

Alcindor, '71 Bucks Dominate

By Neal Stallings, Lake Jackson, TX

Being the Milwaukee Bucks fan I am, can you imagine how I felt when Strat-O-Matic decided that 1970-71, the Bucks' only title season, would be the season SOM chose as its first old-time issue?

In my full-season NBA replay with the Bucks as "my" team, Milwaukee's Lew Alcindor was the regular season MVP, edging out, believe it or not, Cincinnati's "Stormin'" Norm Van Lier. Van Lier had eight triple doubles on the season, while Alcindor led the league in scoring with a 32.2 ppg average. Alcindor also was fourth in rebounding at 15.6 per game.

The playoffs were very exciting. In the first round, Central Division champion Atlanta defeated Philadelphia in seven games and Pacific champion Los Angeles was pushed to the seventh game by Midwest runner-up Chicago before defeating the Bulls 142-140 in overtime.

In the Eastern Conference finals, Atlanta stunned the New York Knicks with a win in game one at Madison Square Garden. The Knicks never recovered, losing to the Hawks in five. Milwaukee breezed through the Western Division playoffs with five-game wins over both San Francisco and Los Angeles, setting up a tremendous final.

The finals pitted Milwaukee, winners of 67 games during the regular season against Atlanta, coming in with a record of 37-45. No contest, right? Wrong!

Atlanta goes to Milwaukee and takes Game One in the Mecca, 112-110, when Pete Maravich hits an open jumper with one second left. The Bucks recover, winning games two and three to take a 2-1 lead in the series. Atlanta wins games four and six to force the finals to a seventh game. Milwaukee wins the seventh game 131-118 to become World Champions.

The Bucks were a pure joy to coach. Now I know how Larry Costello must have felt, having the opportunity to coach such greats as Lew Alcindor, Oscar Robertson, Jon McGlocklin and Bobby Dandridge.

I was able to run most teams out of the gym! When in a bind I pounded it in to Lew, and when the opponent doubled down on him, kicked it out to Greg Smith who continually hit the open jumper. The only frustrating aspect of coaching the Bucks was the lack of a quality backup at power forward. I "screamed" at McCoy McLemore on many occasions for missing shots in the paint.

TITLE CLINCHER

Atlanta	Min	FG	FT	RB	A	PTS
Hudson	42	12-18	8-8	3	3	32
Maravich	33	7-21	4-4	1	2	18
Hazzard	36	6-15	4-4	5	7	16
Bellamy	30	3-12	4-5	10	6	10
Bridges	40	5-15	4-7	13	4	14
Chambers	14	2-3	2-2	2	1	6
Davis	25	7-10	0-3	7	4	14
Valley	5	1-3	2-2	0	0	4
Christian	12	2-3	0-0	1	1	4
White	3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	240	45-101	28-35	42	28	118
Milwaukee	Min	FG	FT	RB	A	PTS
Alcindor	40	18-27	5-7	11	3	41
Robertson	42	11-20	5-9	6	8	27
Dandridge	38	11-18	1-2	5	5	23
McGlocklin	39	2-6	0-0	4	3	4
Smith	22	3-8	1-2	8	1	7
McLemore	26	4-7	3-3	10	3	11
Boozer	10	3-5	2-2	3	1	8
Allen	15	3-7	1-2	4	4	7
Cunningham	8	1-1	1-2	1	1	3
TOTALS	240	56-99	19-29	52	29	131
Atlanta			20-36-29-33 = 118			
Milwaukee			36-23-41-31 = 131			
FG %: ATL, 45; MIL, 57						
FT %: ATL, 80; MIL, 66						
STEALS: ATL 5 (Maravich 2); MIL 10 (Alcindor 5, Dandridge 4)						
BLOCKS: ATL 3 (Hazzard, Bridges, Davis), MIL 9 (Alcindor 9)						
TURNOVERS: ATL 18 (Bridges 6, Bellamy 4); MIL 23 (Alcindor 7, Robertson 7, McLemore 4)						

1970-71 NBA Replay

	Replay			Actual		
	W	L	GB	W	L	GB
ATLANTIC						
New York	64	18	---	52	30	--
Philadelphia	50	32	14	47	35	5
Boston	43	39	21	44	38	8
Buffalo	22	60	42	22	60	30
CENTRAL	W	L	GB	W	L	GB
Baltimore	37	45	---	42	40	---
Atlanta	37	45	---	36	46	6
Cincinnati	29	53	8	33	49	9
Cleveland	17	65	20	15	67	27
MIDWEST	W	L	GB	W	L	GB
Milwaukee	67	15	---	66	16	---
Chicago	48	34	19	51	31	15
Phoenix	40	42	27	48	34	18
Detroit	32	50	35	45	37	21
PACIFIC	W	L	GB	W	L	GB
Los Angeles	53	29	---	48	34	---
San Francisco	45	37	8	41	41	7
San Diego	44	38	9	40	42	8
Seattle	38	44	15	38	44	10
Portland	31	51	22	29	53	19
MVP: Alcindor, Mil (32.2 ppg, 15.6 rpg)						
SCORING: Alcindor, 32.2; Havlicek, Bos, 29.8; West, LA, 27.7; Hudson, Atl, 27.4; Hayes, SD, 26.7; Bing, Det, 25.5; Petrie, Por, 25.1; Clark, Phil, 25.0						
REB: Chamberlain, LA, 16.9; Unseld, Bal, 16.7; Johnson, Bal, 16.2; Alcindor, 15.6; Hayes, 14.8						
ASSISTS: Van Lier, Cin, 11.4; West, 11.2; Robertson, Mil, 10.5; Wilkens, Sea, 10.5; Frazier, NY, 7.9						
"PRODUCTION": Alcindor, 39.5, Chamberlain, 33.2, West 31.8; Havlicek, 29.6, Lucas, SF, 27.7						
"DEF. STOPS": Havlicek, 317; Van Lier, 250, West, 245, Frazier, 231, Chamberlain, 225						