



An Elmiran in Texas

Rita Johnson, second grade teacher at Christ the King School in San Antonio, assembles her class in the playground as school reopens. Rita is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Johnson of Front Street, Elmira. A 1975 graduate of the College of St. Joseph the Provider in Rutland, Vt., she is in her second year as a member of a Texas Catholic Conference program called Volunteers for Educational and Social Services, or VESS.

IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

If I had to vote right now for the biggest story in sports this year, it would have to be the dissolving of the late, gallant American Basketball Association and the way four of its clubs were integrated into the old, established National Basketball Association.

Players from clubs that folded up and did not merge were unloaded in a dispersal sale. Artis Gilmore to the Chicago Bulls for \$1.1 million. (Now start talking contract, Artis and you Bulls.)

The ABA clubs paid over \$3 million each for the privilege of joining the Establishment. And we are supposed to think that outlandishly high salaries now will settle down.

With all the transition one thing irked me and still bothers me. The New York Nets gave up \$3 million to join the NBA. They also paid the New York Knicks indemnity money for "infringing" on the Knicks territory.

All this while the Nets were bringing the hottest property in the history of basketball into all the NBA arenas. I speak, of course, of Mr. Black Magic, Doctor J, a.k.a. Julius Erving.

The Buffalo Braves switchboard lit up the day after their new schedule was announced. Doctor J indeed would be playing in beautiful downtown Buffalo on New Year's Night. Find yourself a scalper.

In Detroit a man found his way into the front office of the NBA Pistons and dropped his Ford Motor

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Company paycheck onto the desk of an employe.

"Give me as many tickets to Doctor J as this will buy," said the Doctor J fan.

Julius Erving, more than any other one man in any other sport — Henry Aaron, Bobby Orr, O.J. Simpson — is an out-of-sight, incredible one-man ticket selling phenomenon.

The NBA drew a record 8,800,000 last season, and thanks to the merger, which means 22 clubs now instead of 18, may double that attendance this time around. (The Denver Nuggets have sold 8,300 season tickets, in August.)

The Nets and Doctor J open on the West Coast and they are putting "J" into the new market in a hurry. On consecutive nights, he plays in Oakland, Portland and Seattle.

And any one of these days or nights, Doctor J and his attorneys and agents and advisers are going to call a meeting, and head for the NBA office. That's when they'll decide the entire league can contribute to something solid and secure, like a 10-year contract, with all the deferrals and other gimmicks. At about \$1 million a year.

He'll come cheap at twice the price.

440 Bishops Get Lambeth Invitations

London (RNS) — The next gathering of the world's Anglican diocesan bishops has been set for July 22 to Aug. 13, 1978, at the University of Kent near Canterbury.

The Lambeth Conference will emphasize "prayer and waiting and waiting upon God," according to an announcement from the Anglican Consultative Council.

Invitational telegrams were recently sent to 400 bishops in charge of dioceses, and to 40 assistant bishops. The assistants are "from parts of our communion where an indigenous episcopate is fairly recent, and the emphasis will be on younger men much of whose work lies ahead of them," the council said.

MEMORIAL MASS

Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, will sponsor a Mass Saturday, Sept. 14, in memory of Mary Powers (Mrs. William Powers), a former regent. Members and friends are invited to attend, at 12:05 p.m., at Corpus Christi Church, East Main at Prince.

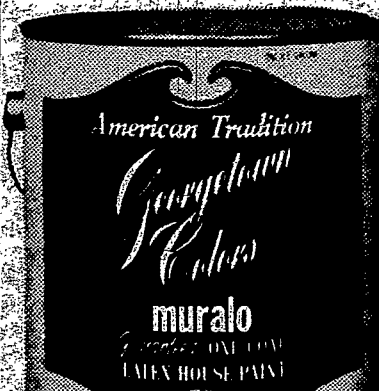
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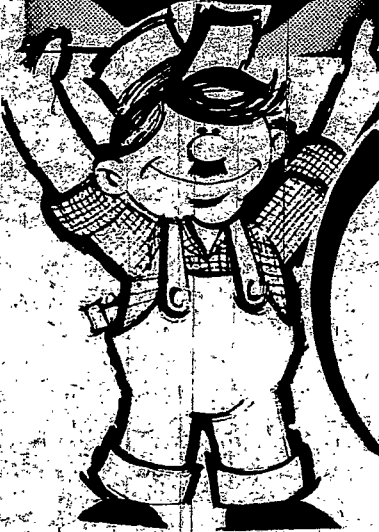
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