

# J-Ho speaks about last couple months

This is kind of a tradition for Dallas Maverick star Josh Howard and I to talk every summer. It's not really a tradition, but it feels like it every time we hook up for a fun conversation each year around this time.

I caught up with J-Ho during a youth basketball game in his league at Reynolds Park earlier this week. I didn't talk with Howard's agent or him before the interview, so I didn't really know if he had time. But Josh always come through when he can. He was quick to talk with his favorite reporter on Tuesday. We discussed quite a few interesting topics. Some of the more juicy information didn't quite make the interview, but it was still a lot of fun talking with Josh. You will get to read about some of the things Josh has been doing the last couple months. We also discussed Reyshawn Terry, Dirk, Wake hoops, J-Ho's camp and the early exit from the NBA playoffs — to name a few.

Take a look at some of the other things my favorite professional athlete and I talked about on Monday evening.

**Anthony:** What's going on, J-Ho?

**Josh:** Nothing much. (Smiles.) How have you been, Anthony?

**Anthony:** I'm good. I'm just up here chilling, watching this exciting youth basketball game with you. You already know.

**Josh:** (Laughs.) Yeah, man.

**Anthony:** This might be the best year for the league too. The action has been great.

**Josh:** Yeah. It's growth and development. There's been a lot of growth since it started. A lot more kids and

parents are involved in the camp and league. We're just having a great time.

**Anthony:** You have some things coming up next week too. You have a camp coming up.

**Josh:** (Smiles.) Yeah.

**Anthony:** When is that going down?

**Josh:** It's going to be Thursday and Friday. I think it has already filled up. But we're doing a neighborhood, community cookout that Friday. Everybody can come to that. I want the entire community to enjoy that.

**Anthony:** What about the 4-on-4 basketball tournament? When is that?

**Josh:** Oh yeah. That's going to be Saturday and Sunday. I think that's the 28th and 29th. We're going to put on a 4-on-4 tournament outside on the court that I rededicated to my mom and grandma. We just want to have a good time with the community.

**Anthony:** That's what's up. Hey, Reyshawn got picked up by the Dallas Mavericks.

**Josh:** (Smiles.) Yeah.

**Anthony:** What were your thoughts when you found that out?

**Josh:** It's a blessing to see another one from the Tre-4 come out and make it. He still has to go to veterans camp, but there's a good chance he'll make it.

**Anthony:** Have you had a chance to talk with him yet?

**Josh:** No, I haven't. I really didn't know him. He went to school with my little brother, so I really didn't know him like that. But I know he went to Carolina. I know he can knock down a jump shot.

**Anthony:** I got to ask you a little about the season.

**Josh:** (Smiles.) OK.

**Anthony:** Just tell me how disappointed you were with the way the great season ended.

**Josh:** Well, you know I'm a competitor. I always want to win. After what happened the year before, I would've thought my team was a little more prepared. But we ran into a hot team. They made all of their shots. We didn't make all of our shots.

**Anthony:** A lot of blame was placed on Dirk. What are your thoughts on that?



**Josh:** I think that a lot of the people that are putting the blame on Dirk don't really write. The regular media tried to place the blame on everybody around Dirk. I think people saw what went on. It's going to be justified in the long run.

**Anthony:** Who do you think is going to be the sleeper of the first round of the NBA draft? Who's that guy that's going to come out of nowhere to be an impact player?

**Josh:** I think it might be a second round guy. First round guys always come out and do their things. But those second round guys don't have anything to lose. They usually come out and give it their all. Maybe Reyshawn can be that guy. I watched Big Baby the other night, and he did really good. Those are the only two names that are sticking out. (Smiles.) You never know.

**Anthony:** OK. What have you been listening to lately?

**Josh:** I have a bunch of mixed CDs. I have a bunch of

Lil Wayne, Swizz Beats and Jadakiss. Uh, man. I have my old school (car) back out, so I have to listen to something nice while I'm riding.

**Anthony:** That myspace is going crazy right now.

**Josh:** (Laughs.) Yeah, I know.

**Anthony:** How many pages do you have?

**Josh:** I heard I had about five of them. (Both laugh.) It's out of my control. For the record, it's not me. That's not me. It's a blessing that people

back from Devin Harris camp. I went down to New Orleans for the Essence Festival. I'm doing Greg Buckner's camp next week. I've got Jerry Stackhouse, Marquise Daniels and Darrell Armstrong events in August. I'm pretty busy as well. I just don't put my stuff out there.

**Anthony:** You haven't hit any vacations spots yet?

**Josh:** I went to St. Thomas a couple weeks ago. That's about it.

**Anthony:** OK. What is going to happen with Kobe and K.G.?

**Josh:** They're going to get traded. (Smiles.) Yeah, I think they're going to get traded. I don't know where they're going. Dallas was trying to get both of them. We're going to try to get one or the other.

**Anthony:** I know you do a lot for the TICKS AAU squad. Have you given any thoughts to changing the name to the Josh Howard Mavericks or something?

**Josh:** Me and Jon Jon, the owner of the team, have talked about it. But I'm real discreet with my private life. So we decided to have a little name on there. The rest is for those guys. I love doing things for the kids. I didn't have anybody doing anything like this for me. I like to see the smiles on those guys' faces.

**Anthony:** No doubt. (Smiles.) Is Wake going to come back on the basketball court again?

**Josh:** I like that point guard. I don't really know his name.

**Anthony:** Ish.

**Josh:** Yeah. They've got a good opportunity. Coach doesn't like losing. They've had two bad years. So, it's time to turn this thing around.

