



## 80s Era NBA + 40: Part Ten

### *The Philadelphia 76ers – How They Were Built*

By Michael Hamel

Unlike the Celtics and Lakers, who returned to greatness with the arrival of Bird and Magic in 1979, the 76ers' road back to the elite ranks of the NBA started a few years earlier. On October 20, 1976, Philadelphia general manager Pat Williams convinced owner Fitz Dixon to buy superstar Julius Erving from the New York Nets in the wake of the NBA-ABA merger.

Four months earlier, the Nets, along with the Indiana Pacers, Denver Nuggets and San Antonio Spurs, had been granted the privilege of spending \$3.2 million apiece to join the NBA. The Nets, who had won two of the ABA's last three championships, were essential to the merger because of Erving, but they were also encroaching on the New York Knicks' geographical territory. As part of the merger agreement, Nets' owner Roy Boe was forced to pay an additional \$4.8 million directly to the Knicks, in the form of \$480,000 a year for ten years. It was the ultimate poison pill: Boe could not afford \$8 million of new debt, and the specter of a holdout by Erving added to Boe's concerns. Erving thought he had an agreement with Boe to re-negotiate his seven-year, \$1.9 million contract (which still had four years remaining) if there was a merger, and the dispute deepened when Boe traded for Tiny Archibald in September, whose contract which was larger than Erving's. Boe offered Erving to the Knicks in exchange for relief on his debt, but they turned him down.<sup>1</sup> Desperate, Boe sold Erving to the 76ers for \$3 million; Dixon then gave Erving a new six-year, \$3.5 million contract.<sup>2</sup> Erving instantly upgraded Philadelphia's lineup, which welcomed some other **new arrivals** that season.

1975-76 76ers	1976-77 76ers
SF Steve Mix	SF Julius Erving
PF George McGinnis	PF George McGinnis
C Harvey Catchings	C Caldwell Jones
SG Doug Collins	SG Doug Collins
PG Fred Carter	PG Henry Bibby
C Clyde Lee	C Darryl Dawkins
C Darryl Dawkins (R)	C Harvey Catchings (injured)
C Leroy Ellis	SG Lloyd Free
SG Lloyd Free (R)	PG Mike Dunleavy (R)
SG Connie Norman	SG Jim Barnett

PG Wali Jones	SG Terry Furlow (R)
PG Freddie Boyd	PG Fred Carter (to Milw.)
PF Joe Bryant (R)	SF Steve Mix
SF Billy Cunningham	PF Joe Bryant
SF Jerry Baskerville (R)	

With Erving leading the way, the 76ers reached the NBA Finals, but blew a 2-0 lead and lost to the Portland Trail Blazers. Even before the playoffs, head coach Gene Shue was frequently maligned by fans and the press—and Fitz Dixon—for being unable to get the best out of the 76ers’ combustible collection of young veteran players in the prime of their careers. Curry Kirkpatrick of *Sports Illustrated* neatly summarized Shue’s plight in a March 1977 article:<sup>3</sup>

