The Inside Story

Odds &



By Mike Conklin

Smoke signals: If NASCAR lost Winston cigarettes as a sponsor in the wake of U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan's war on tobacco, the circuit wouldn't necessarily be left high and dry. Check the list of participating sponsors for this weekend's Winston Cup-Goodwrench 500 stock car race in Rockingham, N.C.: Auto Meter Instruments, Bilstein Shocks, Budget Rent-a-Car, Champion Spark Plugs, Crane Cams, Dinner Bell Foods, Earl's Plumbing, Edelbrock Manifolds, Goodyear Belts, Gatorade, Gillette Right Guard, Goody's Headache Powders, Heinz Ketchup, Holley Carburetors, Holly Farms Chicken, Hurst Shifters, JE Pistons, McCord Gaskets, Mac Tools, Michigan Engine Bearings, Moog Chasis Parts, Moroso Oil Pans, Perfect Circle Valve Stem Seals, Plasti-Kote Spray Paint, Prestone Antifreeze, Raybestos Brake Pads, Reed Cams, Sears Diehard Batteries, Simpson Helmets, Speed-pro Piston Rings, Stant Radiator Caps, STP Oil Treatment & Oil Filters, True Value, Unocal Gasoline & Engine Oil, Victor Oil Seals, Western Auto Stores, Wiseco Pistons, Busch Beer and Goodyear Tires. Counting Winston and Goodwrench, that's 41 sponsors.

Revisionist: It's too bad no Chicago reporters were present when ex-De Paul star Rod Strickland was introduced to the San Antonio media after his trade to the Spurs. When local sportswriters asked about Rocket Rod's off-the-court problems as a Blue Demon, coach Larry Brown laughed it off with this explanation: Strickland didn't like to go to class. Hey, Larry, may your nose grow long. What about Strickland's several







Strickland

scrapes with the law, curfew violations and an occasional work ethic that belonged in Dogpatch? Strickland will have to carry a load in San Antonio. He's going from a part-timer, averaging 20 minutes a game with the Knicks, to an eventual 40-minute role at point with the Spurs.

Pope John Paul II wants you: We've gotten used to the armed services' ads during sports events. You know, "Be all you can be in today's Army." Or, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure." Viewers of Pat Benkowski's "Sports Spotlight" show Wednesday night on SportsChannel are going to see a different kind of pitch. Rev. Gregory Sakowicz will do a 30-second spot to try to get you to enroll at Niles College of Loyola University—to become a Catholic priest. Sakowicz is vocation recruiter for the priesthood at the school. "This is the first time the Catholic priesthood has ever been promoted during a sports TV program in Chicago," he said. "Television is a great medium to invite young men to seriously consider today's priesthood in a world that needs priests. Pat's willingness to help promote this on his program is unique."

Jack's back: Jack Sikma, who'll be with the Bucks on Tuesday in the Stadium, says he'll play one more season after this year. "It's a race against time," says Sikma, who wants to play on one more NBA title team before retiring. The 7-footer's style hasn't changed much in 14 pro seasons. In fact, it hasn't changed since he was spotted popping in long jumpers for tiny St. Anne in the first Illinois Class A state finals. He's Milwaukee's leader in three-pointers and free-throw percentage.

Slimmer Slims: Chicago Virginia Slims tennis tournament organizers had to eat their hearts out when they saw attendance figures for the just-completed U.S. Pro Indoor Championships for men in Philadelphia. There were 15,400 tickets sold for a final that featured two nobodies-Pete Sampras and Andres Gomez. The recent Slims' tourney here, featuring five of the top 10 women's seeds, drew only 6,242 for a final won by Martina Navratilova over Manuela Maleeva.

Where is he now? Paul Arizin, former NBA great with the old Philadelphia Warriors, recently retired from his job with IBM. The 61-year-old still lives in the Philly area, but rarely goes to pro games. Said Arizin: "From the time my first son was in 6th grade, I was busy going to their games. That was enough for me. Anyway, I'm a Warrior, not really a Sixer. All my records are out in Golden State. I bet somebody out there is going through the books and says, 'Who the hell is this guy Arizin?"

