

BELLAIRE BIG REDS BASKETBALL



1978 - 1979

I'm not really certain what it is. Perhaps it was because Terry Snively asked me to coach them as a freshmen team: my first and last time to pretend that I knew what I was talking about. Or it might have been that Mark Matz wanted me that year to develop a stronger, more detailed system of stats for the basketball team.

It might have been that the preceding year was our first time in school history to break free from the District jinx and advance to the Regional in Athens. And we felt that this team would repeat the achievement and perhaps go even further.

After sitting at the scorer's table for 56 years and 2,283 consecutive games, I've had the honor of seeing a lot of great teams, a lot of exceptional players. But there's just something about the 1979 team that makes them special. And close to 50 years later, I still believe that. The secret? They were great individuals, back then and today.

They were dominating, unselfish, talented, fun, had the best front wall I've still ever seen, had energy, were team oriented, stayed after practice, worked tirelessly, never quit. And fifty years later, they still get together to watch the Big Reds, still stay in touch, are closer now than they were in 1979.

One of those players, Dean Lipperman, has been the driving force to keeping the seven seniors connected like brothers. And what follows is a sampling of his energy and talent. I'm still a pen and paper guy. I haven't embraced the technological world, have no clue what ChatGPT is, don't group text. But Lip does. I apologize for the reproductive quality of the following pages. In no way do they do justice to his originals. But I'm amazed that I could figure out how to print and scan them and post them on my website to share with others. Who knows, maybe other teams will follow suit and do something similar.

So enjoy. And thanks for the memories, Big Guy. Coach Matz, Coach A, and the 79ers, you will always have a special place in my heart.



IMPUDENCE
COMICS
ISSUE 79 25¢

BELLAIRE BIG REDS PRESENT...

CHOPPER DRILL!



COACH MATZ
CRANKS UP
THE CHOPPER—
AND THE GYM
EXPLODES!



FANS ROAR!
POM POMS
FLY! THE FLOOR
SHAKES!



THEN THE BIG
REDS HIT THE
FLOOR—RUN,
SHUFFLE, DIVE,
SLIDE!
NO MERCY!

ONE TEAM.
ONE HEART.
ONE CHOPPER!

THE WARM-UP THAT TURNS
BOYS INTO WARRIORS!

BELLAIRE
BIG REDS

WELCOME TO
THE GRAVEYARD

BIG REDS 2:00 VISITOR 0

PRIDE
TRADITION
TOUGHNESS

AT THE
GRAVEYARD
—NOBODY
SLEEPS!

RED
PRIDE!

LET'S GO,
BIG REDS!

RUN!

SHUFFLE!

SHUFFLE!

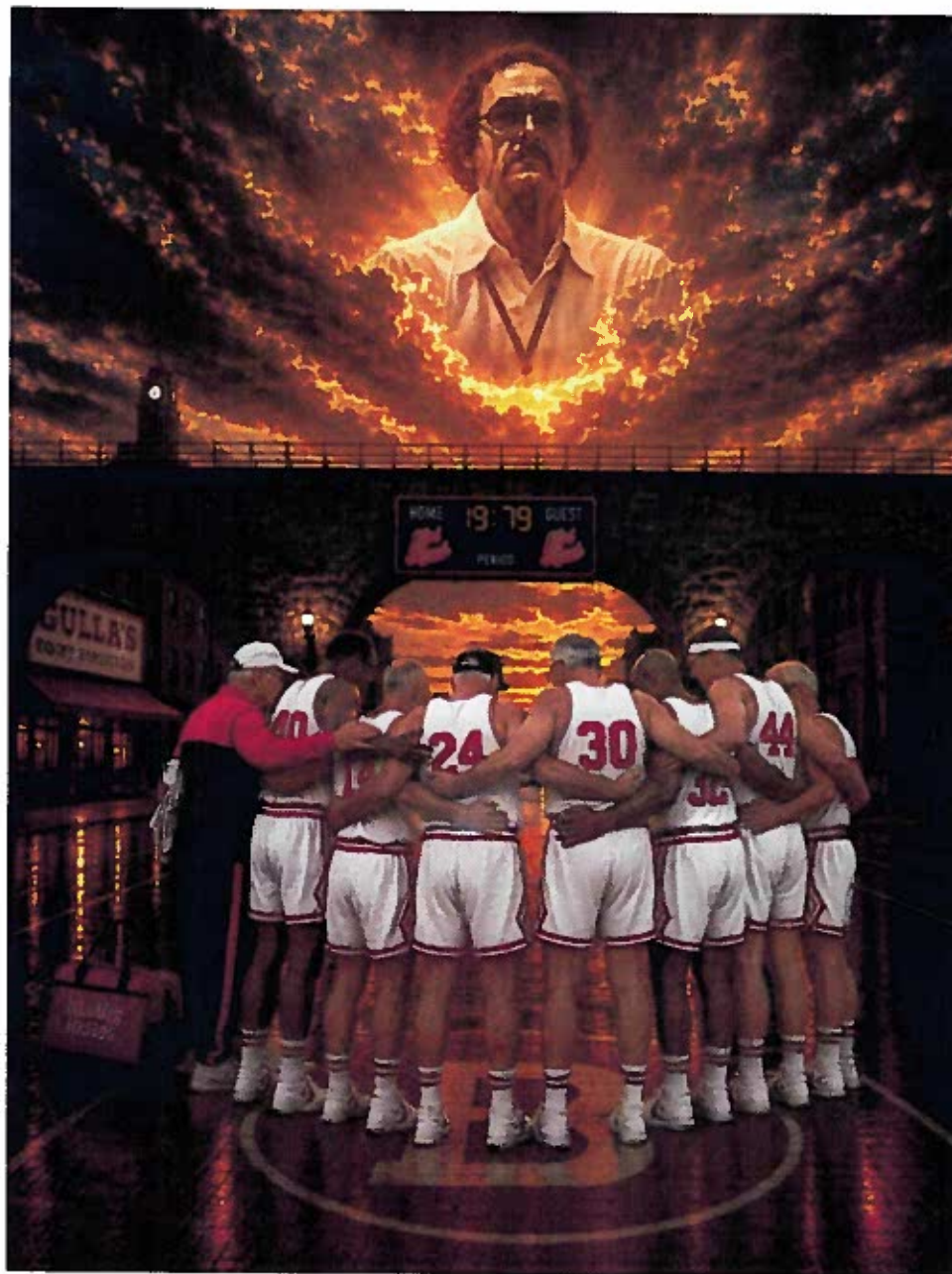
SLIDE!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

HIT THE
FLOOR!