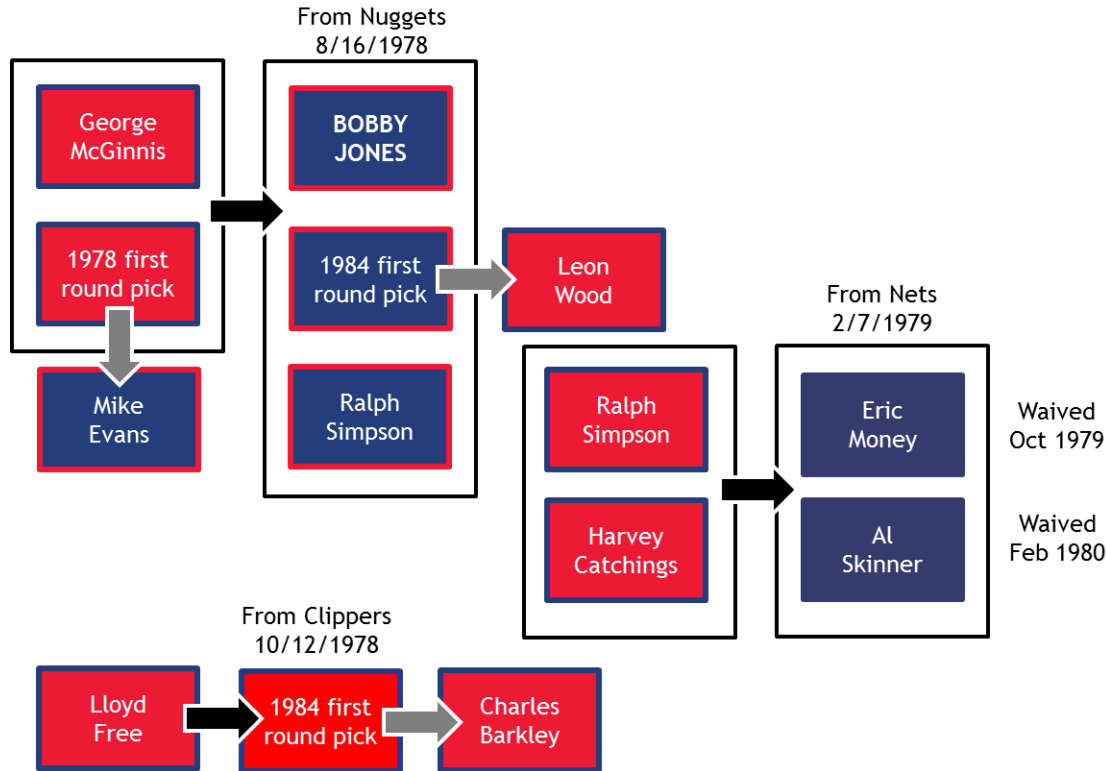
*In all fairness to Shue, his team is not the most coachable unit on earth. If Collins isn’t upset because Mix temporarily replaced him as the team’s technical foul shooter, Free is mad because Collins has taken his starting job. If Caldwell Jones isn’t disturbed that Erving and McGinnis get all the shots on the front line, McGinnis is pouting when Mix starts the second half of a TV game.*

Over the next two seasons, the 76ers regressed. Shue was shown the door after a 2-4 start in the fall of 1977. His replacement, former Sixers’ player Billy Cunningham, led the team to the Eastern Conference Finals, where they fell to the Washington Bullets. That offseason, Williams traded two of Cunningham’s biggest headaches, the talented but ball-hogging duo of George McGinnis and Lloyd Free,<sup>4</sup> along with their 1978 first-round pick, in separate deals that yielded a defensive stopper in forward Bobby Jones, along with two future first-round picks from the Denver Nuggets (to be exercised between 1980 and 1984) and the San Diego Clippers (1984). McGinnis and Free had combined to average 36 points a game during the regular season, with a shooting percentage of .460, but in the playoff series against the Bullets they both shot under 40 percent from the floor and each averaged just 14 points a night.<sup>5</sup>

Jones was known for his defense but was an efficient offensive player, scoring 14-15 points a game while leading the ABA in field goal percentage in 1975 and 1976 and the NBA in 1978. Also, Jones must have been pleased that Erving would now be a teammate instead of an adversary. The Nuggets had given Jones the assignment to stop Erving during the 1976 ABA Finals. It didn’t work. “In the first game I tried to make him go baseline, and he went right by me [for 48 points],” Jones said after Erving’s Nets won the series 4-2. Jones then explained that, “[a]fter that I tried to make him pull up in the lane. So he made

his jumpers. Or he went right by me. But I really enjoy watching him because every time he does one of those moves I know it's something I may never see again.”<sup>6</sup>

### Addition by Subtraction (McGinnis and Free)



Note: Players listed in ALL CAPS were part of a 76ers championship team in the 80s Era

