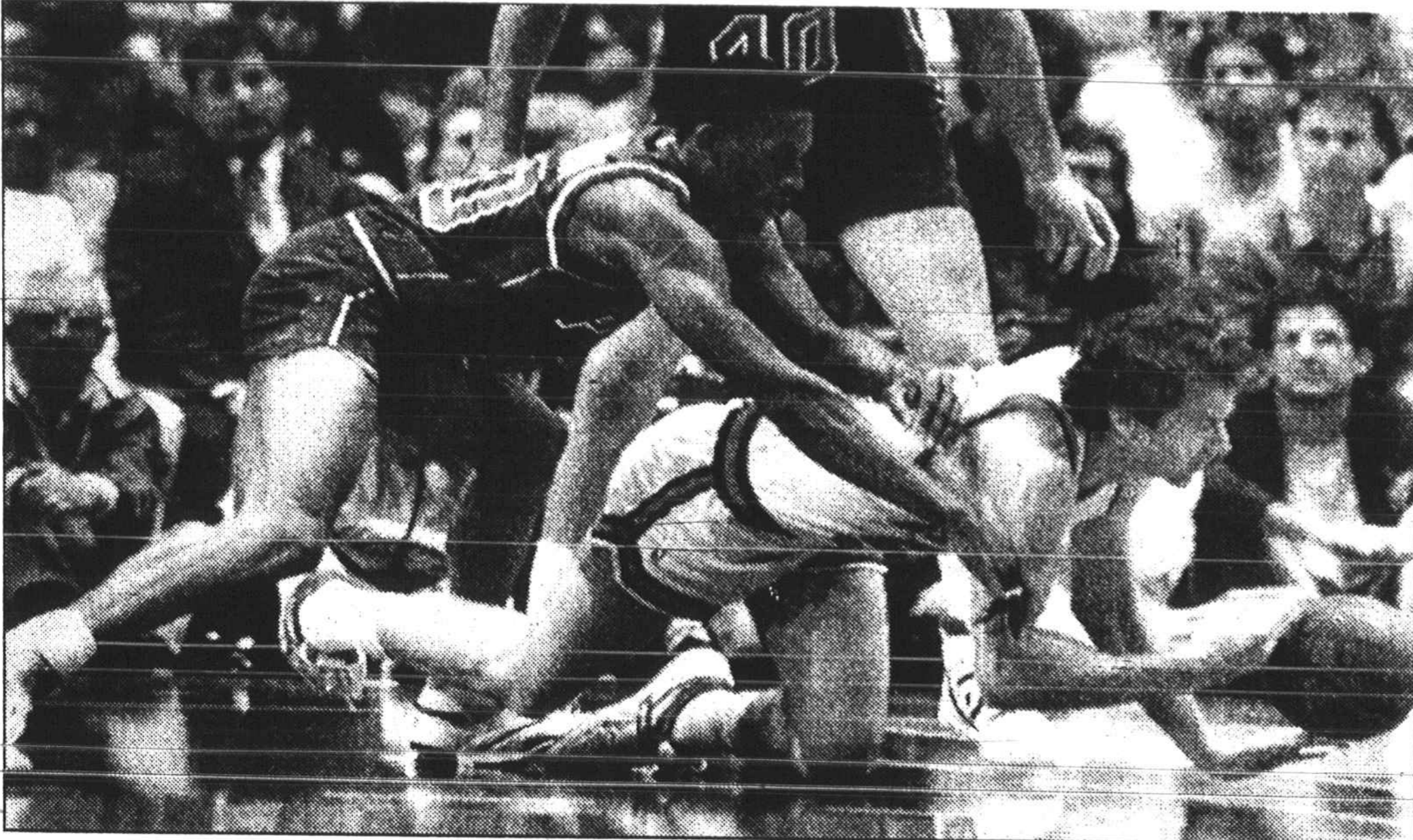


Rodman's success is no fluke



Associated Press LaserPhoto

Dennis Rodman's consistent work habits enable him to play at full throttle for every minute he's on the court.

By HARRY ATKINS
AP Sports Writer

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. -- It's no accident that Dennis Rodman leads the NBA in rebounds.

Consider his routine for each of the Detroit Pistons' home games: • Before shoot-around, Rodman does 30 minutes of aerobics while watching a videotape of that night's opponent.

• After shoot-around, it's another 30 minutes of aerobics, then home for a short rest. When he returns to The Palace, he takes shooting practice.

• When the game is over, Rodman -- who has been averaging 39.7 minutes per game -- spends at least 30 minutes peddling a stationary bike.

