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Managing Editor
ANTHONY HYDE

Art Direction
JON SHOEMAKER

Staff Writer
ANTHONY HYDE

Photography
BILL SMITH, KENA KRUTSINGER,
JOE PINCHIN, NIKKO TAN
GETTY/NBAE PHOTOS,

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EXECUTIVE V.P. OPERATIONS | Jeff Ratwanick
EXECUTIVE V.P. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | Martin Lewis
EXECUTIVE V.P. SALES | Mitch Ribbs
EXECUTIVE V.P. TEAM RELATIONS | Dave Gerschwer
EXECUTIVE V.P. | Julie Wanjon
PRODUCTION MANAGER | Jaime Ziegler

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THE HONORA-BULLS

Bulls Name Inaugural Class of Franchise Greats to the Team's Ring of Honor



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2023-24 CHICAGO BULLS PLAYERS



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Torrey Craig Makes a Difference on the Hardwood and in Life

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JERRY REINSDORF

Chairman



Jerry Reinsdorf, whose two professional sports teams -- the Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox -- have combined to win seven World Championships for the city of Chicago and its sports fans, became Chairman of the Bulls on March 13, 1985, when a group he led purchased controlling interest in the franchise. Reinsdorf also is Chairman of the White Sox, who claimed the 2005 World Series. During his tenure as Chairman of the Bulls, the team has captured six World Championships (1991-93, 1996-98).

Reinsdorf celebrated 35 years with the Bulls in March 2020 the third-longest active ownership tenure in the NBA behind only the Buss family of the Los Angeles Lakers and Herbert Simon of the Indiana Pacers.

During his three decades of leadership, the Bulls have made 24 postseason appearances, posted a .552 overall winning percentage (1,387-1,124), reached the Eastern Conference Finals on seven occasions and claimed eight Central Division titles. The Reinsdorf-era Bulls have featured six NBA MVPs (five by Michael Jordan and one for Derrick Rose), three Rookie of the Year winners, three Executive of the Year honors and two Coach of the Year winners. The Bulls also own two of the top three best single-season victory totals in NBA history, going 72-10 in the 1995-96 season and 69-13 in the 1996-97 season (tied with the Lakers' 1971-72 season).

Reinsdorf has spearheaded the construction of three major facilities for the Bulls – the United Center, home of the Bulls and the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks, which opened for the 1994-95 season; the Sheri L. Berto Center, the Bulls practice facility in Deerfield, Ill., from 1992-2014; and the Advocate Center, the Bulls new state-of-the-art downtown practice facility, which opened in the summer of 2014 and is located across from the United Center. Reinsdorf was also responsible for the construction of Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox since 1991, as well as the United Center's east addition in 2017.

Both of Reinsdorf's sports franchises support the Chicago area community through a variety of efforts, including the team charities - Chicago Bulls Charities and Chicago White Sox Charities. Chicago Bulls Charities places particular giving emphasis on youth education, youth health and wellness, violence prevention and military support, and has supported worthy organizations throughout Chicagoland including: After School Matters, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Gilda's Club Chicago; Chicago Public Schools; the James Jordan Boys & Girls; Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center; Youth Guidance; Mercy Home for Boys & Girls; and Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Bulls, under Reinsdorf's leadership, provided funding to help establish Chicago Bulls College Prep School on the west side in 2009. A Noble Street Charter School, CBCP's first graduating class walked in June 2013, and 100% of the 165 seniors graduated and were accepted to a four-year college.

Reinsdorf has been widely recognized for his professional, civic and charitable contributions. In addition to his sports interests, Reinsdorf is an attorney, a certified public accountant, a specialist in real estate securities, a registered mortgage underwriter and a certified review appraiser. He has also been director of numerous corporations.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Feb. 25, 1936, Reinsdorf graduated from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and earned a law degree from Northwestern University after moving to Chicago in 1957. Reinsdorf has three surviving children and nine grandchildren. ■

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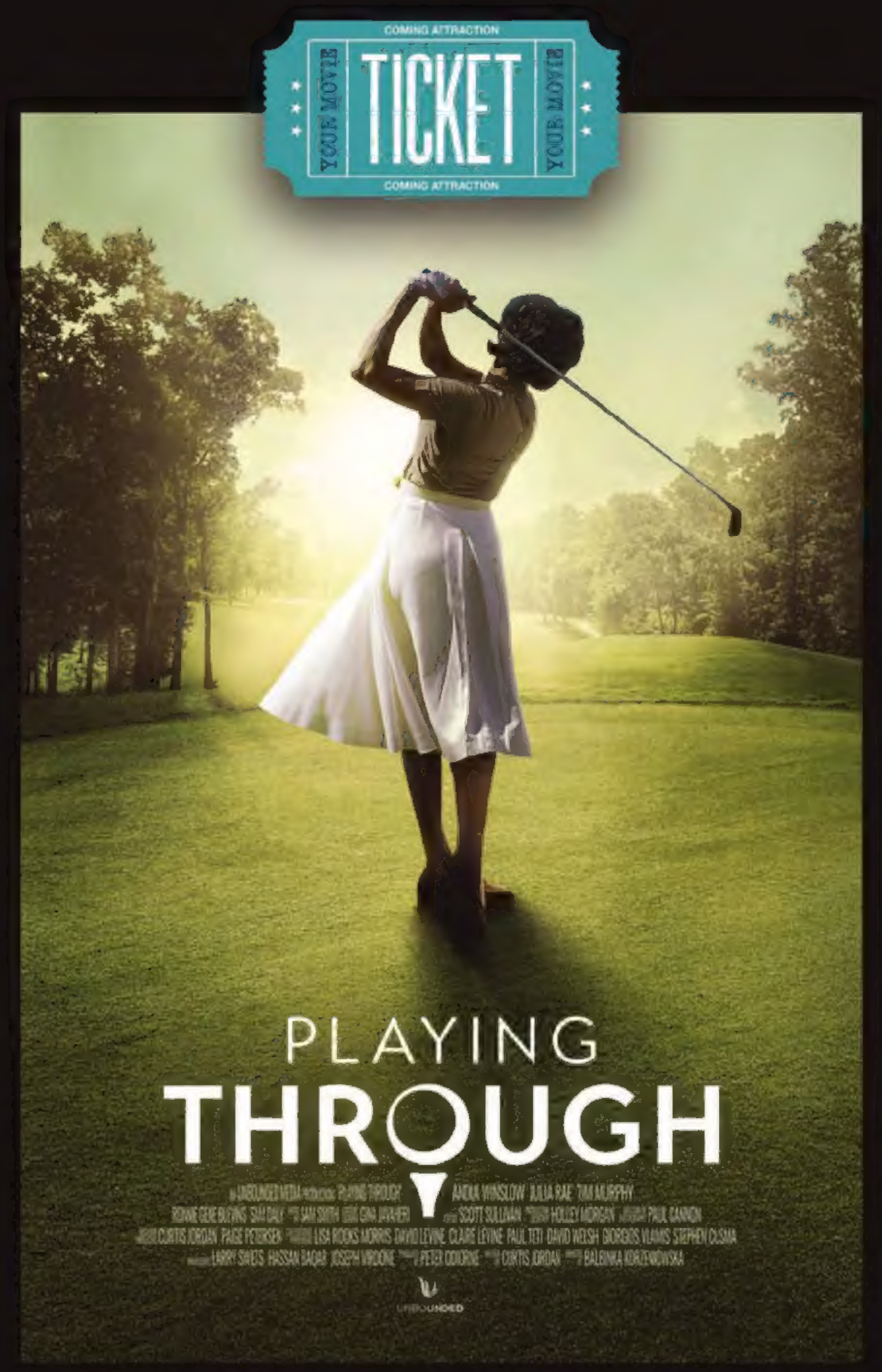
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MICHAEL REINSDORF

President & CEO

Michael Reinsdorf is the CEO and President of the Chicago Bulls. He is an NBA Governor and serves on the NBA Media Committee and the NBA Planning Committee. Michael is a member of the Commercial Club of Chicago and serves on the boards of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Foundation, the Executives' Club of Chicago, After-School All-Stars, After-School Matters, World Business Chicago, The Economic Club of Chicago and on the Board of Trustees for Northwestern University and the Museum of Science and Industry. Michael is on the University of Chicago Crime Lab Investor's Council which strives to understand and reduce crime and violence in the City of Chicago through government agencies and non-profit organizations. Michael is the former Chairman of the Harrisburg Senators, a Double A affiliate of the Washington Nationals. He is also the former Chairman of the Stockton Thunder, an ECHL hockey team in Stockton, Calif. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona. Michael, and his wife, Nancy, who serves as President of Chicago Bulls Charities, have three children, and reside in Chicago. ■



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ARTŪRAS KARNIŠOVAS

Executive Vice President Basketball Operations



Artūras Karnišovas (AART-er-aeZ Car-NISH-O-Vas) begins his fourth season as Executive Vice President – Basketball Operations for the Chicago Bulls ... he is the seventh individual to head the basketball operations department in Bulls history, joining Dick Klein (1966-69), Pat Williams (1969-73), Dick Motta (1973-76), Rod Thorn (1978-85), Jerry Krause (1985-2003) and John Paxson (2004-2020) ... Karnišovas previously worked for the Denver Nuggets from 2013-2020, starting as the team's Assistant General Manager, then was promoted to Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Basketball Operations, before being elevated to General Manager ... while with Denver, he oversaw the notable Draft selections of Nikola Jokić (41st overall, 2014), Jamal Murray (seventh overall, 2017) and Michael Porter Jr. (14th overall, 2018) . Karnišovas also played a role in the free-agent signing of Paul Millsap .. the Nuggets improved their winning percentage in each of Karnišovas' seasons with the team ... he was also involved with USA Basketball, serving as an International Personnel Scout for the 2014 FIBA World Cup squad that claimed gold in Spain ... prior to Denver, he spent five years with the Houston Rockets (2008-13), starting as their Director of Global Scouting before being elevated to Director of Scouting ... while with the Rockets, the team drafted Marcus Morris (14th overall, 2011) and Chandler Parsons (38th overall, 2011), as well as traded for Kyle Lowry, Goran Dragić and James Harden ... prior to joining a team, he worked more than four years at the NBA (2003-08) in its basketball operations division ... as a player, Karnišovas enjoyed a storied international career, where he played for Barcelona, Bologna, Olympiakos and Athens . he helped his team advance to the Euroleague Final Four on three occasions, and he claimed FIBA's European Player of the Year in 1996 while with Barcelona Karnišovas was a three-time Spanish League champion with Barcelona (1996, 1997, 2001) ... as a member of Olympiakos Piraeus in the 1997 McDonald's Championship in Paris, he scored 19 points against the Chicago Bulls ... in 1992, and again in 1996, he led his native Lithuania to bronze medals in the Summer Olympics ... native of Klaipėda, Lithuania, and came to the United States in 1990 at the age of 18 ... played for P.J. Carlesimo at Seton Hall, where he became the first player from the Soviet Union to play college basketball in the United States ... enjoyed a decorated collegiate career for the Pirates, where he was a four-year starter and helped the Hall claim two Big East Tournament titles and make four trips to the NCAA Tournament ... finished his collegiate playing days with 1,509 points and was a two-time Big East Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year ... in 2016, he received Seton Hall's Most Distinguished Alumnus Award, the university's most prestigious alumni award which is presented to an individual who has been recognized as an outstanding leader in his or her professional field ... he and his wife, Gina, have two sons, Eric and Michael. ■

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MARC EVERSLEY

General Manager



Marc Eversley begins his fourth season with the Bulls as the team's General Manager ... he reports to Executive Vice President - Basketball Operations Artūras Karnišovas and is primarily responsible for overseeing the implementation of all elements of the basketball operations process ... in 2021, Eversley was elected as a Class A Director to the Canada Basketball Board of Directors ... he has 15 years of NBA experience working for the Toronto Raptors, Washington Wizards and Philadelphia 76ers ... most recently served as Senior Vice President of Player Personnel with the 76ers, where he not only oversaw personnel and talent evaluation, but was also involved in Philadelphia's recruiting and decision-making process ... Eversley was promoted to Senior Vice President after serving the first two seasons as Vice President of Player Personnel ... he also oversaw Philadelphia's scouting department on the collegiate, NBA and international levels . . Eversley was a part of the 76ers selecting Ben Simmons first-overall in the 2016 NBA Draft, and he helped Philadelphia transition from a team that won 28 games his first season in 2016-17 to one that won 50-plus games the next two seasons .. had a hand in acquiring such players as J.J. Redick, Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris to fortify a roster that included Simmons and Joel Embiid ... prior to joining the 76ers, Eversley spent three seasons with the Washington Wizards as Vice President of Player Personnel ... began his NBA career with the Toronto Raptors where he spent seven seasons as an Assistant General Manager responsible for player development, then personnel scouting and evaluation, and he played a lead role in drafting DeMar DeRozan ninth-overall in the 2009 NBA Draft ... Eversley concluded the final two seasons of his Toronto tenure as the Vice President of College Scouting ... before working in the NBA, Eversley spent five years at Nike's world headquarters in Oregon as its NBA Player Relationship Manager, which advanced his development in managing relationships with athletes, along with team and athlete brand management ... got his start in retail, managing Nike-owned stores in Ontario, before moving to Nike Canada's corporate office where he oversaw the basketball assets ... worked for six years with Nike Canada before moving to Oregon ... Eversley has participated in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program in both September 2011 in Johannesburg, and in August 2017 in Europe ... attended high school in Brampton, Ontario, and went to college at Urbana University in Urbana, Ohio, on a basketball scholarship ... Eversley and his wife, Jen, have one daughter, Nora, and stepdaughter, Alison. ■



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BILLY DONOVAN

Head Coach



Billy Donovan is entering his fourth season as head coach of the Chicago Bulls ... was named October/November NBA Coach of the Month in 2021-2022 ... in the same season he led the Bulls to a 46-36 record and its first playoff appearance in five seasons ... previously, Donovan spent five seasons as head coach for the Oklahoma City Thunder ... was named the 2020 recipient of the Michael H. Goldberg NBCA Coach of the Year Award, along with Mike Budenholzer ... while in OKC, his teams amassed a record of 243-157 (.608) and made five consecutive trips to the playoffs ... his winning percentage at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season ranked 16th (min. 100 games) in NBA history, and trailed only Nick Nurse (.721), Steve Kerr (.709) and Gregg Popovich (.675) among active coaches . . he is also one of only four active first-time head coaches in the league (along with Rick Carlisle, Kerr and Erik Spoelstra) to lead their teams to the playoffs in each of their first five seasons as a head coach ... in 2015-16, his first season with the Thunder, he guided the team to a record of 55-27 (.671), as it claimed the Northwest Division title and advanced to the Western Conference Finals ... Donovan's 55 wins that season put him in select company, as he became just the third first-year head coach over the previous 15 seasons to win 55 or more games in his first season ... on April 5, 2017, at Memphis, the Thunder defeated the Grizzlies 103-100 for Donovan's 100th career victory in the NBA, and with the win, he became the first NBA head coach to win 100 or more games in his first two seasons after coming straight from the collegiate level ... he claimed his 200th career coaching win on Oct. 27, 2019, versus Golden State ... prior to his arrival in Oklahoma City, Donovan held a 19-year stint as the head coach at the University of Florida ... he coached his teams to an overall record of 467-186 (.715), and his time was highlighted by back-to-back National Championships in 2006 and 2007 ... the consecutive titles marked the first time a men's program won two straight basketball championships since Duke in 1991 and 1992 ... he also led the Gators to the Final Four in 2000 (losing in the NCAA Championship Game) and 2014, while making 14 trips to the NCAA Tournament and two appearances in the NIT ... his Gator teams posted 16 straight seasons with 20 or more wins, three campaigns with 30 or more wins, 17 consecutive trips to the postseason and six SEC Championships ... in 2014-15, at the age of 49 years old, he became the second-youngest coach in NCAA history (Bobby Knight, 48-years old) to post 500 wins ... he has been the recipient of numerous collegiate coaching awards including ESPN.com's National Coach of the Year (2001), the Wooden Award's "Legends of Coaching" Honor (2010) and SEC Coach of the Year (2011, 2013, 2014) ... Donovan's first experience as a head coach came in 1994 at Marshall University after serving as a graduate assistant at Kentucky from 1989-1994 ... in two seasons with the Thundering Herd, he posted a record of 35-20 (.636) . he served as the head coach of USAB's U18 and U19 National Teams from 2012-14 ... over that time, his squads compiled a record of 19-0 and claimed three gold medals during national team competition ... played four seasons at Providence (1983-87) and averaged 20.6 ppg his senior year, helping lead the Friars to the 1987 Final Four ... that season he earned Southeast Regional Most Outstanding Player honors, and also was named to the 1987 All-Big East first team, the 1987 Big East All-Tournament team and was an honorable mention All-American ... drafted by the Utah Jazz in the third round (68th overall) of the 1987 NBA Draft and played a total of 44 games with the New York Knicks in 1987-88 ... in 1999, he was inducted into the Providence College Hall of Fame . . 56 years old ... he and his wife, Christine, have four children: Billy, Hasbrouck, Bryan and Connor. ■