The 76ers lost in the conference semifinals in 1979, as Doug Collins missed the end of the season and the playoffs after surgery for bone spurs. Dixon was rumored to be willing to fire Cunningham and Williams, but he held off.<sup>7</sup> Cunningham stuck to his defensive formula, realizing that his style was better suited to coaching a hard-working team of grinders instead of a group of high maintenance high-flyers. “Instead of thinking about the game,” Cunningham told Anthony Cotton of *Sports Illustrated* in 1983, “I was worrying about the people who had to resolve their various problems. I just don’t have the personality to deal with that.”<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, the 76ers made a second trade with the Clippers. Shue had been hired by the Clippers in 1978,<sup>9</sup> and was ecstatic when the 76ers had made Free available: “Lloyd is one of the most talented players in the league, and they just gave him away.”<sup>10</sup> The Clippers organization was so ecstatic that they tried the same thing a year later, sending their 1986 first-round pick to Philadelphia for Joe “Jelly Bean” Bryant. Free and Bryant failed to produce a single playoff appearance for San Diego, and by the fall of 1982 both were gone. Meanwhile, the picks they had sent to Philadelphia would help the 76ers sustain their run in the mid-1980’s.

Pat Williams liked trading for first-round picks but also enjoyed trading them away. The following table lists the return that Philadelphia reaped for the first-round selections that they earned on the court:

Year	Pick	Results
1978	21	<i>To Nuggets, originally for 1980 #1 pick but later included in McGinnis trade<sup>11</sup></i>
1979	21	Jim Spanarkel
1980	21	Monti Davis
1981	22	Franklin Edwards
1982	22	Mark McNamara
1983	23	<i>To Pacers in deal for Clemon Johnson</i>
1984	22	Tom Sewell
1985	21	Terry Catledge
1986	21	<i>To Bullets in Moses Malone-Jeff Ruland trade</i>

Note the consistency of the 76ers’ draft position in what was then a 22 or 23-team league. The low picks led to a fairly weak crop of players. But when Williams acquired picks from other teams, the return was significantly better:

Year	Pick	Results	How Acquired
1978	36	Maurice Cheeks	From Bucks for Fred Carter, Dec 1976
1979	36	Clint Richardson	From Nets (originally Nuggets) for Wilson Washington, Jan 1978
1980	8	Andrew Toney	From Pacers for Mel Bennett, Nov 1976
1981	4	<i>To Blazers for Lionel Hollins Feb 1980</i>	From Cavaliers for Terry Furlow, Oct 1977
1983	3	<i>To Rockets as part of Moses Malone compensation Sep 1983<sup>12</sup></i>	From Cavaliers for Terry Furlow, Oct 1977
1983	17	Leo Rautins	From Nets for Darryl Dawkins, Aug 1982
1984	4	Charles Barkley	From Clippers for Lloyd Free, Oct 1978
1984	10	Leon Wood	From Nuggets for George McGinnis, Aug 1978
1986	1	<i>To Cavaliers for Roy Hinson and cash Jun 1986</i>	From Clippers for Joe Bryant, Oct 1979

Barkley ended up in the Hall of Fame, Cheeks started at point guard for a decade, Toney became known as a Celtics killer because of his outside shooting prowess, Hollins filled the void when Collins' career was derailed by a series of injuries, and Richardson was a key defensive player off the bench for six seasons.

The acquisition of Malone was controversial because the 76ers signed him to the richest contract in NBA history (\$2.2 million a year) and sacrificed several players to compensate. Gone were Caldwell Jones (sent to the Rockets as part of the compensation package, and set to earn \$500,000), Darryl Dawkins (\$600,000), Steve Mix and Mike Bantom (\$450,000 combined). The loss of Jones was particularly disturbing to Erving. "I remember times when he couldn't even walk in the locker room. But he'd go out onto the court and play his heart out. Everything that was said about him, his being underrated, should be multiplied 100 times. Those personalities are irreplaceable." Still, Erving was happy to have Malone on the team and vowed that "egos will not interfere with the success of this team."<sup>13</sup> He was proven correct: the 76ers won the 1983 championship, their first since 1967.

