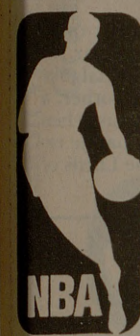


# NBA commences season with nine-game schedule



The Philadelphia 76ers and Washington Bullets will put drastically changed teams on the floor when the NBA opens its 41st season tonight with nine games.

The 76ers, who traded Moses Malone, Terry Catledge and the first pick in the 1986 draft, entertain the Indiana Pacers and their new coach, Jack Ramsay, while the Bullets travel to Boston, where the Celtics open defense of the NBA title they won in June.

Among the new faces for Philadelphia and Coach Matt Guokas are Jeff Ruland, Roy Hinson, Cliff Rob-

inson and Tim McCormick, who join Charles Barkley on the front line. Guard Andrew Toney, back from last season's injuries, will team with holdovers Julius Erving, Maurice Cheeks and Sedale Threatt in the backcourt.

"I haven't come to Philadelphia to make people forget Moses Malone," the 6-foot-11 Ruland said. "I'm here to do a job and help the 76ers win. That's all I care about."

"I know people will compare us. That's OK. Moses is a great player, but I consider myself a great player, too. Coach Guokas prefers a more up-tempo style of play and that is how this year's team is put together, which suits me fine."

Other openers Friday night pair New York at New Jersey, Milwaukee

at Detroit, Utah at Dallas, San Antonio at Denver, Golden State at Phoenix, the Los Angeles Clippers at Sacramento, and Seattle at Portland.

Saturday, the Los Angeles Lakers are at Houston for a nationally televised game.

On draft day last June, Malone was traded to the Bullets, along with Catledge and a couple of future No. 1 draft picks for Ruland and Robinson.

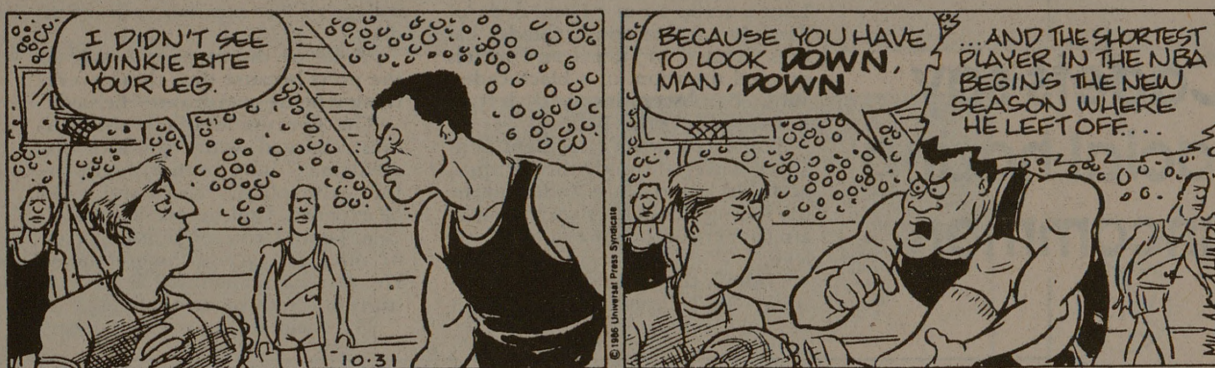
The 76ers were gambling that Ruland, who played only 67 games the past two seasons, could become a durable player again.

Ruland, who is averaging 18.7 points and 10.8 rebounds for his five-year career, promises that the injuries are behind him.

A slimmed-down Malone promises revenge on the 76ers, who first play the Bullets on Christmas Day.

## TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## Mavericks pin hopes on Tarpley; open season against Jazz tonight

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks open the 1986 NBA season at home against the Utah Jazz Friday night with high hopes for a higher finish in the Midwest Division because of rookie Roy Tarpley of Michigan.

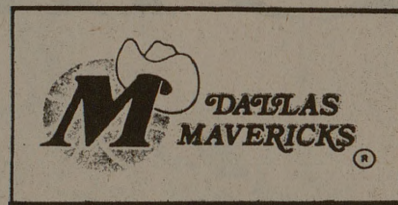
Tarpley, a first-round draft choice, was impressive during the preseason at power forward.

Mavericks' Coach Dick Motta says "I may have to change my policy about rookies."

Historically, Motta has been slow to work rookies into his lineup and doesn't depend on them a lot.

