

Erving on a Roll In NBA Finals

"Sometimes when we're playing a fastbreaking game, I dare to be great. I take a lot more chances on the court than I do in life."

— Julius Erving

By Ron Thomas

Philadelphia

Pro basketball's most celebrated acrobat, the Philadelphia 76ers' Julius Erving, appears to be a paradox. On the court, even he compares himself to a crap shooter who just rolls out the dice, then leaves the result in the hands of fate. In his off-the-court activities, he says, "I'm a poker player who lays back and baits."

But those contrasting styles are not a reflection of his approach to life. For, whether shaking and baking in tonight's sixth game of the NBA finals at the Philadelphia Spectrum, or considering possible business ventures, Erving is a calculated risk taker who seldom loses.

In Game 5 of the series Wednesday night, 30-year old Julius Erving was the virtuoso of the left baseline, scoring most of his 14 fourth-quarter points from there as Philadelphia made up a 12-point deficit before losing, 108-103, and falling behind in the series three games to two.

The Lakers double-teamed, triple-teamed and fouled Erving, but he always made the decisive breath-taking move in a 38-point performance.

It was an occasion on which Erving dared to be great.

"Taking chances is the only thing that's made me the player I am," he said. "The first time I grabbed the ball with one hand in junior high school (in Roosevelt, Long Island), I was taking a chance because if it slipped out of my hand the coach would say, 'What are you doing?'"

"In college (at the University of Massachusetts), I passed to a guy cutting through the lane and he missed it, and the coach told me to 'Take that move back to Roose-

Kareem Out Tonight, 50-50' Sunday

By Ron Thomas

Philadelphia

Injured center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did not accompany the Los Angeles Lakers to Philadelphia yesterday afternoon for tonight's sixth game of the NBA finals against the 76ers. Instead, he remained in L.A., receiving treatment for the severely sprained left ankle he received in Wednesday's game.

Abdul-Jabbar might join the 76ers later today, but team physician Dr. Robert Kerlan said, "It is extremely doubtful that Kareem will be able to play tonight." By keeping him in Los Angeles and leaving him here, he will be much better prepared to be able to play on Sunday if that game is necessary.

Kerlan said there is a 50-50 chance Abdul-Jabbar could play then, although the Lakers, who hold a three-games-to-two lead in the best-of-seven series, could wrap up the championship with an upset win tonight at The Spectrum.

The game will be televised live (channels 5-10-46) at 6 p.m. (PDT).

"Obviously, our biggest prob-
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velt! He was wrong — because it was a good pass. I just fell in line after that and said, 'When I get to the pros, I'm going to break loose.'"

Yet, Erving is in no way a showboat gambler. Instead, he plays up to his nickname, "The Doctor," by carefully examining, analyzing and dissecting the game he plays. He considers it "an injustice" that he and numerous other black athletes are often complimented for their "great natural ability" rather than "the years of toil and strain, and physical and mental application it took to develop."

"God gives you certain physical assets — the size of my feet and hands (and a 38-inch sleeve length)," Erving said, "but I wouldn't be where I am today if not for studying the game and having different coaches who influenced my style of play."

"The more games you play, the more you're aware of things you can do on the court with the ball, the backboard or the out of bounds line. You can use the backboard or rim to keep guys from blocking your shots. You can use the backboard when you're shooting your bank shot, and put different english (spin) on the ball when you're in trouble. If you put it up soft enough, there's a 50-50 chance it will go in."

Saturday, The Doctor performed one of his most delicate operations. He burst past Laker forward Mark Landsberger on the right side of the lane, floated under, behind and past the back-

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Holmgren Leads Flyers In 8-3 Rout

Philadelphia

Paul Holmgren, a right wing known more for his brawn than his scoring, delivered a hat trick last night to propel the Philadelphia Flyers to an 8-3 rout of the New York Islanders, knotting the Stanley Cup finals at one game each.

The best-of-seven series shifts to Montclair, N.Y., for Games 3 and 4 tomorrow and Monday.

Holmgren, who finished third in the NHL in penalty minutes during the regular season with 287, scored power-play goals in each of the first two periods and completed his hat trick on a fine two-on-one break with Ken Linseman at 4:19 of the third period for his ninth goal of the playoffs.

