

## NBA players adjust to a year without professional basketball in the United States

**BY MAC BALL**  
Sports Editor

July 21, 2011 was the official first day of the NBA lockout. Waiting for it to pass, NBA players found new ways to occupy their time. Some athletes played ball overseas, while many found odd jobs in or near their respectful towns. Still others helped their players' union in debates with the team owners and court judges.

New Jersey Net Deron Williams and Denver Nugget Danilo Gallinari chose to maintain their athletic training by playing with foreign teams. Gallinari and New Orleans Hornet Marco Belinelli are playing in their native home of Italy. Others are merely waiting for word when the NBA season will resume and an announcement of the final schedule.

Many players are simply enjoying extra family time while they take on odd jobs to keep up with the expenses of a typical NBA. Nets forward Kris Humphries married and divorced Kim Kardashian in a ten-week span. Dwight Howard and Gilbert Arenas of the Orlando Magic have been partaking in a Tweet war by posting pictures of themselves planking in ornate places.

Derrick Fisher of the Los Angeles Lakers and Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics continue to represent fellow athletes as they are the leaders of the players' union. As a veteran and strong leader in the Lakers' locker room, Fisher is contributing his time to settling the dispute, even if it is occurring at a slow rate.

At the end of October, NBA commissioner David Stern canceled the first full month of

the season, omitting key games for playoff-bound clubs, such as the season opener between defending champions the Dallas Mavericks, defending champions, and the Chicago Bulls, Eastern Conference runner ups.

While Minnesota PF Kevin Love led the league in rebounding last season, he now is competing in beach volleyball tournaments, however bad he may be. Clippers' All-Star Blake Griffin has performed in car commercials as well as the hit youtube.com series "Funny or Die" alongside Will Ferrell and other prominent comedic actors. Luke Walton of the Lakers is now an assistant coach for the Memphis Tigers in preparation for their college basketball season.

Russell Westbrook, Baron Davis, Kevin Love, and Stephan Curry returned to college since

they had not completed their degrees prior to joining the NBA. Curry is studying at Davidson, the school he led to the Elite 8 for the first time. Chris Paul was able to fulfill his dream and appear on "Family Feud," after participating in a Nike event in Beijing with the New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony and Miami Heat's Dwayne Wade.

Laker Kobe Bryant is taking the Ochocinco path and playing professional soccer while weighing overseas offers. Celtics forward Paul Pierce participated in a World Series of Poker tournament in Las Vegas and outlasted over half of the field before losing on an all-in bluff of a losing hand. Lakers forward Ron Artest has made himself and his new name, "Metta World Peace," very prominent in the media.

First he changed his name, and then he joined the celebrity cast of "Dancing with the Stars." He also enjoyed doing stand-up comedy, and, surprisingly enough, he became a Celine Dion groupie.

While many players are having fun and making money during the lockout, plenty more are making errors in judgment and finding themselves arrested. Portland center Marcus Camby and Minnesota forward Michael Beasley were arrested and charged with similar drug charges.

As it stands, the lockout will not be ending any time soon, eventually resulting in a complete absence of the 2011-2012 season. In the meantime, players will be finding new ways to entertain themselves and their fans, but hopefully in good taste.

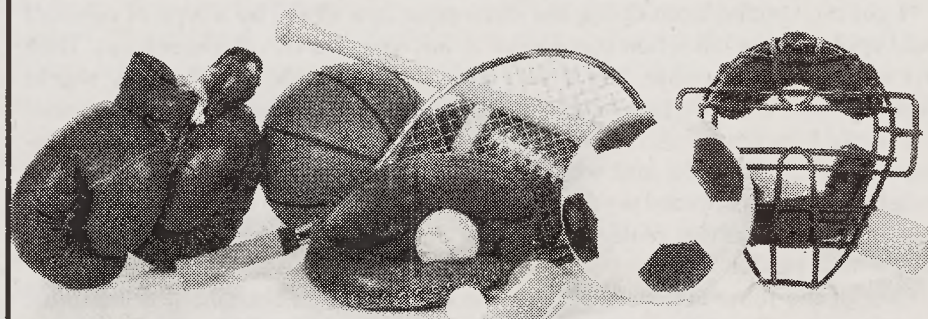
## Test your knowledge on sports trivia

1. Who holds the record for the most hits in Major League Baseball?
2. What is the term for getting three straight strikes in bowling?
3. Who holds the record for winning the most Olympic medals?
4. What was a rugby ball made from originally?
5. Who holds the all-time reception and yardage record in the National Football League?
6. What is the stone used in curling made from?
7. Which college has the most Heisman Trophy winners?
8. When and where was ultimate frisbee invented?
9. When did boxing become a legal sport?
10. Who has scored the most goals in the history of the National Hockey League?
11. Which college holds the record for the most trips to the NCAA Final Four?
12. What horse won the latest Triple Crown of horse racing?
13. What country was the first to win three World Cups of soccer?
14. In what year did the United States win all the swimming events at the Olympics?

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1. Pete Rose (4256) 2. Turkey 3. Larissa Latynina (18) 4. Pig's bladder  
5. Jerry Rice 6. Granite 7. Notre Dame and Ohio State (7) Columbia Univer-  
sity in 1969 9. 1901 10. Wayne Gretzky (2857) 11. UNC (18) 12. "Af-  
firmed" 13. Germany 14. 1948