THE CHOPPER DRILL...
WE DON'T WARM UP...
WE WAKE UP THE GYM!



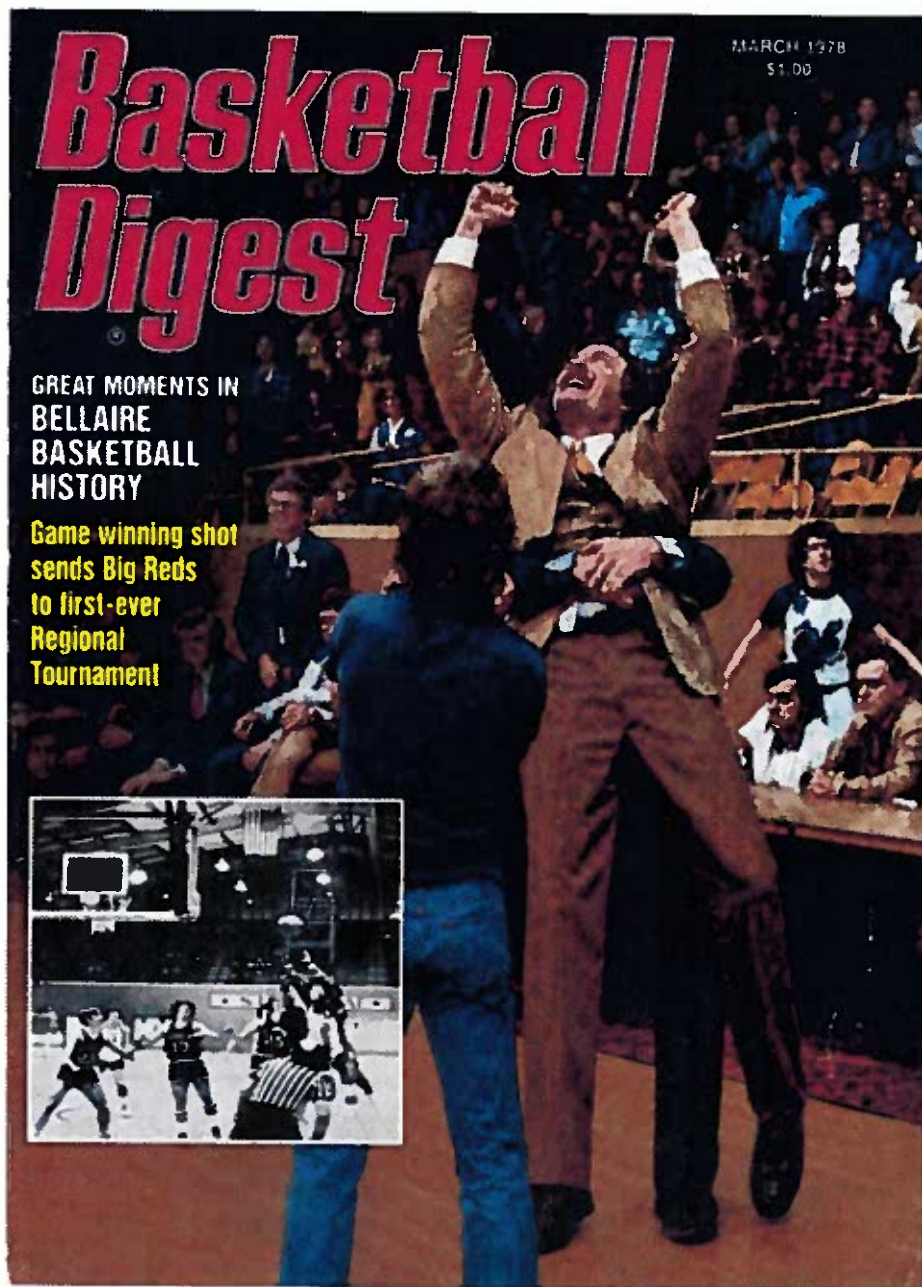


Basketball Digest

MARCH 1978
\$1.00

GREAT MOMENTS IN
BELLAIRE
BASKETBALL
HISTORY

Game winning shot
sends Big Reds
to first-ever
Regional
Tournament

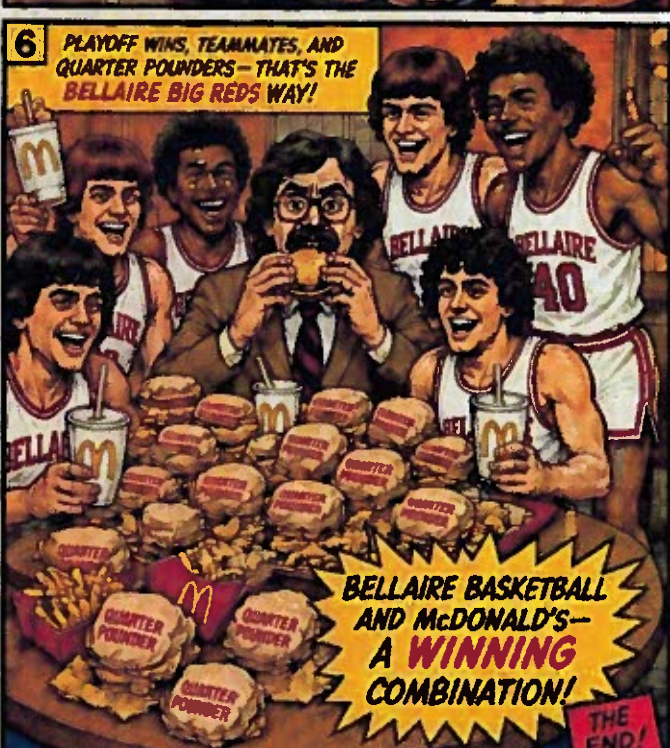
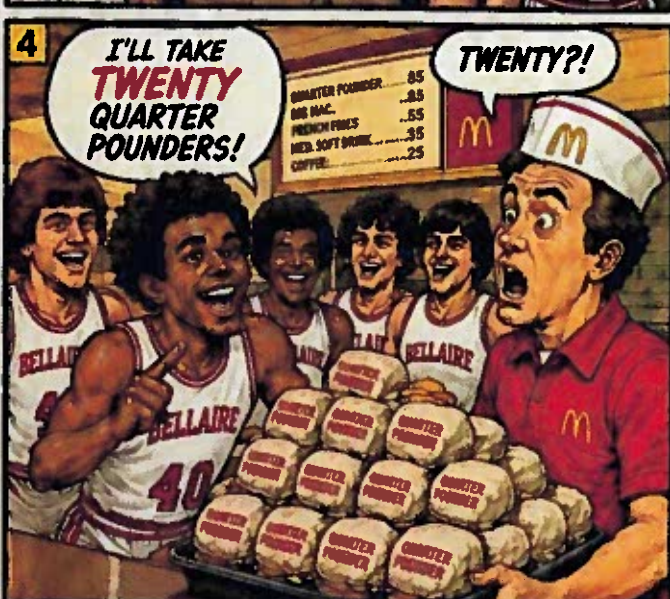
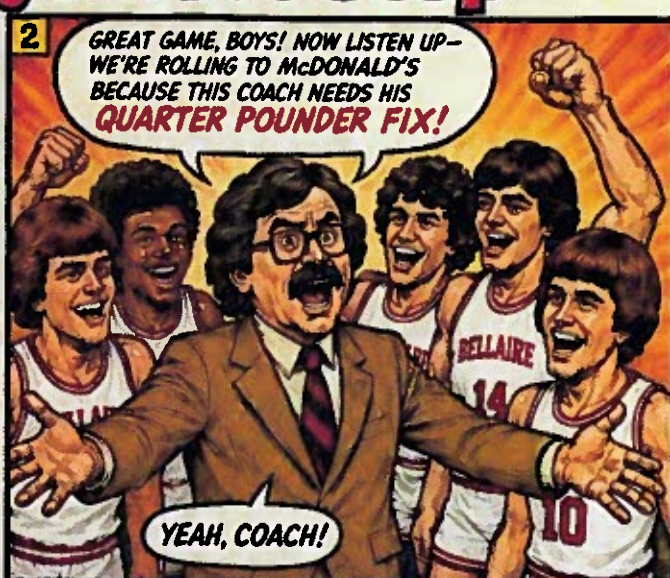








