

NBA NEWS

September 25, 2001

Volume 56, No. 1

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For more information, log on to the NBA's official Web site at:

<http://www.nba.com>.

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1. AIDING THE RELIEF EFFORT
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The terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. on September 11 took thousands of lives and affected countless others. Since then the relief effort has been continual.

For those who wish to make financial contributions, checks should be made payable to the Twin Towers Fund, PO Box 26999, New York, NY 10087-6999. Contributions can also be made to the Red Cross at www.redcross.org or by mail to American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 3756, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008.

Several NBA teams are pitching in to the relief effort and many more are making plans to do so.

-- The Atlanta Hawks, along with the Braves and Thrashers, each donated approximately \$250,000 from the teams' management, staff and their charitable foundations. On Sunday, the Hawks, Thrashers and Philips Arena will host a free event from noon to 6 p.m. to benefit the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, along with other charities supporting the relief efforts. Monetary donations, canned food and bottled water will be accepted, as well as on-site blood donations for the Red Cross.

-- The Chicago Bulls will recognize the relief effort by handing out flags for their October 12 preseason game against Atlanta, and will conduct a blood drive later in the season.

-- The Cleveland Cavaliers and Gund Arena Company established the Cavs Disaster Relief Fund on behalf of the McCormick Tribune Foundation. Visit www.cavs.com and donate online; stop by

the Gund Arena box office and donate at one of the ticket windows; phone toll-free at 800-999-9005; or mail a check or money order payable to Cavs Disaster Relief Fund, Gund Arena, One Center Court, Cleveland, OH 44115.

-- The Charlotte Hornets, Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Sting joined forces to raise funds for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund on Tuesday, at three locations in uptown Charlotte and at Concord Mills. In exchange for a suggested monetary donation of \$25 or more to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, the players and/or coaches at each location signed their names to shirts bearing the logos of the participating teams along with the American Red Cross logo.

-- The Denver Nuggets Community Fund, along with six other Denver McCormick Tribune Foundation partners, are accepting donations to the Disaster Relief Fund. Visit www.nuggets.com and donate on-line, or mail a check or money order payable to Denver Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 40412, Denver, CO 80204.

-- The Los Angeles Clippers donated \$10,000 to the United Way 9/11 Fund.

-- Memphis Grizzlies players, coaches and staff were on hand Thursday to collect donations from the Memphis community and to recognize the firefighters, police officers and Tennessee Task Force One who assisted in the relief efforts in New York and Washington, D.C. The event, entitled "Now, The Ball Is In Our Court," was held at the Memphis Fire Training Academy and Central Police Precinct. Grizzlies players joined coaches and front-office staff to collect donations, meet community residents and sign autographs.

-- The New Jersey Nets announced that revenues from walk-up ticket sales from their two home preseason games will be donated to the families of the firefighters and police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty at the World Trade Center tragedy.

-- The Orlando Magic established the Orlando Magic Disaster Relief Fund, on behalf of the McCormick Tribune Foundation. Visit www.orlandomagic.com and donate on-line; stop by the RDV Sports box office at the RDV Sportsplex in Maitland and donate at one of the ticket windows; phone toll-free at 800-999-9005; or mail a check or money order payable to Orlando Magic Disaster Relief Fund, 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810.

-- The Portland Trail Blazers took part in a citywide vigil on National Day of Prayer and Mourning at the Rose Quarter Commons on Friday.

-- The Washington Wizards are developing a fund for educational scholarships for the children of the Pentagon victims.

All of us at the NBA recognize the heroic efforts of the police, fire and rescue teams as well as the enormous contribution made by thousands of volunteers. We salute and thank them all.

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2. MICHAEL JORDAN TO PLAY FOR WIZARDS, RETURN TO NBA

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Michael Jordan on Tuesday officially announced his comeback to the NBA as an active player, and will take the court with the Washington Wizards.

"Although I am energized by my impending return to the court, I am deeply saddened by the recent tragic events and my heart goes out to the victims and their families," Jordan said in a statement. "Out of deep respect for them, I will not participate in media interviews before the start of training camp on October 1.