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We are committed to uplifting underserved communities of color across the city and using our platform to amplify the civic leaders and community initiatives that address our city's most critical issues. Our work is enhanced by the generous contributions of our corporate partners, season ticket holders, fans and fundraising programs. From our executives to our players and everyone in between, the Bulls are dedicated to working toward a more equitable and just Chicago. ■

For more information, please visit

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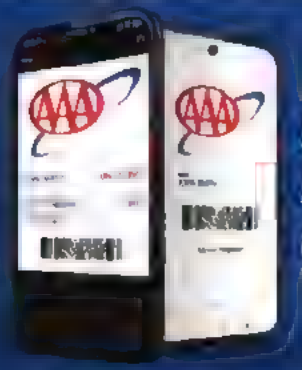






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NANCY REINSDORF

President of Chicago Bulls Charities

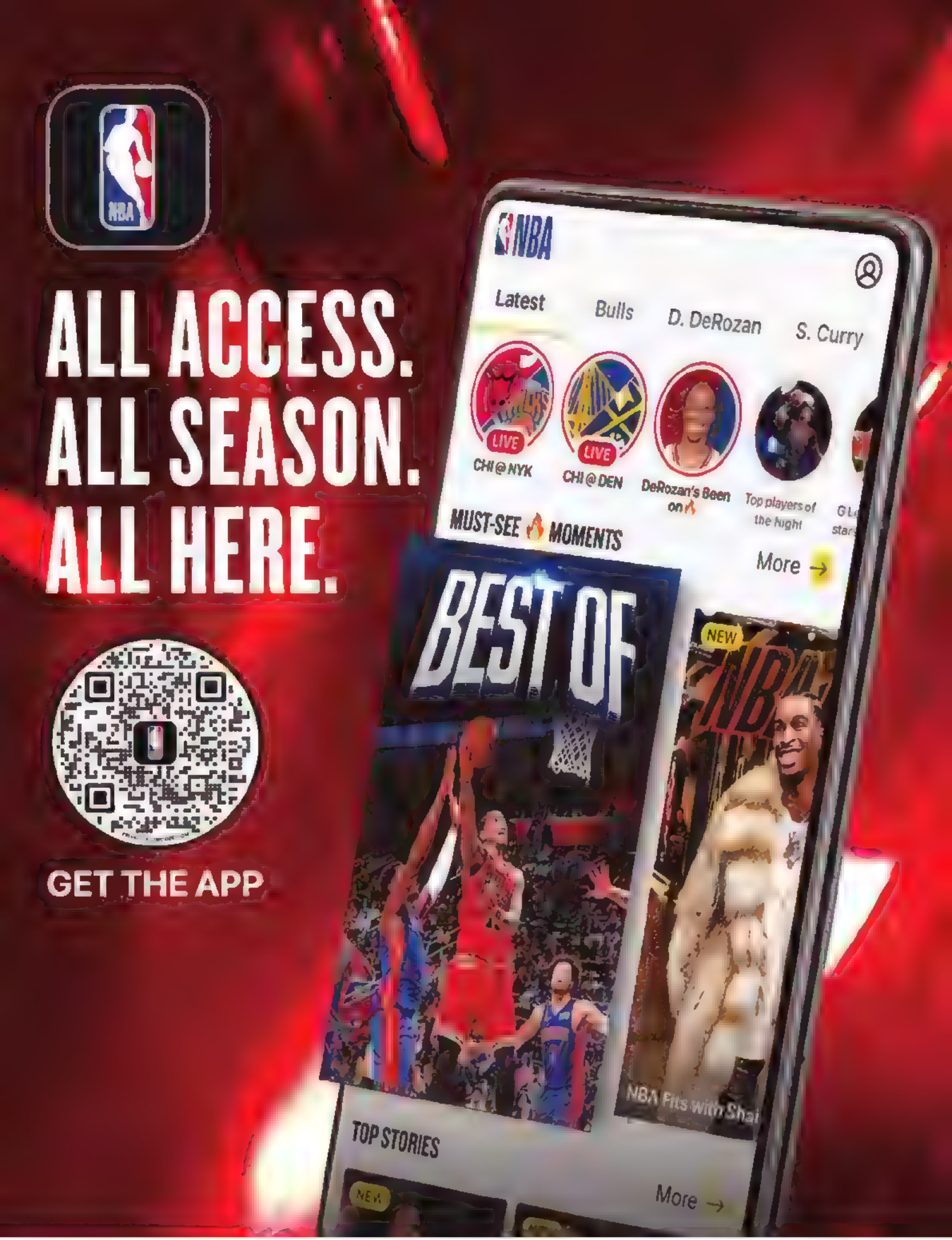
Nancy Reinsdorf was named President of Chicago Bulls Charities in April 2012. A Chicago native, she has been actively involved with numerous area nonprofits for more than 20 years. Nancy serves as a Bulls community liaison working closely with charitable organizations, corporate partners and the Bulls family to identify ways for the team to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Under Nancy's leadership, the Chicago Bulls were recognized in 2015 as the inaugural recipient of the ESPN Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year Award. Nancy serves on the University of Chicago Crime Lab Investor's Council which strives to understand and reduce crime and violence in the City of Chicago through government agencies and non-profit organizations. She is a graduate of Roosevelt University. Nancy, and her husband, Michael, have three children and reside in Chicago.

Each season, the Chicago Bulls distribute financial grants through Chicago Bulls Charities to nonprofit organizations that align with the team's commitment to community violence prevention through our four focus areas – Education, Community Investment, Health and Wellness and Opportunity Access. Grants are made through Chicago Bulls Charities and the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund, a Robert R. McCormick Foundation Fund. During the 2022-23 season, we supported Chicago communities through financial donations from our annual grants and fundraising support.

Chicago Bulls Charities prides itself on enhancing community initiatives across the Chicagoland area with in-kind donations to uplift community events. Whether its providing sporting equipment to a youth program in need, a DJ for a school event or a player appearance to celebrate the achievements of our community leaders, Chicago Bulls Charities is here to strengthen the good work happening throughout the city.

The ability to do this work would not be possible without the generous contributions from our corporate partners, individuals and fundraising initiatives that fund the team's annual grant program. Our engagement in this work is always enhanced by our passionate players who are eager to join us in our efforts to create a better Chicago for all.

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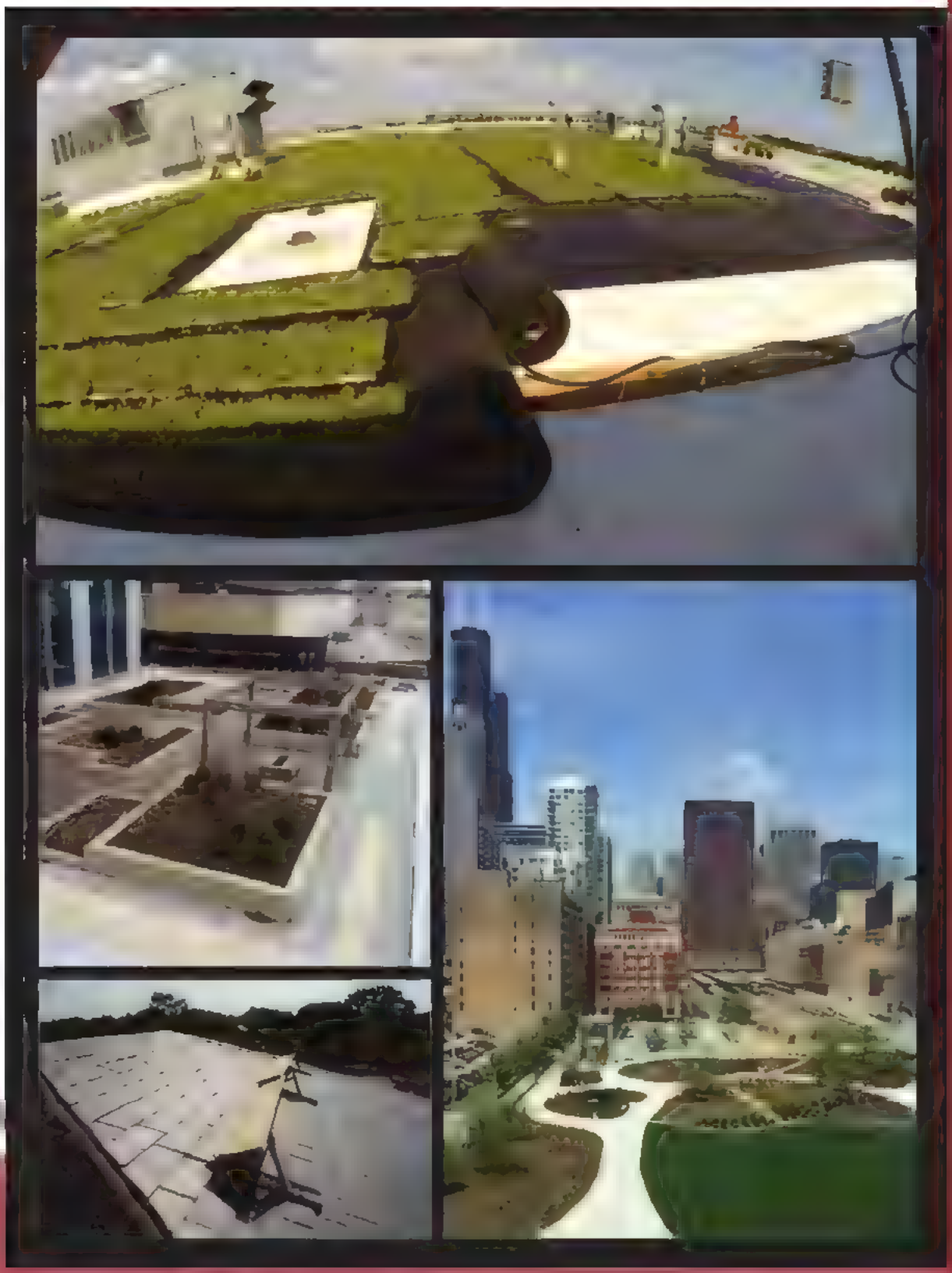
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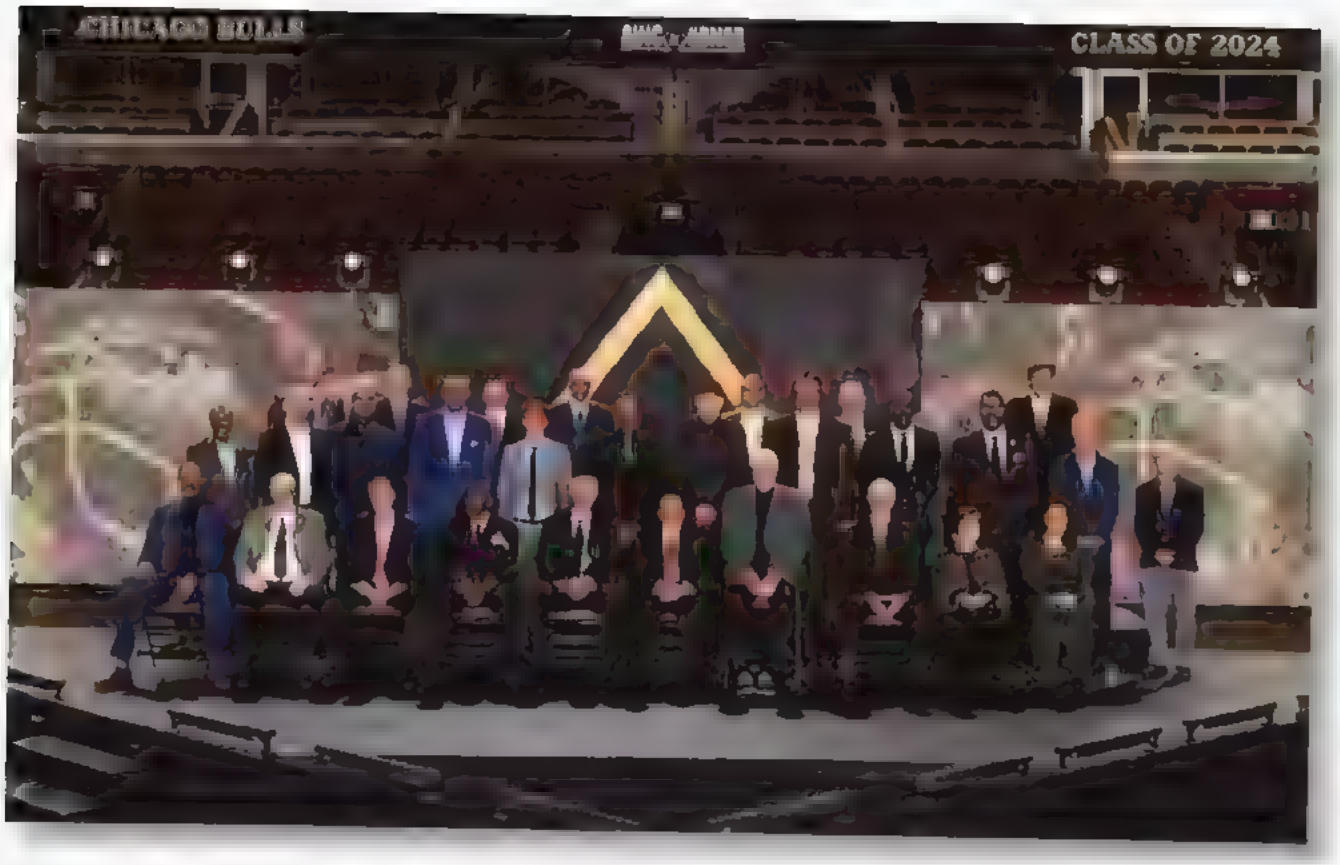


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Bulls Name Inaugural Class of Franchise Greats to the Team's Ring of Honor





By Anthony Hyde

This season, the Chicago Bulls created the Ring of Honor, which recognizes and celebrates past players, coaches, and front-office staff who made outstanding contributions and helped define the franchise throughout its history. The inaugural class includes 13 individuals and the 1995-96 team.