# Philadelphia 76ers Roster Timeline

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
		1982 Round 2 Pick 36	J.J. Anderson	Released, Signed with Jazz (Dec 1982)				
	Purchased from Pacers (Jan 1982)	Mike Bantom	Retired		Free Agent (Dec 1985)	Butch Carter	Released (Dec 1985)	
Purchased from Jazz (Sep 1976)	Henry Bibby	Released, Signed with Clippers (Oct 1980)						
		1984 Round 1 Pick 5 (from Clippers)			Charles Barkley	Charles Barkley	Charles Barkley	
1978 Round 2 Pick 36	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks	Maurice Cheeks
1973 Round 1 Pick 1	Doug Collins	Doug Collins	Retired		1985 Round 1 Pick 21	Terry Catledge	Trade to Bullets (Jun 1986)	
1979 Round 3 Pick 58	Earl Cureton	Earl Cureton	Earl Cureton	Signed with Pistons (Nov 1983)				
1980 Round 1 Pick 21	Monti Davis	Released (Oct 1980)				Trade from Bulls (Dec 1986)	Steve Colter	
1975 Round 1 Pick 5	Darryl Dawkins	Darryl Dawkins	Darryl Dawkins	Trade to Nets* (Aug 1982)		Free Agent (Dec 1986)	World B. Free	Released (Mar 1987)
		1981 Round 1 Pick	Franklin Edwards	Franklin Edwards	Franklin Edwards	Signed with Clippers (Mar 1985)		
Purchased from Nets (Oct 1976)	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving	Julius Erving
						Trade from Bullets (Jan 1986)	Kenny Green	
Trade from Trail Blazers (Feb 1980)	Lionel Hollins	Lionel Hollins	Lionel Hollins	Trade to Clippers (Oct 1982)				
					Free Agent (Mar 1985)	Steve Hayes	Released (Apr 1985)	
							Trade from Cavaliers (Jun 1986)	Roy Hinson
			Free Agent (Aug 1982)	Marc Iavaroni	Marc Iavaroni	Marc Iavaroni	Trade to Spurs (Dec 1984)	
			Trade from Pacers (Feb 1983)	Clemon Johnson	Clemon Johnson	Clemon Johnson	Clemon Johnson	Trade to SuperSonics (Sep 1986)
			Purchased from Kings (Feb 1983)	Reggie Johnson	Trade to Nets (Oct 1983)	Free Agent (Nov 1986)	Jim Lampley	Released (Dec 1986)
	Free Agent (Nov 1980)	Ollie Johnson	Ollie Johnson	Retired		Trade from SuperSonics (Sep 1986)	Tim McCormack	
					Free Agent (Dec 1984)	George Johnson	Released (Oct 1985), Signed with Bullets (Nov 1985)	
Trade from Nuggets (Aug 1978)	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Bobby Jones	Retired
Free Agent (Feb 1975)	Caldwell Jones	Caldwell Jones	Caldwell Jones	To Rockets as compensation for Malone (Sep 1982)				
				Free Agent (Feb 1984)	Charles Jones	Released (Feb 1984)		
				Free Agent (Feb 1984)	Bruce Kuczenski	Released (Feb 1984)		
			Free Agent (Sep 1982)	Moses Malone	Moses Malone	Moses Malone	Moses Malone	Trade to Bullets (Jun 1986)
			Free Agent (Mar 1984)	Wes Matthews	Released (Apr 1984)			
Free Agent (Aug 1973)	Steve Mix	Steve Mix	Steve Mix	Signed with Bucks (Sep 1982)		Free Agent (Jan 1986)	Bob McAdoo	Retired
Trade from Nets (Feb 1979)	Eric Money	Released (Oct 1979), Signed with Pistons (Nov 1979)				Free Agent (Dec 1985)	Perry Moss	Released (Oct 1986)
			1982 Round 1 Pick 22	Mark McNamara	Trade to Spurs (Nov 1983)	Free Agent (Mar 1987)	Mark McNamara	
			1983 Round 1 Pick 17 (from Nets*)	Leo Rautins	Trade to Pacers (Sep 1984)			
					Trade from Bullets (Jun 1986)		Cliff Robinson	
1979 Round 2 Pick 36	Clint Richardson	Clint Richardson	Clint Richardson	Clint Richardson	Clint Richardson	Clint Richardson	Trade to Pacers	(Oct 1985)
						Trade from Bullets (Jun 1986)	Jeff Ruland	
Trade from Nets (Feb 1979)	Al Skinner	Released (Feb 1980)				1985 Round 2 Pick 33	Greg Stokes	Signed with Kings (Oct 1989)
			1982 Round 2 Pick 45	Russ Schoene	Traded to Pacers (Feb 1983)			
1979 Round 1 Pick 16	Jim Spanarkel	Drafted by Mavericks (Expansion Draft)				Free Agent (Oct 1985)	Paul Thompson	Retired
1979 Round 2 Pick 37	Bernard Toone	Retired		1983 Round 6 Pick 139	Sedale Threatt	Sedale Threatt	Sedale Threatt	Trade to Bulls (Dec 1986)
	1980 Round 1 Pick 8	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney	Andrew Toney
						Trade from SuperSonics (Sep 1986)	Danny Vranes	
			Trade from Warriors (Nov 1983)	Sam Williams	Sam Williams	Retired		
						1986 Round 2 Pick 44	David Wingate	
						1985 Round 2 Pick 44	Voise Winters	Released (Dec 1985)
			1984 Round 1 Pick 10 (from Nuggets)	Leon Wood	Leon Wood	Leon Wood	Trade to Bullets (Jan 1986)	
					Free Agent (Apr 1986)	Michael Young	Released (Nov 1987)	

