

Kidd grows into All-Star favorite



□ The Dallas guard dished out 10 assists, scored seven points and had five rebounds.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jason Kidd proved he belonged in the NBA All-Star game.

Most All-Stars don't have to. But the first Dallas Maverick to ever start in the game was under fire from the minute he was selected to the team as a starter by the fans.

Kidd dished out a game-high 10 assists, scored seven points, collected five rebounds and got two steals for the West, which lost to the East 129-118 Sunday at the Alamodome.

"I didn't want to embarrass myself. I had a lot of fun and played a pretty good game," Kidd said. "I didn't want to let my teammates down."

West coach George Karl said several weeks ago that Utah's John Stockton and Seattle's Gary Payton "are a helluva lot better" than Kidd.

Kidd pinned the quote on his locker and scored 36 points several nights later in a win over Karl's Sonics.

Kidd, who would have been a senior at California this year if he hadn't come out early, even felt confident enough to give Charles Barkley advice during Sunday's All-Star game.

"Charles was running with his head down and I nicely asked him not to do it because I didn't want to hit him in the head," Kidd said. "I just told

him, 'Make sure you're looking.' I was kind of worried what his reply might be but he answered, 'I hear you.'"

Kidd said "I got a kick sitting on the bench talking to Barkley and Clyde Drexler. Clyde was telling me how he had to hang in there 13 years to get a ring. I hope it doesn't take me that long."

Kidd brought oohs and aaahs from the crowd of 36,037 fans with his no-look passes and alley oops in his 22 minutes of play.

However, the point guard did get taken to school by MVP Michael Jordan in the second quarter.

"He got me on a give and go," Kidd said. "He kind of got me going in one direction then slipped behind me. He showed me he's still the man. I think he should have received the MVP."

Jordan pointed at Kidd with a big grin. Kidd pointed back, shaking his head.

"He showed me something new there," Kidd said.

Kidd said he and Karl had buried the hatchet this week during practice.

"He came over and kissed me on the cheek," Kidd said. "All is forgiven and forgotten."

Karl did admit after the game was over that Kidd "is a special talent."

"I love the way he pushed the ball up court," Karl said. "He's a great passer and a great rebounder for a point guard. He makes the game simple for a lot of people when he is out there on the court."

Mavericks' point guard Jason Kidd lavishes attention on his Rookie of the Year Trophy. Kidd was the first Dallas player to start an All-Star game.

AP Photo

Jordan admits Shaq was real game MVP

□ Award voters overlooked O'Neal's 25 points and 10 rebounds.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — They gave the MVP award to the wrong guy.

The voters missed by so much that if he could have, the little figure in the middle of the cut-glass trophy would have fled Michael Jordan's side and jumped into Shaquille O'Neal's lap. And Jordan wouldn't have blamed him.

"He could just as easily have been chosen and he probably deserves it," Jordan said, meaning Shaq and not the little figure.

"But if it's going to make him mad for the whole second half of the season, then I'll give to him."

Don't bother.

"No," Shaq said, "I wouldn't take it."

Strange how these things work out. At Salt Lake City in 1993, when Shaq made the All-Star contest as a rookie and Jordan was shunning attention like a government informant, the NBA couldn't wait for the future to arrive. But now, nobody is in anything resembling a hurry.

And why should they be?

Last week, Magic came back and the telecast of the game scored cable network TNT's biggest number ever. Two nights later, Jordan came to Los Angeles with a pretty good

trick up his sleeve: an even higher TV rating.

Nostalgia sells, and when like Jordan, it still does the job better than whatever else is out there, the lure is almost irresistible.

That explained why Jordan got the biggest ovation during Sunday's introductions, bigger even than the applause afforded homeboys David Robinson and Sean Elliott. And why some guy paraded around the Alamodome getting loud cheers with a sign that read, "Michael First. Magic Next. How 'Bout It Larry." It even explained, to some degree, how the seven sports writers who watched the game and handled the MVP balloting came up with a verdict that few others in a crowd of more than 37,000 could agree with.

"I felt kind of strange standing out there with the MVP trophy and the crowd making their own selections with the way they responded," Jordan said. "I don't vote. I couldn't do anything about it."

If anything, Jordan did what he could to let someone else — anyone else — put his stamp on the weekend. He keeps saying he isn't ready to pass on the mantle of the best player in the game, and plans to back it up by winning 70 games in the regular season and a championship after that. But as far as ceremonial head of the NBA, he was ready to let someone else have that title before he retired the first time.