Over three days in January, the Bulls welcomed these alumni back to Chicago and hosted several events including a private gala at the United Center and a special halftime presentation during the team's game against the Golden State Warriors, both proudly presented by Magellan Corporation. Fans were invited to engage with the Ring of Honor through a United Center atrium experience with never-before-seen memorabilia, as well as a virtual experience, featuring essays celebrating the honorees from notable figures including President Barack Obama, Pearl Jam singer Eddie Vedder, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, and NBA legend Magic Johnson.

"The Chicago Bulls Ring of Honor is a first-of-its-kind celebration honoring many of the legends who have helped shape our organization over the past 57 years," said Michael Reinsdorf, president, and chief executive officer. "They have deep connections to our fans and community and represent a spirit of competition, hard work, and toughness. We are excited to cement their legacy in Bulls history."

The Bulls will continue to add to the Ring of Honor every two years with the next class being inducted in 2026.

CHICAGO BULLS RING OF HONOR SELECTION CRITERIA

- Players must have spent at least three seasons with the Chicago Bulls
- Players must have retired from basketball for at least three years.
- Staff must have made significant contributions to the Chicago Bulls.
- Staff must have made an impact on championships or league awards.

All honorees must have significant achievements with the Bulls, made a meaningful contribution to team success, or hold records that have been sustained throughout team history.

All honorees must have demonstrated high character and integrity both on and off the court and throughout their playing career and retirement

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the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame or have had their retirement banners raised at the United Center.

RING OF HONOR CLASS OF 2024

The inaugural class includes 13 individual team legends and one team: Artis Gilmore, Phil Jackson, Michael Jordan, Johnny "Red" Kerr, Dick Klein, Jerry Krause, Toni Kukoč, Bob Love, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Jerry Sloan, Chet Walker, Tex Winter, and the 1995-96 team, which went 72-10 and won the 1996 NBA Championship.

THE 1995-96 CHICAGO BULLS

Players: Randy Brown, Jud Buechler, Jason Caffey, James Edwards, Jack Haley, Ron Harper, Michael Jordan, Steve Kerr, Toni Kukoč, Luc Longley, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, John Salley, Dickey Simpkins, Bill Wennington

Coaches: Phil Jackson, Tex Winter, Jimmy Rodgers, Jim Cleamons, John Paxson

Front Office Members: Jerry Krause, Ivica Dukan, Clarence Gaines, Jr., Erik Helland Jim Stack, John Ligmanowski, Chip Schaefer, Al Vermeil

Here is a look at the first class.

The Players

Artis GILMORE

Often regarded as the NBA's strongest man, 7'2" Artis Gilmore, nicknamed "The A-Train," arrived in Chicago as the No. 1 pick in the 1976 ABA dispersal draft. He was named an NBA All-Star four times during six-plus seasons in Chicago.

Gilmore was the star player with Chicago's famed 1976-77 Madhouse on Madison Street squad that caught fire down the stretch, winning 20 of its last 24 games, to earn a ticket to the playoffs. Sadly, the Bulls' Championship dream quickly ended at the hands of the eventual NBA Champs, the Portland Trailblazers, but not before Chicago took Portland to the edge. In the series opener, the Blazers came out on top, 96-83. But Chicago bounced back in Game 2 at the Chicago Stadium, 107-104. Gilmore dominated with 27 points, 11 rebounds, and five blocked shots. The series was decided in a win-or-go-home Game 3 in Portland, where the Blazers broke open a tight contest, winning 106-98. However, Gilmore again delivered a big-time effort, finishing with 16 points, 14 rebounds, two blocks, and three assists. For the series, the A-Train averaged 18.7 points, 13.0 rebounds, 2.7 blocks and 2.0 assists over 42 minutes per game.

Among all-time centers, it can be argued that Artis Gilmore boasted the best balance of offense and defense. As a scorer, he was efficient, hitting an amazing 59.9% of his shots, which for many years was the league's all-time best mark. And, on defense, no player during his era ever wanted to drive to the basket when the A-Train was on the floor.

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ball out to somebody else because Artis would flatten it on top of you," laughs fellow Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo.

"Artis' agility made him an amazing shot-blocker," adds another Hall of Famer, Rick Barry. "Besides dominating under the basket, Artis could roam outside the paint and easily swat one of my shots. The referees sometimes would call him for goaltending because nobody had ever seen a player his size block a shot 15 feet away from the basket."

Gilmore's prowess scared plenty of big-time post players, too.

"Artis gave me more trouble than anyone I ever played against," adds Hall of Famer Bill Walton. "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the better all-around player, but in terms of who gave me the biggest headaches, it was Artis. He was overwhelming on both ends of the court."

"Oh yeah, Artis was big trouble," adds Abdul-Jabbar with a laugh. "He seemed to always be able to counter my every move."

Even if you tossed out Gilmore's five sparkling ABA seasons and look solely at his NBA stats, he more than holds his own as a Hall of Fame talent. He played in more NBA games (909) than Boston Hall of Famers Dave Cowens (766) and Walton (468). He averaged 32.7 minutes over 12 seasons and posted better shooting percentages from the floor (59.9%) and from the free throw line (71.3%) than he did in the ABA. The only thing his NBA career lacked was a championship or an MVP award.

"Artis had a sweeping hook shot and a nice jump shot," asserts Hall of Fame Coach, Hubie Brown. "He was also a great rebounder and an excellent shot-blocker. There are a lot of guys in the NBA today who don't do half as much as what he did."

Basketball's ultimate prize arrived for one of the all-time great players and human beings when Artis Gilmore was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in 2011. Today, Artis is retired and enjoying the warmth and sunshine of Florida, but now and then, fans can still see the A-Train pulling into the United Center to catch a Bulls game.

Michael JORDAN

Michael Jordan's tenure with the Chicago Bulls is legendary, marking an era of dominance and greatness in the world of basketball. From his early years as a promising rookie to leading the Bulls to six NBA Championships, Jordan's impact on the team and the city of Chicago is unparalleled.

Jordan was selected by the Bulls with the third overall pick in the 1984 NBA Draft, and his arrival injected excitement and hope into the franchise. His athleticism, scoring ability, and competitive drive were evident right from the start, and it didn't take long for him to establish himself as one of the league's most electrifying players.

In his early years, Jordan showcased his scoring prowess by averaging over 28 points per game. With his astonishing



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leaping ability and endless imaginative acrobatic moves, he became known for thunderous dunks, earning him the nickname "Air Jordan." His highlight-reel plays and high-flying style captivated fans across the nation and turned the Chicago Bulls into a must-watch team.

Despite Jordan's success, the Bulls struggled to make deep playoff runs at the beginning of his career. It wasn't until the promotion of Phil Jackson to head coach and the drafting of key players Scottie Pippen and Horace Grant as well as the acquisition of veteran center Bill Cartwright that the team first discovered its championship form.

The 1990s became the golden era for Bulls basketball, with Jordan leading the charge. From 1991 to 1993, the team won three straight NBA Championships, solidifying their status as the game's most dominant force. Jordan's scoring ability, combined with Pippen's defensive prowess and Grant and Cartwright's rebounding skills, created a formidable quartet that was impossible to stop.

However, Jordan's greatness reached new heights during Chicago's second three-peat from 1996 to 1998. The Bulls, fueled by Jordan's insatiable desire to win, captured three more NBA titles with an entirely new cast of players with the lone exception of Pippen, cementing their place as one of the greatest dynasties in sports history. Jordan's extraordinary performances in the NBA Finals, including his iconic game-winning shot against the Utah Jazz in 1998, further solidified his legacy as a clutch performer.

But beyond scoring, Jordan's impact extended far beyond the basketball court. He became a global icon, transcending the game with his charisma, marketability, and undeniable star power. His signature shoe line, the Air Jordans, became a cultural phenomenon that revolutionized the sneaker industry and in turn, established him as a brand in his own right.

Jordan's time with the Bulls also had a profound impact on the city of Chicago. The United Center was regularly packed with fervent fans, who cheered on their beloved team with unmatched passion. The Bulls' success brought immense pride to the city and helped put Chicago on the map as a sports mecca.

Despite his initial retirement in 1993 and a brief stint in professional baseball, Jordan's return to the Bulls in 1995 only added to the mystique surrounding his career. He continued to dominate the league and solidify his status as the greatest player of his generation.

Michael Jordan's time with the Chicago Bulls will forever be etched in basketball history.

He is the NBA's all-time average per-game scoring leader (30.123). His trophy case holds an NBA Rookie of the Year award, a Defensive Player of the Year award, two NBA Slam Dunk titles, three NBA All-Star Game MVPs, five NBA MVPs, six NBA Finals MVPs (one for every time he was there), nine NBA All-Defensive Team awards, 10 NBA scoring titles, 11 All-NBA Team awards, as well as 14 NBA All-Star Game appearances. His impact on the Bulls, the city of Chicago, and the entire basketball world is beyond measure, making him a true legend of the game.

To this day, everyone still wants to be like Mike





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Toni KUKOČ

Toni Kukoč's career with the Chicago Bulls is an important chapter in the team's history that is often taken for granted yet holds significant importance. Kukoč, a native Croatian, joined the Bulls in 1993 and played a vital role in the team's success during the latter half of the 1990s

When he arrived in Chicago, Kukoč was already an established star player in Europe, having achieved a great deal of success as a member of the Yugoslavian national team as well as numerous European clubs. His unique skills and versatility first caught the attention of Chicago's primary international scout, Ivica Dukan, and then General Manager, Jerry Krause. The two saw Kukoč as a perfect complement to Chicago's established dynamic duo of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen

Kukoč's capacity to play multiple positions made him a significant asset. Standing at 6 feet 10 inches, he could seamlessly transition between small forward and power forward, providing the team with flexibility on both ends of the court. His ball-handling skills were also exceptional, enabling him to create plays and break down defenses.

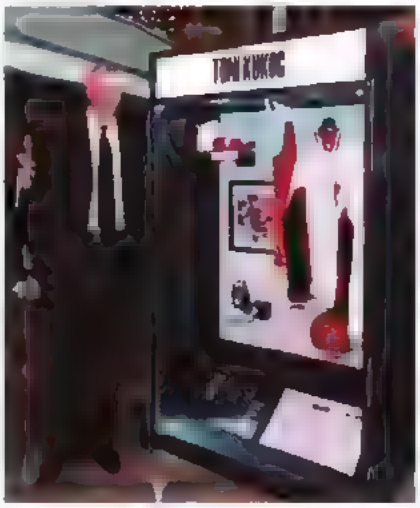
One of Kukoč's most memorable moments came during the 1993-94 season. With Jordan temporarily retired and Pippen battling injuries, the team relied heavily on Kukoč to step up his game. He responded by delivering several clutch performances, including a game-winning shot against the Indiana Pacers in the playoffs. That shot once again proved Kukoč could manage pressure and deliver when it mattered most.

However, it was during Chicago's second Championship three-peat run from 1996 to 1998 that Kukoč shined the brightest. With Jordan back on the team and Pippen at full strength, the Bulls became a dominant force once again. Kukoč's role as sixth man proved crucial. He provided instant offense off the bench and often sparked key runs that swung momentum in Chicago's favor.

Kukoč's scoring ability and high basketball IQ were on display during the 1995-96 season when Chicago achieved a record-breaking 72-win season. That season he averaged 13.1 points, 4.0 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game, showcasing his all-around skills. Kukoč's ability to stretch the floor with dead-eye shooting and his capacity to create scoring opportunities for teammates made him a nightmare matchup for opposing defenses

In addition to his offensive contributions, Kukoč was also a solid defender. His length and quickness allowed him to guard multiple positions. He often found himself tasked with shutting down some of the NBA's best players, a testament to head coach Phil Jackson's trust and belief in Kukoč's versatility and defensive acumen

Off the court, Toni Kukoč's presence in the locker room proved equally invaluable. His international experience and perspective on the game brought a unique dynamic to the team. He quickly earned the respect and admiration of his teammates, who recognized his hard work and dedication to the team and the game of basketball.



Kukoč's time with the Bulls ended in 2000 when he was traded to the Philadelphia 76ers. Despite his departure, his contributions to Chicago's success will never be forgotten. He played a vital role in helping the Bulls capture three NBA Championships and was an integral part of the team's global identity.

Kukoč's outstanding playing career also serves as a testament to Jerry Krause's ability to construct a roster filled with talent and versatility. Kukoč's capacity to always rise to the occasion made him a key component when the Bulls were at the height of their dominance. His impact on the team and his place in franchise history should never be overlooked.

In 2021, Toni Kukoč became the 11th Bulls player to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.



Bob LOVE

Robert Earl Love's road to the NBA was, to say the least, long and winding. Nicknamed "Butterbean" as a boy due to his fondness for eating lima beans, Love grew up in rural northeastern Louisiana as one of 14 children

Love spent almost nine full seasons with the Bulls, beginning in 1968 and ending in 1977. Chicago acquired him, along with Bob Weiss, from the Milwaukee Bucks in exchange for Flynn Robinson, and within a year, he became one of the NBA's top two-way forwards



Love began turning heads in his fifth pro season after Chicago head coach, Dick Motta, moved him into the Bulls' starting lineup alongside future Hall of Famer Chet Walker. Love answered his coach's call, averaging 38.1 minutes, 21 points, and 8.7 rebounds per game that season.

In addition to scoring, Love was also a tenacious defender. He could guard multiple positions effectively. His quickness and agility allowed him to stay in front of opponents and disrupt their offensive flow, which played a crucial role in the Bulls' success.

The following year he helped Chicago jump from 39 to 51 wins, averaging 43 minutes per game, 25.2 points, and 8.5 rebounds. Love was named an NBA All-Star for the first of what would become three consecutive years and was named to the All-NBA Second Team

The next season he posted a career-best 25.8 points, ranking sixth in the league, and was again named to the All-NBA Second Team, as Chicago won 57 games. Love's overall impact was recognized around the league as he finished fourth that season in the MVP voting.

Bob Love went on to enjoy four more stellar seasons with the Bulls, averaging 23.1 points in 1972-73, 21.8 points in 1973-74, 22.0 points in 1974-75, and

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19.1 points in 1975-76. From 1969-70 through the 1975-76 season, he played in 543 out of a possible 574 games, averaging 37 minutes, 21.4 points, and 6.7 rebounds as Chicago went 323-251 (.563).

Unfortunately, a back injury eventually forced him into retirement where he subsequently encountered hard times financially. But Bob, with courage and plenty of hard work, as well as the kindness and generosity of others, especially John Nordstrom of Nordstrom Department store fame, was able to overcome a severe stuttering problem that had dogged him since childhood, and eventually return to Chicago to take on the role of a team ambassador for the Bulls for well over 25 years.

As a team ambassador, Love's impact extended well beyond the game of basketball. His involvement in the community and dedication to numerous charitable causes is equally legendary. Love's warm personality and ability to connect with fans has made him a beloved figure in Chicago. He has proven to be a role model for many, proving that resilience and perseverance can overcome any obstacle.

On January 14, 1994, Bob Love became the second player in franchise history to have his jersey — No. 10 — retired by the Bulls (Jerry Sloan's No. 4 was the first).

These days, Bob still lives in Chicago and enjoys retired life with his wife, Emily.