"I am returning as a player to the game I love because during the last year and a half, as a member of Washington Wizards' management, I enjoyed working with our players, and sharing my own experiences as a player. I feel there is no better way of teaching young players than to be on the court with them as a fellow player, not just in practice, but in actual NBA games. While nothing can take away from the past, I am firmly focused on the future and the competitive challenge ahead of me.

"I am especially excited about the Washington Wizards, and I'm convinced we have the foundation on which to build a playoff-contention team. The opportunity to teach our young players and help them elevate their game to a higher level, and to thank the fans in Washington for their loyalty and support, strongly influenced my decision."

Said Washington Sports and Entertainment Chairman Abe Pollin, "This is certainly an extremely important moment in the history of our franchise, however our excitement is muted by the world events that surround us. The greatest player in the history of the game is joining my team, and for that I am extremely honored and pleased. Michael has expressed his wishes that we focus on the national events of today rather than basketball. I concur and will certainly honor his wishes."

Said NBA Commissioner David Stern, "I am happy to welcome Michael Jordan, the player, back to the NBA, although, as Commissioner, I'm sorry to lose him in the boardroom. Michael has always brought joy to basketball fans around the world and, in these difficult times, we can all use a little more joy in our lives."

As a tribute to and in memory of the victims, their families and the relief workers affected by the tragedy of September 11, Jordan will donate his entire salary for this season to relief and victim assistance efforts.

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3. NBA MEDIA DAY SITES AND TRAINING CAMP INFORMATION
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NBA teams are gearing up for the start of the NBA's 56th season. While most teams will open camp with Media Day on Monday, the Golden State and Los Angeles Lakers will open on Friday, and the Minnesota Timberwolves and Toronto Raptors will start on Saturday.

2001-02 NBA MEDIA DAY SITES

(All times local)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Golden State: Warriors Practice Facility, Oakland, Calif., 2 p.m.
- L.A. Lakers: HealthSouth Training Center, El Segundo, Calif., 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- Minnesota: Target Center, Minneapolis, 3 p.m.
- Toronto: Air Canada Centre, Toronto, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

- Atlanta: Philips Arena, Atlanta, 3 p.m.
- Boston: Sports Authority Training Center, Waltham, Mass., 2 p.m.
- Charlotte: Hornets Practice Facility, Fort Mill, S.C., 2 p.m.
- Chicago: Berto Center, Deerfield, Ill., 3 p.m.
- Cleveland: Gund Arena, Cleveland, 4 p.m.
- Dallas: American Airlines Center, Dallas, 5 p.m.

- Denver: Pepsi Center, Denver, 4 p.m.
- Detroit: Pistons Practice Facility, Auburn Hills, Mich., 5 p.m.
- Houston: Westside Tennis Club, Houston, 2 p.m.
- Indiana: Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis; Coach Isiah Thomas available at 1:30 p.m.; players available at 2 p.m.
- L.A. Clippers: L.A. Southwest College, Los Angeles, noon
- Memphis: The Pyramid, Memphis, 2 p.m.
- Miami: AmericanAirlines Arena, Miami; Coach Pat Riley available at 1 p.m.; players available at 2 p.m.
- Milwaukee: Bucks Training Center, Milwaukee, 2:30 p.m.
- New Jersey: Nets Champion Center, East Rutherford, N.J., 2 p.m.
- New York: Purchase College, Purchase, N.Y., 2 p.m.
- Orlando: RDV Sportsplex, Orlando, 3 p.m.
- Philadelphia: Sixers Practice Facility (PCOM), Philadelphia, 2 p.m.
- Phoenix: America West Arena, Phoenix, 1 p.m.
- Portland: Trail Blazers Practice Facility, Portland, 2 p.m.
- Sacramento: Kings Practice Facility, Sacramento, 3 p.m.
- San Antonio: La Mansion del Rio Hotel, San Antonio, 5 p.m.
- Seattle: The Furtado Center, Seattle, 5 p.m.
- Utah: Delta Center, Salt Lake City, 2 p.m.
- Washington: MCI Center Practice Court, Washington, 2 p.m.