All-Star

Continued from Page 7
the Most Valuable Player award for the second time in his career.

"This weekend turned out to be a great weekend, and I had a good time," Jordan said over the boos of fans unhappy that he didn't play the final period.

In the third, however, Jordan put on the kind of show expected of him, helping the East turn a 61-58 halftime lead into a double-digit blowout. His performance, however brief, was the only bright spot in an All-Star Game with more air balls and turnovers than stellar play.

But just as Jordan reinvigorated the league by his return from retirement last March, he saved this game from mediocrity.

There he was driving through the lane, picking up a perfect bounce pass from Anfernee Hardaway and soaring in for a dunk. There he was curling around the right side for a one-handed jam.

The basket with 4:14 remaining in the third quarter was his last of the game and gave the East an 88-71 lead.

He hit 8 of 11 field goals, making his first four shots of the game and had four rebounds.

Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal led the Eastern Conference with 25 points and 10 re-

bounds. His teammate, Hardaway, added 18 points.

For the West, which had won three of the last four All-Star contests, hometown favorite David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs had 18 points and 11 rebounds, leading a brief comeback for his team.

Down by 22 at the end of three quarters, the West opened the fourth quarter with six straight points and pulled to 111-103 on Mitch Richmond's fastbreak layup. Hardaway hit two straight 3-pointers, only the third and fourth for the Eastern Conference, to stretch the lead again.

In all, it was quite a lackluster game.

The first half was just plain sloppy, with a total of 27 turnovers. The West had 17 of them, leading to 28 points for the East. Too many no-look passes went into the seats instead of into a teammate's hands, and too many would-be alley-oops were simply oops.

For the game, the West turned the ball over 26 times, the East 20.

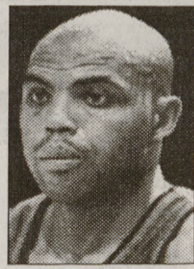
Jason Kidd, a first-time All-Star and the Dallas Mavericks' first-ever starter, was dazzling when he was in the game.

He connected with Seattle's Shawn Kemp on a behind-the-back pass that Kemp took in for a thunderous dunk on one play. On another, he passed to Clyde Drexler under the basket and the Rockets guard sent a nifty touch pass to Charles Barkley on the wing for a layup.

Kidd had five assists in the first quarter.

Jordan had 10 first-half points on 5-for-7 shooting.

The Alamodome crowd of 36,037 was the third largest in All-Star history.



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Sunday: Baseball vs. McNeese 2p.m.

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BSW International	MEEN, ELEN, CVEN, ENDS
Comsat RSI	CPSC, ELEN
Corvex Computer Corporation	ELEN, CECN, CEEN
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Hoechst Celanese	CHEM, MEEN, ELEN, CHEM
Honeywell	CHEM, ELEN, CPSC
Intermedics	ELEN, CPSC, CEEN, CECN, MEEN, BIMS, BIEN
Intermedics Orthopedics	MEEN, BIEN
Lyondell-Citgo	CHEM, MEEN, ELEN, CHEM
Marathon Oil	MEEN, ELEN, CVEN, CHEM, Environmental, Safety
NASA - JSC	MEEN, ELEN, AERO
National Instruments	CPSC, CSEN
Norte/BNR	CPSC, CEEN, CECN, ELEN, SCOM, MKTG, FINC
Sperry-Sun Drilling	ELEN, MEEN
Trane Co.	INEN, Safety, MEEN
Wilsonart International	MEEN, INEN, ACCT

TUESDAY, February 13

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City of Houston	BUAD, MIS, LBAR, CPSC, ENGR
DSC	CPSC, CEEN, ELEN, CECN
Eastman Chemical	CHEM, MEEN
EG&G Sealol	MEEN, CHEM
FMC	CHEM
Halliburton	MEEN, ELEN, INEN
IBM	ACCT, CPSC, CEEN, CECN, ELEN, MIS, FINC
Ingersoll-Rand	MEEN
LeTourneau	ELEN, MEEN
Loral Vought Systems	CEEN, CECN, ELEN, MEEN, AERO
Motorola	ELEN, MEEN, CECN
MW Kellogg	CVEN, MEEN, CHEM
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