June 17, 1986 Headlines:<sup>14</sup>

- *Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger resigns; President Reagan nominates Justice William Rehnquist as Chief Justice, and Antonin Scalia to fill vacancy on court*
- *State of Emergency in South Africa due to tenth anniversary of Soweto riots*
- *Space Shuttle Challenger accident investigation continues*
- *Singer Kate Smith (“God Bless America”) dies*
- *Boston Celtics select Len Bias of Maryland with number 2 pick in the NBA draft; Philadelphia 76ers trade number 1 pick and Moses Malone in separate deals for Roy Hinson and Jeff Ruland*

Celtics fans had been looking forward to this day since the draft lottery on May 11, and now they had two reasons to celebrate. Not only was Bias going to be the bridge to the next generation of Celtics greatness, but it was obvious—at the time—that the 76ers had blown a golden opportunity. Both the 76ers and Celtics had been very fortunate during the lottery. Philadelphia (who held the Clippers pick due to the Joe Bryant trade) had moved up six spots; the Celtics (holding the Seattle SuperSonics pick) had moved up four. Red Auerbach later told reporters that he “was having fun up there” as he sat next to Pat Williams on the stage as the picks were announced during halftime of Game 7 of the 76ers-Bucks playoff series. Each team representative plucked a sealed envelope out of a drum on the stage in the order in which they would have selected if no lottery was in place. When it was his turn, Auerbach fumbled his envelope, dropping it back into the drum before grabbing the same one (it would turn out to be Phoenix). Each envelope was placed on a small ledge built into a blue wall behind the drum. As Commissioner David Stern opened the envelopes, it became clear that the Celtics had moved up. Auerbach, smoking his cigar throughout the proceedings, started holding up fingers to represent Boston’s potential landing spot: five, then four, then three. When the Celtics were revealed to have the second pick, Auerbach was openly gleeful on the stage.<sup>15</sup>