Scottie PIPPEN

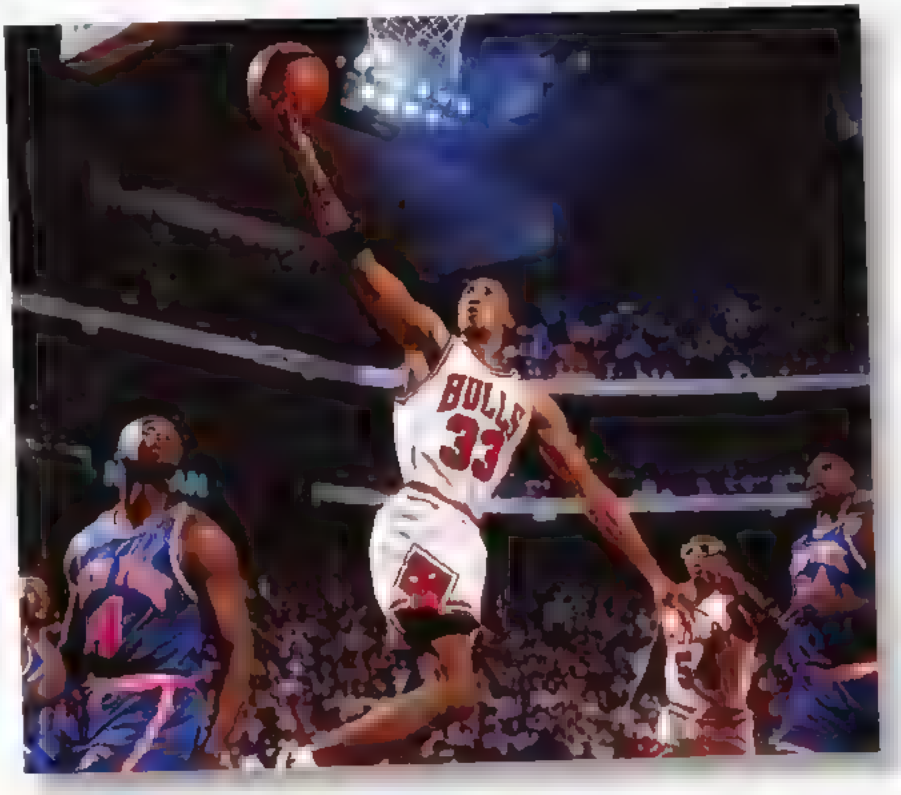
Scottie Pippen's significance to the Bulls can never be overstated. He played a critical role in Chicago's success during the franchise's dominant run of the 1990s. His versatility, defensive prowess, and exceptional basketball IQ made him a fundamental element of the Bulls' Championship dynasty.

Pippen's backstory is one of the most incredible in sports. He grew up in rural Arkansas as one of 12 children living in a two-room house. Despite being an outstanding athlete as a kid, he was never recruited nor offered any college scholarships. He ended up attending a tiny NAIA school, Central Arkansas University, on a work-study grant where as a freshman he performed laundry duties and handed out towels. Yet, four years later, the spidery 6'8" forward ended up playing for the Chicago Bulls after being selected as the No. 5 overall pick in the 1987 NBA Draft.



Pippen possessed a unique combination of size, athleticism, and skill. Offensively, he was a versatile scorer who could attack the rim, knock down mid-range jumpers, and even stretch the floor with some three-point shooting. However, it was his ability to handle the ball that made him one of the NBA's most impactful playmakers, as he often took on Chicago's point guard responsibilities.

Pippen's impact, however, extended far beyond offense. His defensive abilities were truly exceptional. He was a lockdown defender who could guard multiple positions with ease. His long arms, quickness, and basketball instincts allowed him to disrupt passing



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lanes, block shots, and shut down opposing players. Pippen's dexterity earned him numerous selections to the NBA All-Defensive team, highlighting his importance as a two-way anchor for the Bulls.

Pippen's savviness was on full display in every single game he played. He possessed a deep understanding of the game, which allowed him to make smart decisions and contribute to the team's success in various ways. His court vision and unselfishness made him a superb playmaker, often finding open teammates and making the right pass at the right time. His ability to read the game and make the right play was instrumental in the Bulls' efficiency at both ends of the court.

One of Pippen's most memorable moments came during the 1993-94 season when Michael Jordan temporarily retired from basketball. Pippen stepped up as Chicago's team leader and showcased his ability to carry the squad to a 55-win season. He elevated his game to new heights, averaging 22 points, 8.7 rebounds, and 5.6 assists, earning him All-NBA First Team honors.

Off the court, Pippen's presence in the locker room provided stability and a calming influence. He was a leader who commanded the respect of his teammates. His work ethic, professionalism, and team-first mentality also set the tone for the Bulls' success and influenced the team's winning culture.

Pippen was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team eight consecutive times and the All-NBA First Team three times. He was a seven-time NBA All-Star and was the NBA All-Star Game MVP in 1994. During the 1996-97 season, he was named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. Then in October 2021, he was again honored as one of the NBA's greatest of all time by being named to the NBA's 75th Anniversary Team.

Scottie Pippen is also the only person to have twice won an NBA title and an Olympic gold medal in the same year, having done so in 1992 and 1996. He is also a two-time inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, once for his playing career and once as a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic gold-medal winning "Dream Team," simultaneously inducted on August 13, 2010.

Pippen ranks second in Bulls' history in points (15,123), field goals (5,991), field-goal attempts (12,444), free-throw attempts (3,576), assists (4,494), steals (1,792), triple-doubles (15), seasons (12), games (856) and minutes (30,269). He's also fifth all-time in made 3-point field goals (664).

On December 5, 2005, the Chicago Bulls officially retired Pippen's No. 33 jersey.

Dennis RODMAN

No one has ever gone from being Public Enemy No. 1 to America's Sweetheart faster than Dennis Rodman.

The former Detroit Pistons Bad Boy was an archnemesis of the pre-Championship Bulls. When Chicago slayed the dreaded Motown Mashers, sweeping them 4-0 in the 1991 Eastern Conference Finals, Rodman, who earlier in the series shoved Scottie Pippen in the back into a basket stanchion, opening a cut on Pippen's chin that required stitches, chose to head to the locker room before the final horn rather than stick around to congratulate the victors.





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However, four years later amid the tumult of Michael Jordan's first retirement and subsequent return, and Rodman's two-year exile playing in San Antonio, Chicago boss, Jerry Krause, after consulting with head coach Phil Jackson, as well as Jordan, and Pippen, pulled the trigger on a trade to bring Rodman to West Madison Street, igniting a second Bulls three-peat Championship run.



The lack of a true power forward upon Michael Jordan's return to the hardwood in March of 1995 had doomed Chicago's title chances. A two-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year with Detroit, Rodman's trophy case at the time included six NBA First-Team All-Defense nods, (he was named a seventh time in 1996 after his first season with the Bulls), and four consecutive rebounding titles. Known by many names including "The Worm" and "Dennis the Menace," Rodman quickly welcomed a new opportunity in Chicago, and Bulls fans welcomed him just as fast.

Rodman's most outstanding attribute was his unparalleled ability to rebound. Despite being undersized for a power forward at 6 feet 7 inches, his relentless pursuit of the ball set him apart from every other player in the game. His ability to grab both offensive and defensive boards provided the Bulls with crucial second-chance scoring opportunities and disrupted opponents' offensive strategies. He went on to lead the league in rebounding in each of his three seasons in Chicago and established a franchise record in averaging 15.3 rebounds per game as a Chicago Bull.



Rodman's defensive skills were equally remarkable. His resourcefulness allowed him to guard players across multiple positions, and his tenacity set a hardnosed tone for the team. Rodman's contributions went well beyond traditional statistics, as his knack for getting under the skin of opponents, as well as the ability to make key stops played a pivotal role in Chicago's success. His defensive mindset perfectly complemented the scoring abilities of Jordan and Pippen, creating a well rounded team

Beyond his on-court contributions, Dennis Rodman brought a colorful and eccentric personality to the Bulls' locker room. Known for his ever-changing hairstyles, numerous tattoos, and unconventional fashion choices, he added an element of flair to the team. While his off-court antics occasionally drew unwanted and unneeded attention, his teammates and coaches recognized the positive influence his energy and individuality added to the team's chemistry.

In total, Dennis Rodman lasted 14 years in the NBA and posted seven consecutive seasons of leading the league in rebounding, the last three of which were during Chicago's 1996-98 Championship run. No player in history has accomplished the feat of seven straight rebounding titles – not even the great Wilt Chamberlain, who won 11 in total but no more than four in a row. Thus Dennis Rodman's exploits on the court established him as one of the greatest shot retrievers ever.

Dennis Rodman was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011, and in 2021, he was

identified as one of the greatest players of all time after the NBA named him as a member of the 75th Anniversary Team

Jerry SLOAN

Jerry Sloan's no-nonsense persona instantly struck a chord with the blue-collar fans of Chicago, making him the franchise's first hero.

Jerry Sloan terrified opposing players on a nightly basis. Hall of Famers Jerry West, Walt Frazier, Rick Barry, Billy Cunningham, and JoJo White constantly complained about how rough and physical he would defend them. In turn, Sloan would wryly smirk and claim those players were more talented, so to give himself a chance they were going to have to "taste the floor" now and then.

Sloan's hardnosed play first drew the attention of the Baltimore Bullets who selected him in the third round as an eligible junior in the 1964 NBA Draft. However, he opted to stay at the University of Evansville to complete his degree. The Bullets never lost interest and thus they used the sixth overall pick in the first round of the 1965 NBA Draft to reclaim Sloan's rights.

That rookie season introduced Sloan to the ways of the world and to the one and only Johnny "Red" Kerr, a fun-loving Chicagoan who was playing his final season with Baltimore after spending 11 with the Syracuse Nationals/Philadelphia 76ers. Kerr was so impressed with Sloan's work ethic that after being hired as Chicago's first head coach, he wanted Sloan to lead his new team

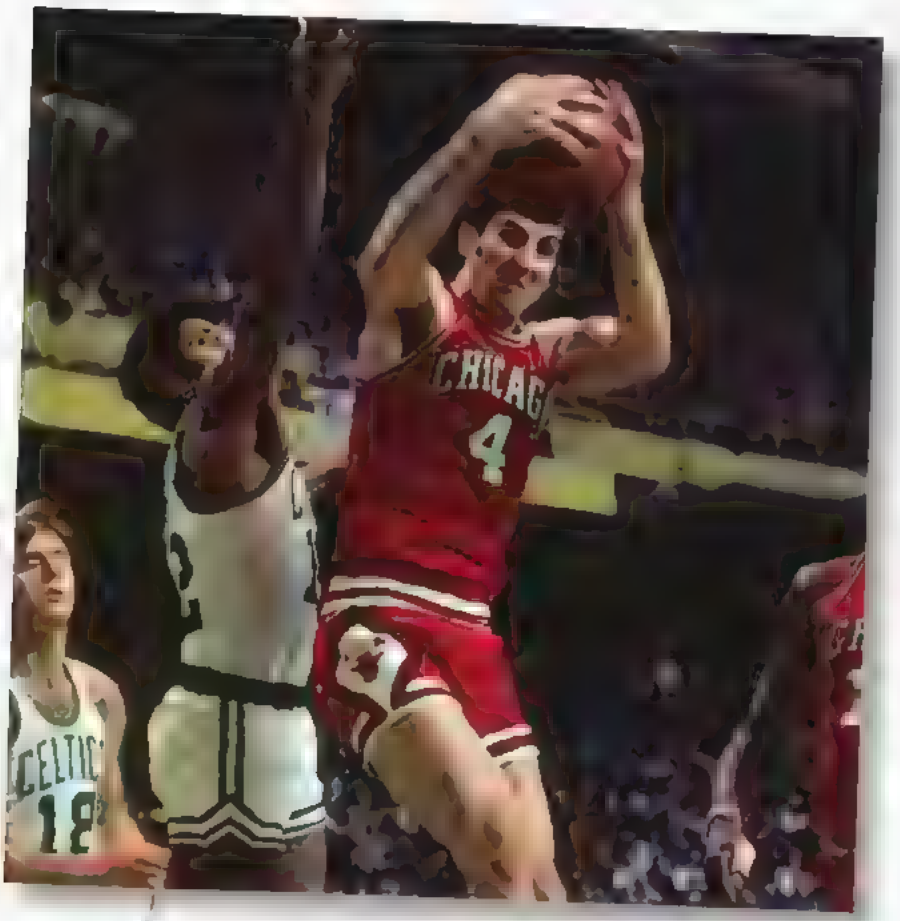
"There was no doubt in my mind," Kerr recalled years later. "After I saw Baltimore left Jerry unprotected in the expansion draft, I told our owner (Dick Klein) we had to pick him, that he would be everything we hoped the Bulls would one day become."



That first year Sloan teamed with Guy Rodgers in Chicago's backcourt, and together they guided the Bulls to an unheard-of 33 victories and a playoff berth as a first-year expansion team. Sloan averaged 17.4 points and a career-best 9.1 rebounds and was named an All-Star

Although Kerr didn't last more than two seasons as Chicago's head coach, Sloan made himself a mainstay. In 10 full seasons with Chicago, Sloan and the Bulls made the playoffs eight times.

As a Chicago Bull, Sloan averaged 14.7 points and 7.7 rebounds in 696 games. And while the NBA started keeping track of steals eight years after he began his career, Sloan's 2.2 steals per game average is still one of the all-time best marks in league history. A serious knee injury in 1975 cut short his playing career, hastening the collapse of the first great Bulls era. A couple of years later, the Bulls honored Sloan by making his No. 4 jersey the first to be retired by the franchise




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After retiring as a player and spending some time away from the NBA, Sloan jumped into coaching as an assistant with the Bulls, but within two years he ended up as the team's head coach. Then after leading Chicago to the 1981 playoffs, Sloan was let go 51 games into the following season because the Bulls got off to a rocky start.

Sloan returned to the NBA some 18 months later with the Utah Jazz, first as a scout, then as an assistant under Frank Layden. Then after Layden was promoted to team president 15 games into the 1988-89 season, Sloan was named the team's new head coach — a job he would hold onto for almost 23 years.

Under Sloan's direction, Utah won seven division titles and enjoyed 13 50-win seasons. He also directed the Jazz to the playoffs 19 times, including two consecutive NBA Finals. In 2006, he became the fifth coach in NBA history to record 1,000 victories.

Sloan retired from the sidelines 54 games into the 2010-11 season – two years after he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 26 seasons as an NBA head coach, Jerry Sloan compiled a record of 1,221-803 (.603) and ranks as the fourth-winningest coach in NBA history. In 2022, the NBA named Sloan one of the 15 greatest coaches in history.

Chet WALKER

Chet Walker represented the renaissance of the original Chicago Bulls from being an expansion curiosity to one of the most feared teams of the early-to-mid 1970s.

Selected in the second round by the Syracuse Nationals in the 1962 NBA



Draft, Walker was a seven-time NBA All-Star. In total, he played 13 seasons, averaging 18.2 points, and recording 18,831 points over 1,032 games before retiring at the age of 35.

As a member of the Bulls (1969-75), he was named to four All-Star teams, averaging 33.4 minutes, 20.6 points, 6.1 rebounds, and knocked down 48.3% of his shots. Together with fellow core players Bob Love, Norm Van Lier, Jerry Sloan, and Tom Boerwinkle, the Bulls never missed the playoffs, posting an impressive 299-193 (.608) regular season record.

Considered one of the best open-court players of his era, Walker possessed a soft and effective shooting touch near the basket, oftentimes drifting into the paint to receive a pass and head-faking his defender into jumping early only to see Walker's feet planted on the ground and then lifting off after gravity began pulling the defender back to earth. Walker was also sneaky-quick, as he could beat his man off the dribble, driving to the basket for a layup and drawing a foul. He was also remarkably durable, never missing more than six games in any season.