Scribbling: Dan Webb, one of the trial lawyers involved in the recent Norby Walters' case in Chicago, will be a panelist at a public forum on college athletes April 3 at Northwestern's Nathaniel Leverone Hall. . . . Illinois State women's volleyball will get a big boost next year from Barb Blizzard, a three-time all-stater at Oak Lawn Richards who's transferring to Julie Morgan's program. Blizzard was a two-year starter for Pepperdine's nationally ranked team before transferring this past year to Moraine Valley CC, where she sat out the season. . . . Final Four fever: Former Proviso East star Doc Rivers, a veteran of NCAA playoff wars at Marquette, will be the guest commentator during the bigscreen broadcast of this year's Division I title game April 2 at "Thirty Four's" in Schaumburg. WBBM's Rich King will be emcee.

And finally: The Cubs' front office staff is paying a price for baseball's lockout. With everyone expected to be in Arizona for spring training, the team had scheduled long-overdue remodeling in its Wrigley Field offices this week. Now, the noisy work is being done around a lot of people who would much rather be somewhere else.

FEB. 10, 1990, TOKYO

TANK MCNAMARA

FLASHBACK :

VMI twins carry togetherness to extreme

Ask Ramon Williams about his roommate at Virginia Military Institute, and his eyes light up. "I just think we must have something pretty special that no one can really experience," he said. "I don't really know how to explain it, but

we just treat ourselves like friends—best Ask Damon Williams about his roommate,

"The contact will always be there, even if we're split," he says. "We want to keep it that For Ramon and Damon Williams, the contact

and his response has the same sincerity.

has been there since Jan. 24, 1968, when the identical twins were born as the youngest of five children of Odessa and Joe Williams of Roanoke, Va. Joe Cantafio, VMI's basketball coach, has wit-

nessed the twins' relationship for the past four "They're always together," Cantafio said. "I

don't know if there's anyone in the world could spend that much time with. "Their mom said she would put them in sepa-

SPORTS OF SORTS

A Texas salute to

the quarter horse

He's at home on the range

and has starred in more

westerns than John Wayne,

Roy Rogers and Gene Autry

combined. He's also comforta-

ble at polo matches or

Spacek love him, as do Robert

Redford, Burt Reynolds and

gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi.

instant millionaires, and ad-

mirers are expected to risk

\$300 million on his perform-

The American Quarter

Horse Association, founded in

Ft. Worth 50 years ago, re-

turns this week to that city to

celebrate its golden anniversary

and honor what it calls

According to the association,

the versatile quarter horse is

skilled in disciplines ranging

from cattle cutting to polo and

unequaled as a racehorse in

bration kicks off Thursday at

Billy Bob's Texas, billed as the

world's largest honky tonk.

This week's anniversary cele-

"America's Horse."

sprint distances.

He's the quarter horse.

He has made some investors

Lynn Anderson and Sissy

racetracks.

ance this year.

rate places in the crib and they would always, invariably end up touching each other."

On the basketball court, the 6-foot-2-inch twins have been vital cogs in VMI's resurgence in the Southern Conference.

Identical cogs. Damon scored 31 points on the night last season when he reached 1,000 for his career. When