Coach Matz's Playoff Pit Stop



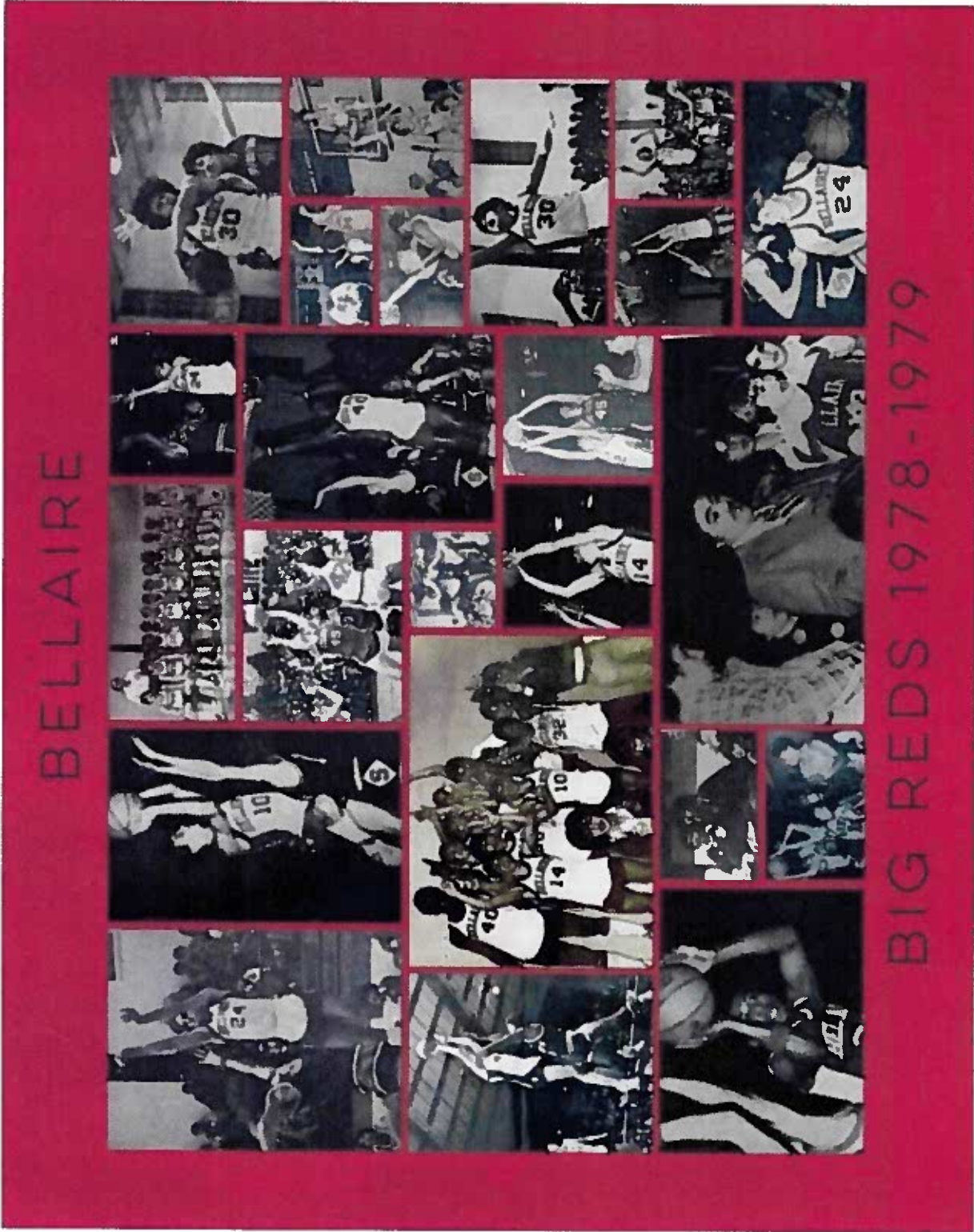
FEBRUARY 9, 1979
THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN BELLAIRE

