

Sorry Houston, Sir Charles deserved MVP

In the past twelve months, looking at Charles Barkley's accomplishments resembles a Fairy Tale dream and he's hoping he doesn't wake up.



MATTHEW J. RUSH
Sportswriter

Barkley began his magical mystery tour with a gold medal in Barcelona, capping off a dominant performance with the "Dream Team." When he came back to play regular season basketball in the NBA, he found himself in a new home with a new uniform and a new attitude.

It is for all of these reasons that when Charles Barkley was named the recipient of the Most Valuable Player award last week, it should have come as no surprise. Barkley received 59 first place votes and beat out Hakeem Olajuwon, who finished a distant second (almost two hundred points behind) en route to his first MVP award in his brilliant eight-year career.

Sorry Houston fans, this was the year of Sir Charles and he deserved the award hands down. The 30-year-old Barkley had been robbed of the award in 1990 when he had a much better season than Magic Johnson, but because Barkley was playing with the Philadelphia 76ers, he did not get the credit he was due.

Sir Charles, who came to the Phoenix Suns from the 76ers in the offseason, led the Suns to 61 regular season victories and has led them to the Western Conference Finals, just two wins away from a berth in the NBA Championships.

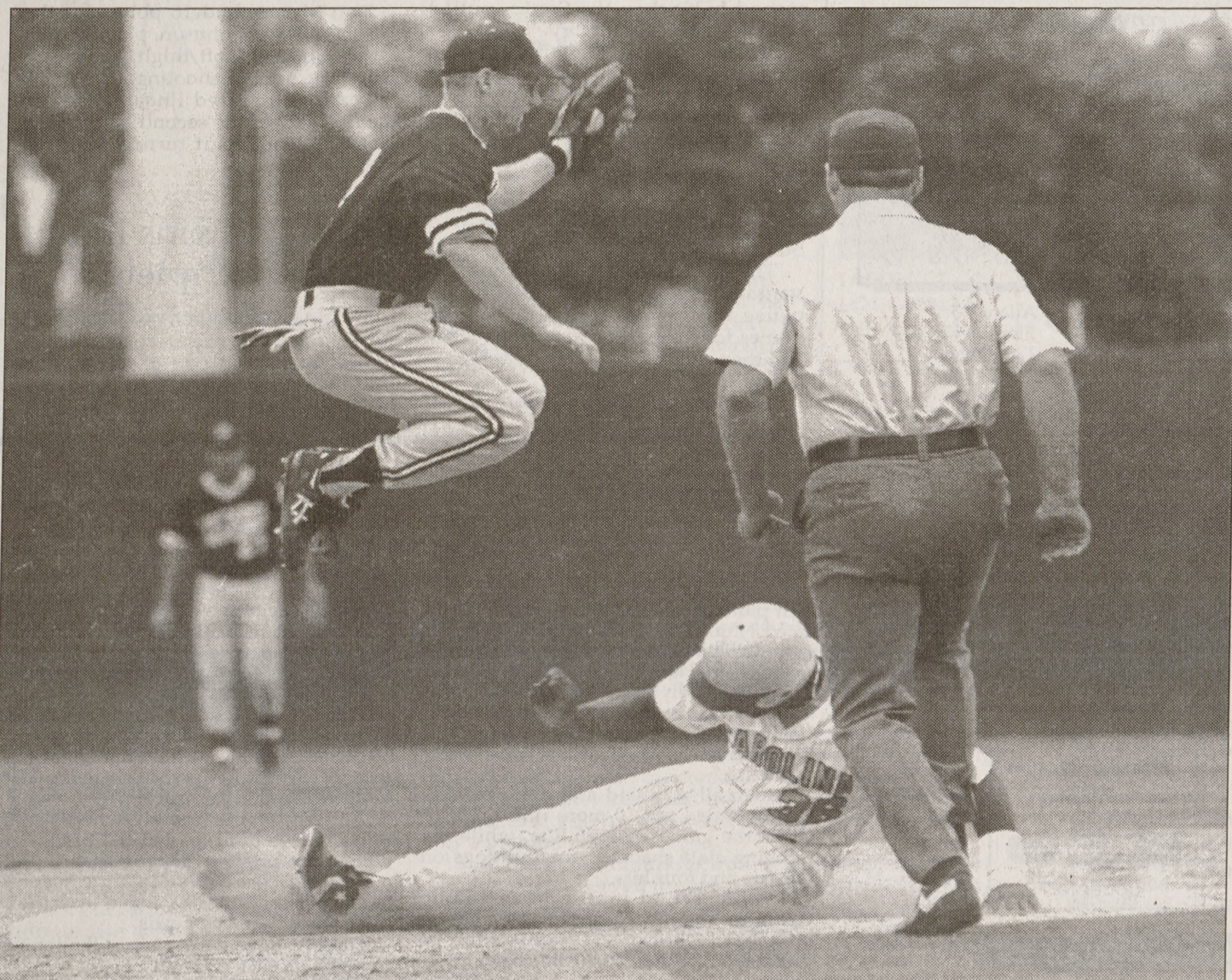
Like the history of the phoenix itself, Charles was born again out of the ashes (Philadelphia) and soared to new heights this season. Barkley's season included such numbers as accumulating 25.6 points a game while grabbing 12.2 rebounds per contest. He also showed that he is unselfish as he averaged over five assists per game. Sorry again Hakeem et al, Charles was the better man this year.