Pat Williams was also all smiles that day, but later soured on the pick. Center Brad Daugherty from North Carolina was the consensus number one choice—NBA scouting director Marty Blake would later recall that “[t]here was absolutely no question that Brad Daugherty was going to be a helluva player”—but Williams claimed in 1988 that “nobody was excited about the guy.”<sup>16</sup> Williams also believed that Daugherty would not fit the up-tempo game that new head coach Matt Goukas wanted to run, which turned out to be a correct assessment. Still, two days before the draft it appeared that Daugherty would be the choice. Williams had already turned down an offer from the Pistons of Bill Laimbeer, Kelly Tripucka and Vinnie Johnson for

the number 1 pick and Moses Malone, who had angered the 76ers' new owner, Harold Katz, by trying to re-negotiate his contact.<sup>17</sup>

Instead, Williams made a deal with the Washington Bullets, acquiring All-Star center Jeff Ruland and forward Cliff Robinson for Malone, Terry Catledge, the 76ers' own 1986 first-round pick (#21) and a 1988 first-round pick. Williams liked Ruland, and felt that getting Robinson while keeping the top pick, was a better move than the Pistons' offer. The 27-year-old Ruland was considered a better open court player than Malone but was a big medical risk: he had played just 67 games over the past two seasons. Ruland's 1985-86 regular season ended in March when he broke his right foot and suffered torn cartilage in his left knee, though he had returned to play against the 76ers in the playoffs. "We had many questions about Ruland's health," Katz said the day after the trade. "We're convinced the injuries were minor. When healthy, he had Moses Malone-type numbers."<sup>18</sup> Malone, who Katz considered older than his age (31) because he had jumped directly from high school to pro ball, was seen as heading into his twilight years.<sup>19</sup>

But Ruland's knee problems were not minor, they were chronic. The 76ers could have cancelled the trade when their orthopedic surgeon found big problems in Ruland's knees during a team physical, but Katz refused to do so because: 1) other doctors disagreed with that diagnosis and 2) Malone had publicly ripped Katz in the press after the trade was announced, deepening Katz's desire to be rid of him.<sup>20</sup> Katz would pay for his personal vendetta, since Ruland played just five games for the 76ers in 1986-87 before retiring.<sup>21</sup> Malone went on to average 20 points and 11 rebounds a game for the next *four years* (two in Washington, two in Atlanta) and missed just 14 games over his next *six seasons*. He retired in 1995.<sup>22</sup>

The other half of the 76ers draft day fiasco occurred because the Cleveland Cavaliers—no longer under Ted Stepien's ownership—made the 76ers an offer for the number one selection that Williams thought was too good to refuse. The Cavs did not have a coach or a general manager, but Wayne Embry was about to take the GM job and recommended offering forward Roy Hinson to the 76ers for the top pick. "Roy Hinson was a good player," Embry recalled two years after the trade, "[b]ut he's a small forward. I felt that if you're going to build a team, you need a center. And I felt that Brad was going to be a great one."<sup>23</sup> Cleveland also agreed to throw in \$800,000 in cash.

The day after the deals, Goukas claimed to be pleased with the transactions, saying: "Yesterday morning, when I went into work, the forward rotation seemed to be Brad Daugherty, Charles Barkley and Terry Catledge. Today, it's Roy Hinson, Cliff Robinson and Charles Barkley. You don't have to be a scientist to realize that's a better group."<sup>24</sup> But fans quoted in



Philadelphia papers were more skeptical, not understanding how they could pass up Daugherty, and they were proven correct. Hinson and Robinson had posted good stats on bad teams; in Philadelphia, their performance sagged. Using points per game and rebounds per game as a measurement, albeit an imperfect one, a comparison of Daugherty's and Catledge's statistics *after* the trades with Robinson's and Hinson's numbers *before* the trades shows that the duos posted almost identical marks (32.4/16.2 vs. 31.2/16.4). But obviously, that was not what the 76ers had in mind.