2001-02 NBA TRAINING CAMP SITES

- Atlanta: Philips Arena, Atlanta
- Boston: Sports Authority Training Center, Waltham, Mass.
- Charlotte: Hornets Training Facility, Fort Mill, S.C.
- Chicago: Berto Center, Deerfield, Ill.
- Cleveland: Gund Arena, Cleveland
- Dallas: American Airlines Center, Dallas
- Denver: Pepsi Center, Denver
- Detroit: Pistons Practice Facility, Auburn Hills, Mich.
- Golden State: Warriors Practice Facility, Oakland, Calif., September 29-October 2; University of Hawaii, Honolulu, October 4-6
- Houston: St. Stephen's Episcopal School, Austin, Texas
- Indiana: Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis
- L.A. Clippers: College of the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif.
- L.A. Lakers: University of Hawaii, Honolulu
- Memphis: Rhodes College, Memphis, October 2-4; The Pyramid, Memphis, October 5-8
- Miami: AmericanAirlines Arena, Miami
- Milwaukee: Bucks Training Center, Milwaukee
- Minnesota: Target Center, Minneapolis
- New Jersey: Nets Champion Center, East Rutherford, N.J.
- New York: College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.
- Orlando: University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.
- Philadelphia: Penn State University, University Park, Pa.
- Phoenix: University of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- Portland: Trail Blazers Practice Facility, Portland
- Sacramento: Kings Practice Facility, Sacramento
- San Antonio: Trinity University, San Antonio
- Seattle: The Furtado Center, Seattle
- Toronto: Erie Community College, Buffalo, N.Y.
- Utah: Franklin Covey, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2-5; Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, October 6-8

- Washington: University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C.

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4. RULES CHANGES FOR 2001-02 SEASON
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Four changes in playing rules, designed to improve the flow and pace of the game, will go into effect for the 2001-02 season.

The rules changes had been recommended by a select committee on playing rules chaired by Phoenix Suns Chairman and CEO Jerry Colangelo and were approved April 12 by the NBA Board of Governors.

The changes are:

- Illegal defense guidelines will be eliminated in their entirety.
- A new defensive three-second rule will prohibit a defensive player from remaining in the lane for more than three consecutive seconds without closely guarding an offensive player.
- The time that a team has to advance the ball past midcourt will be reduced from 10 seconds to eight.
- Brief contact initiated by a defensive player will be allowed if it does not impede the progress of the player with the ball.

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5. NBDL ANNOUNCES FIRST PLAYER ALLOCATIONS
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The National Basketball Developmental League, the NBA's new eight-team minor league, on Tuesday allocated two players to each of the eight charter teams, it was announced by Karl Hicks, Executive Director of the NBDL. Each team will be allocated a total of four players, with a minimum of one allocation player guaranteed a spot on each team's final roster.

- Asheville: Tyson Patterson, G, Appalachian State; Lee Scruggs, F, Georgetown
- Columbus : Michael Chadwick, G, Georgia; Alvin Jefferson, F, Auburn
 - Fayetteville: Nate James, G, Duke; Terrell McIntyre, G, Clemson
 - Greenville: Ian Chadwick, G, Wofford; Merle Code, G, Clemson
 - Huntsville: Terrance Martin, G, Alabama; Greg Stolt, F, Florida
- Mobile: Le'Andrew Bass, G, Alabama-Birmingham; Jamarion Moon, F, Meridian CC
- North Charleston: Antonio Grant, F, South Carolina; Sedric Webber, F, College of Charleston
- Roanoke: Harold Deane, G, Virginia; Derrick Hines, G, Elizabeth City State

For more information on the NBDL, visit www.NBDL.com.

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6. NBDL PRESEASON SCHEDULE BEGINS NOVEMBER 9
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The Fayetteville Patriots and Asheville Altitude will tip off the eight-game National Basketball Developmental League preseason schedule on Friday, November 9 at the Asheville Civic Center in Asheville, N.C.

Each team in the NBDL, the NBA's new eight-team minor league, will play two preseason games, one home and one away. The 56-game regular season begins on November 16.

2001 NBDL PRESEASON SCHEDULE

(All times EST)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Fayetteville at Asheville, 7 p.m.

Columbus at North Charleston, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Greenville at Roanoke, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Huntsville at Mobile, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Asheville at Columbus, 7 p.m.