Also I am glad to finally see the NBA give the highest achievement award given to someone outside the "Big Three" (Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan). Of course two of the three are no longer active and Michael could only muster 31 points per game this year, so of course they had to give the award to someone more deserving.

When comparing the two (Olajuwon and Barkley), maybe Hakeem was more consistent, but it was Barkley who proved to be that much more valuable. In obtaining Charles, the Suns seemed to have finally gotten over the proverbial hump

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Aggies go 4-0 in regional tournament



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Texas A&M shortstop Robert Harris leaps over North Carolina's Cookie Massey in the Aggies 14-2 win over the Tar Heels Sunday. Massey, a favorite of the sold-out Olsen Field

crowd, was sliding into second base and was called out on the force play. With the victory, the Aggies clinched a spot in the College World Series.

A&M dominates six-team field

by TOM SULLIVAN

The Battalion

If the Texas A&M baseball team were asked whether or not they were ready for this past weekend's NCAA Central 1 Regional Tournament out at Olsen Field, they would probably hand over their line scores with a smile and let the numbers speak for themselves.

In just four games the Aggies bulldozed their opponents with a total of 48 runs while allowing only 12.

The Aggies improved their record to 52-9 on the year and found themselves in the College World Series for the first time in 29 years.

After a poor performance in the Southwest Conference Tournament, and nearly a two week layoff before the Regional there was some doubt as to whether or not the Aggies would be able to jump start a team that sat on top of the national polls for the last weeks of the season.

Game one - Yale

Jeff Granger got the nod from Coach Mark Johnson as the starting pitcher in their opener against the sixth seeded Yale Bulldogs. In the game Granger threw seven innings of shutout ball, striking out seven, in route to a 13-1 mauling.

The Aggies jumped on the boards with three runs early runs. First Baseman Billy Harlan led the game off with a single and then stole second. Centerfielder Brian Thomas then came up and lashed a single off the leg of Bulldog starter Keith Pelatowski to put runners at the corners.

Shortstop Robert Harris then hit into a fielders choice scoring Harlan from third and was called safe on an error by Bulldog thirdbaseman Gary Butterworth.

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Allem tops field at record-breaking Colonial

By CHRIS WHITLEY

The Battalion

FORT WORTH — Fulton Allem had every chance possible to blow his mono a mono duel with Greg Norman in Sunday's final round of the Southwestern Bell Colonial National Invitational.

But he didn't. To cap a weekend of blistering scores that shattered the Colonial record book, Allem's clutch putting on the last three holes earned him the victory with a tournament-record 264 mark (16 under par).

He birdied holes 16 and 17 before sinking a five-foot par putt on 18 to edge Norman by one stroke.

"All I was thinking (on 18) was, 'Make your putt,'" said Allem, a South Africa native.

Texas A&M graduate Jeff Maggert continued his hot streak this year with a 66 for a 13-under-par 267, which was good enough for third place.

Maggert, who held the lead after one round of The Masters and finished well at the Byron Nelson Golf Classic in Irving two weeks ago, said the Aggie fans in the

Norman fails to make clutch shots, finishes one stroke behind; Aggie Maggert takes 3rd

gallery gave him tremendous support.

"I heard a lot of whoops today," Maggert said. "It's a good feeling when people are pulling for you here at home."

Loren Roberts, who made an ace on the 16th hole on Saturday, tied with Duffy Waldorf for fourth place at 12-under 268.

For Allem, it was his birdies down the stretch that won him the tournament, but his many reprieves from disaster kept him in the running.

On the ninth hole, Norman birdied to tie Allem at 15-under. Allem, meanwhile, needed to sink a 20-footer to save par. And he did.

"The was the tournament," Allem said. "It was really lucky for me to make par."

Allem also missed greens on 10, 11 and 12, but saved par each time.

"I made some terrible swings today," he said. "I probably made Fred Astaire look like a statue on some of those swings I made."

"Fortunately for me, Greg didn't get on one of his rolls. If he had, it would have been all over but the shouting."

Norman, who started the day tied for the lead with Allem, shot a 68 for a 15-under par total and birdied 18 to put pressure on Allem at the end.

But Norman didn't make the shots down the stretch when he needed them. On 14, Norman missed a 10-footer that would have given him the lead.

The Colonial, though, was Norman's first tournament back on the tour after taking six weeks off to rest. To come back this strong, he said, does give him some confidence.

"It's a bittersweet second (place finish)," Norman said. "I had a chance to win the golf tournament. I played a good golf tournament."

"So I'm a little sad that I didn't win, but I've proved to myself that I could take a six-week break and play well."

It was the culmination of a weekend

that brought the mighty and revered Colonial Country Club to its knees. Not only did it yield the most sub-par scores in its history, but the record scores for nine, 18, 36, 54 and 72 holes all were broken.

Two days after Keith Clearwater set the course record, Lee Janzen equaled it with a nine-under 61 on his final round. Janzen finished seven shots behind Allem.

For his efforts, Allem received \$234,000 and a lovely red plaid champion's blazer.

Colonial leaders

Fulton Allem	66-63-68-67—264
Greg Norman	69-64-64-68—265
Jeff Maggert	65-68-68-66—267
Loren Roberts	66-70-66-66—268
Duffy Waldorf	65-69-69-65—268

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