After seven seasons with Syracuse/Philadelphia (the Syracuse Nationals moved to Philadelphia by the start of the 1963-64 season), Walker was dealt to Chicago along with backup forward Shaler Halimon for Jim Washington and a player to be named later (Bob



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Kauffman) a month before the start of the 1969-70 season. Bulls ownership and the team's front office were in the midst of an overhaul at the time of the trade. A rift had developed between the team's founder, Dick Klein, and his hand-picked coach, Dick Motta. The majority of Klein's business partners sided with Motta and a few months before the start of Chicago's fourth season, Klein was sidelined, and the team named Pat Williams to be the Bulls' new General Manager

At first, the personable Williams, who had a great reputation as a clever promoter, worked well with Motta. Together with team scout, Jerry Krause — yes, the same Jerry Krause who later would become the architect of the Bulls' dynasty teams of the 1990s — zeroed in on completing a trade for Walker. While several teams believed Philadelphia would never deal away such a talented player, Chicago thought otherwise and kept pursuing, and eventually talked the 76ers into making the deal

Over the next six seasons, Chet Walker would average no less than 19.2 points per game and would play in four All-Star Games. He helped lead a blue-collar Bulls team to four straight 50-win seasons, and in his final campaign, Chicago captured the Midwest Division title but lost a heartbreaking Game 7 to the Golden State Warriors in the Western Conference finals.

In 2012, Chet Walker was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and today, he lives in Southern California

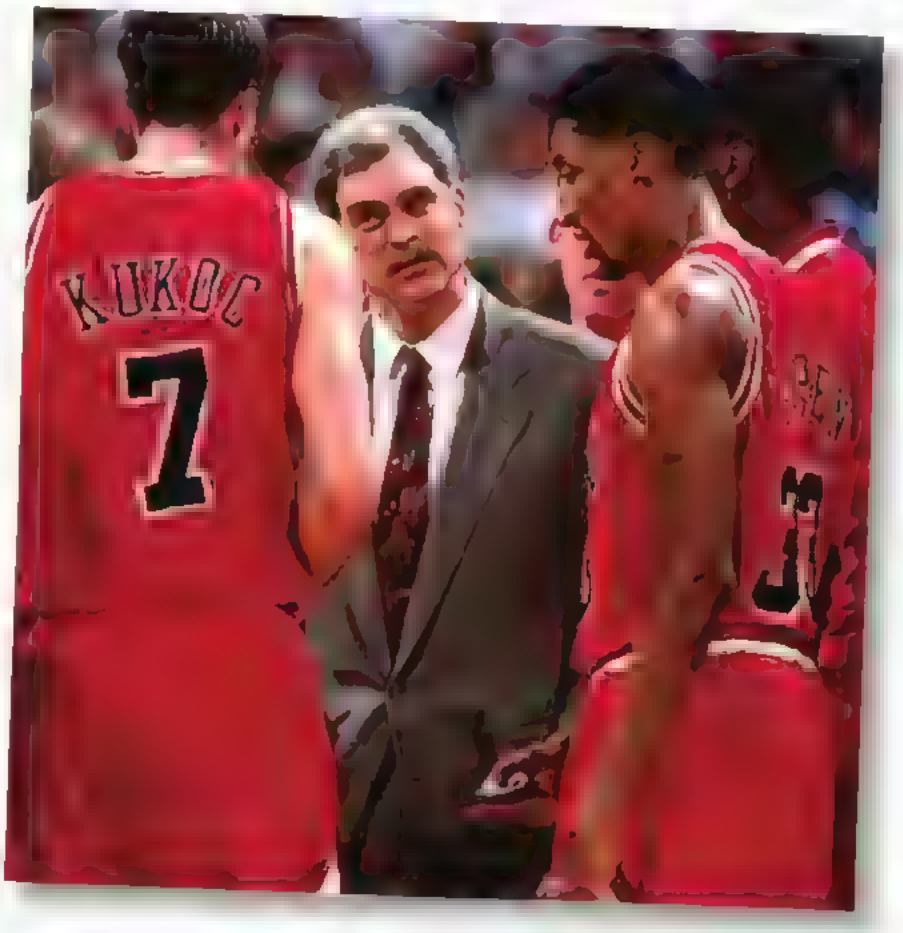
Phil JACKSON

Phil Jackson, nicknamed "Action" during his playing days, and later dubbed "The Zen Master" while directing the Chicago Bulls to six NBA Championships during the 1990s, is a free-spirited son of a Pentecostal preacher from Montana.

As a player, Jackson was a lanky 6-foot-8-inches and a two time Division II All-American from the University of North Dakota. He played 12 NBA seasons beginning in the late 1960s and ending in 1981, splitting time between the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets. With the Knicks, Jackson played a key role as a backup forward on the 1973 NBA Championship squad. What he lacked in grace and athleticism, Jackson made up for with heart, hustle, and determination. For his career, he appeared in 807 games, averaging 6.7 points and 4.3 rebounds over 17.6 minutes. He once led the NBA in personal fouls with 330 (1974-75). He also missed an entire season (1969-70) due to back surgery, but instead of staying away from the team, Jackson watched every game from the stands, taking copious notes and providing feedback to legendary Knicks head coach, Red Holzman, which helped New York win the title that season.

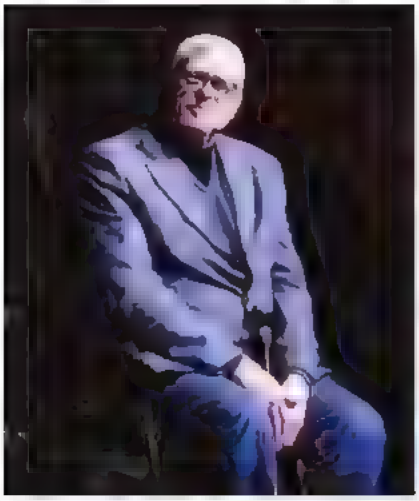
Jackson finished his playing days as a player and assistant coach with the New Jersey Nets from 1978-81, and for a brief period, he also provided color commentary as a Nets TV broadcaster.

His desire to stay close to the game eventually took him to Albany, New York where he became the head coach of the Albany Patroons of the Continental Basketball Association (CBA),



Front Office and Coaches


BULLS
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whom he led to a league championship in 1985. Then in 1987, Jerry Krause hired him to be an assistant coach with the Bulls under Doug Collins.

Two seasons later, Jackson ended up replacing Collins, and within a year, he began installing assistant coach Tex Winter's triangle offense. He also employed some of Red Holzman's loose-reign management practices, which ended up being a perfect recipe for success. Jackson understood he had the game's finest player in Michael Jordan and a budding superstar in Scottie Pippen. Together, Jordan and Pippen were unstoppable. Jackson allowed the pair to rove and create havoc and turnovers. The results were extraordinary as Chicago went on to win six NBA Championships (twin "three-peats," 1991–93, and 1996–98) with the power trio of Jackson, Jordan, and Pippen.

In nine seasons at the helm, Jackson became the winningest coach in Bulls history with a regular season record of 545-193 (.738), and a playoff mark of 111-41 (.730). Chicago never missed the playoffs, nor did they ever have a losing record in both the regular and postseason.

Upon leaving the team after the 1997-98 season, and taking a year off from coaching, Jackson took over the reins of the Los Angeles Lakers, who like the Bulls, sported a pair of unmatched superstars in Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. The three of them guided the Lakers to three straight Championships (2000-2002). Jackson stepped away again for a season in 2004 but returned the following year, eventually directing the Lakers to another title in 2009, surpassing Boston's Red Auerbach for most NBA Championships as a head coach with 10. The following season, Jackson again directed Los Angeles to a fifth NBA Championship under his watch, his 11th as a head coach and 13th overall if you count his playing career. Jackson then retired from coaching after the 2010-11 season. Three years later, he took over the basketball operation of the New York Knicks, but after three seasons the two mutually went their separate ways.

Phil Jackson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007 and was named one of the 10 greatest coaches of all time in 1996. Then in 2022, the NBA named Jackson as one of the 15 greatest coaches in history

Johnny "Red" KERR

An affable ginger-haired Scotsman, Johnny "Red" Kerr was a three-time NBA All-Star during a stellar 12-year playing career that included one of the longest consecutive games played streaks in sports history. As a coach, he guided the first-ever Bulls team and twice led the club to the playoffs. He later became the first head coach of the Phoenix Suns. But despite a lifetime of impressive achievements on the court, Kerr is most fondly remembered as a broadcaster with a quick wit and friendly personality.

The Chicago Bulls entered the NBA at the start of the 1966-67 season. Kerr, who had been making $30,000 the season before as a player wanted the Bulls' coaching job so much, he agreed to accept a salary of $15,000. Then after getting the job, he talked team owner,





Dick Klein, into hiring his friend, Al Bianchi, to be the NBA's first-ever full-time assistant coach. Another longtime Kerr friend, Jerry Colangelo, was also part of the team's front office.

Like anyone would do, Kerr struggled through the early, bumpy days of an expansion team. Amid a long losing streak, he attempted to pump up his team by delivering a fiery pregame speech. He told Bob Boozer to pretend he was the best scorer in the NBA. He turned to Jerry Sloan and told him to pretend he was the best defensive player the league had ever seen. He told Guy Rodgers to pretend he was the NBA's top point guard. Lastly, he instructed Chicago's undersized center, Erwin Mueller, to pretend he was a rebounding machine and that Bill Russell, Boston's future Hall of Fame pivot, should take lessons from him on how to play the position

"That night we played at the Boston Garden — green banners hanging everywhere — and lost by 17 points," Kerr recalled years later. "I was down and trying to come up with something positive to say to the team when Mueller put his arm around my shoulder, and said to everyone in the locker room, 'Don't worry, coach. Pretend we won!'"

As the season wore on Johnny Kerr didn't need to pretend, as Chicago fought its way to a respectable 33-48 record, earning a playoff berth. For his efforts, he was named the NBA's Coach of the Year.

The following season Kerr had to coach without Bianchi, who jumped at an opportunity to be the first head coach of the expansion Seattle SuperSonics. He also had to do without Rodgers, who had been an All-Star the year before with the Bulls. Klein was under pressure from his partners to cut expenses, so he traded Rodgers during the opening week of the season.

The Bulls went on to lose 15 of their first 16 games, which certainly didn't help at the gate. Crowds were as little as 1,000 fans inside the team's new home, the 18,000-seat Chicago Stadium. The small turnouts also made members of Klein's ownership group nervous, and some began to talk about selling the team. Kerr and Klein were also at odds, as Klein liked to draw up plays during games and pass them along to Johnny on the bench. Yet somehow the Bulls managed to turn things around, winning seven of 10 at one point to pull themselves back into the playoff race. Boozer led Chicago in scoring at 21.5 points and was named an NBA All-Star. Chicago finished with a 29-53 record, and amazingly, earned another ticket to the playoffs.

Before the start of the 1968-69 season, Kerr left Chicago after being presented with an opportunity to join Colangelo to start up another new NBA franchise, the Phoenix Suns. But less than 10 years later he discovered his true calling as a broadcaster, beginning a lengthy run as a color analyst for the Bulls. For 33 seasons, beginning in 1975 through 2008, he was behind the mic for every game. In 2009, during a halftime ceremony celebrating his life and tenure with the team, the Bulls unveiled a bust of him that stood on the concourse inside the United Center



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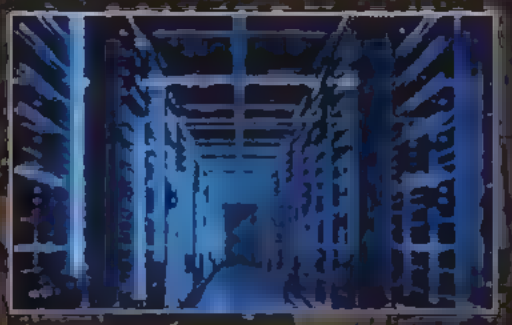
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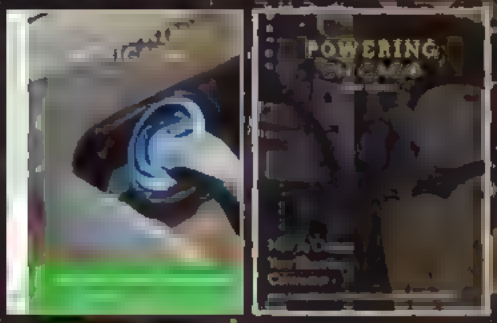
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for a long time afterward. During that same ceremony, he was presented with the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's prestigious John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award by his old friend, Jerry Colangelo.

Dick KLEIN

Dick Klein was born on September 16, 1920, in Fort Madison, Iowa. He played basketball and baseball collegiately at Northwestern University.

After serving in World War II, Klein played professional basketball with the Chicago American Gears of the National Basketball League (NBL). But after the Gears left the NBL before the start of the 1947-48 season only to fold a year later, he hung up his gym shoes for good and began establishing a successful career as an entrepreneur. Although his new venture was exciting, Klein's dream was to one day own a professional team.

In 1963, few Chicagoans seemed to care about the NBA, except Dick Klein, who established the Chicago Professional Basketball Corporation in the hopes of purchasing the Chicago Packers and giving his adopted hometown something to cheer for. Unfortunately, Klein couldn't produce enough cash fast enough to match an offer the Packers received from a group based in Baltimore. Thus, after only two seasons, as well as undergoing a name change (from Packers to Zephyrs), Chicago's first NBA team left town.

Despite that, Klein never gave up hope, as he continued looking for well-heeled investors who would be willing to trust him with their money. He also began the process of learning the business side of NBA basketball. Klein reached out to the owners of the St. Louis Hawks and Cincinnati Royals asking for advice as to how to go about securing an expansion franchise.

Klein's enthusiastic personality and willingness to heed the advice of those owners as well as other league executives won him a great deal of support, including that of J. Walter Kennedy, who had recently become the NBA's league president. Kennedy believed expansion was necessary for the long-term health of the NBA, however, he wasn't sure Chicago was the best place to go since it had been only a couple of years since the Zephyrs failed and moved to Baltimore. However, TV sports pioneer, Roone Arledge, let it be known that adding Chicago would be a great idea, thus the Windy City's prospects gained some momentum. Arledge ran ABC Sports. He and the NBA were negotiating a new TV contract. Arledge believed ABC and the NBA would turn a healthy profit if the league had teams in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Initially, Kennedy and the NBA expansion committee informed Klein that an expansion franchise would cost around $600,000 and any prospective ownership group would need to put up a nonrefundable $100,000 deposit just to be considered. If Klein was truly serious, he needed to produce a lot of cash fairly quickly.

Klein had already put together a comprehensive financial prospectus detailing how a Chicago NBA franchise could become profitable within five years. So Klein began knocking on the doors of some of the city's heaviest hitters.

"To attract interest, I showed everyone I met the figures I worked out," Klein told the Chicago Tribune in 1966. "The quick-buck artists faded, but there were more than a few local millionaires who were interested."

While Klein was making pitches to Chicago's rich and famous, the NBA voted against adding a new team for the start of the 1965-66 season. Of more




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consequence, however, was news that the price tag for an expansion franchise for the 1966-67 season was $1.6 million

"The new price was a major setback," Klein told the Tribune in 1966. "Three potential investors dropped out immediately, but a couple stayed."

It took time to pull everything together, but three prominent local businessmen, Harold Mayer of Oscar Mayer and Company, Dan Searle of Searle Pharmaceuticals, and Ed Higgins, chairman of Pepsi-Cola bottlers of Chicago, were willing to back Klein.

The next order of business would be to hire a head coach, and who better than DePaul's Ray Meyer?

"It was a given that Coach Meyer should be offered the Bulls head coaching job," Klein stated years ago. "He was a Chicago legend."

