

NFL Football	Minnesota 23	New England 34	Green Bay 17	L.A. Raiders 30	Seattle 17	L.A. Rams 14
	Chicago 7	Pittsburgh 0	Cleveland 14	Miami 28	N.Y. Giants 12	Detroit 10
Dallas 17	New Orleans 38	Cincinnati 31	Buffalo 24	Washington 28	San Francisco 10	Kansas City 42
Philadelphia 14	Tampa Bay 7	Houston 28	Indianapolis 13	St. Louis 21	Atlanta 10	San Diego 41



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, center for the L.A. Lakers, launches his automatic sky hook in Saturday's game

Abdul-Jabbar still imperious as leader of old guard of NBA

For three seconds Saturday night in the exhibition game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Chicago Bulls, there was a gorgeous glimpse of the old guard versus the new, as perhaps the NBA's best player ever faced down the NBA's best player now.

It was a classic scene, the kind that rarely occurs in these sloppy exhibitionistic affairs. The Bulls had just scored, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar took the ball out of bounds and offhandedly fired a one-handed pass downcourt.

Michael Jordan, who Magic Johnson called "definitely the most talented player in the game," cut in front of the pass and picked it off with one hand. Jabbar, realizing his mistake even as he released the ball, strode into the center of the lane to face Jordan in a one-on-one matchup, with no other player within 30 feet of either.

Jordan came in on the right side, bouncing the ball high. Jabbar held his arms over his 7-2, 257-pound frame, cutting down the ball. Jordan cut off his dribble just outside the paint, then juked and jived in a vain effort to make the NBA's all-time career scoring leader leave his feet.

Kareem stood his ground, waving his arms. Jordan paused, considered, and finally settled for a

Scott Fowler The Far Sideline

draw. Instead of doing a mid-air improvise, he finally gave up the shot and whipped a pass to Chicago center Dave Corzine, who had lumbered downcourt. Corzine hit a jumper, and the scene was forgotten amid an orgy of 224 points.

But it was a telling scene. Abdul-Jabbar is nearly 40 years old, and has won the NBA Most Valuable Player award a record six times. He is not an oddity, either, not a curious circus animal to be put out for an occasional viewing. Abdul-Jabbar still is a force to be reckoned with after playing pro basketball longer than any other man.

He has been pursued and perused by the press ever since his high school days at Power Memorial in New York. At UCLA he led the Bruins to an 88-2 record in his three-year career, and alienated

many with an attitude which was regarded as surly and uncommunicative.

Jabbar has reportedly mellowed somewhat as he approaches middle age, but it wasn't in evidence Saturday night. In response to one reporter's question, he bit an orange and squirted juice on the guy's jacket. He appeared to have a golden rule of not giving more than a three-word answer to any question.

Reporter: "Who's the best player you've faced?"

Kareem: "Impossible to say."

Reporter: "How many years would you like to keep playing?"

Kareem: "I don't know."

Reporter: "How do you like the Smith Center?"

Kareem: "A great arena."

But despite Jabbar's lack of rapport with the press, he must be respected for his accomplishments. He is a winner of epic proportions, and although he is no longer the game's consummate player, still an imposing force against the waves of the future.

Lakers destroy Bulls, 123-101; Jordan shakes and bakes for 36

By EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

Two of the more prominent members of UNC's 1982 national championship team returned as opponents over the homecoming weekend.

James Worthy and Michael Jordan, along with the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers and the Chicago Bulls, treated a capacity crowd in the Dean E. Smith Center to a preseason exhibition game. The Lakers won, 123-101.

The two alumni were introduced together to a standing ovation, in what was billed as their "senior game introduction." Both players left UNC for the professional ranks following their junior years.

And both Worthy and Jordan said the introduction was a special moment.

"It gave me chill bumps. It was really special," Worthy said. "A lot of guys don't get a chance to come back for something like this."

"It was great to come back," Jordan said. "I really enjoyed coming back, but I just wish we could have played better."

Ah yes, there was the matter of the game itself.

Worthy got the first basket of the game, but he then had a difficult time finding the hole until the second quarter.

"I just couldn't seem to get the pipes open tonight," Worthy said. "I knew the crowd was looking for excitement, so I left that up to Michael."

And eventually Jordan provided the crowd with some thrills, but nearly four minutes elapsed before he sank his first basket.

"I'm not sure what the fans expected - 63 points, 50 points - after what I did in the playoffs last year," said Jordan, who last year set a playoff record with 63 points against the Boston Celtics.

The game was close until Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored with 3:50 left in the first quarter to put the Lakers ahead to stay. They then ran off 10 straight points to take a 28-16 halftime lead.

And just before the end of the period, Laker guard Michael Cooper jammed a forceful dunk to the cries of "Coop, Coop."

In the second quarter Jordan got hot. He scored nine straight points in one stretch, and finished with a total of 15 of 25 field goals and six of seven free throws to lead all scorers with 36.

Jordan brought the crowd to life as he leaped above the pack to block a shot on one end and then rush to the other end to score and draw a foul for the three-point play.

Jordan said that despite the homecoming being special to him, he hadn't planned any advance moves.

"You can't really plan what you're going to do," Jordan said. "You just have to go out and play naturally."

The Bulls pulled within seven at 40-33 as Jordan dunked with about seven minutes to go in the second period. But Abdul-Jabbar hit a sky-hook, Worthy followed with eight points, and the Lakers went on to take a 61-45 lead at the half.

In the second half the Bulls were able to get within three at 71-68, after a pair of running slammers by Jordan, which aroused an otherwise somber crowd. But that was as close as the Bulls would get on this

evening.

Worthy, who finished with 18 points, realized the crowd wasn't as excited as it could have been.

"I think there would have been more excitement if we had won the (football) game today," Worthy said.

An exciting moment for the crowd was when Laker forward Kurt Rambis pulled his trademark play by diving across the Laker bench into the crowd for a loose ball, which drew roaring applause.

Laker head coach Pat Riley said he was generally pleased with his team's effort and their progress at this point in the season.

"I think we played a quick game and that's our kind of game," Riley said. "We have had some injuries, like to our back-up center, and that hurts our size. But tonight, the quickness got to the size before the size got to the quickness. I don't know if it will do that later on."

For Jordan, the question is will he have to score 35-40 points a game this year for the Bulls to win?

"I hope not," Jordan said. "It could be a busy day at the office if I have to do that."



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