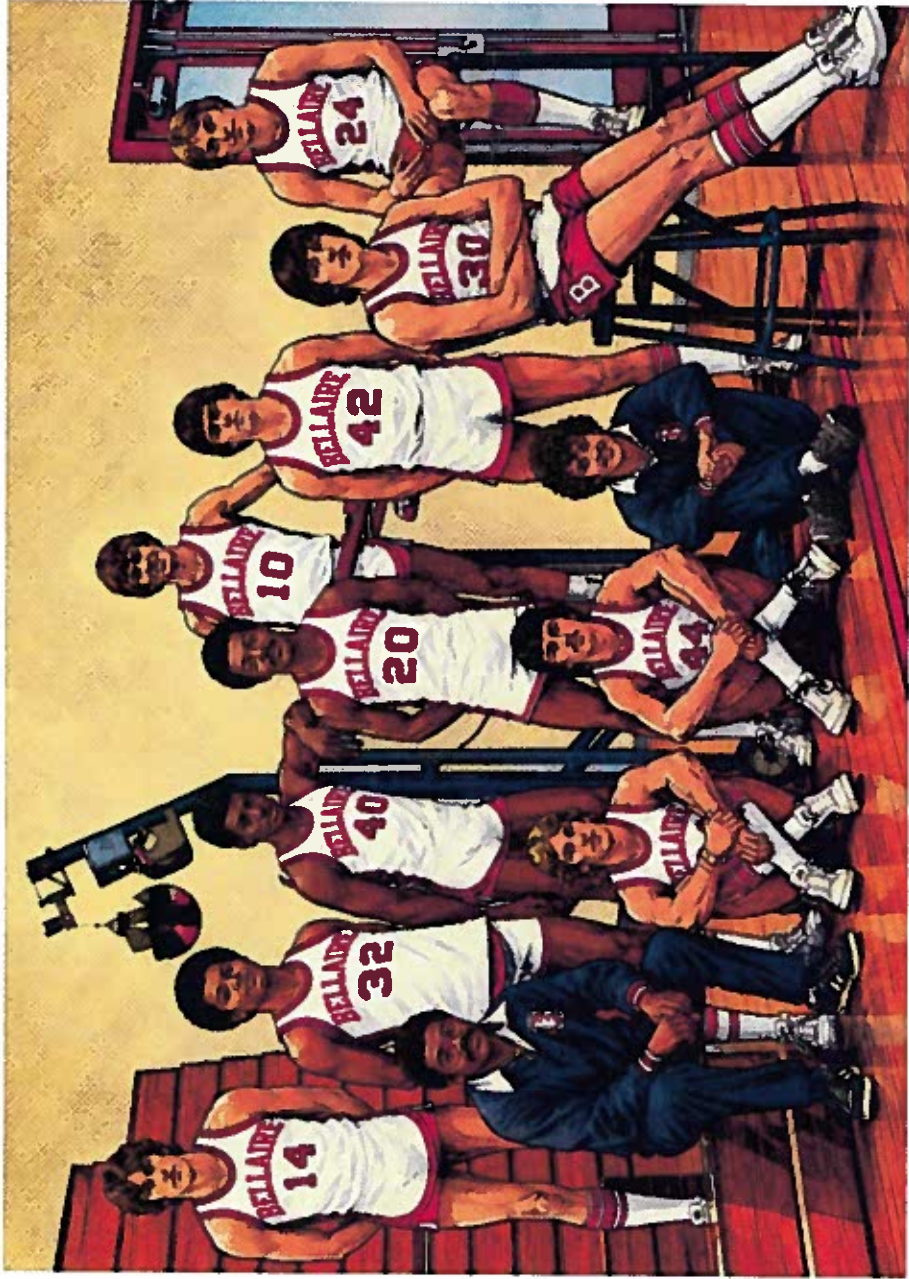


**LIPPERMAN,
GET UPSTAIRS!**



SHMEN - FRONT: W. Mehl, J. Campbell, J. Gray, B. Sketel, R. Meek, D. Lipik. BACK: Coach T. Rataiczak, B. Holloway, K. Warner, J. Gorder, J. Giffteele.





IMPUDENCE
COMICS
ISSUE 79

PREGAME HYSTERIA

The Chopper Drill



BEFORE EVERY BIG REDS BATTLE, COACH MATZ CRANKED UP THE GYM WITH HIS FAMOUS CHOPPER DRILL.

LET'S GO
BIG REDS!

WHISTLES CHIRPED, SNEAKERS SQUEALED, FEET CHOPPED, AND BODIES HIT THE FLOOR—AND THE CROWD WENT WILD.

TWEET!
TWEET!

TWEET!
TWEET!

Huh?

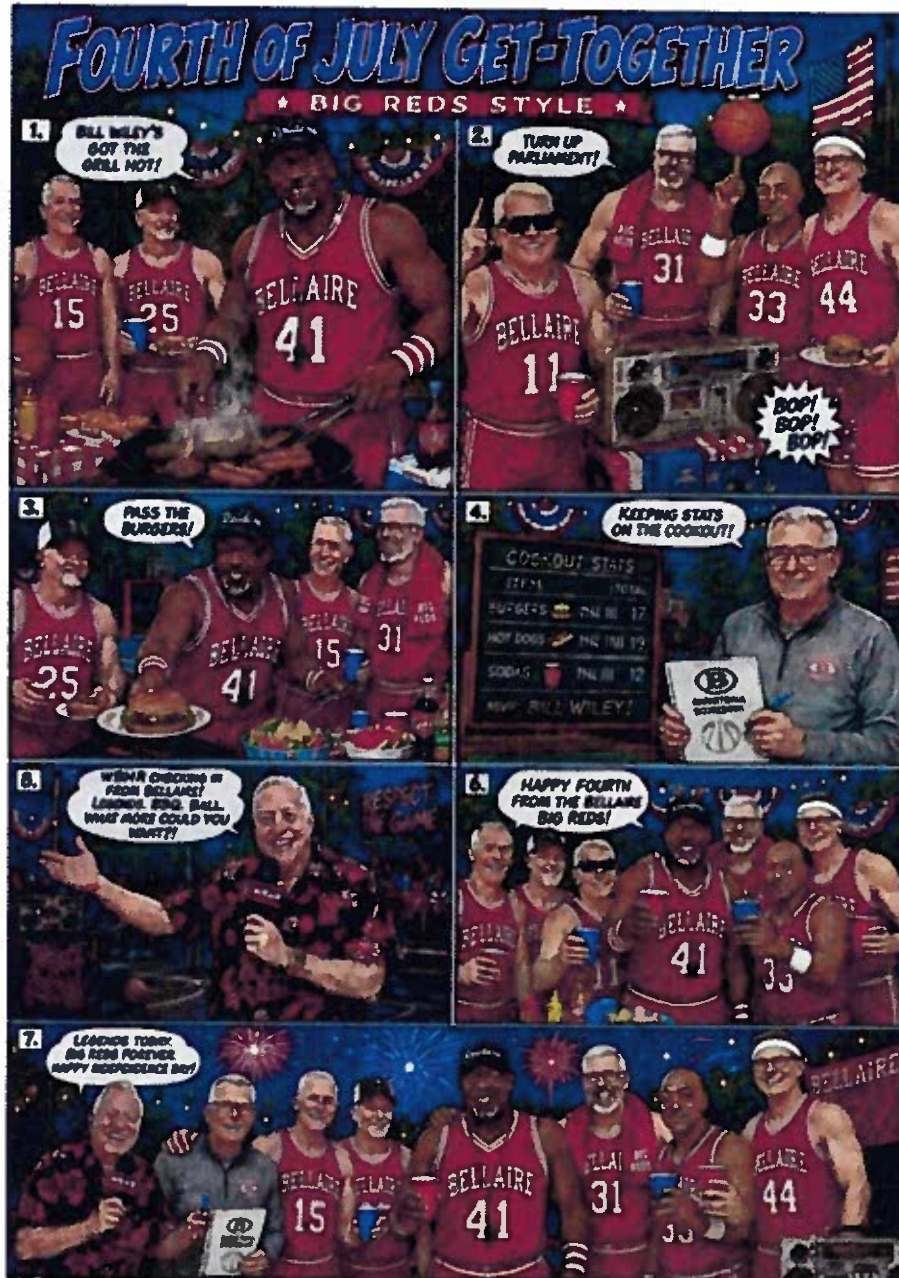
Ooof!

