) - Had great front line - in the cards, anyway - in Adrian Dantley, Dan Roundfield and Garryl Dawkins...Dantley was weak defensively, Dawkins only grabbed 8.5 rebounds per game and Roundfield couldn't carry all the load...Guards were sub-par, both in cards and in performance, as Robert Reid and Ray Williams had down seasons...A rebuilding season is apt description of Musketeers fate.

Standings and leaders: (based on 1980-81 NBA cards)

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>Pt. Diff.</u>	<u>FG%</u>	<u>Reb.</u>	<u>Scoring</u>	
Shamrocks	28	14	3	+9.5	.501	52.2	Malone CS	35.4
Knots	25	17	3	+1.2	.525	46.3	Dantley NEM	33.1
86ers	24	18	4	+0.9	.502	43.6	Free 86ers	30.0
Copper State	21	21	7	-0.8	.492	46.7	Jabbar 86	28.8
Hussars	18	24	10	-2.3	.493	42.5	B.King HUS	25.5
Musketeers	15	27	13	-2.9	.497	44.6	M. Johnson CS	24.5

<u>Rebounding</u>		<u>Assists</u>	
Malone CS	14.0	Mag. Johnson 86	8.7
Roundfield NEM	11.6	Archibald KNOT	8.3
Bird KNOT	10.9	Porter CS	6.8
Parish KNOT	10.7	Cheeks HUS	6.5
Gilmore SHAM	10.6		

<u>Steals</u>	
Cheeks HUS	3.38
Mag. Johnson 86	3.36
Richardson 86	2.71

<u>Field Goal %</u>		<u>Free Throw %</u>	
Gilmore SHAM	.640	Newlin HUS	.932
Maxwell KNOT	.612	Bird KNOT	.906
Dawkins NEM	.581	Mix 86-SHAM	.878
Mag. Johnson 86	.566	Bridgeman SHAM	.868
B.King HUS	.565		

<u>3-point FG</u>	
Grevey KNOT	41-102 (.402)

ALL-TIME LEADERS

<u>Scoring</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>			<u>Rebounding</u>		
Jabbar	10,682	29.4	Hayes	5,367	17.3	Jabbar	4,063
McAdoo	9,114	34.4	Dandridge	5,149	16.7	Silas	3,837
Barry	8,762	27.9	Westphal	5,124	23.7	Unseld	3,543
Lanier	5,981	26.2	Maravich	5,110	23.3	Hayes	3,475
Monroe	5,519	21.7	Frazier	4,945	20.4	Covens	3,474

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