Coach Meyer was flattered to be offered but never considered taking the job. Klein then moved on to Johnny "Red" Kerr, a popular, 33-year-old Chicago native who had just announced his retirement as a player after a 12-year run. The 6'9" ginger had been a three-time NBA All-Star (1956, 1959, and 1963) and was one of the finest passing centers in the game.

Kerr quickly agreed to take the Bulls' coaching job, but only if Klein would hire his friend, Al Bianchi, to be his (and the NBA's first-ever full-time) assistant coach.

By the start of the Bulls' fourth season, the team hadn't come close to breaking even, let alone turning a profit. Klein, who insisted on being involved in everything from business to coaching and player personnel, faced interoffice squabbling and problems with his fellow investors, which led to his demise. A group of investors forced Klein to step down as team president and general manager

Although no longer in charge of the Bulls' daily operation, Klein still held onto his ownership stake for a few more seasons and got to see the team become a legitimate title contender during the early 1970s. In the summer of 1972, he helped orchestrate the sale of his and several other investors' shares to a new ownership group headed by Chicago Blackhawks Chairman, Arthur W. Wirtz

Dick Klein never lost his love of the NBA. He and his wife, Margaret, eventually retired and settled down in Greenville, SC, where, on a part-time basis, he scouted prospective players for the Phoenix Suns as a favor to Jerry Colangelo, before passing away on October 10, 2000, at the age of 80.

Jerry KRAUSE

Nobody ever had a second act quite like the famously rumpled former basketball and baseball scout known around the sports world as "The Sleuth."

A Chicago native, Jerry Krause, was born on April 6, 1939. He was a catcher at Taft High School and later attended Bradley University. At one time Krause toyed with the idea of becoming a sportswriter, but the appeal of being someone who makes news compared to being someone who reports news was far more appealing. He left




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Bradley in 1962 and landed a job with the Cubs, doing everything from filing minor league reports to warming up pitchers in the bullpen. He then left home after landing a better-paying job to run minor league baseball's Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League. However, in time, he found his true calling – scouting.

Krause first began scouting basketball for the Baltimore Bullets and later searched for untapped talent for the Phoenix Suns, Los Angeles Lakers, and the Philadelphia 76ers before returning home to Chicago. There was no corner of the earth he wouldn't visit. Krause is credited with discovering several Hall of Fame players, including Earl "The Pearl" Monroe who came from a tiny HBCU, Winston-Salem State in North Carolina, as well as Louisville's Wes Unseld

As for the Bulls, Krause first joined the team in the late 1960s as a scout, but he lasted only a couple of seasons. However, in that period he played a key role in Chicago acquiring franchise-changing players Chet Walker, and Norm Van Lier.

Unfortunately, Krause and then Bulls head coach, Dick Motta clashed often. Motta didn't respect Krause's opinions and Krause didn't respect the way Motta treated others. The Bulls were a winning team at the time, so ownership sided with Motta. But once Motta stepped down after Chicago's 1975 playoff collapse, owner Arthur Wirtz brought Krause back into the fold, first as a scout, but soon promoted him to personnel director. But just like before, Krause's tenure didn't last long, so he returned to his first love – baseball scouting.

Then, 10 years later, while scouting for the Chicago/White Sox, Krause saw an opportunity to get back into basketball White Sox Chairman, Jerry Reinsdorf, and a group of investors had recently purchased the Bulls. Krause approached Reinsdorf with a detailed plan of action, and Reinsdorf loved it. Krause was soon hired to take over the Bulls' basketball operations and he got to work.

Chicago had drafted Michael Jordan the same year Reinsdorf, and his group began negotiations to purchase the team. Although everyone knew Jordan was special, nobody understood just how special he would be. Krause, however, understood right away that Jordan needed better talent around him. The first piece of business Krause undertook involved a bit of maneuvering, but it was a challenge he loved.

Krause had spotted a 6'9" power forward at a small Division II school, Virginia Union, named Charles Oakley. He believed Oakley would be a perfect fit next to Jordan as his primary protector. He also believed Oakley was someone who could take control under the basket. But a problem arose just before the Draft. Oakley had played well during a few pre-draft camps and suddenly his name began picking up steam. Krause worried Oakley wouldn't last until the 11th pick, plus he also heard chatter that Phoenix, picking right in front of the Bulls at No. 10, planned on grabbing him. So at 3:00 AM on the morning of the Draft, Krause found a willing trade partner – the Cleveland Cavaliers picking at No. 9. Cleveland agreed to select Oakley for Krause provided the Bulls took Memphis State All-American forward Keith Lee at No. 11 and also send veteran point guard Ennis Whatley to them. And just like that, Jerry Krause pulled off his first trade as Chicago's General Manager.

Lee never made an impact in the league, whereas Oakley played well as the Bulls began their rise to prominence. Oakley was later a key trading piece that brought Bill Cartwright to Chicago from the Knicks. Cartwright was the team's starting center during the Bulls' first three-peat Championship run.



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Krause went on to make plenty of other moves that first season and beyond, such as netting future Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen. He also was the first person to hire Doug Collins as a head coach and talked Collins into taking a chance on adding Phil Jackson to his staff. A few years later Jackson replaced Collins and the Bulls' Championship era was born.

In total, Jerry Krause spent 18 seasons leading the Bulls. He was twice named NBA Executive of the Year by his peers, first in 1987-88 and then in 1995-96. He was also honored by the Bulls when the team raised a banner in recognition of his many contributions to the franchise on October 31, 2003.

Jerry Krause passed away at the age of 77 in March 2017, and later that year he was enshrined posthumously as a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame



Tex WINTER

Monce Frederick "Tex" Winter was born on February 25, 1922, in Wellington, Texas. The Winter family moved to Lubbock, Texas, in 1929, where his father, who was a mechanic, passed away a couple of years later when Tex was only ten years old Then in 1936, Tex, his mother, and his twin sister decided to move to Southern California. Tex's older sister, Elizabeth, was married and had already settled in California at the time. Tex attended Huntington Park High School, and as soon as school let out, he headed to nearby Loyola University where he had taken a job as a ballboy for the men's basketball team

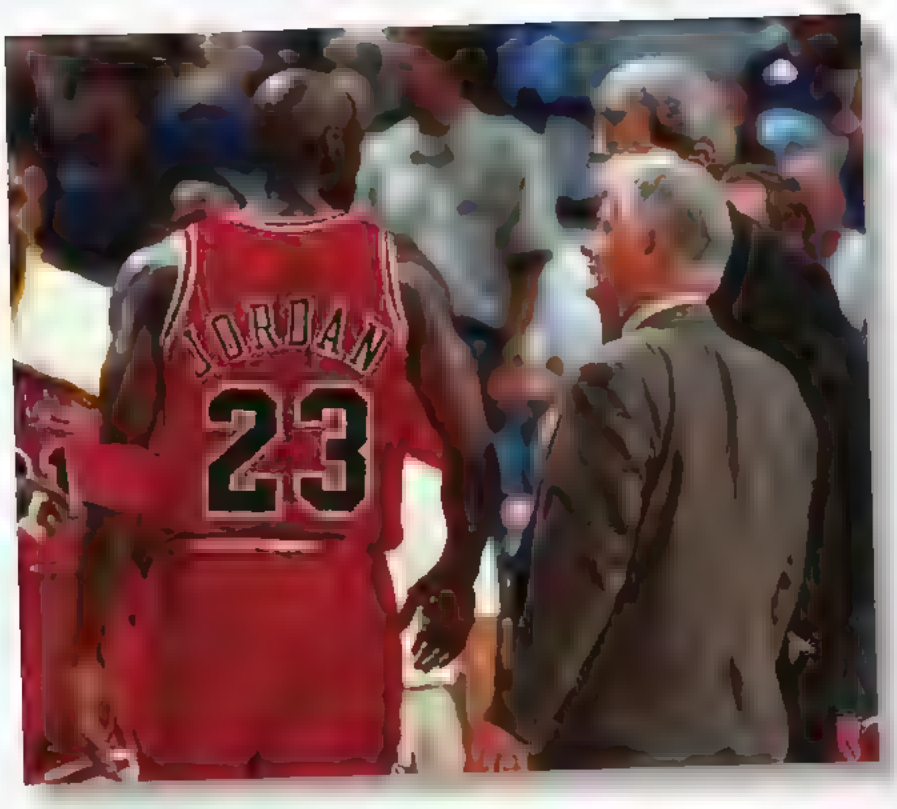
After high school, Tex attended Oregon State University on a basketball scholarship, but the only highlight of his time in Corvallis was meeting and marrying Nancy Bohnenkamp.

During his freshman year in college, the United States was drawn into World War II, and he joined the Navy, becoming a fighter pilot. Once the war ended, Tex and Nancy moved to Texas, where he landed a job as a flight instructor. It was during that period when Winter met legendary college coach, Sam Barry, who talked Tex into going back to school and playing for him at the University of Southern California.

When it came to basketball, Tex Winter had always been a sponge. During his ballboy days at Loyola, the team's offensive system consisted of a lot of passing and player movement. Barry's offense also stressed passing and movement, so he felt right at home. After graduating from USC in 1947, Tex began coaching, first as an assistant at Kansas State under Jack Gardner A couple of years later he became the youngest college head coach in the nation at 29 when Marquette lured him away from K-State. In his first season, Winter guided Marquette to the National Catholic Championship. After his second season in Milwaukee, he returned to K-State, replacing Gardner who had left to become the head coach at the University of Utah.

During a 15-year tenure at K-State, Winter directed several outstanding teams. Two made trips to the NCAA Final Four. Tex still sits near the top of the





school's record book, sporting the second-most victories (262) of any coach in history. Winter's teams also claimed more league titles (eight) than any other Wildcat coach. He would lead the school to postseason play seven times, including six NCAA Tournament trips. K-State also won the Big Eight Holiday Tournament four times and achieved top-20 finishes on four occasions. Eleven of his players achieved all-league honors, and two were All-Americans. He was also named the United Press International (UPI) National Coach of the Year in 1958.

Following his K-State departure in 1968, Tex served shorter stints as a head coach at the University of Washington (1969-72), the NBA's Houston Rockets (1972-74), Northwestern University (1975-78) and Long Beach State (1978-83). In total, his teams won 454 games at the collegiate level.

In 1985, Tex started a new chapter in his life, serving as an assistant coach with the Chicago Bulls. In fact, he was Chicago General Manager Jerry Krause's first hire.

It took a few years, but after Phil Jackson became Chicago's head coach, Winter was allowed to install his version of the famed "Triangle Offense" into the Bulls' playbook. The triangle is a scheme involving three players forming a triangle on one side of the court, emphasizing constant motion, passing, and cutting to create scoring opportunities. Under Winter's offense, the Bulls' attack would become a more balanced, more nuanced system based on spacing and finding open spots.

While Michael Jordan initially resisted and often referred to the triangle as "that equal opportunity offense," Jackson convinced him to give it a chance, and Jordan, who was already established as a great player, ended up flourishing even more.

"Tex wanted a free-flowing offense, where defenders could no longer double or triple-team Jordan," Jackson once relayed. "The most important thing he stressed to Michael was to let everybody touch the ball so they wouldn't feel like spectators. He convinced Michael that nobody, not even him, could beat a really good defensive team by themselves."

By inducing Jordan to go along with the program, Winter played an integral role in Chicago winning six NBA Championships (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, and 1998). He later followed Jackson to Los Angeles, where he collected four more Championship rings with the Lakers (2000, 2001, 2002, and 2009) before retiring.

A member of the Kansas State University Sports Hall of Fame (among others), Winter was a recipient of the John W. Bunn Award for lifetime achievement in 1998 from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Then, in 2011, he was given the ultimate honor of enshrinement.

The Team
1995-96 CHICAGO BULLS

The 1995-96 Chicago Bulls will forever stand as one of the greatest teams in basketball, thanks to their remarkable achievements and dominance on the court. The Bulls crafted a season for the ages, culminating in an NBA Championship that solidified their place in the chronicles of basketball history.

The 1995-96 season marked Michael Jordan's full-time return to the hardwood after a brief retirement. His return injected a new level of excitement into the league, and the Bulls were once again a force to be reckoned with. Jordan, widely regarded as the greatest



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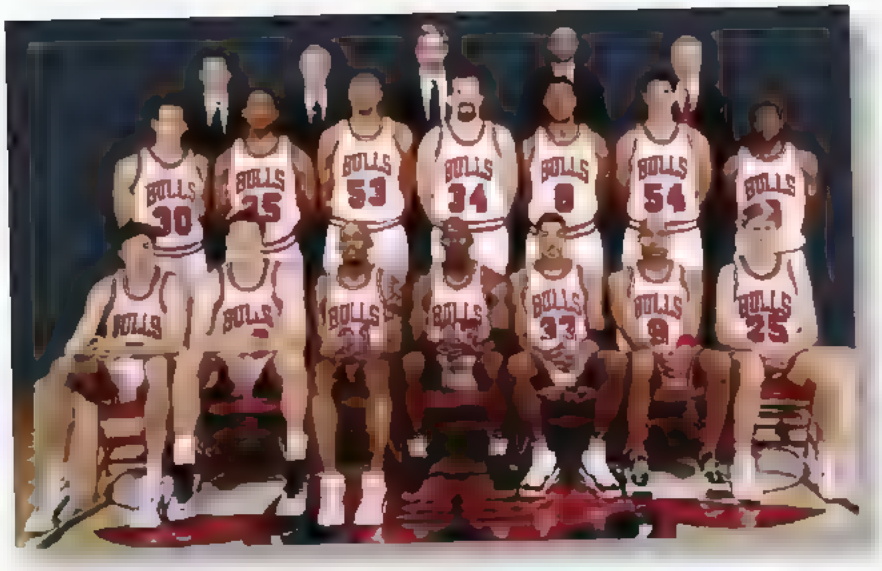
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GREATEST
CHICAGO



basketball player of all time, brought unparalleled skills, unequaled competitiveness, and sage leadership back to the Bulls, elevating the team to new heights.

One of the key elements that made the team so special was the perfect blend of talent and chemistry. Alongside Jordan, the '95-96 Bulls featured two other future Hall of Famers in the starting lineup with Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. Pippen, a multi-skilled forward, complemented Jordan's scoring ability with exceptional defensive skills and playmaking. Rodman brought an extraordinary rebounding prowess and tenacious defense, providing the Bulls with an imposing presence in the paint.

Under the direction of future Hall of Fame Head Coach Phil Jackson and the offensive wizardry of another future Hall of Famer in assistant coach, Tex Winter, the Bulls embraced the "Triangle Offense," a strategic and versatile system that maximized the talents of the team's key players. The seamless integration of this system into the team's playing style allowed for a balanced and efficient offense, making Chicago a formidable opponent for any team in the league.

The regular season was nothing short of historic. Chicago finished with a remarkable 72-10 record, breaking the previous mark for the most wins in a single season. The Bulls' dominance was not limited to their home court, as they also demonstrated their talent on the road, finishing with an impressive 33-8 record away from the Windy City.