However, the 7-foot Tarpley gives the Mavericks much-needed bulk under the basket, and he has displayed an excellent shooting touch.

"We have some interesting possibilities with him in the lineup," said



Motta, who could field a front line of Tarpley, 7-2 James Donaldson and 6-9 Sam Perkins.

Another rookie who could help is fourth-round draft pick Myron Jackson, a 6-3 guard from Arkansas-Little Rock, who had a good training camp.

Guard Al Wood, obtained in an off-season trade, is expected to give the Mavs, the second-highest scoring team in the NBA, even more offensive punch.

Mark Aguirre, who averaged 22 points per game, and All-NBA Rolando Blackman, who averaged 21 points, return for the Mavs, who finished third in the Midwest with a 44-38 record.

The Mavs are a fast-breaking team.

"Winning now is related to how many easy baskets you get," Motta says, "so we'll continue to work on pushing the ball up without throwing it away. With Donaldson's improved outlet passing and Harper's improved judgment on the break, we can score."

Motta says "This year we will also place more emphasis on defense."

The Mavs also need to play better at home. They were only 26-15 last year despite averaging 16,904 fans in Reunion Arena.

## Spurs to open against Nuggets with rookie head coach aboard

DENVER (AP) — San Antonio's Bob Weiss makes his NBA head coaching debut against the Denver Nuggets tonight, hoping to improve the Spurs' sixth-place finish last year in the Midwest Division.

Weiss, who was an assistant under Dick Motta at Dallas, plans to inject a passing game offense into the Spurs, a la Motta.

"We have not announced any goals because that could be a bit dangerous," Weiss said. "I don't like goals that are too low because they might create a low self-image by the team, and goals that are too high sometimes can destroy a team's confidence."

Weiss said, "The Spurs are coming off perhaps one of their lowest points in club history."

There will be some new faces on the roster.

The Spurs, who were demolished in three straight games by the Los Angeles Lakers in last year's playoffs, obtained veteran forward Mychal Thompson from Portland for Steve Johnson.

In the process, the Spurs obtained the rights to 6-10, 245-pound rookie Larry Krystkowiak, who was drafted in the second round by Chicago.

These two players give the

Spurs some more inside bulk to go with holdovers Artis Gilmore and David Greenwood. The other forward job goes to leading scorer Mike Mitchell.

If guard Johnny Moore can bounce back from his bout with a rare desert fever, the Spurs will have a dynamic backcourt duo because Alvin Robertson was a starter in the All-Star game.

Robertson was named the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year.

Rookie guard Johnny Dawkins of Duke is expected to create some exciting moments for Spurs fans.

## Rockets cut Ehlo to reach 12-player roster

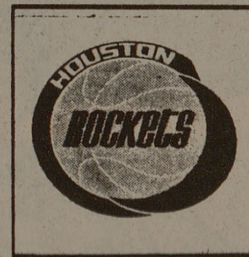
HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets placed 7-foot-4 forward Ralph Sampson on the injured list and cut veteran reserve guard Craig Ehlo Thursday to reach the NBA's 12-player roster limit.

Sampson, who suffered a sprained ankle during the exhibition season, must sit out at least five games, meaning he will miss Saturday's season opener in The Summit against the Los Angeles Lakers.

The earliest that Sampson could return would be for the Rockets' game at Dallas Nov. 12.

Ehlo was a third-round draft pick from Washington State in 1983. He averaged 2.7 points in 36 games last season.

Four Rockets have made the team that were not a part of last year's Western Conference championship team.



They are first-round draft choice Buck Johnson of Alabama, second-round pick Dave Feitl of Texas-El Paso, fourth-round pick Conner Henry of California Santa Barbara and free agent Richard Anderson.

The Rockets earlier traded Granville Waiters and cut Hank McDowell, both members of last year's title team.

Houston also will open the season with guard Robert Reid hobbled by a knee injury.

## Tway advances in Seiko Championship

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Bob Tway advanced easily, but Tom Watson was upset Thursday in the first round of the Seiko Tucson Match Play Championship.

Tway, already assured of PGA

Player of the Year honors, moved closer to the money-winning title with his 68-75 victory over Brett Upper in the final official event on the 10-month PGA Tour.

Watson, who disqualified himself

for an inadvertent breach of the rules last week in San Antonio, was ousted by David Edwards 66-72.

Tway now needs only a win over Steve Pate in Friday's second round to clinch the money-winning title.

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