"You can't ask for more than that," said teammate John Salley, who calls Rodman "a 30-year-old man in an 18-year-old body."

"He should be the highest-paid player on this team. Man, I wish I were his agent."

The work has certainly paid off for the Pistons. Rodman is averaging a career-best 18.1 rebounds per game and is on a pace to shatter Bob Lanier's team record of 14.9 rebounds a game.

Nobody in the NBA has averaged more than 16 rebounds over a season since Moses Malone at 17.6 in 1979.

Rodman's 32 rebounds against Charlotte was one short of the

team record set by Lanier. The fewest rebounds Rodman has had this season was five, in the opener against Milwaukee.

He has led the team in rebounding in every game since.

"It's a work ethic," Pistons coach Chuck Daly said. "Every coach in the world has tried to get guys to do it. It's the hardest thing in the game to do. There's less carryover from practice to games in rebounding, in getting guys to box out. It's only when a guy makes up his mind, like Dennis did this year, that it happens. Many guys are capable of it, physically. We've got five or six. But not many do it."

Rodman is one of the few players to make the NBA All-Star team for defense alone. Heaven knows, he doesn't score much. Rodman is averaging only 9.7 points per game. His high was 20, accomplished twice.

He has never scored more than 34 points in a game, modest by NBA standards. Yet, he's having a season worthy of MVP consideration.

"It's a message to the entire basketball world," Daly said. "It tells kids that can't shoot that there are other parts of the game that are very important, and you can be very successful, other than scoring. Unfortunately, the game is based on stats, scoring, things of that nature. But here's a guy who does it with hard work. And he gives a whole new area for

people to get involved with in basketball."

Rodman's feats are all the more remarkable when you consider that he stands just 6-foot-8. There are point guards that tall these days. But he plays with a determination few can match.

"I want the ball," Rodman explained simply. "I know that's the way to go, because I know at the offensive end, I'm not going to get it and shoot it. So I just focus myself to get the ball any way I can, either on offense or defense. Anything I can do to get the ball off the rim, I'm going to get it. I will not be denied."

Imagine if Rodman averaged 20 points a game, and still played defense the way he does. He might force the NBA to invent a whole new grading system.

But it won't happen.

"The thing that makes Dennis so good is he's very simplistic," Isiah Thomas said. "He rebounds and he plays defense. He does the things that he can do. He stays away from the things that he can't do. The things that he can do, he practices them all the time. Therefore, he becomes better and better at the things that he can do. The things that he can't do, he doesn't waste his time practicing on them."

Thomas is part of the reason Rodman became what he is today. He told Rodman early on that he could help the club most by playing defense.

"When he walked into camp, he was the third- or fourth-best player on our team at the time, as a rookie," Thomas recalled. "I thought, 'How could so many people miss? How could he get to the second round?'"

Pistons general manager Jack McCloskey answered that.

Fresh out of Southeastern Oklahoma State in 1986, Rodman impressed many pro scouts at a summer rookie camp. But in two other camps, in Chicago and Hawaii, he played poorly and his stock dropped.

"I sent our trainer, Mike Abdenour, to check Dennis out," McCloskey recalled. "It turned out he was suffering from asthma."

So the Pistons took a chance.

Howard's men keep first place lead; SC State, UMES women tied for top spot

By Chronicle Staff

MEN - Howard University blasted visiting Bethune-Cookman 101-65 last Thursday to maintain its hold on first place in the conference standings. Julius McNeil sparked the Bison

to fourth place after they suffered a 75-65 road loss at the hands of South Carolina State. Jackie Robinson paced the Bulldogs attack with 22 points and seven rebounds.

FAMU's win over Coppin knocked the Eagles down a few notches. At this point, they are fifth after being tied for third

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MEAC BASKETBALL NOTES

effort by scoring 20 points to lead five HU players who scored in double figures.

Delaware State earned a 73-57 win over Maryland-Eastern Shore to remain in second place. DSC's Tryone Boger scorched UMES with 23 points and nine rebounds. But the Hornets are now tied for the No. 2 spot with Florida A&M, who slithered past Coppin State, 78-76 last weekend. Power forward DeLon Turner was the catalyst for FAMU with 26 points and 14 rebounds.

North Carolina A&T fell

WESTON TRAVEL


RAM OF THE WEEK

Weston Travel is pleased to recognize Charles Bennett as our Ram of the Week. Bennett has been a consistent bright spot for the Rams. His performance this past week, including 76 points in 3 games, earned him CIAA Player of the Week honors.