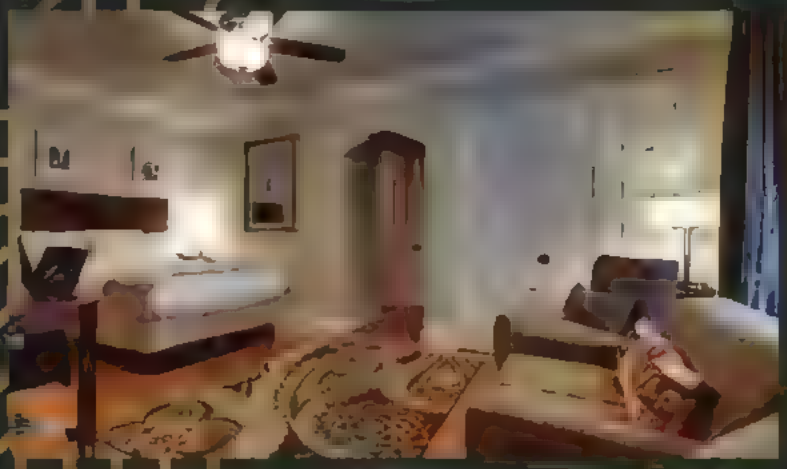
Michael Jordan's performance during the regular season was exceptional, as he captured his eighth league scoring title by averaging 30.4 points, as well as 6.6 rebounds, and 4.3 assists per game. His scoring ability, combined with his defensive proficiency, also earned him the NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award for the fourth time in his career.

As the Bulls entered the playoffs, they continued their relentless pursuit of greatness. They dispatched opponents with relative ease, displaying their pedigree with grit and determination, going 15-3 in the postseason. In the NBA Finals, Chicago faced the Seattle SuperSonics, led by future Hall of Famer Gary Payton and six-time All-Star Shawn Kemp. Despite facing a formidable opponent, the Bulls systematically went about asserting their dominance, winning the series in six games, and securing the franchise's fourth NBA Championship over six years.

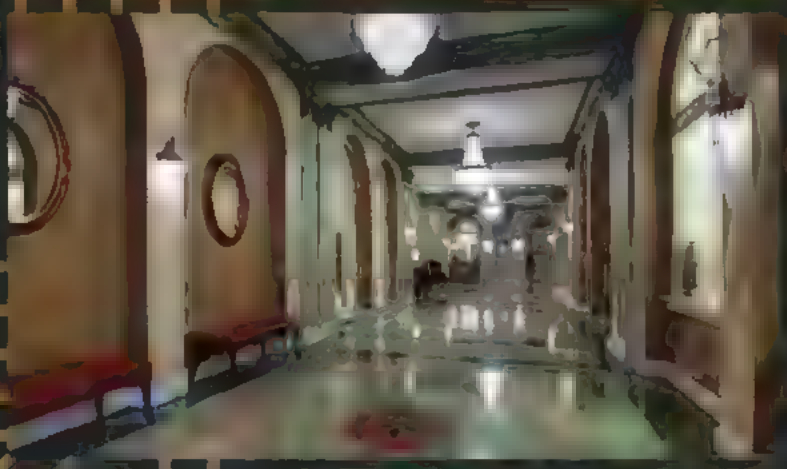
Besides Jordan winning the regular season MVP Award, he was also named the NBA Finals MVP for the fourth time. Phil Jackson was named the league's Coach of the Year, and future Hall of Famer Toni Kukoč was dubbed the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year for stellar play off the bench. Vice President and General Manager Jerry Krause, another future Hall of Famer, was tabbed the NBA's Executive of the Year for the second time in his career.

In retrospect, the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls remain a symbol of basketball greatness, as their legacy is not only etched in the record books but in the memories and hearts of fans worldwide ■

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2023 24 CHICAGO BULLS

#	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	DOB	BEFORE NBA/COUNTRY	NBA EXP.
2	Lonzo Ball	G	6-6	197	10/27/1997	UCLA / USA	5
5	Jevon Carter	G	6-1	200	10/14/1995	West Virginia / USA	5
6	Alex Caruso	G	6-5	186	02/28/1994	Texas A&M / USA	6
13	Torrey Craig	F	6-7	221	12/19/1990	USC Upstate / USA	6
11	DeMar DeRozan	G/F	6-6	220	08/07/1989	USC / USA	14
12	Ayo Dosunmu	G	6-4	200	01/17/2000	Illinois / USA	2
3	Andre Drummond	C	6-11	289	08/10/1993	Connecticut / USA	11
8	Zach LaVine	G	6-5	205	03/10/1995	UCLA / USA	9
15	Julian Phillips	F	6-8	198	11/05/2003	Tennessee / USA	R
32	Terry Taylor	F	6-5	230	09/23/1999	Austin Peay / USA	2
25	Dalen Terry	G	6-7	200	07/12/2002	Arizona / USA	1
9	Nikola Vučević	C	6-10	260	10/24/1990	USC / Montenegro	12
0	Coby White	G	6-5	206	02/16/2000	North Carolina / USA	4
44	Patrick Williams	F	6-7	231	08/26/2001	Florida State / USA	3

#	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	DOB	BEFORE NBA/COUNTRY	NBA EXP.
17	Onuralp Bitim*	F	6-6	205	03/31/1999	Bursaspor (Turkey) / Turkey	R
77	Henri Drell*	F	6-9	215	04/25/2000	Windy City Bulls / Estonia	R
21	Adama Sanogo*	F	6-9	245	02/12/2002	Connecticut / Mali	R

** Two-way players*

HEAD COACH: Billy Donovan
ASSISTANT COACHES: Maurice Cheeks, Chris Fleming, Josh Longstaff, John Bryant, Damian Cotter and Billy Schmidt


CHICAGO
7

LONZO BALL

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6'6"
WEIGHT	197 lbs.
BORN	Oct. 27, 1997
COLLEGE	UCLA
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	5


CHICAGO
5



JEVON CARTER

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	200 lbs
BORN	Oct. 14, 1995
COLLEGE	West Virginia
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	5


CHI

ALEX CARUSO

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	186 lbs.
BORN	Feb. 28, 1994
COLLEGE	Texas A&M
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	6


CHI



TORREY CRAIG

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6'7"
WEIGHT	241 lbs.
BORN	Dec 19, 1990
COLLEGE	USC Upstate
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	6


CHICAGO



DEMAR DEROZAN

POSITION	Guard/Forward
HEIGHT	6'6"
WEIGHT	220 lbs.
BORN	Aug. 7, 1989
COLLEGE	USC
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	14


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AYO DOSUNMU

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6' 4"
WEIGHT	200 lbs
BORN	Jan. 17, 2000
COLLEGE	Illinois
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	2


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ANDRE DRUMMOND

POSITION	Center
HEIGHT	6'11"
WEIGHT	289 lbs.
BORN	Aug. 10, 1993
COLLEGE	Connecticut
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	11


CHI



ZACH LAVINE

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6' 5"
WEIGHT	205 lbs
BORN	Mar. 10, 1995
COLLEGE	UCLA
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	9


CHICAGO
15

JULIAN PHILLIPS

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6'8"
WEIGHT	198 lbs.
BORN	Nov. 5, 2003
COLLEGE	Tennessee
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	Rookie


CHICA
32



TERRY TAYLOR

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6' 5"
WEIGHT	230 lbs
BORN	Sept. 23, 1999
COLLEGE	Austin Peay
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	2


CHI
25



DALEN TERRY

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6'7"
WEIGHT	200 lbs
BORN	July 12, 2002
COLLEGE	Arizona
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	1


CHICAGO
9

NIKOLA VUČEVIĆ

POSITION	Center
HEIGHT	6'10"
WEIGHT	260 lbs
BORN	Oct 24 1990
COLLEGE	USC
COUNTRY	Montenegro
NBA YEARS	12


CHICAGO



COBY WHITE

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	6' 5"
WEIGHT	206 lbs
BORN	Feb. 16, 2000
COLLEGE	North Carolina
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	4


CHI



PATRICK WILLIAMS

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6'7"
WEIGHT	231 lbs.
BORN	Aug. 26, 2001
COLLEGE	Florida State
COUNTRY	USA
NBA YEARS	5

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OUR GOALS

- Provide the finances for families who are at risk and in financial need and are willing to undergo IVF in order to stop the HD gene from being passed on in their family line.
- Our broader focus is to continue developing partnerships with fertility clinics across the country and raising funds to help cover these costs for many more families.
- HelpCureHD has already awarded over 130 families through its grant program. That is over 130 families and future generations that will NEVER have HD.

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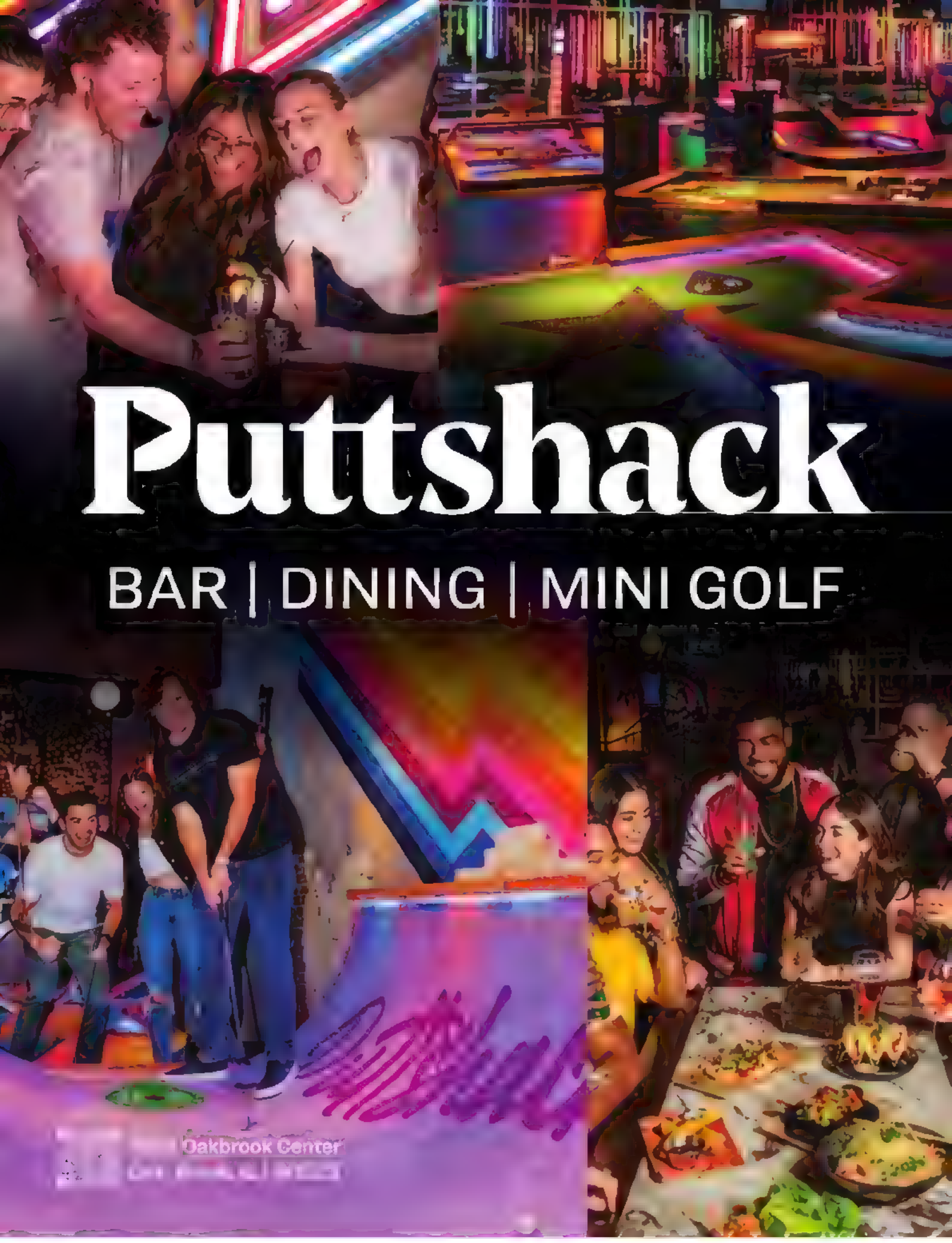
AC FOUNDATION



WINDY CITY BULLS

ONURALP BITIM

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6'6"
WEIGHT	205 lbs.
BORN	Mar. 31, 1999
COLLEGE	Bursaspor (Turkey)
COUNTRY	Turkey
NBA YEARS	Rookie


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WINDY CITY BULLS

HENRI DRELL

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6'9"
WEIGHT	215 lbs.
BORN	Apr. 25, 2000
COUNTRY	Estonia
NBA YEARS	Rookie



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WINDY CITY BULLS

ADAMA SANOGO

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	6' 9"
WEIGHT	245 lbs.
BORN	Feb. 12, 2002
COLLEGE	Connecticut
COUNTRY	Mali
NBA YEARS	Rookie

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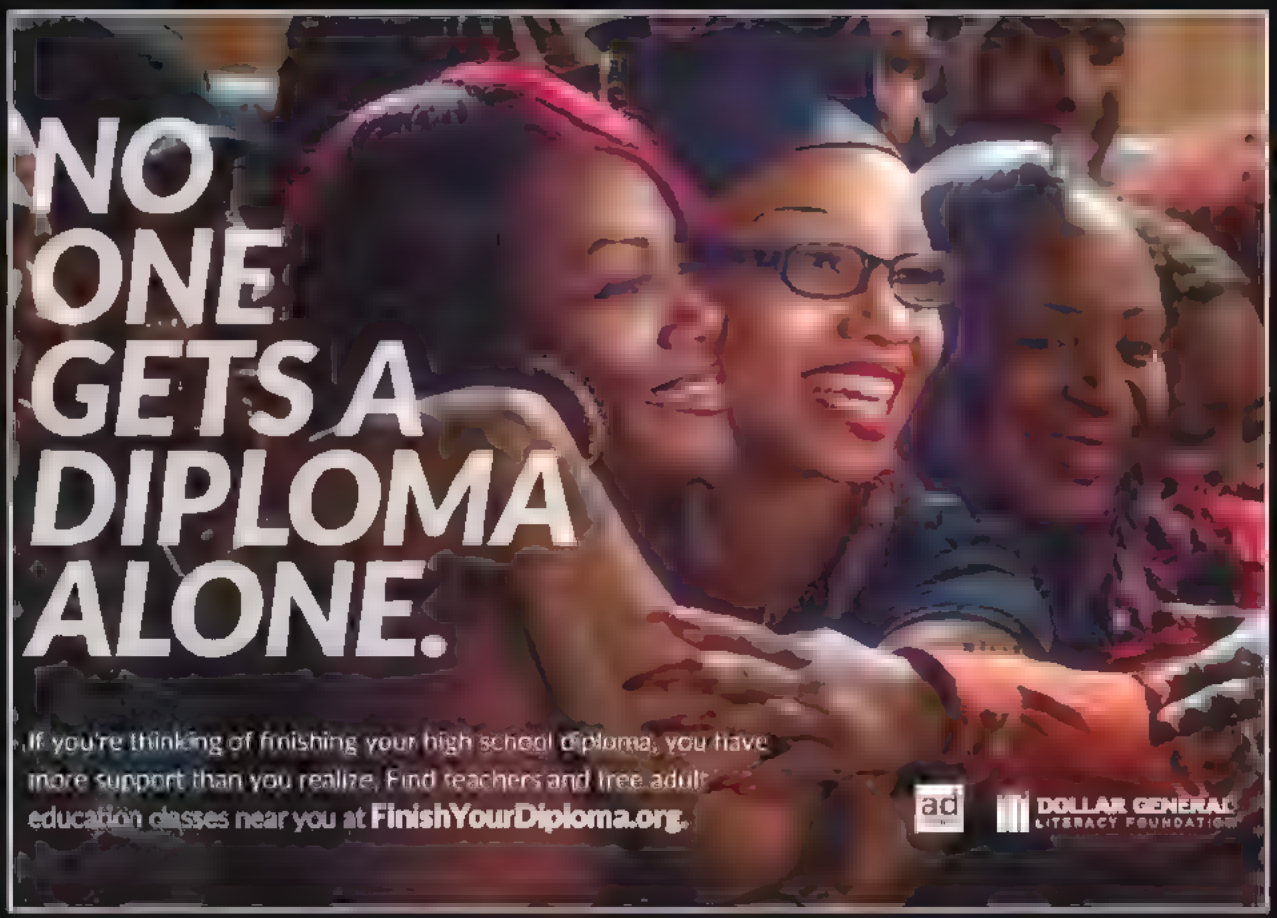
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There's an old saying that everyone has a story, and Torrey Craig has a remarkable one.

