## Go West, Young Hornets

The Charlotte Hornets have gone West. No, owner George Shinn hasn't moved the franchise after its first season, but in the second stage of the National Basketball Association's systematic integration of the expansion teams, the Hornets are moving to the Midwest Division of the Western Conference this season.

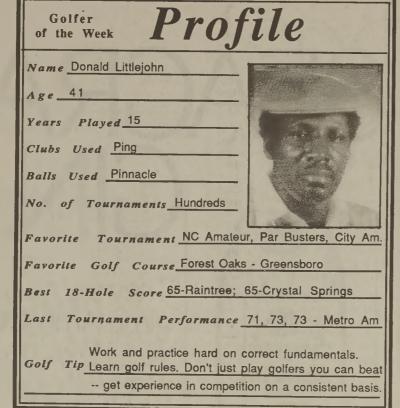
The result will be a remarkably different schedule for the 1989-90 season, which was released last week by the NBA, including one national television appearance on WIBS. The Hornets will open the season at home against the Washington Bullets on Nov. 3 before embarking on a four-game, 11-day road trip."What moving to the Midwest Division essentially means to our great fans is that they are going to see different teams making repeat appearances at the Charlotte Coliseum that we did in our first season," said Hornets Vice President and General Manager Carl Scheer. "It will also mean a grueling traveling schedule for our players with the several West coast trips that are characteristic of a Western Conference schedule."

After last year's 103-101 victory over the Chicago Bulls before a national television audience on TBS Sports, the Hornets and Bulls will be on TBS again this year on Jan. 12 in Charlotte. Another schedule highlight features back-to-back home games against the Detroit Pistons and the L. A. Lakers on sunday, March 11 and Monday, March 12.

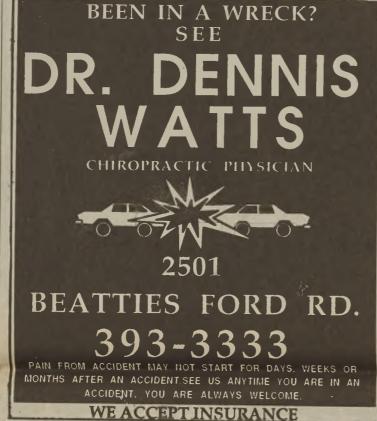
As a result of the divisional realignment, the Hornets will face all teams in the Eastern Conference, the Hornets' home last season, only twice during the season in a home-and-home series with each.

The Houston Rockets featuring five-time All-Star center Akeem Olajuwon and the San Antonio Spurs with top rookies David Robinson - following a two-year stint in the Navy - and Sean Elliott from Arizona will pay the most visits to the Charlotte Coliseum this year with three appearances each. The Hornets will host the upstart Utah Jazz with Karl "The Mailman" Malone, the Denver Nuggets with sharpshooter Michael Adams and Columbia, S. C. native Alex English, the Dallas Mavericks and former UNC standout Sam Perkins and first-year expansion team Minnesota

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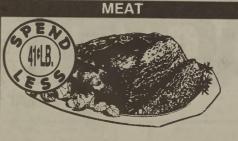
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