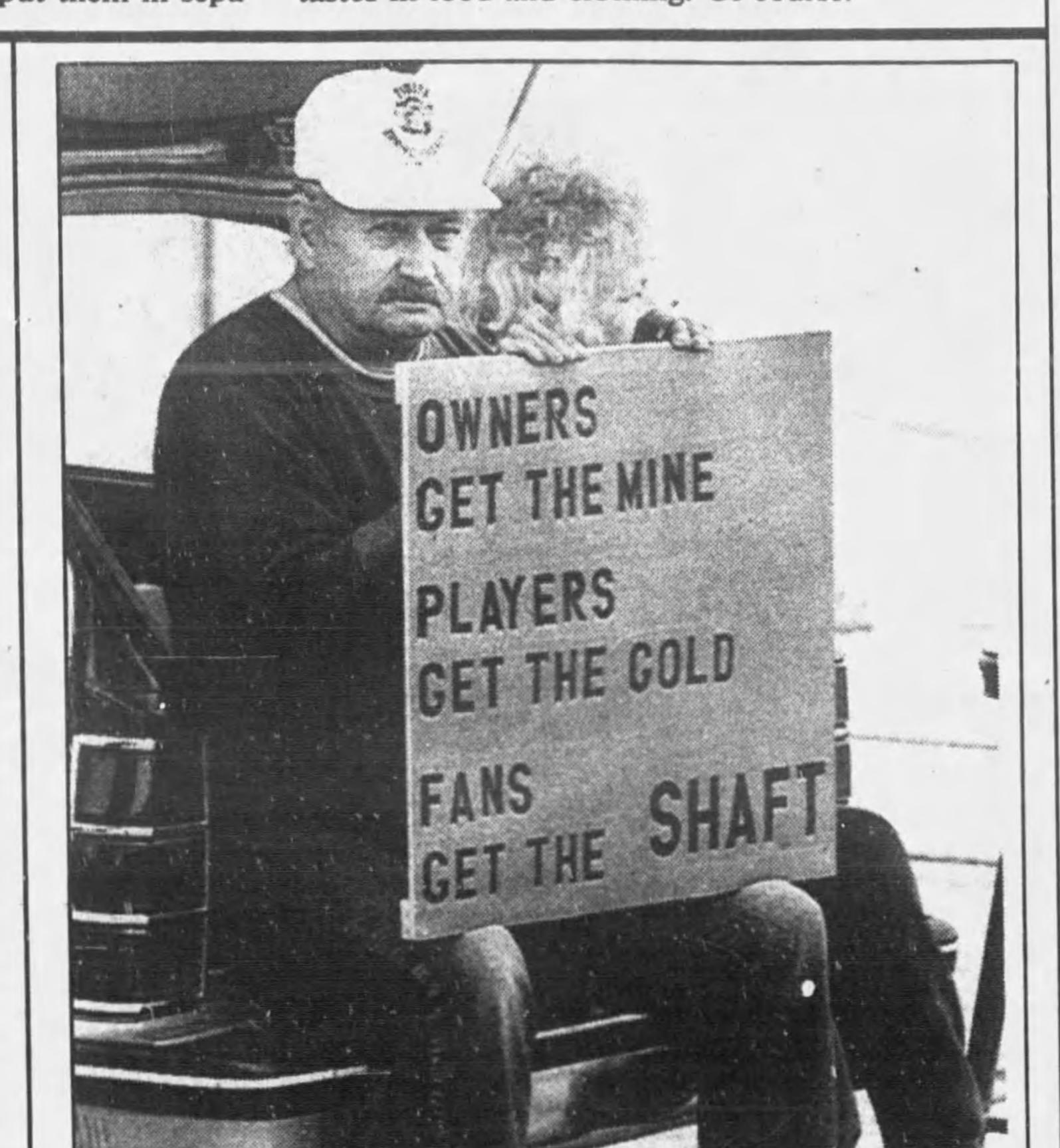
Ramon hit the 1,000-point plateau a few games later, he also did it with a 31-point game. Damon made 193 of 406 field-goal attempts

last season. Ramon made 194 of 406. "It just proves I'm the better shooter," Ramon

When Ramon scored 31 points in a loss at Virginia last month, it left him with 1,292 for his career. Damon had 22 points that night, boosting his career total to—1,292, of course.

"It's a strange coincidence, surely," Damon said. "There's never anything planned before the season or before a game."

The similarities do not end there. Both are economics and business majors and have similar tastes in food and clothing. Of course.



Locked out, too

Sitting outside Joker Marchant Stadium, the spring training home of the Detroit Tigers in Lakeland, Fla., baseball fan Don Lapasky makes his feelings known Monday on the pace of negotiations between owners and players.

NEWSMAKERS

Krone faces 2nd arm operation

Julie Krone, one of the nation's top jockeys and winner of more than \$26 million in lifetime purses, will undergo a second operation next week to repair a broken arm that isn't mending.