The first-year Bulls forward grew up in a rural South Carolina town named Great Falls, a population of 1,951. When he was a boy, his mom was sent to prison on drug charges, so he moved in with his grandmother. But after his grandmother passed away a few years later, Torrey drifted between living at his sister's place and the homes of some of his high school coaches. Meanwhile, he never lost hope. You see, Torrey Craig refuses to allow negativity to consume his soul. Sure, he understands sadness and disappointment, but Craig chooses to never allow either to bring him down. Torrey went to school, got good grades, made teams, and excelled.

"I did what I had to do," Craig says.

After graduating high school, he hoped to attend a major college powerhouse to play ball, but he could only get into NAIA South Carolina Upstate, so he made the best of it. It was at USC-Upstate where Craig showed himself capable of being a big-time scorer as he starred in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

"I thought I did enough to make the NBA," he remembers. "But obviously, I didn't. I was excited to watch the (2014) Draft, but as it went along, and teams were picking everyone but me, I lost that excitement. In my mind, going unpicked wasn't supposed to happen."

But that disappointment didn't stop Craig from leaving home to play professionally in Australia, where he played for six teams over four years. The way he looked at it was, how many guys from his neck of the woods ever got a chance to explore the world while also being paid to play a game they loved?

"Going to Australia was exciting, but also a little humbling. However, it helped me get to the NBA.

"To live out my dream I had to go overseas. I certainly would have loved to have gone into the NBA right out of college, but I guess that wasn't in the cards. When the opportunity to go to Australia to play ball popped up, I jumped," says Craig.

"Before leaving home I made a promise to myself that I wouldn't take this opportunity for granted. I went about controlling the things I could, and the biggest (thing) was to stay positive and confident in my abilities. I believed if I could stay positive and confident, one


"Going to Australia was exciting, but also a little humbling. However, it helped me get to the NBA."
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WALKER
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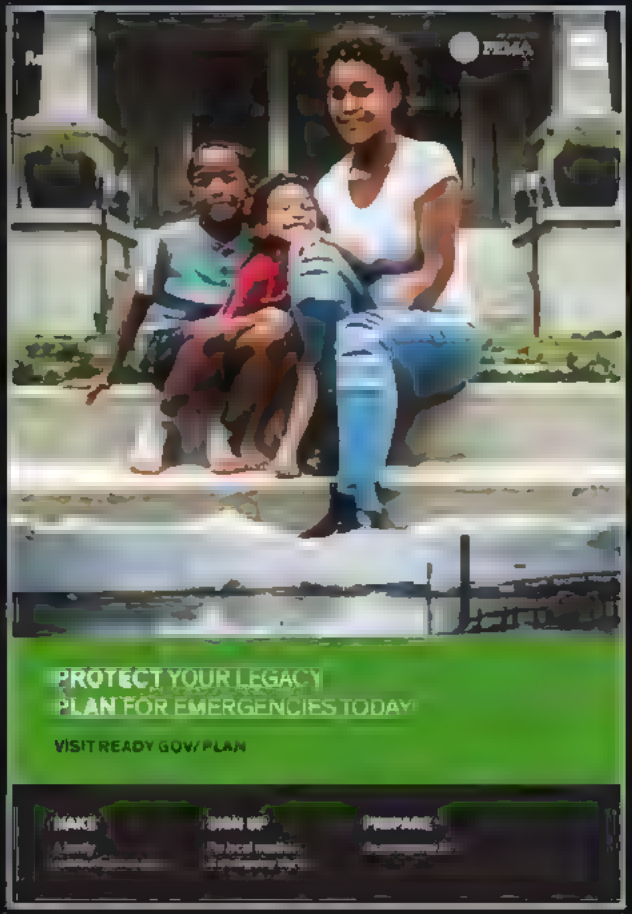
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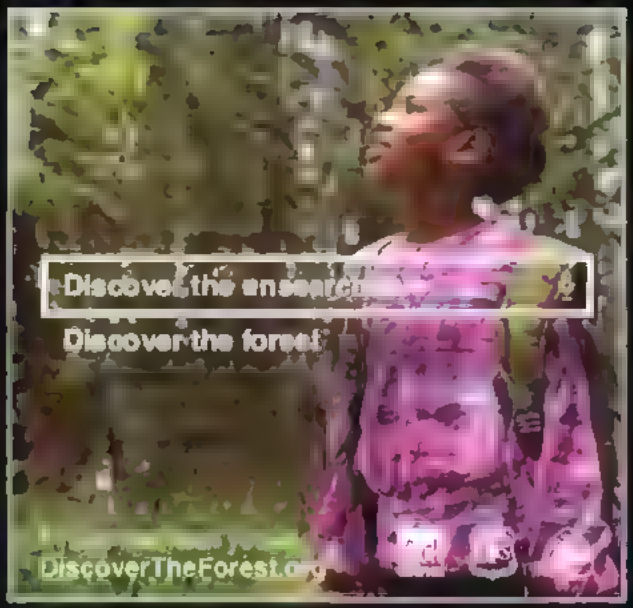
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day I would be an NBA player," Craig stresses.

"The idea of never making the NBA didn't enter my mind. I wouldn't let it. I always believed I belonged (in the NBA). All I needed to do was to work hard and look for opportunities where I could find them. Keeping a positive attitude paid off. I know it sounds corny, but if you work hard, good things will come your way. I really believe that."

As Craig bounced around Australia for four years, he developed into the league's best defensive player and began thinking Australia could end up being his forever home. He was on the verge of gaining Australian citizenship which would mean a chance to play in the Olympics with the national team and become a vital spokesperson in the nation's growing basketball infrastructure. He had a beautiful home on the water in Brisbane, he had a son and a family, it seemed like he had discovered paradise.

However, Craig's sister reminded him one day of what he always said about being an NBA player, and that he used to claim all he needed was a chance to get his foot in the door, and he would make it happen. Craig admits the decision to leave Australia wasn't easy, especially being only a few months short of turning 27.

Twenty-seven is a nice age, but not so much for an NBA rookie. The consensus around the league is any first-year player that age has a low ceiling and little prime to reach his true potential. That type of player is hardly worth investing in. Plus, the only chance Craig might get would be to score one of the NBA's new two-way contracts the league was inaugurating for a couple of cameos with the parent team.

Joe Connolly, one of five brothers



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including Pat, who is currently an executive with the Bulls, happened to be scouting in Australia for the Denver Nuggets when he saw Craig play for the first time. He urged his brother, Tim, who was Denver's head of basketball operations, to give Craig a look during the 2017 Las Vegas Summer League. Joe and Pat Connolly, along with Nuggets head coach Mike Malone, loved what they saw, as Craig recorded 27 points, 11 rebounds, and three blocks.

After the Summer League concluded, Craig left town with an NBA contract.

You see, Torrey Craig refuses to look at life as a glass half-empty. To him, it's always half-full. Why else would someone, who was almost 27 years old attempt to make the NBA out of the Summer League? And after signing his first contract celebrate with buddies by going to Applebee's? Because that's exactly who he is – a humble, hardworking, blue-collar guy who appreciates the simple things in life.

"We definitely celebrated that night at Applebee's," Craig chuckles while smiling. "Everything I dreamed about as a kid came true; it was one of the coolest moments of my life."

He's also a good basketball player, too. You don't have to take my word, just ask teammate, DeMar DeRozan. He'll mention the first time he encountered Craig when Torrey was with the Denver Nuggets.

DeRozan has been one of the most difficult players in the NBA to defend over the last decade with six All-Star appearances. His shot fakes, spins, and twists have baffled the best of defenders. DeRozan was playing for San Antonio in 2019 when the Spurs and Nuggets squared off in the opening round of the playoffs. DeRozan, who was the Spurs' second-leading scorer that season, was being hounded by Craig the entire series. In Game 4, DeRozan's frustration boiled over after Craig induced a charging call on him. DeRozan tossed the ball into the stands and was immediately ejected. Craig, for his part, simply got up off the ground and ran down to the other end of the floor, never looking back. The Nuggets went on the win the game, 117-103, and eventually the series.

"Without a doubt, Torrey's got to be one of the two best defenders I've ever gone up against," DeRozan says without hesitation. "When he locks in on you, you're going to have a long night."

Craig's the quintessential, jack-of-all-trades, NBA journeyman. Besides playing with Denver, he's had two stints in Phoenix, a brief stopover in Milwaukee, and spent time with Indiana. During his second stint with Phoenix, he got to experience what it is like to


2
DALLAS
77
BULLS
13



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"Without a doubt, Torrey's got to be one of the two best defenders I've ever gone up against," DeRozan says without hesitation. "When he locks in on you, you're going to have a long night."

play in the NBA Finals in another of his life's pinch-me moments

"Look, where I come from no one makes it out," says Craig, "especially to the NBA.

"When I stepped onto the court during the NBA Finals, all I could do was think to myself; really?'"

Yes, really, and his amazing journey continued over the summer when he was a free agent, and the Chicago Bulls came calling for his services. Chicago needed everything Craig provides on the court and in the locker room.

"My role has always been to bring toughness, physicality, and competitiveness. The Bulls asked me to be a spark. I told them I tend to lead by example, but if it is needed, I am not shy about using my voice," Craig says. "My approach has been the same whether I'm starting or coming off the bench. I just want to contribute to winning. That's all I have ever wanted

"I'm 33 years old, so I'm one of the older guys on the team. I've learned that to succeed you need to take advantage of every opportunity that is presented," Craig advises. "Both on and off the court.

"If the opportunity presents itself for me to score by shooting open shots or attacking the basket, then that's what I'm going to do. If my team needs me to defend and try to shut down our opponent's best player, then that's what I'm going to try to do.

"I've started a lot of games, but I've also come off the bench a lot. I've been able to adjust and fit in any situation," Craig says matter-of-factly. "If I'm breathing hard, I'm still gonna go after the ball and do the extra dirty work. If I'm gonna play 15 minutes this game, I'm gonna make sure I empty the tank in 15 minutes."



"I'm okay with doing whatever is needed. I get paid to play a game. My family and I are doing fine. I don't have a lot of worries anymore. I'm a happy person

Oh yeah, Torrey Craig is a happy person and a generous one, too.

"I enjoy going home every summer to host camps and conduct clinics. I like sharing the knowledge I've picked up as much as I can. I also don't run away from using my story as an example. There are a lot of kids in way worse situations than I was growing up. They need someone to believe in them and show them it's possible to change their situation and make something good happen. I enjoy being that guy.

Karma is real. Torrey Craig is proof of it

Karma is an abiding mantra and life mission for the versatile 6'7" forward. When his mom, Theresa Mays, was sent to prison, he wrote her letters to reassure her how much he loved her and that one day everything would be alright

"'Hey Mom,'" he remembers writing, "'I'm gonna make it in the NBA. I'm gonna take care of our family.'

And while Torrey has always been confident about his journey, not a lot of people, at least early on, took him seriously.

"Oh, I made a lot of promises as a kid, that's true," Craig says with a chuckle. "But I just wanted her, and my family to know I was going to make my way out of our situation and achieve my goals. I just wanted them to know that I loved everybody and that nobody had to worry because I was going to take care of everything. Hopefully, those letters brought my mom some peace."

Torrey Craig is always making an impact ■

Anthony Hyde contributed to this story.



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Maddie's Fund

2023-24 THEME NIGHTS & GIVEAWAYS

OCTOBER

25 **Home Opener**
Motorola SEE RED T-Shirt

27 AT&T Bulls T-Shirt

NOVEMBER

3 **In-Season Tournament**
Presented by motorola razr+

8 **Veteran's Day Game**
BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series (1 of 6)

17 **In-Season Tournament**
Presented by motorola razr+

DECEMBER

2 BlueCross BlueShield Winter Hat

12 **BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series** (2 of 6)

20 **2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Zach LaVine** Presented by NBC Sports Chicago

23 **Holiday Game**
2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Patrick Williams
Presented by Horizon

28 **BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series** (3 of 6)

30 **2023-24 Player Jersey Series: DeMar DeRozan**
Presented by AT&T

JANUARY

10 **MLK Jr. Game**
Presented by Advocate Health Care

20 **Pride Night**
BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series (4 of 6)

30 **2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Alex Caruso**
Presented by Corona

FEBRUARY

3 **2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Nikola Vucevic**
Presented by Starry

6 **Hoops & Hearts Game**
Advocate Health Care Bath Robe

6 **City Edition Night**
Presented by Klarna

28 **Black History Month Game**
Presented by Crown Royal

MARCH

1 **2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Ayo Dosunmu**
Presented by Sixt

11 **LOS BULLS Night**
2023-24 Player Jersey Series: Coby White
Presented by United Airlines

14 **Bet Night**
Presented by FanDuel

MARCH

16 **St. Patrick's Day Game**
Constellation Energy Windbreaker

18 **Women's History Month Game**
BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series (5 of 6)

27 **Benny's Birthday Game**
Jewel-Osco Benny the Bull Bobblehead

APRIL

1 **BMO x Chicago Bulls Artist Hat Series** (6 of 6)

5 **Chicago Bulls Charities Night** Presented by Illinois Eye & Ear

9 **Fan Appreciation Night**
Presented by BMO

Quantities are limited and items are subject to change or cancellation.

ChildFund.



The promise inside Hazel is greater than the poverty around her.

Hazel doesn't know what she wants to be when she grows up, and that's just fine. At age 11, her job is to play, grow and learn. But for kids like her in the world's poorest places, poverty gets in the way.

ChildFund works in 24 countries to make sure children grow up healthy, educated, self-sufficient and safe, wherever they were born.

Thanks to generous supporters, our programs help children fulfill their potential. That's been our promise to them for 80-plus years.

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NBA FAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The National Basketball Association, Chicago Bulls and United Center are committed to creating a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable sports and entertainment experience. NBA fans have a right to expect an environment where:

- Players respect and appreciate every fan.
- Guests will be treated in a consistent, professional and courteous manner by all arena and team personnel.
- Guests will sit only in their ticketed seats and show their tickets when requested.
- Guests will enjoy the basketball experience free from disruptive behavior, including foul or abusive language or obscene gestures.
- Guests will consume alcoholic beverages in a responsible manner. Intervention with an impaired, intoxicated or underage guest will be handled in a prompt and safe manner.
- Guests who engage in fighting, throwing objects or attempting to enter the court will be immediately ejected from the game.
- In accordance with Chicago law, smoking is not permitted in the United Center.
- There will not be any obscene or indecent messages on signs or clothing.
- Guests will comply with requests from arena staff regarding arena operations and emergency response procedures.
- Guests will also be responsible for their own good time by reporting any inappropriate behavior.

CHICAGO BULLS 2023-24 SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2023



NOVEMBER 2023



DECEMBER 2023



JANUARY 2024



FEBRUARY 2024



MARCH 2024



APRIL 2024



Unless noted, all Bulls games can be seen on NBC Sports CHICAGO

HOME

ROAD

IN-SEASON TOURNAMENT



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PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES TODAY

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A family communications plan

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For local weather & emergency alerts

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An emergency kit



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