Eleven other players had at least one point for the Flyers. Bobby Clarke, still the team leader as he was during the Stanley Cup years of 1974 and 1975, scored one goal and had three assists to become the 15th player in Stanley Cup history to go over 100 playoff points for his career.

Bill Barber added his 12th goal — tops among all playoff goal-scorers — and Bob Kelly, rookie Brian Propp and Tom Gorence also scored for Philadelphia.

The Islanders took a 1-0 lead at 2:22 when Dutch Geisler scored.

angularity of the "M". At the time written, Billy may have been down in h. Notice the downward slant to the and the way the whole signature wn. Those indicate pessimism. The "dot also slants down. And it's that might indicate a temper.

as a good memory and ability to ate. The closeness of the first "I" dot m is a good indicator of that. The g letter size in "Martin" shows he a diplomat or a tactician.

Mickey Mantle:
His script leans left. He seeks self-identity. He probably feels differ-

well-understood. The small script and als in proportion to the other letters 's a modest fellow. But the firmness of ng indicate definitiveness and direc-

Henry Aaron:
Modest, easygoing, kind friendly

Ray *Aaron*

JULIUS ERVING

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board while dangling the ball outside the out-of-bounds line, then twisted in a soft, reverse layup over Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who never even left his feet.

It was not a lucky shot.

"When I first went around (Landsberger) I was out of bounds, then I came back in," Erving said. "But that was holding the ball away from the defender. They don't know what to do when I'm holding the ball out of bounds. Do they go for it? Do they wait for me to bring it back? It has a tendency to freeze defenders. That's from studying the game — that's not natural, either."

Seattle rebounding specialist Paul Silas and former Warrior boardman Clyde Lee are other players who stretched the court's boundaries. Both were experts at running out of bounds along the baseline, then backing inbounds for rebounding position. "Silas has got an ass this wide anyway," Erving said, spreading his arms to full wing-span, "and suddenly the guy behind him is at the foul line and Paul is getting the offensive rebound."

As a boy, Erving said, "I had to do everything with two hands — I dribbled with two hands, shot with two hands," he said. "Even though my hands were large, I couldn't shoot a one-handed jump shot until I was 13 or 14."

"In junior high and high school, guys would say I was wild because I kicked them, elbowed them, scratched them. Finesse came (in high school) when I decided not to foul out." But even now in practice, 76ers call him "Doc Chop" because "I'll hack anybody."

Away from the court, Erving says he is not "vastly creative." Although exceptionally well-coordinated in basketball, he can't play the piano or drums well even after taking lessons because he hasn't devoted time or concentration to them. He spends much of his time "watching the growth and development of my children," and includes them in his athletic hobbies, swimming and tennis.

And he fights against stagnation.

"As a professional athlete, you often find yourself doing things that you don't initiate," he said. "Someone else initiates them, like saying, 'How about doing this type of promotion?'"

"The older I get the more distasteful I find it, and some days I find myself saying, 'I'm going to be in control of what I do today . . . and elect to spend the day at home. That's when most of your ideas come to you — for business or pleasure."

"I'm not from the old school of thought where you attack a job and retire," he says now. "In business, I'd like to take some losers and turn them into winners. I'd like to set up three to five-year projects, then sell them and undertake a new challenge. That way, I feed my creative energies."

Overall, Erving is a diversified man — one who, like Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell, perceives a clear distinction between what he does for a living, and what he is as a human being.

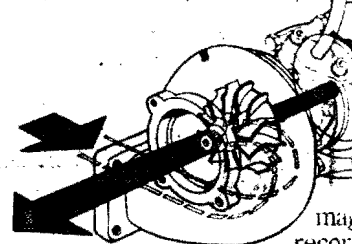
"Because I play basketball in a free-wheeling style, most people expect that I'm that type of person," Erving said. "But I think I'm profound, sensitive, good-natured, family-oriented and serious about things around me. Most people whom I enjoy aren't disappointed — they're pleasantly surprised."

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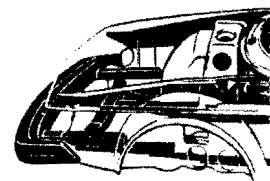
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In general terms, the 245-hp 260-hp engine provides "on-demand" power — the equivalent output of, say, a six-cylinder engine of a small V8. At all other times — from 80 to 85 percent of all driving situations — the 245-hp engine maintains four-cylinder efficiency.



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