Name		G	GS	PPG	RPG
Terry Catledge	After 1986	451	372	13.4	6.7
	Career	515	379	12.7	6.4
Brad Daugherty	After 1986	548	546	19.0	9.5
	Career	548	546	19.0	9.5
Roy Hinson	Thru 1986	238	218	13.6	7.3
	Career	507	391	14.2	6.8
Cliff Robinson	Thru 1986	489	319	17.6	9.1
	Career	629	413	17.2	8.3

Sadly, the 1986 draft turned out to be even more tragic for Celtics fans, who never got to see Len Bias wear his number 30 Celtics' jersey on the court. Two days after the draft, Bias died from a cocaine overdose, and the Celtics started a slow downhill slide. It would be twenty-two years before the Celtics won another championship.

Next Time: The 1983 NBA Finals

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## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Simmons, Bill. *The Book of Basketball*. New York: Ballantine/ESPN, 2010, p179. Instead of taking Erving, the Knicks and Nets settled the debt in June 1978 after the Knicks sued the Nets for lack of payment. The settlement included the Knicks and Nets swapping first-round picks in the 1978 draft, the Knicks receiving the Nets top pick in 1979 (theirs or the pick they had already acquired from Houston), plus the Nets agreed to give the Knicks all of their exhibition game revenue for three years, among other considerations. The Nets also received Phil Jackson in the deal. For the Knicks, the picks turned into Micheal Ray Richardson (1978) and Marvin Webster (via free agent compensation paid to Seattle in 1979).

<sup>2</sup> Curry Kirkpatrick, "The Dr. Doubled His Fee," *Sports Illustrated*, November 1, 1976.

<sup>3</sup> Curry Kirkpatrick, "Good, But Why Not The Best?" *Sports Illustrated*, March 21, 1977. Also see Douglas S. Looney, "That Fitz, He's A Honey," *Sports Illustrated*, November 6, 1978.

<sup>4</sup> Curry Kirkpatrick of *Sports Illustrated* once wrote that the shot-happy Free "was known to start shooting before the concluding notes of the national anthem." See Curry Kirkpatrick, "Good, But Why Not The Best?"

<sup>5</sup> The *Philadelphia 76ers 1978-79 Statistical Yearbook* provides their statistics against the Bullets on page 136: McGinnis 29-75, .386, 13.8 ppg; Free 26-74, .351, 14.0 ppg. While Erving and Collins also saw their FG% drop in the Bullets series, from .502 to .473 and .526 to .477, respectively, their declines were far less severe.

<sup>6</sup> Pat Putnam, "The Doctor Opens Up His Medicine Bag," *Sports Illustrated*, May 17, 1976.

<sup>7</sup> Curry Kirkpatrick, "Hey, What's Up With The Doc?" *Sports Illustrated*, March 26, 1979.

<sup>8</sup> Anthony Cotton, "Blood, Sweat And Cheers," *Sports Illustrated*, October 31, 1983.

<sup>9</sup> Shue was hired while former Celtics' owner Irv Levin was working out his franchise swap with Buffalo Braves owner John Y. Brown. Levin attempted to "hire" (or "force", depending on your point of view) former Celtics coach Tom Heinsohn to coach the relocated Braves in San Diego in exchange for the \$100,000 that was still left on Heinsohn's contract with Boston. Heinsohn sued, and was freed from any obligation. Mike Fine, "Heinsohn's going to stick around," *Patriot Ledger*, July 28, 1978.

<sup>10</sup> John Papanek, "Born Free And Living Up To His Name," *Sports Illustrated*, January 22, 1979. Free would finish second in the NBA in scoring in both of his seasons in San Diego, and made the 1980 All-Star team. But after the 1979-80 season both Shue and Free were gone. Free was dealt to the Warriors for Phil Smith and a 1984 first-round pick; that pick replaced the one that had gone to the 76ers, but ended up as the #8 selection which they used to take 6'3" guard Lancaster Gordon who played just 201 games in the NBA.

