

Malone will not appeal suspension

NEW YORK (AP) — Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz, suspended for one game and fined \$10,000 for a flagrant foul against Detroit's Isiah Thomas that caused a 40-stitch slash above the eye, says that he knows in his heart that he was right. But he will not appeal.

"I don't play like that. I don't need to have a job in this league," he said Monday night. "But I'm not going to appeal. I'm not going to challenge the league."

Thomas drove to the basket with 7:32 left in the first quarter Saturday night, and Malone went up hard in his path. Malone was ejected for a flagrant foul as Thomas lay bleeding.

"I thought it was a clean foul, but obviously the NBA didn't think that," Malone said. "I hope Isiah is OK. The thing about it is, we are taught to protect the baskets."

The incident, which occurred in Saturday night's game, caused Malone to miss a road game at Charlotte.

"We're shocked by such a heavy penalty," said Scott Layden, Utah's director of player personnel. "I think it's excessive."

"In my opinion, the incident was not malicious," said Utah coach Jerry Sloan. "But what I think doesn't count."

"I could have ... died on that play," Thomas said. "As it is, the doctor told me my forehead will

be numb for two months."

The Piston captain felt that if the teams had been reversed, the NBA office would have come down much harder.

"I just don't think it is fair," he said. "It goes without saying that there is a double standard in the league. That's no secret. If Bill Laimbeer makes the same play, they'd suspend him for the rest of the year. He (Malone) didn't even have his hand up to block the ball."

Darrell Walker of the Pistons was fined \$5,000 for leaving the bench area following the foul and attempting to fight with Malone.

The NBA also issued \$500 fines against Isaac Austin, David Benoit, Mike Brown, Tyrone

Corbin, Eric Murdock and Delaney Rudd of Utah and William Bedford, Mark Aguirre, Brad Sellers, Lance Blanks, Bob McCann and Charles Thomas of Detroit. The league said all were fined for leaving the bench area during the incident.

"I've been through worse things, although none of them probably cost me this much money," Malone said.

"I know, deep in my heart, that I was playing good, solid basketball. It was physical, sure. But it's physical every night," he said.

Asked about his calmness in accepting the penalty, he said, "I can swallow it. It'll be hard. I might need some water. But I can swallow it."

Magic contends that Kareem can help an NBA team at 44

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Can 44-year-old Kareem Abdul-Jabbar help an NBA team by coming out of retirement?

His former teammate Magic Johnson thinks so, to a point.

"If you're talking about 10 or 15 minutes a game, he's just as good as anybody's backup right now," Johnson said Sunday night.

Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer who retired from the Los Angeles Lakers in 1989, said Saturday he's considering a comeback to dramatize Johnson's fight against AIDS. And Johnson, who retired from professional basketball Nov. 7 after announcing he has the AIDS virus, was touched.

"First of all, words can't describe my feeling toward his gesture and his love and his wanting to get behind my cause and my fight against the virus and the AIDS disease," Johnson told reporters before the Lakers' game with the Sacramento Kings.

"For him to do that makes me feel good."

Johnson said Abdul-Jabbar is the best one to decide if he's capable of being competitive in the NBA again.

"When Kareem talks about doing something, he will know if he can do it," Johnson said. "If he knows he can't do it, he will back away from it."

Johnson worked out at the Forum before Sunday night's game and took his customary place on the bench during the contest.

The NBA's all-time assist leader said he is keeping busy and is stepping up efforts to buy an NBA team.

"The group we have is a good group of people who have money," he said. "(Los Angeles Kings owner) Bruce McNall told me I could tell you he's involved. We're getting ready and checking some teams out. It takes a lot of time."

Johnson also isn't ruling out participation in the NBA All-Star game and reiterated his plans to

play in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens as we get closer (to the All-Star game) and find out if I'm on the team, then a decision can be made at that particular time," he said.

"I will be there in the Olympics. I may not play in some of the early games, but I'll be there just like a regular member. The Olympics are over a short time, there aren't as many games, and you know we'll blow some teams out."

"The reason I'm not playing now is because I want to play like Magic Johnson."

Miami's Smith doesn't plan to give up starting job to Douglas

MIAMI (AP) — If the Miami Heat decides to keep Sherman Douglas, he'll have to battle to regain his starting job at point guard, rookie Steve Smith says.

The Los Angeles Lakers have extended a \$17 million offer sheet for Douglas, and Heat manage-

ment must decide by Dec. 28 whether to match it.

With Smith replacing Douglas, who was the Heat's most valuable player last season, Miami is off to the best start in its four-year history.

"I want to keep my job," Smith

said. "I'm sure he probably wants it back. But the way I see it, it's mine to lose."

Both players could play at the same time because Smith, who is averaging 13 points and five assists per game, has seen some

action at shooting guard.

"In a certain way, I'm flexible," Smith said. "I'll do anything to help the team. But my main position is the point. That's where I want to play."

Heat first-year coach Kevin Loughery won't commit.

"I don't know Sherman," Loughery said. "I haven't seen him play for this team."

BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL BRIEFS

Grambling emerges as overtime winner over Centenary

GRAMBLING, La. (AP) — Lamar Ambers scored 29 points for Grambling State in a 110-107 overtime victory Monday night over Centenary.

The score was tied 93-all at the end of regulation play.

Ambers, who got seven of

Grambling's 17 points in overtime, nailed a three-point basket with 4:14 left to put the Tigers in front to stay. He also sank four free throws in the final 30 seconds.

Centenary (2-2) led by as many as 13 points in the first half, but a 15-2 run by Grambling (1-7) nar-

rowed the Gents' lead to two points with 1:15 left before intermission.

