

# Future NBA All-Stars no match for the past



ANDREW BORBERT

The other weekend, as I sat and watched the NBA All-Star game, I was struck with the realization that pro basketball has passed me by.

Where were the Celtics, Lakers or 76ers? Instead of Bird, Magic and Dr. J, we had Dan Majerle, Larry Nance and Dettlef Shrimp (or something like that). Solid players, yes. Awe-inspiring? Not exactly.

For those of you who think the NBA begins and ends with Jordan and the Bulls or Barkley and the Suns, how quickly you forget. These teams are nothing compared to the Lakers, Celtics and 76ers of the early '80s. I speak not of talent, but intensity. When Boston and Los Angeles went head-to-head in 1984 and '85 for the NBA championship, or when Philly was in there in 1980 and '83, the electricity generated by the squads was incredible.

Magic running the break, dishing off to Worthy, Kareem or Cooper; Bird hitting Parish with a no-look pass or Dennis Johnson stealing the ball and setting up Danny Ainge for a three-pointer; Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins smashing a backboard or Andrew Toney hitting one of his sweet jumpers; that was basketball at its glorious best, great players making their teams perform at the highest level.

The league today has greater talent, but the intensity has left. I don't see today's all stars elevating the play of their team-

mates like the Big Three did. Clyde Drexler vs. Michael Jordan, despite all of their individual skills and charisma, doesn't capture the imagination like Larry vs. Magic did. Their supporting casts aren't as compelling or talented. Scottie Pippen and Kevin Duckworth aren't the same as Kevin McHale (before the knees went) and James Worthy.

As much as I hate to say the word, I think MONEY has become a major problem. Although players are entitled to as much money as they can get, I think the size of NBA salaries has taken some of the value away from an NBA title. Why would a player be so caught up in the quest for a championship ring when he can make \$1.5 million a year plus a hefty deal with Nike, Reebok or Converse?

As I look at the NBA of today, I see how far the mighty have fallen. The Lakers have just completed a "blockbuster" trade that sent Sam Perkins to Seattle for Benoit Benjamin and first-round draft pick Doug Christie. I bet that makes images of Marques Johnson and Norm Nixon dance in the heads of the Forum's faithful. Xavier McDaniel and Alaa Abdelnabby sure won't put any new banners in Boston Garden. Honestly, I think the Cleveland Cavaliers and Seattle Supersonics play more like the old Lakers and Celtics than the new Lakers and Celtics do.

There will never be another Bird, Magic or Dr. J. Maybe there shouldn't be. Maybe they are to my generation what Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays and Duke Snyder were to our fathers.

But Bird, Magic and Dr. J are all-time greats, players who enhanced the league and brought basketball up to the level it is at now. Anyone who ever saw them play knows what I mean. I'll never forget their meetings on the hardwood.

Heating up in the cold weather

# Lady Gamecocks 3-0 in home tournament

From Staff Reports

The USC women's softball team notched three wins on a cold, windy Saturday in the Lady Gamecock Invitational.

The 16th-ranked Lady Gamecocks defeated North Carolina 5-4, Eastern Michigan 9-2 and East Carolina 11-1. With the three victories, USC improves to 10-0-1 on the season.

In other tournament action, Eastern Michigan dropped a tough game to ECU 4-2 and North Carolina defeated ECU 2-1.

Leading the way for the Lady Gamecocks against North Carolina

was Toinette Reed (4 for 4), Shani Cannon (3 for 4) and Tiff Tootle (2 for 3). Sophomore hurler Darlene Gareis picked up the win for USC, raising her record to 6-0 on the season.

Spring Valley native Dana Fulmer provided the spark against the Eastern Michigan Eagles. Fulmer pounded out two hits, scored two runs and produced four RBI's on the day. One of her two hits was a three-run shot over the left field fence.

Senior Charity Ballard allowed eight hits through seven innings and struck out three batters on her

way to her third win of the year.

Not to be outdone, freshman Kim Sheridan picked up the win for Head Coach Joyce Compton's squad versus ECU. Sheridan was impressive throughout the game, striking out three and allowing only one hit. The victory was Sheridan's first of the year.

Local standout April Farr, from Brookland-Cayce High School, went 3 for 3 from the plate against the Pirates. Farr also scored two runs to help the Lady Gamecocks' cause.

When the tournament action was over, Compton needed only one

more victory to reach the 500-win plateau. Compton has established an overall record of 499-177 throughout her 18-year coaching career.

Senior Tiff Tootle is about to obtain a milestone as well. Tootle garnered her 279th hit Saturday in the ECU game, tying her for first for most hits in her career at South Carolina with former Lady Gamecock great Tricia Popowski.

With the Lady Gamecocks traveling to Georgia State on Sunday for a doubleheader, both Tootle and Compton were expected to achieve their milestones.

Regular season intramural basketball play has come to an end. Fraternity, sorority, and residence halls are all entering the post-season play-offs. Each team played four games in the five week long season. The championship games will be played March 28.

## FRATERNITY LEAGUE

Beta Theta Pi  
March 2, 7:30 pm  
Delta Tau Delta

Chi Psi

Omega Psi Phi  
March 3, 8:30 pm  
Tau Kappa Epsilon

Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
March 3, 8:30 pm  
Alpha Phi Alpha

Kappa Alpha  
March 2, 7:30 pm  
Sigma Chi

Sigma Phi Epsilon  
March 4, 7:30 pm  
Zeta Beta Tau

Lambda Chi  
March 4, 8:30 pm  
Alpha Tau Omega

Phi Kappa Alpha  
March 2, 5:30 pm  
Delta Upsilon

Pi Kappa Phi  
March 2, 7:30 pm  
Phi Delta Theta

Kappa Sigma  
March 4, 8:30 pm

# INTRAMURAL

## BASKETBALL

### RESIDENCE HALL LEAGUE

Rozmatazz  
March 15, 5:30 pm  
Columbia Hall

LaBorde  
March 21, 5:30 pm

Maxcy Pads  
March 15, 5:30 pm  
4th Snowden

Maxcy 3  
March 15, 5:30 pm  
Bomb Squad

### SORORITY LEAGUE

Delta Gamma  
March 2, 8:30 pm  
Zeta Tau Alpha

Delta Delta Delta

Kappa Delta  
March 2, 7:30 pm  
Kappa Alpha Theta

Alpha Chi Omega  
March 2, 8:30 pm  
Alpha Delta Pi

Nancy Salomonsky and Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

# WUSC-FM

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NO COVER BEFORE 8PM  
HAPPY HOUR 5 TO 8  
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**Carolina Chaplains Ministries**

**Bible Study on Revelation**  
Tonight 8:00pm

**At Heart to Heart this Week:**  
Dealing With Temptation  
Thursday, March 4 7:00pm

**Presbyterian Student Center**  
799-0212 1702 Greene Street  
(2 Blocks East of Russell House)

**Baptist Student Union**  
700 Pickens St. 799-3854

**The Canterbury Community, USC**  
The Episcopal Church on Campus

**Chaplain's Office**  
1100 Sumter Street  
771-7300

**Thursday Night 7:00pm**  
Meet at the Presbyterian Student Center  
1702 Greene Street

**Campus Ministry**  
(Partnership Among Lutherans and Methodists)

Wed.: 5:30pm-Table Communion & Bible Study  
6:30 pm Program "A Woman's Place: Three Ways to Read the Bible"  
Dr. John Hougen

728 Pickens (across from Wade Hampton Dorm)  
799-4993 All Are Welcome 799-7363

**St. Thomas More Catholic Center**

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Mon.-Thurs. 12:15pm  
Newman Club Meetings  
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