Roanoke at Fayetteville, 7 p.m.

Mobile at Greenville, 7 p.m.

North Charleston at Huntsville, 7 p.m.

For more information on the NBDL, visit www.NBDL.com.

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7. FIELD SET FOR 2002 MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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The host United States will be among the 16-team field for the 2002 World Basketball Championship, which will be contested from August 29-September 8, 2002, at Conseco Fieldhouse and the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Joining the United States, which will host the World Championship for the first time, will be Angola, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, China, Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Spain, Germany, Russia and New Zealand.

The teams that finished second through fifth (France, Lithuania, Australia and Italy) at the 2000 Olympic Games all failed to qualify for the 2002 World Championship.

For more information, click on the following link:

<http://www.2002worldbasketball.com>

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8. DUNLEAVY AND ELMORE HEADLINE NYC HOOP HALL INDUCTEES

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Eleven-year NBA veteran and former NBA coach Mike Dunleavy and eight-year NBA veteran Len Elmore highlighted the latest contingent of inductees into the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame.

"I am very appreciative of being recognized in that area, because I know there are a lot of other people out there who deserve recognition," said Elmore, a college basketball TV analyst who attended the defunct Power Memorial in Manhattan and played his college ball at Maryland.

Criterion for inductees is to have attended a New York City high school. Other inductees enshrined on Thursday included: The New York Post NBA columnist and NBC analyst Peter Vecsey; former Iona College coach Jim McDermott; former St. John's University player Mac Kinsbrunner; former La Salle High School coach Dan Buckley; former Commerce player Jackie DeFares; and former Thomas Jefferson High School player Thomas Hemans.

"Growing up in the city and playing basketball was very special to me," said Dunleavy, who attended Nazareth High School in Brooklyn before moving on to the University of South Carolina under New York City legend Frank McGuire.

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9. MAVERICKS MAKE FASHION STATEMENT WITH NEW UNIFORMS
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Sauntering down a fashion runway isn't quite the same as dribbling the ball upcourt, but Tim Hardaway and Greg Buckner didn't seem to mind a bit, as they helped the Dallas Mavericks unveil their new uniforms - along with a host of models - at American Airlines Center on Tuesday.

The Mavericks' new threads - the first major uniform redesign in club history - are navy blue on the road and white at home, trimmed in medium blue and silver and "Dallas" emblazoned on the chest. A star - symbolizing Texas' identity as the Lone Star State - is on the back, above the player's name and number. The shorts feature the team's new horse head logo on the sides of the shorts.

"The uniforms are great," Buckner said. "The colors are awesome. The look is great. And the numbers look cool also."

The uniforms, designed by Nike, are of the company's patented DRI-FIT microfiber polyester material, a departure from the traditional nylon mesh, and moves moisture from the players' skin to the surface of the fabric, thus keeping players drier and more comfortable during games.

"I love the new uniforms," Hardaway said. "I'm ready to start playing in this one right now."

For more information, click on the following link:

http://www.nba.com/mavericks/news/new_uniform_release.html?nav=ArticleList

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10. TRANSACTIONS
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SEPTEMBER 5

- Seattle signed C PREDRAG DROBNJAK and C JEROME JAMES.

SEPTEMBER 6

- Indiana signed F-C CARLOS ROGERS.
- Seattle signed F VLADIMIR RADMANOVIC.

SEPTEMBER 7

- Detroit acquired G JON BARRY and a future first-round draft choice from Sacramento in exchange for G MATEEN CLEAVES; and re-signed G DANA BARROS.
- Houston exercised its option on the contract of G STEVE FRANCIS and signed F TERENCE MORRIS.

SEPTEMBER 10

- Detroit re-signed F BRIAN CARDINAL and signed F-C VICTOR ALEXANDER.
- Orlando re-signed G TROY HUDSON.

 SEPTEMBER 14

- Miami signed G-F SAM MACK.

 SEPTEMBER 17

- Indiana waived F-C SAM PERKINS.
- Orlando re-signed F MONTY WILLIAMS.

 SEPTEMBER 18

- Memphis agreed to terms with F PAU GASOL.