Felonta Evans added 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Tigers.

Shannon Washington led Centenary with 23 points. Trent Smith added 20.

Saunders leads Coppin to victory vs. Youngstown State

BALTIMORE (AP) — Tariq Saunders scored 21 points and made eight steals to spark Coppin State to a 76-59 victory Monday over Youngstown State.

The Eagles (4-2) scored the game's first points and never

trailed, taking a 42-28 lead at the half behind Saunders' 19 first-half points.

Coppin's defense forced 26 Youngstown turnovers and held the Penguins (3-5) to one field goal in the game's final 10 min-

utes.

Darren Woods contributed 16 points and six rebounds to the Coppin effort.

Lamar Morton led Youngstown scorers with 13 points and Brian Thaxton added 10.

Maynor's the man

Continued from Page B1

2.60 percent pass to interception ratio;

• Ran for eight touchdowns, contributed 181.5 total offensive yards a game.

A&T gridmaster Bill Hayes knew he had a valuable commodity in his possession when Maynor started for him as a freshman while Hayes was the head coach at Winston-Salem State in '87.

Fortunately for the Aggies and Hayes, Maynor decided to follow the former Rams coach when he accepted the coaching job in Greensboro in '88.

Maynor has superb skills, but there are some very sound reasons why he has achieved what he has over the last two years at A&T.

For starters, Maynor doesn't have to carry the team by himself. He has a massive offensive line that prevents defenders from tearing him apart like so many chicken wings.

Blessed with a backfield that has very solid runners, defenses can't gear all of their efforts to stop Maynor. If they do, the backs run wild. If the backs are held in check, Maynor can pick up the slack on his own. Just his presence on the field changes your normal defensive game plan.

With a powerful running

attack (270 ypg), Maynor can get more time to throw by freezing defenders with play action passes.

With the defense stretched out, his mobility puts a lot pressure on linebackers and the secondary. If they come up to stop the run, he finds open receivers. If they stay back, he's able to find the creases in the defense to pick up critical yards.

To get a better idea of how Maynor pressurizes defenses, all you have to do is review the Aggies' 49-21 win over South Carolina State in late November. A&T was dominating the line of scrimmage with running backs Barry Tuner, Michael Artis and James White all getting their share of totes and yards.

Maynor comes to the line, fakes a hand-off to the back, puts the ball on his hip, slips between the end and tackle, then sprints to the outside for a 46-yard scoring run.

The fact that Maynor doesn't have to throw the ball all the time is also a factor. A&T averaged roughly 20 passes a game, not an awful lot. However, when he's forced to throw a lot more than that, the game plan is no longer intact and not nearly as effective.

That's what happened in A&T's lone MEAC loss (to

Delaware State, 31-26). Maynor completed 18 of 33 tosses for 235 yards (season average is 152.7 ypg) and one touchdown.

Individually, you can't argue with the numbers. But when your team falls behind like A&T did in that game, the offense is out of synch and playing into the hands of the defense.

But just give Maynor some help by doing a decent job of running the football, and he's murder. Here are some samples of vintage Maynor at his best.

• Had perhaps his best game of the season in a 41-19 win vs. Florida A&M. Completed 7 of 11 passes for 192 yards and three TDs;

• Hit on 9 of 14 passes for 179 yards and two scores in a 28-12 road win over Grambling in the State Fair Classic in Dallas. He also ran for a score. One footnote about that game. Maynor played only one half, missing the second half because of back spasms.

It's clear that Maynor is the guy who represents the wild card factor for A&T's offense. He's made a habit of coming up with big plays game in and game out. For the Aggies hopeful, the wish is that he'll do it one more time in Miami to help win the black college national championship.

Pro Football

Patriots' Fryar closes in on career milestone

By HOWARD ULMAN
Associated Press Sports Writer

FOXBORO, Mass. — Irving Fryar waited a long time for this kind of season, and so did the New England Patriots.

An underachiever since being chosen first overall in the 1984 draft, Fryar is finally showing off the skills that made him No. 1 and enjoying the finest season of his eight-year career.

His 63 catches are a career high, as are his 956 receiving yards. Perhaps most importantly, his satisfaction level may be approaching an all-time high just 12 months after he vowed never to play for the Patriots again.

And Sunday, in the season finale against Cincinnati, he can reach the 1,000-yard receiving mark for the first time with just 44 more yards.

"It doesn't mean anything right now," Fryar said Monday. "I just want to walk."

Fryar bruised his calf two games ago in a 23-17 victory over Indianapolis and said Monday he probably shouldn't have played in Sunday's 6-3 win over the Jets. He had just one catch for 24 yards.

But he said he should be in better shape Sunday when the 6-9 Patriots close out their season against the 2-13 Bengals.

WESTON TRAVEL

RAM OF THE WEEK

Weston Travel is pleased to recognize Michael Eaton as our Ram of the Week for his performances versus Clark Atlanta University and Florida Atlantic University. Eaton, a 6'0, 160 lb sophomore forward out of Detroit, Michigan, scored a collective 35 points in the 2 games. Michael was 7 of 19 from the field against Clark with 2-3 pointers, 2 assists, and 2 steals. In the second game Eaton was 8 of 17 with 7-3 pointers, 2 rebounds, and 3 assists. His performance earned him a place on the Heritage Bowl Classic All-Tournament Team. Eaton also shows his diligence in the classroom as a sports management major.



Michael Eaton

Weston Travel salutes Michael Eaton for his commitment and drive for excellence on and off the court at Winston-Salem State University.

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