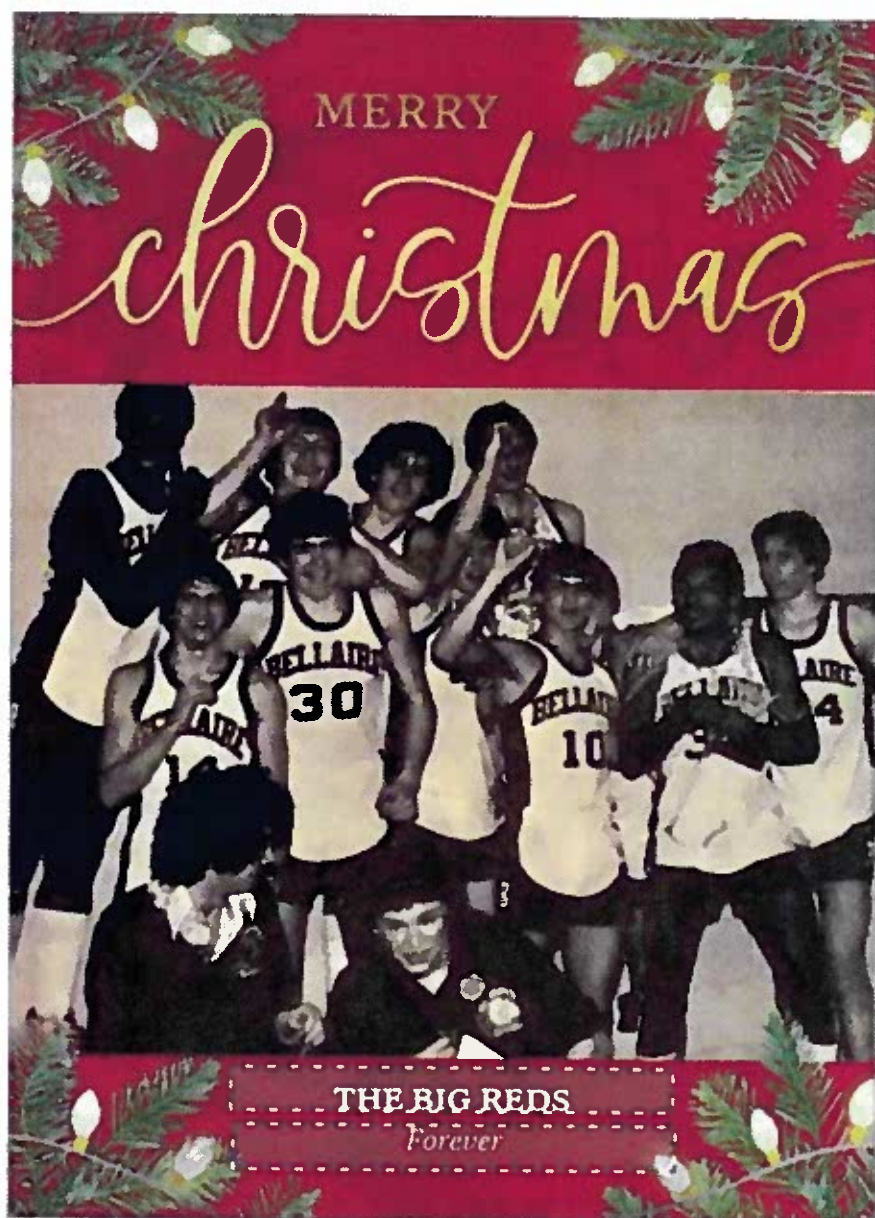
TWEET!
TWEET!

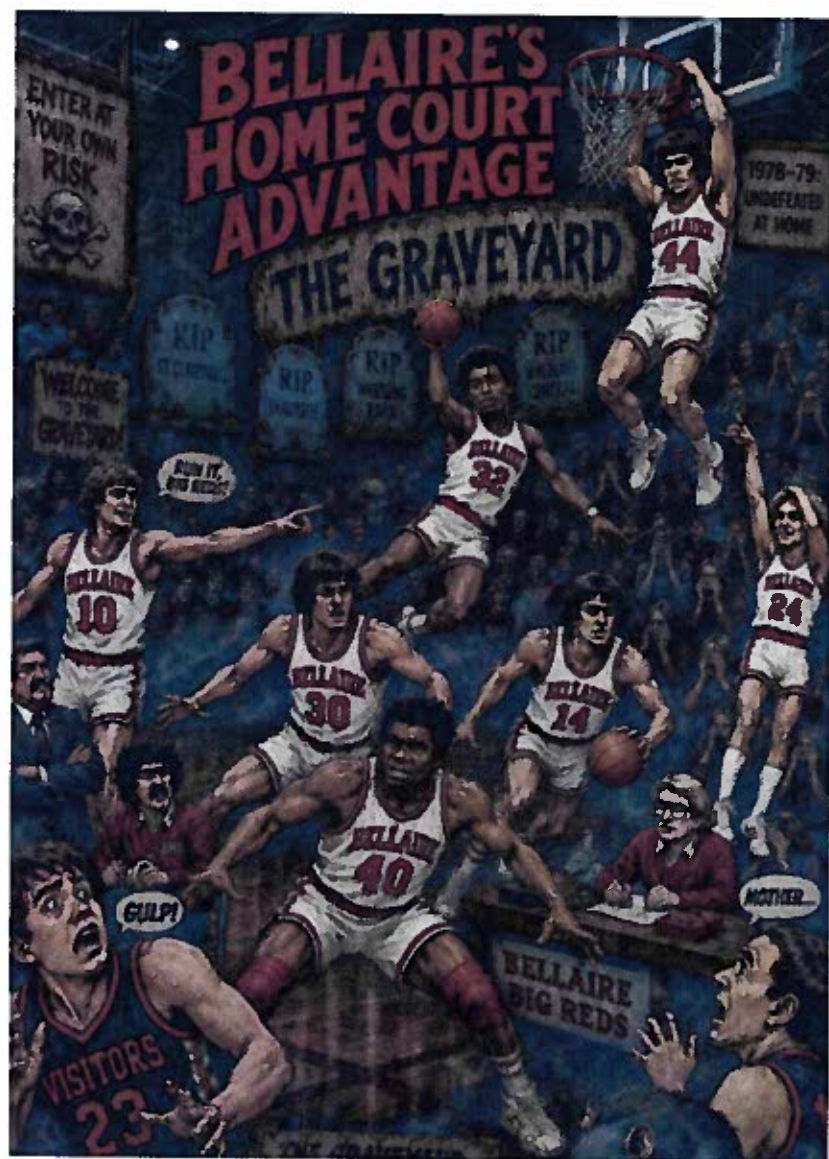
OH,
BROTHER!