Krone, 26, learned last week that her left arm, broken in a spill at the Meadowlands the day after Thanksgiving, had not responded to electro-magnetic treatments designed to stimulate bone growth. A second operation March 8 Krone

will graft bone from her hip onto the big bone in her forearm. "When I found out, I almost went into shock," said Krone. "I put my head down on the table, and I said, 'I can't believe

After the spill last November, Krone had a metal plate placed in her forearm, and doctors predicted she would be back in action in March. Now, she said, her new target date is June 8.

"The first day I can climb on a horse and leave the paddock again, I'll be smiling from ear to ear," she said.

Cousy resigns as Hall of Fame chief

Bob Cousy said Monday he is quitting as president of the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., effective immediate-

Cousy could not be reached for comment, but in a brief statement issued by the Hall of Fame, he cited the pressures of a heavy personal schedule and other considerations for his resignation.

The Boston Celtic great, who serves as a television commentator on Celtic games, was elected president of the Hall of Fame in

SPORTS PEOPLE

Golden Bear bearing down

Now that he has challenged himself publicly to become the first player ever to win a regular PGA Tour event and a Senior event in the same year, Jack Nicklaus has spent the last month preparing his game with an intensity he hasn't shown in several years.

The Golden Bear has been practicing every day near his home in West Palm Beach, Fla., since he finished 61st in his first tournament of the year, the Pebble Beach National Pro-

The daily exercise regimen he has followed for the last several months to alleviate a nagging back problem has helped him reduce his weight from more than 200 pounds to a trim

For the last three weeks, he has been working on his swing with a new teacher, Peter Kostis. And he is scheduled to play in as many as 16 tournaments, which would represent the most he has entered since 1983.

For the moment, Nicklaus isn't listening to those who say his attempt to win on the regular tour is rooted more in ego than in real-

"I've got to convince myself first that I can't compete on the regular tour," Nicklaus told Golf World magazine. "It's a burning desire that just won't go out."

Bits & Pieces on Chicago's teams



Black out Brown: Scratch Hawks defenseman Keith Brown for a week to 10 days. Fighting is not one of his strengths and he suffered bruised ribs in a Sunday tussle with Philadelphia's Rick

Tocchet, probably when Tocchet threw him to the ice and landed on him. Brown often takes the other guy's first punch and Tocchet was all over him. Brown never got off a swing in defense. Either Trent Yawney or Bob Murray has been sitting out as the extra defenseman, so the Hawks still have six regulars they can play with Brown out.

Questions, questions: One of the questions General Manager Bob Pulford keeps asking himself in deciding whether to trade for either Quebec's Greg Millen or Philadelphia's Ken Wregget is why he needs another goalie when future phenom Jimmy Waite may be ready to lead the Hawks in net next season.

"And besides that," Pulford said, "we have Ed Belfour in the system, Domenic Hasek coming over from Czechoslovakia and Darren Pang coming back from [a kneel injury. So do I want to give up young talent [Everett Sanipass] to make one trade [for Millen, 32] or a big piece of our present team to make the bigger deal [to get Wregget, 25]?"

But the other question facing him is should the Hawks be waiting to make a big run at the Stanley Cup in a year or two, or should they realize players such as defenseman Doug Wilson and center Denis Savard-as well as others—aren't getting any younger?

A big weekend: Besides it being the last weekend before Tuesday's trading deadline, the Hawks have an important upcoming weekend planned with homeand-home afternoon games Saturday and Sunday against Boston. The Hawks are 0-8-1 since last beating the Bruins Dec. 20, 1986.

Wrapped like a mummy: Defenseman Cam Russell watched Sunday's game sitting next to Savard in the Stadium organ loft. Russell was the one with his head swathed in bandages. He underwent surgery last Friday for a broken cheekbone and busted nose, all suffered when he was elbowed in a game with the Indianapolis Ice against Salt Lake City.

Mike Kiley



Reggie, Reggie: Although he has been traded and cut this season by teams that needed a shooting guard, Reggie Williams still might find himself in a Bulls uniform before the week is out.

