

Spike Lee Returns to Knicks' Courtside, Says Game Five Loss Not His Fault

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Film producer-director and Knicks fan Spike Lee was at Market Square Arena on Friday night rooting for his team and deflecting any blame placed on him for its loss in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

The Knicks won games six and seven and begin their seven-game championship series with



Spike Lee

Houston this week.

Lee, the object of several gestures from Indiana guard Reggie Miller as he scored 25 fourth-quarter points June 1 in the Pacers' 93-86 road victory for a 3-2 series lead, was again in a courtside seat for Game 6. Lee spoke with NBC during the first half and seemed shocked that many Knick fans blamed him for sparking Miller's scoring rampage and the Knicks' first loss of the playoffs at Madison Square Garden.

"It got blown out of proportion. I never said nothing to get him fired up, he said it all on his own," said Lee who was wearing a Brooklyn Dodgers jersey and cap. "I get on the plane this morning to fly to Indiana and I'm on front page of the (New York) Daily News, the New York Post and Newsday saying I was the person that blew that game Wednesday."

"I didn't make no turnovers. I wasn't the one who couldn't make the entry pass."

"But we'll win tonight and there will be a Game 7."

Lee was right as the Knicks prevailed 98-91, scoring the game's last seven points. They won game seven on Sunday.

Lee was hardly on camera during the game, but he was shown as the final seconds ticked, slapping hands with New York guard John Starks and gesturing to the crowd.

The sellout crowd at Market Square Arena made Lee a focus of

attention before the game.

Signs directed at Lee were everywhere:

- "Spike Who?"
- "Don't Worry Spike, my tractor has a choke."
- "Spike The Knicks."
- "Spike Is My Dog's Name."

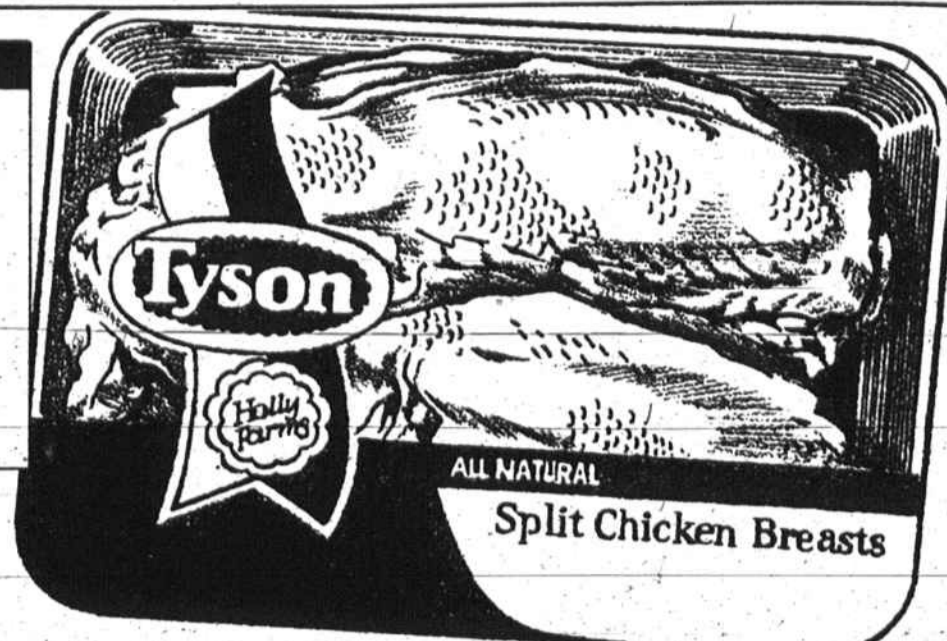
There was no extra security immediately near Lee, but extra guards and police were in a tunnel entrance not far from his seat across from the Indiana bench.



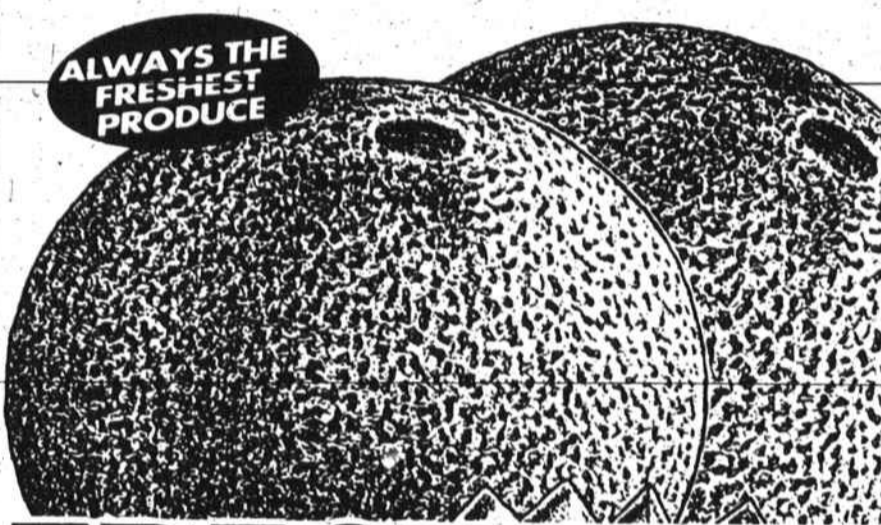
Georgetown (center) Patrick Ewing grabs a rebound in front of Houston (center) Hakeem Olajuwon during their NCAA Championship game in Seattle's Kingdome. Ewing, who was voted the MVP helped Georgetown to a 84-75 win. The New York Knicks face Houston-Rockets in the Finals.