BY TIP-OFF, BELLAIRE WAS FLYING HIGH AND THE FANS WERE ALREADY IN A FRENZY.

IT **ALWAYS** PUMPED UP THE FANS!









BIG REDS GRAVEYARD

ENTER AT
YOUR OWN RISK



BIG REDS

100

HOME

19:19

PERIOD 2

62

VISITOR

NOBODY LEAVES WITH A "W"

- SHADYSIDE**
TIGERS
- WHEELING PARK**
PATRIOTS
- ST. JOHNS**
IRISH
- MINGO**
MINERS
- TRI-VALLEY**
SCOTTIES
- CAMBRIDGE**
BOBCATS
- WHEELING CENTRAL**
MAROONS



RAT
OFFICIAL STATISTICIAN
SINCE 1980

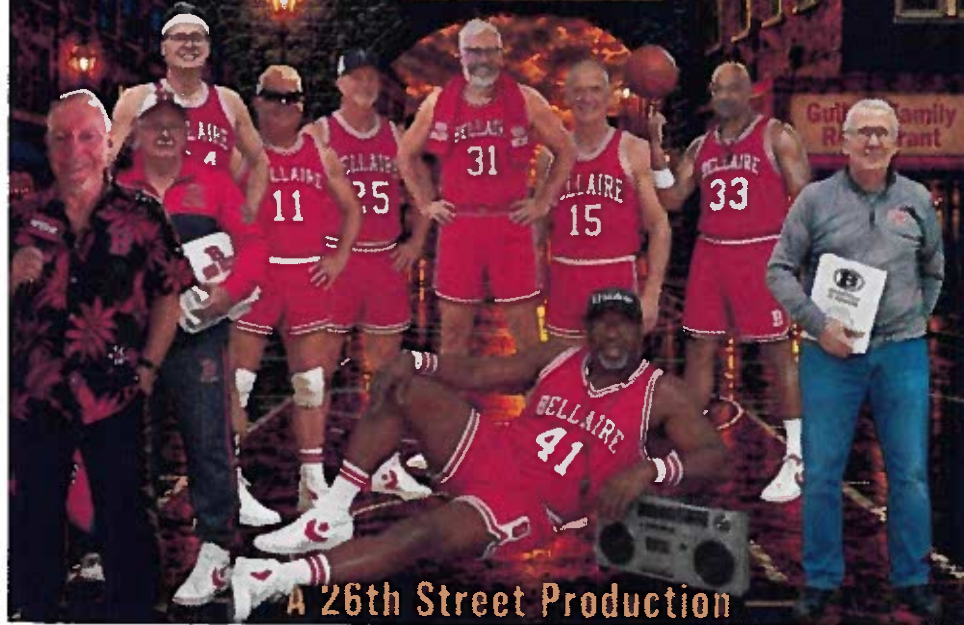
LEGENDS DON'T RETIRE.
THEY REWRITE THE GAME.