Sources in Washington say Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause contacted Williams last weekend after he was cut and told him to "sit tight" until he clears waivers, probably by Wednesday. Krause deflected questions about Williams, saying

only that he always is trying to improve the Bulls. The 6-foot-7-inch former Georgetown star is attractive to the Bulls because he presumably could play both big guard and small forward to give Scottie Pippen some rest. He averaged 7.7 points and shot 37.7 percent this season for the Clippers and Cavaliers, who cut him last Friday. He's a career 40 percent shooter who averaged 10.3 points in two seasons with the Clippers after being the fourth player chosen in the 1987 draft.

Winning ways: If the Bulls maintain their current pace, they would win 54 games, thus joining the 1973-74 team as the second winningest Bulls team. Only the 1971-72 team (57-25) won more.

The Bulls are 21-2 at home and 13-18 on the road. They have 18 home games and 10 road games to play. If they win 90 percent of their remaining home games (They now are winning them at a 91 percent rate.), they would win 16 of 18; if they win 40 percent of their remaining road games (They're winning them at a 42 percent rate.), they would win 4 of 10, for 20 victories in their last 28 games and a 54-28 record.

The draft: The Bulls will have two picks in this summer's collegiate draft, their first-round selection and Orlando's second-rounder. They could have another, Indiana's second-rounder, if the Pacers do not make the playoffs. That comes from the 1986 Kyle Macy trade; the Orlando pick is from last year's Dave Corzine deal.

Sick call: Horace Grant sat out Monday's practice with the flu but said he expects to play Tuesday. He also is nursing a sore groin, injured last Friday against Portland.

Sam Smith



Senior gift: The Lady Blue Demons, sparked by seniors Gail Ash and Melanee Ehrhardt, flashed high-powered offense and sticky defense over the weekend when they beat Valparaiso and Green BULL DEMONS Bay and ran their record to 17-8. Ehrhardt hit five three-pointers among her

25 points in a 109-90 romp over Valpo. Ash scored 20 as the defense keyed Sunday's 62-47 verdict over Green Bay. The women close the regular season Friday and Sunday with road games at Cleveland State and Akron. Package deal: Upper-level tickets for De Paul's

last four home games—Bradley, Texas, Northern Illinois and Notre Dame—are being sold for \$30, instead of the listed \$32. The package assures buyers a seat at the March 10 Irish-Demons shootout, which is approaching a sellout.

Ready, aim ...: De Paul's rifle team, topseeded in the sharpshooters division, competes this weekend in the Mid Atlantic Rifle Conference shootout at West Point.

An NCAA bid?: Here are De Paul's four arguments why, despite a 15-13 record, it's still in the NCAA tournament hunt: (1) strength of schedule (17 of 32 games involved legitimate contenders for NCAA berths); (2) strong finish (a 4-0 sweep will improve De Paul's record to 16-6 in its last 22 games); (3) big victories (Ohio State, North Carolina State, Louisville and Notre Dame, with Texas and Notre Dame coming up) and (4) computer rating (If the Demons are picked, they probably will be seeded about No. 12, instead of 16th and last in a region. This suggests there are about 16 weaker teams in the 64-team field.).

Bill Jauss

Selected American basketball players now with Italian teams

STATS CORNER

Knorr Bologna	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Micheal Ray Richardson	20	450	167	39	22.5
Irge Desio	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Mike McGee Ray Tolbert	14 12	488 249	52 92	8	34.8 20.7
Philips Milano	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Earl Cureton Bob McAdoo	11 18	110 425	110 140	11 25	10.0
Panapesca Montecatini	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Mark Landsberger	20	258	299	1	12.0
Paini Napoli	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Walter Berry	13	389	180	15	29.9
Scavolini Pesaro	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Darren Daye Kelvin Upshaw	20	458 37	146 4	48	22.9 18.5
Il Messagero Roma	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Avg
Danny Ferry Brian Shaw	20 20	452 501	133 188	45 32	22.6 25.
Benetton Treviso	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Av
Kyle Macy	20	306	70	33	15.3
Jollycolombani Forti	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Av
Mike Smrek	9	80	79	4	8.
Ipifim Torino	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Av
Darryl Dawkins	20	444	185	18	22.
Fantoni Udine	Gm	Pts	Reb	Ast	Av
Marques Johnson	8	209	57	12	26.



GIL THORP