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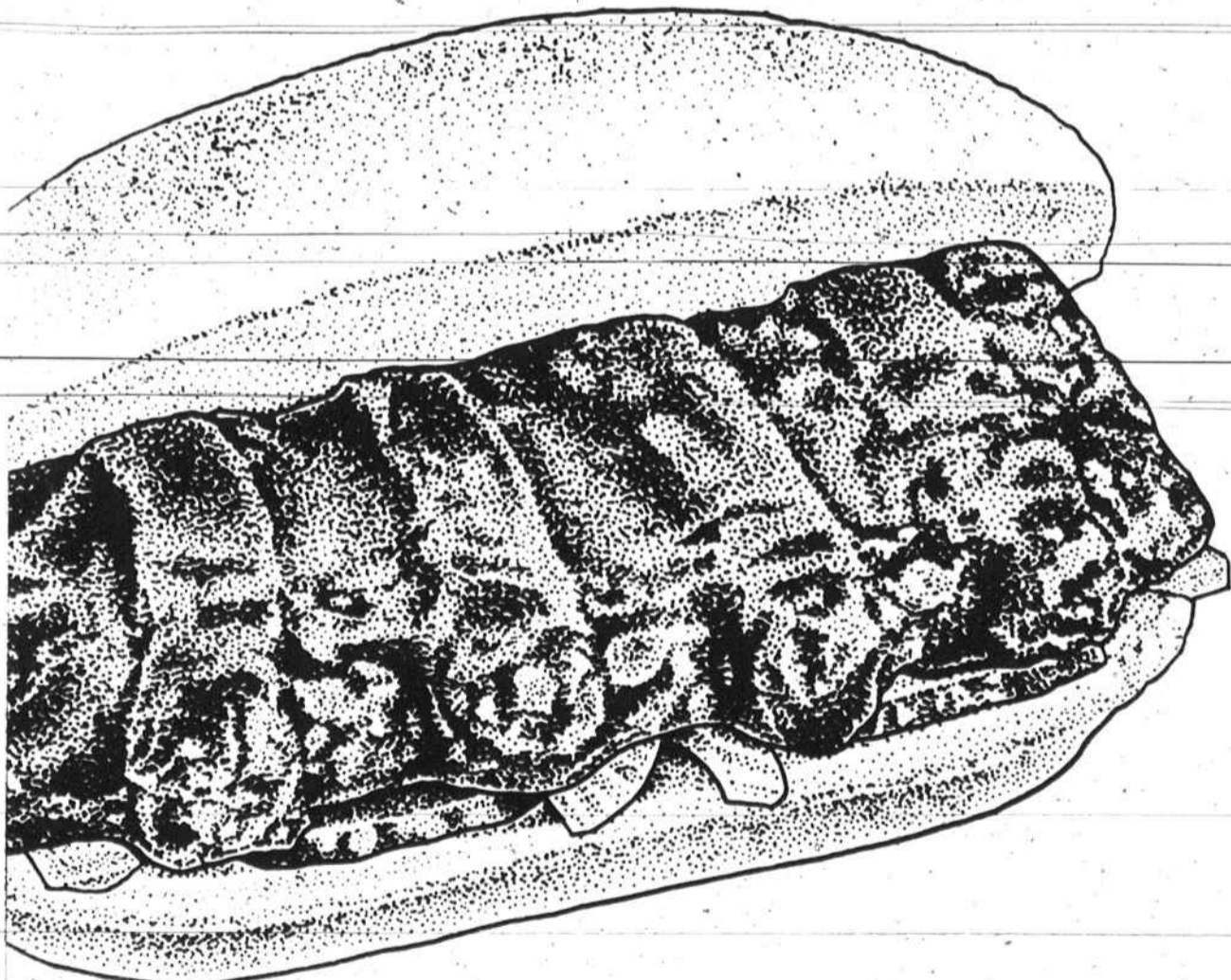
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