Old Skool

BELLAIRE
BIG REDS
BASKETBALL

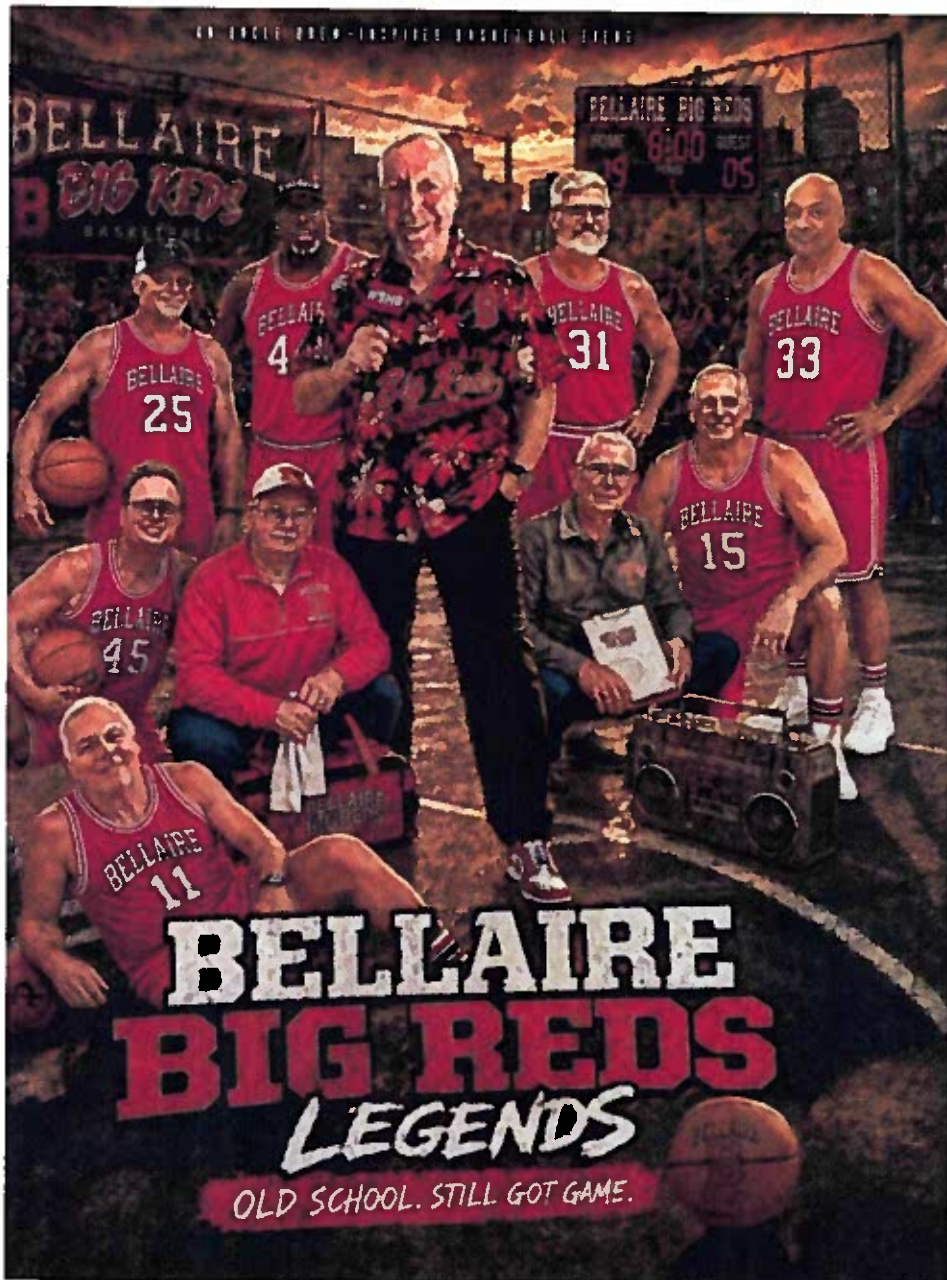
THE MOVIE

HOME 19:19 GUEST
PERIOD



A 26th Street Production

AN ORLEANS-INSPIRED BASKETBALL STORY



LEGENDS DON'T RETIRE.
THEY REWRITE THE GAME.

UNCLE DREW 2

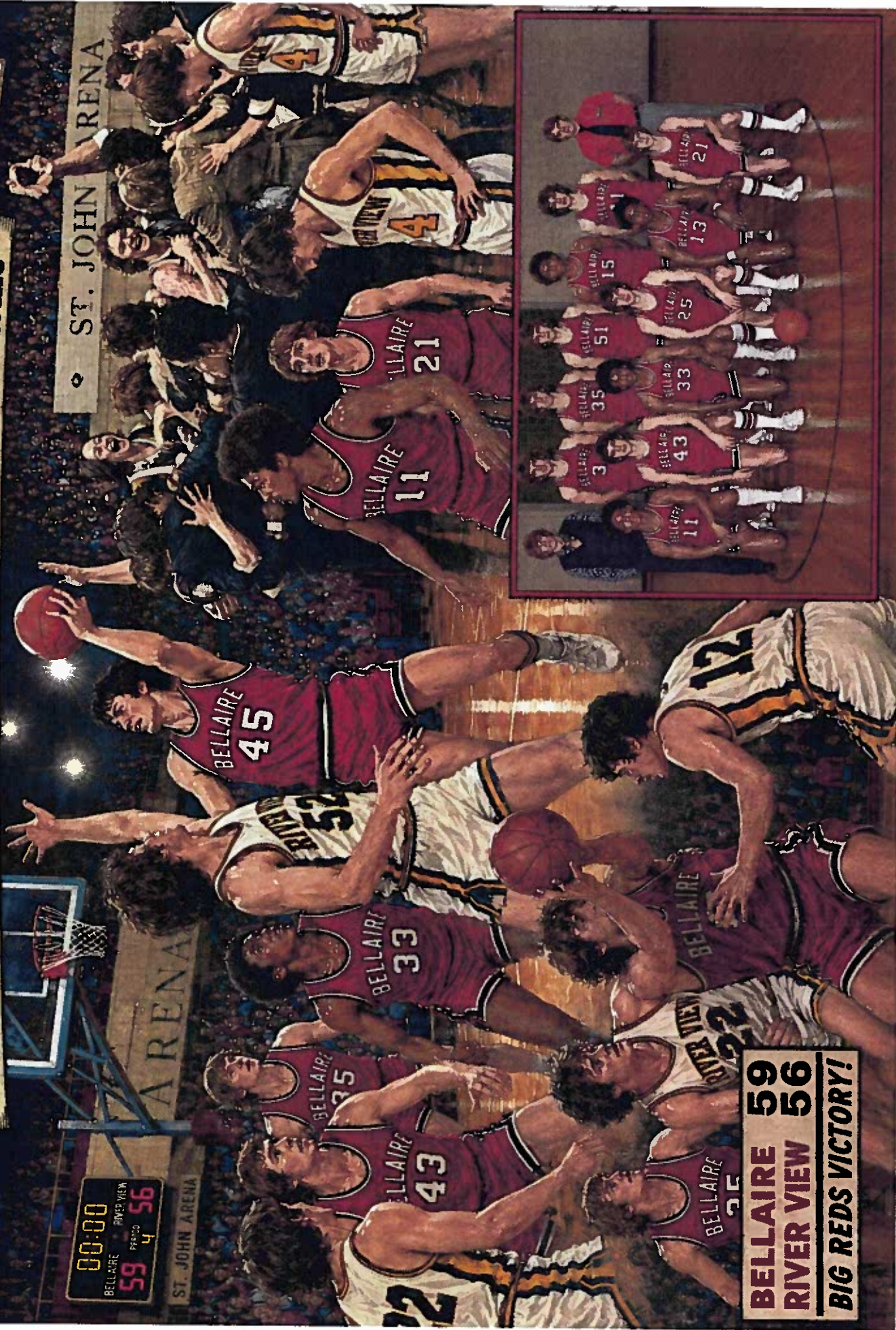
BELLAIRE
BIG REDS
BASKETBALL

HOME 100 00:00 GUEST 75
PERIOD 4



BIG REDS SHOW JUBILANCE

District Playoffs • St. John Arena • Steubenville



BELLAIRE 59
RIVER VIEW 56

BIG REDS VICTORY!