<sup>11</sup> A wire story in *The Evening Independent*, August 16, 1978 states that the McGinnis/Jones deal "has been in the works for three months" but was held up because they both had no-trade clauses and "the primary problem has been the matter of special bonus payments to the two." Another wire story on August 17, "McGinnis' Trade To Denver Completed," quotes Pat Williams as saying it was "the longest transaction in the history of pro sports" and states that "negotiations began June 9." The article continues: "Williams disclosed that the deal also involved an exchange of draft choices that had previously been made. The 76ers first pick last June went to

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the Nuggets who chose Mike Evans of Kansas State... In return, the 76ers will get a future No. 1 draft selection from Denver.” Wire stories back in June stated that the 76ers had originally traded their #1 pick in 1978 for the Nuggets #1 in 1980.

<sup>12</sup> The Rockets used the pick to select Rodney McCray and reached the Finals in 1986. Furlow had been a star at Michigan State but never prospered in the NBA, he was traded to the Atlanta Hawks and the Utah Jazz and died in a car crash in May 1980. His college career is described here: “Flint legend Terry Furlow deserves to have his jersey number retired at Michigan State” by Eric Woodyard, posted at: [http://www.mlive.com/sports/flint/index.ssf/2012/11/column\\_flint\\_legend\\_terry\\_furl.html](http://www.mlive.com/sports/flint/index.ssf/2012/11/column_flint_legend_terry_furl.html)

<sup>13</sup> Roy S. Johnson, “Malone Is Now in Philadelphia To Lead 76ers to Promised Land,” *New York Times*, October 18, 1982. Salary figures are taken directly from quotes in that story from 76ers owner Harold Katz.

<sup>14</sup> Vanderbilt Television News Archive <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/tvn-month-search.pl>

<sup>15</sup> Michael Madden, “A Red Scare,” *Boston Globe*, May 12, 1986. In 1985 Stern had pulled the envelopes from the drum. In 1986, the team reps did, to avoid any charges of impropriety by the commissioner. See Will McDonough, “Second Guessing; Field Is Narrowed To Four Big Men To Become Celtics’ No. 1 Choice,” *Boston Globe*, May 12, 1986. In the McDonough article, Bias is presented as an unlikely choice, since Red supposedly wanted a center (Daugherty, Washburn, Bedford), but this was a smokescreen: Auerbach knew Bias well (and unfortunately thought he knew him well as a person) and was always inclined to take him. Clip of Auerbach’s reaction from “Top 10 Draft Lottery Moments” posted on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAJ9FXrZZqY>. Note that the 76ers won the lottery but lost Game 7 to the Bucks that afternoon, ending their season.

<sup>16</sup> Paul Domowitch, “Draft Day Deals Doomed Sixers; Moves To Land Ruland, Hinson Make Team’s Future Look Bleak,” *Philadelphia Daily News*, April 20, 1988.

<sup>17</sup> Jack McCallum, “Back To Haunt The Sixers,” *Sports Illustrated*, March 16, 1987.

<sup>18</sup> “76ers Trade Malone And Top Pick Deals Net Hinson, Ruland,” by Mike Bruton, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 18, 1986: [http://articles.philly.com/1986-06-18/sports/26047166\\_1\\_sixers-north-carolina-s-brad-daugherty-trade](http://articles.philly.com/1986-06-18/sports/26047166_1_sixers-north-carolina-s-brad-daugherty-trade)

<sup>19</sup> Jack McCallum, “Back To Haunt The Sixers.”

<sup>20</sup> The Sixers and Bullets agreed to a two-week medical examination window during which time either side could cancel the trade. Phil Jasner, “Escape Clause Was Part of Ruland’s Trade,” *Philadelphia Daily News*, November 19, 1986.

<sup>21</sup> Ruland did make a brief comeback in 1991, appearing in 24 games over two seasons for the 76ers and Pistons.

<sup>22</sup> The Bullets also won the remainder of the trade when they selected Harvey Grant with the 76ers’ 1988 pick.

<sup>23</sup> Paul Domowitch, “Draft Day Deals Doomed Sixers; Moves To Land Ruland, Hinson Make Team’s Future Look Bleak.”

<sup>24</sup> Mike Bruton, “76ers Trade Malone And Top Pick Deals Net Hinson, Ruland.”