 SEPTEMBER 19

- Houston signed F EDDIE GRIFFIN.

 SEPTEMBER 21

- Los Angeles Lakers signed C JELANI McCOY.
- Portland signed C CHRIS DUDLEY.
- San Antonio signed G TONY PARKER.

 SEPTEMBER 24

- Chicago signed G KEVIN OLLIE.
- Golden State signed G DEAN OLIVER.
- Los Angeles Lakers re-signed G MIKE PENBERTHY.
- Miami signed G-F RODNEY BUFORD.

 SEPTEMBER 25

- Washington announced the return of G MICHAEL JORDAN as an active player.

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 11. NBA 2001-02 KEY DATES
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2001

- October 1: Players begin reporting to training camp at 2 p.m. local time
- October 2: NBA training camps open
- October 5: Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremonies, Springfield, Mass.
- October 5: Preseason games begin
- October 29 : Rosters set for opening day, 6 p.m. ET
- October 30: NBA 2001-02 regular season begins

2002

- January 7: 10-day contracts may be signed
- January 10: All player contracts guaranteed for the remainder of the season
- February 8-10: NBA All-Star 2002, First Union Center, Philadelphia
- February 21: Trading Deadline, 6 p.m. ET
- April 3-7: Portsmouth Invitational Tournament, Churchland H.S., Portsmouth, Va.
- April 17: NBA 2001-02 regular season ends
- April 20: NBA Playoffs 2002 begin
- May 12: NBA Early Entry eligibility deadline, 11:59 p.m. ET
- May 19: NBA Draft Lottery
- June 2: NBA Finals earliest possible start date

- June 4-7: NBA Pre-Draft Camp, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago
- June 5: NBA Finals latest possible start date
- June 19: NBA Finals latest possible end date
- June 19: NBA Draft Early Entry Entrant withdrawal deadline
- June 26: NBA Draft 2002
- July 1: Teams may begin negotiating with, but not sign, free agents
- July 16: Teams may begin signing player contracts

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12. NBA ON THE AIR

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(All times EDT)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

NBA's Greatest Games (ESPN2), 1 p.m.

NBA Fantastic: NBA Showmen: Spectacular Guards of the NBA (ESPN), 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

NBA Inside Stuff (ESPN2), noon

1988 EC Semifinal Game 7: Atlanta at Boston (ESPN Classic), 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1988 EC Semifinal Game 7: Atlanta at Boston (ESPN Classic), 1 and 5 a.m.

Vintage NBA (ESPN2), 2 p.m.; (ESPN Classic), 7 p.m.

1976 NBA Finals Game 5: Phoenix at Boston (ESPN Classic), 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

1976 NBA Finals Game 5: Phoenix at Boston (ESPN Classic), 1 and 5 a.m.

Vintage NBA (ESPN Classic), 3 and 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

NBA Inside Stuff (NBC), check local listings

Vintage NBA (ESPN Classic), 8 a.m.

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13. UPCOMING NBA BIRTHDAYS

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- Tuesday, September 25: Chauncey Billups of the Minnesota Timberwolves is 25; Scottie Pippen of the Portland Trail Blazers is 36.

- Thursday, September 27: Steve Kerr of the Portland Trail Blazers is 36.

- Saturday, September 29: Hersey Hawkins of the Charlotte Hornets is 35.

- Sunday, September 30: Eric Piatkowski of the Los Angeles Clippers is 31.

- Monday, October 1: Art Long of the Sacramento Kings is 28.

- Tuesday, October 2: Tyson Chandler of the Chicago Bulls is 19; Anthony Johnson of the Cleveland Cavaliers is 27; Aaron McKie of the Philadelphia 76ers is 29; Aaron Williams of the New Jersey Nets is 30.

- Wednesday, October 3: Greg Foster of the Milwaukee Bucks is 31.

- Thursday, October 4: Kurt Thomas of the New York Knicks is 29; A.C. Green of the Miami Heat is 38.

- Friday, October 5: Grant Hill of the Orlando Magic is 29; Chris Whitney of the Washington Wizards is 30.

- Monday, October 8: Monty Williams of the Orlando Magic is 30.

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14. NBA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
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