

Baylor leaves Jazz

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Jazz coach Elgin Baylor, a former Hall of Fame forward who led his team to the worst record in the National Basketball League this season, was fired Thursday in a move that surprised no one. Baylor said last week in an announcement of his firing. Baylor owners had granted Baylor a one-year extension on his contract for this season even though the team was playing horrendous ball. The Jazz finished 26-56, worst in the NBA. Baylor, who coached the Jazz for 11 full seasons after being thrust into that position when Butch Van Breda Kolff was fired, had a career record of 86-135 (.389). But he took the Jazz to within two games of the playoffs last season despite a knee injury to guard Pete Maravich that sidelined him for 32 games. Many of the ballclub's problems had nothing to do with Elgin's abilities as a coach but it is our feeling that a change is needed at this time for the benefit of all concerned," Jazz managing partner Larry Hatfield said in a prepared statement.

The ownership of the Jazz has enjoyed its relationship with Elgin over the past few years. He is truly a class guy.

Hatfield said the club was committed to paying Baylor for the remaining two years of an estimated \$75,000-a-year contract. Baylor felt the end was near when club officials traded All-Pro forward Leonard "Truck" Robinson to Phoenix over Baylor's objections. The deal was necessitated when Robinson and the temperamental Maravich butted egos. Because Maravich has a no-trade clause in his contract, Robinson was the one to go.

Baylor publicly complained about Robinson's loss and how he was not informed of the deal until after it was made. Baylor was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Hatfield, who spoke for the executive committee consisting of principal owner Sam Battistone and local minority owners Sheldon Beychok and Lee Schlesinger, blamed the Jazz players on the slow start, saying they were not motivated to play.

The Jazz, who have been trying to negotiate with officials in Salt Lake City for a new home, now must hire a general manager and a new head coach. The club has been without a general manager for more than a year after Lewis Schaffel left in a dispute with management.

"There doesn't seem to be any hurry (to hire a new coach)," said Jazz spokesman Dave Fredman. "The draft isn't until June 25. It's our advantage because it's a late draft."

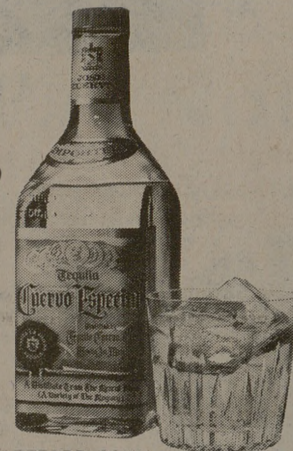
Baylor was a willing assistant to the fiery Van Breda Kolff from 1974 to 1976. He took command in the middle of the 1976-77 season and the Jazz finished the season with a 35-47 record. New Orleans missed the playoffs by two games in 1977-78 with a 39-43 record, then struggled this year with Maravich on the sidelines for nearly half the year.



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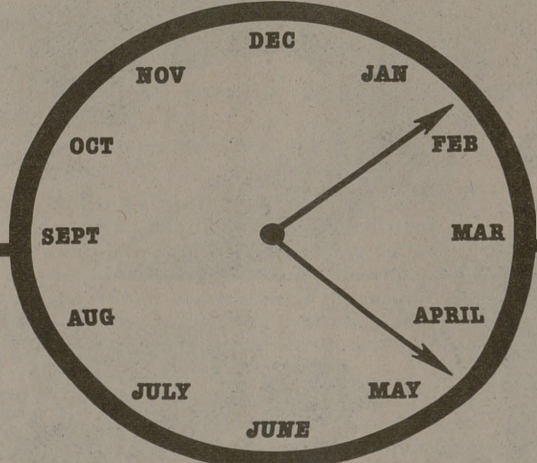
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3rd Year	101.80	202.60	405.20	506.99
4th Year	1409.52	2819.04	5638.08	7047.60
5th Year	1838.20	3676.40	7352.80	9191.01
6th Year	2302.59	4605.18	9210.36	11512.93
7th Year	2805.65	5611.30	11222.60	14028.24
8th Year	3350.61	6701.22	13402.44	16783.05
9th Year	3940.96	7881.92	15763.84	19704.79
10th Year	4580.48	9160.96	18321.92	22902.38
15th Year	8771.47	17342.94	34685.88	43357.35
20th Year	14774.51	29549.02	59098.04	73872.57
25th Year	23879.19	47758.38	95516.74	119395.93
30th Year	37461.76	74923.52	149847.04	187308.80
35th Year	57724.58	115449.16	230898.32	288522.91
40th Year	\$87,953.16	\$175,906.32	\$351,812.63	\$439,766.79

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Rangers remain undefeated

United Press International
ARLINGTON — Ferguson Jenkins hurled a six-hitter and struck out 10 over innings Thursday night to lead Texas to a 5-3 victory over the Cleveland Indians, leaving the Rangers as the only undefeated team in the major leagues.

In winning his second game of the year, Jenkins extended Texas' winning streak to four games, equaling the Rangers' best start in their eight-year history. Sparky Lyle got the last two outs to notch his first save as a Ranger.

Texas overcame a 1-0 deficit with three runs in the third against loser Rick Waits, 1-1. Bump Wills and Billy Sample walked and Al Oliver reached on an infield hit to load the bases. Buddy Bell then drove a liner off the glove of third baseman Toby Harrah that was ruled an error and delivered two runs. John Ellis singled in the third run of the inning.

Walks to Nelson Norman and Wills and a single by Sample produced another Texas run in the sixth. Oscar Gamble delivered a solo homer for Texas in the eighth.

Singles by Harrah and Rick Manning in the first, along with two walks, accounted for the first Cleveland run and Harrah scored again in the fifth, doubling to lead off the inning and coming in on Manning's single.

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