**Anthony:** Oh yeah. How's your baby doing?

**Josh:** The baby turned out to not be mine.

**Anthony:** What?

**Josh:** Yeah. The blood test said it wasn't my baby. I took care of him for a little while. It was just an unfortunate situation.

**Anthony:** Dang, she tried to get you. (Both laugh.) Let's finish up with free association so we can finish watching this game.

**Josh:** Ye-sir.

**Anthony:** Uh, Josh Howard.

**Josh:** (Laughs.) A baller.

**Anthony:** Winston-Salem.

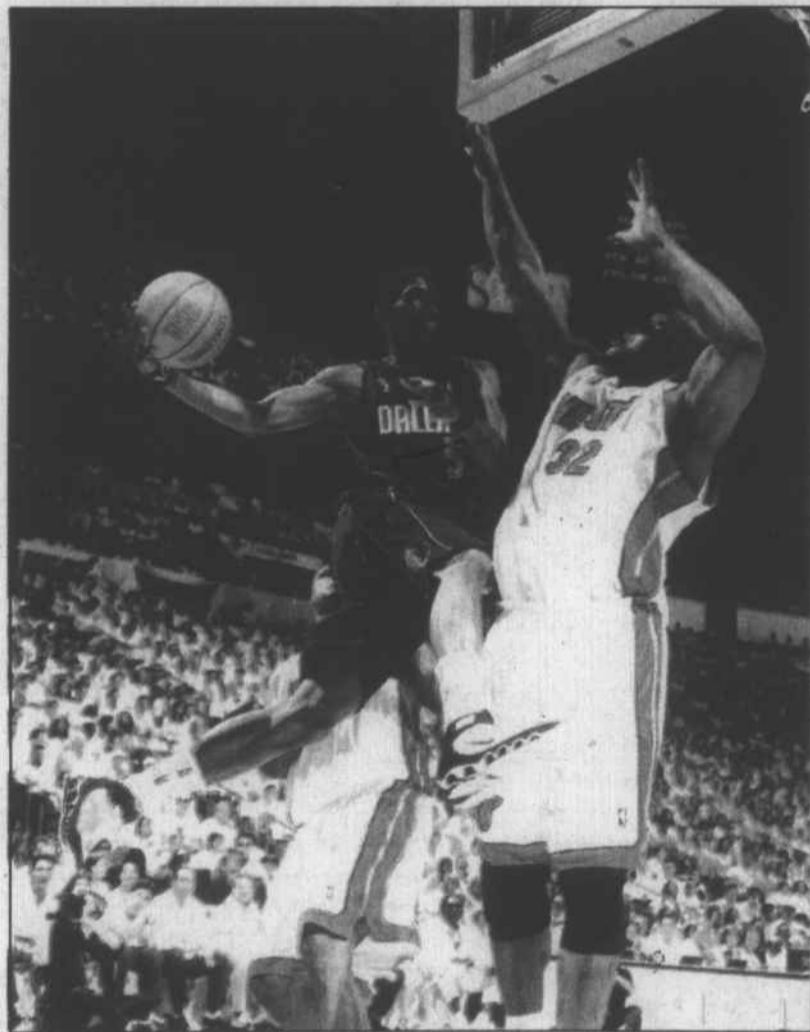
**Josh:** Home away from home. And, home.

**Anthony:** Reynolds Park.

**Josh:** Where I learned my game.

**Anthony:** Skip Prosser.

**Josh:** Where I learned my game.



Dallas Maverick star Josh Howard swings a pass around Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neil. Getty Images/ NBA Photos

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<p style="font-size: small;">Friday, July 20 DOUBLE HEADER vs. Myrtle Beach Game Time 6 pm Gates Open 5 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Friday Fireworks</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sponsored by Bank of the Carolinas &amp; WKZL Post Game Walk for Wishes Sponsored by Make a Wish, Starbucks, &amp; Kohl's D. S.</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Saturday, July 21 vs. Myrtle Beach Game Time 7 pm Gates Open 6 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Warthogs Water Bottle Giveaway</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sponsored by Pitco Water (First 1,000 fans)</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Cartoon Character Night</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Bring the kids to meet some of their favorite Cartoon Characters Sponsored by WKZL</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Sunday, July 22 vs. Myrtle Beach Game Time 5 pm Gates Open 4 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Family Fun Day</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sponsored by Krissy Krewe &amp; Simon 98.7</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Warthogs Jersey Give Away</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">(First 250 Kids) Sponsored by Time Warner</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Monday, July 23 vs. Lynchburg Game Time 7 pm Gates Open 6 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Family Four-Pack</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4 Tickets, 4 Hot Dogs, 4 Sodas, &amp; 4 Vouchers for Carousel or Speed Pitch all for \$25 Sponsored by Bpyette Aviation and WMAG</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Tuesday, July 24 vs. Lynchburg Game Time 7 pm Gates Open 6 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Goodwill Night</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Donate 4 items to Goodwill and receive a free ticket to tonight's game Sponsored by Goodwill, WTQR, &amp; WKZL</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Kids Eat Free Night</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">(With a paid ticket) Sponsored by WJcatholic &amp; Magic 94.1</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Wednesday, July 25 vs. Lynchburg Game Time 12 Noon Gates open 11 am</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Special Noon Game</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sponsored by WSJS</p>

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