The 6'8" Sports Management senior ranks 8th in the CIAA in scoring (19.6 ppg) and ranks 6th in the CIAA in rebounding (9.4 rpg).

Versus J.C. Smith, Bennett scored 23 points, shooting 60% from the field, including 4 of 4 from 3-point range. He also collected 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal.

Weston Travel salutes Charles Bennett for his commitment to excellence both on and off the court at Winston-Salem State University.



#44 Charles Bennett

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Men 7:30

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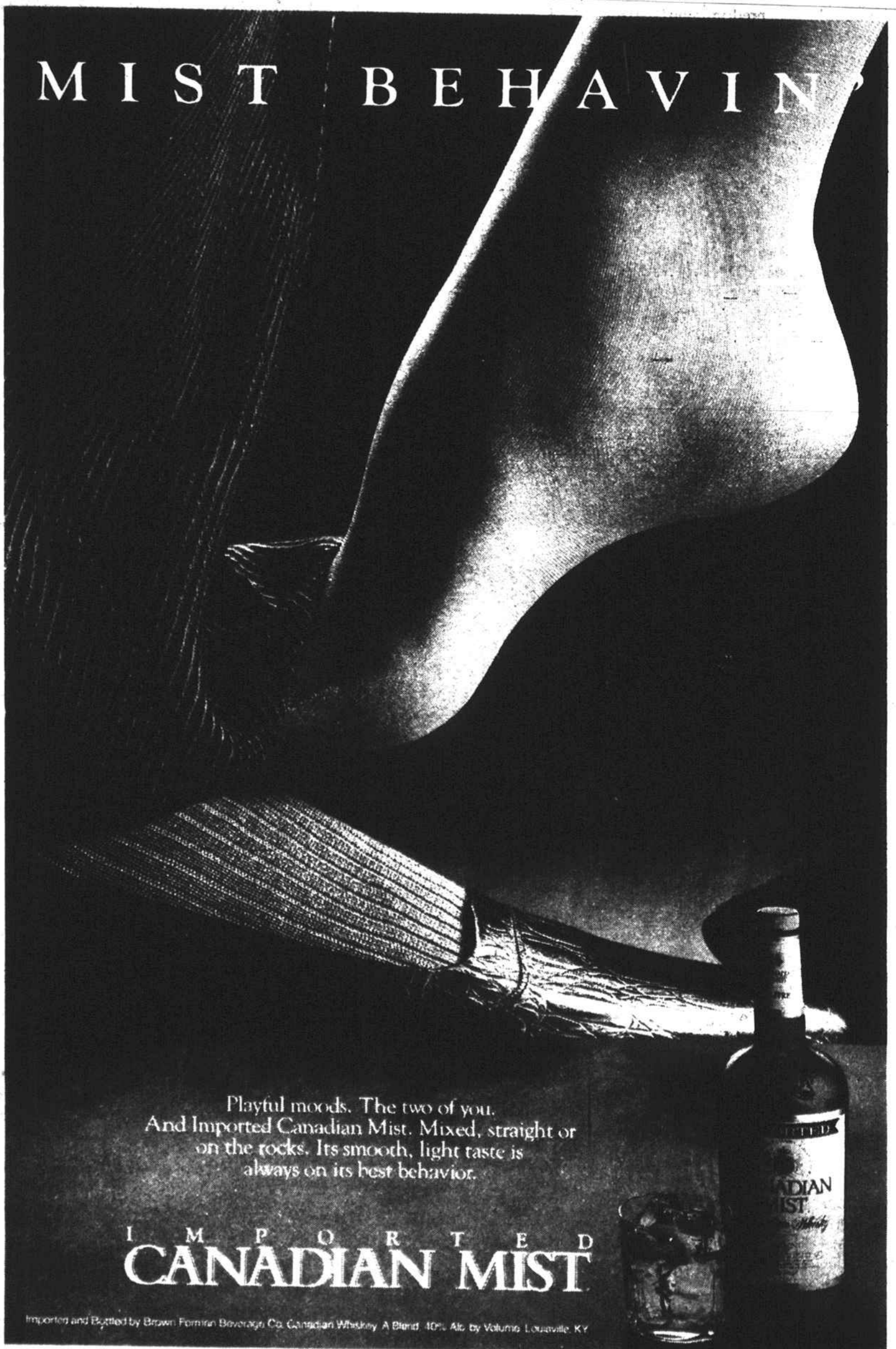
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