NBA FINALS

BELLAIRE

BIG REDS

GAME 3

NEW YORK

KNICKS

VS



BELLAIRE BIG REDS VS NEW YORK KNICKS

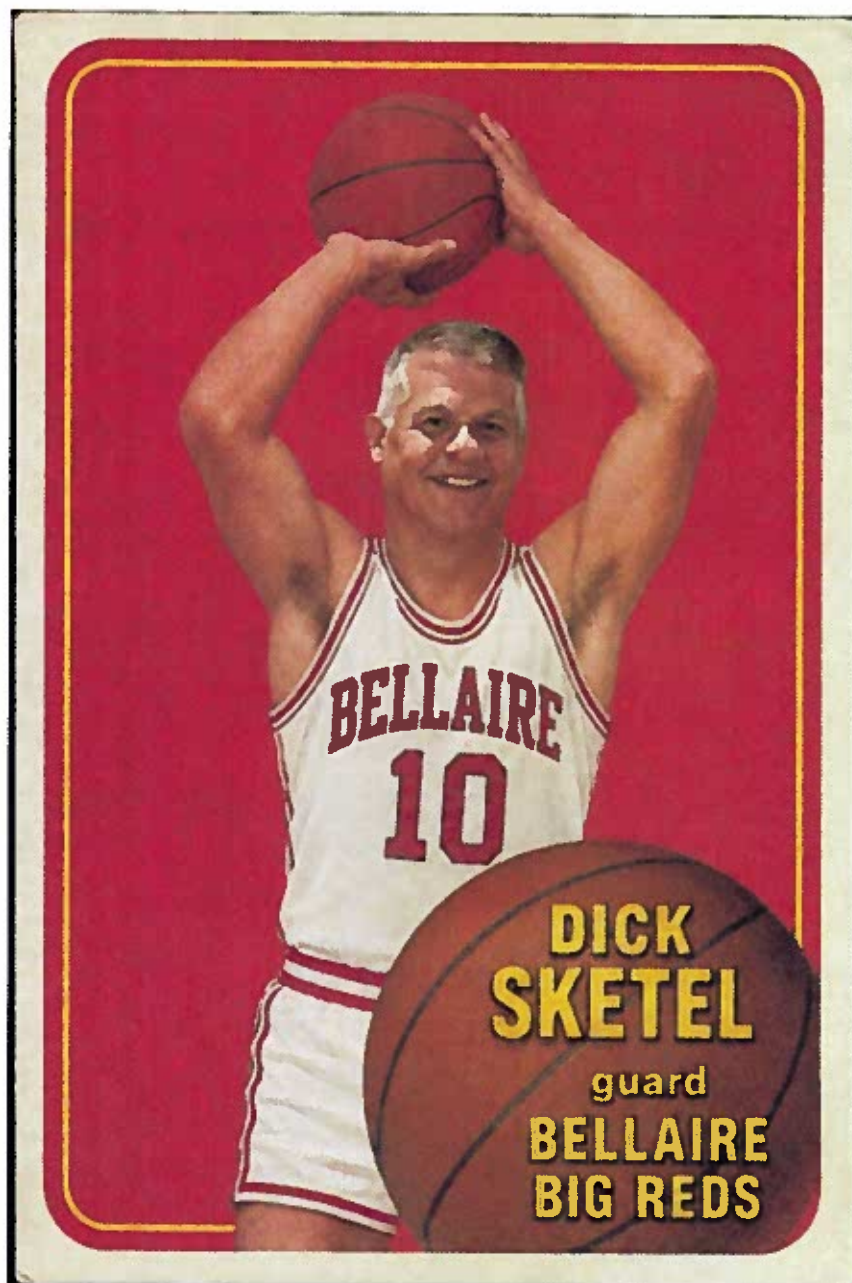


GAME 3 | TONIGHT

9:00 PM

EST

abc



**DICK
SKETEL**

guard

**BELLAIRE
BIG REDS**

Street &
Smith's
Official
1978-79
Yearbook

Most Complete
Most Informative

Basketball

\$1.75

DICKIE SKETEL

**BELLAIRE'S
FLOOR LEADER
AND CLUTCH
PERFORMER**

- SENIOR GUARD
SPOTLIGHT
- GAME CHANGER
- LEADER ON
AND OFF THE
COURT

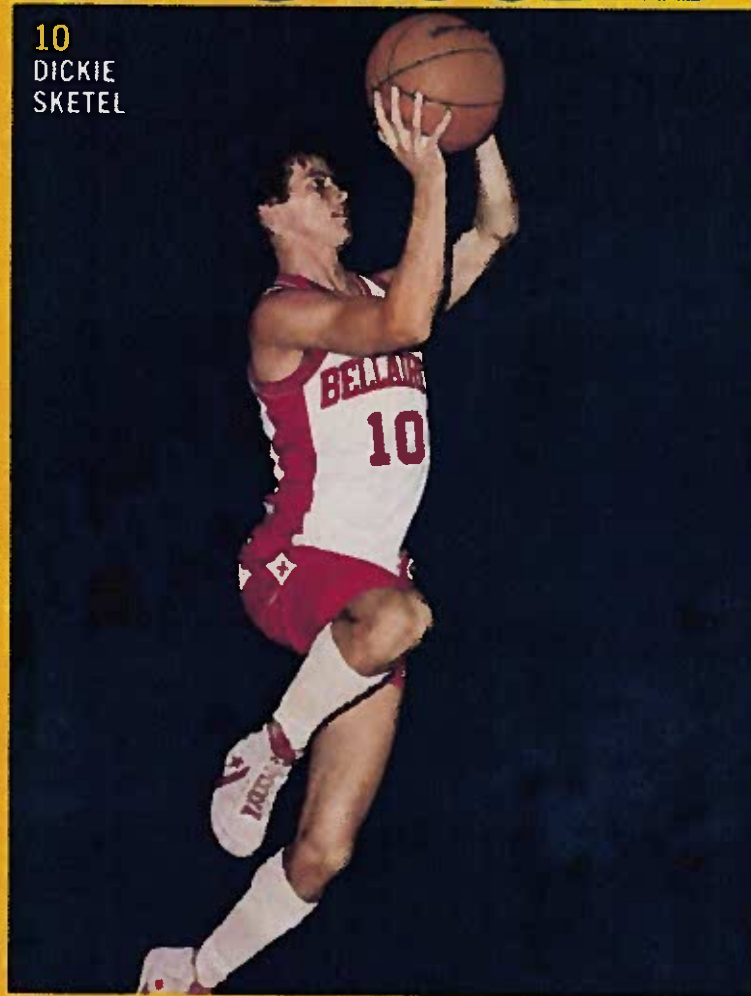
**BELLAIRE BIG
REDS SENIORS
LEAD THE WAY**

**PRIDE, TRADITION
AND HEART—
THE BELLAIRE
BROTHERHOOD**

Scouting Report
DICKIE SKETEL
pg. 68

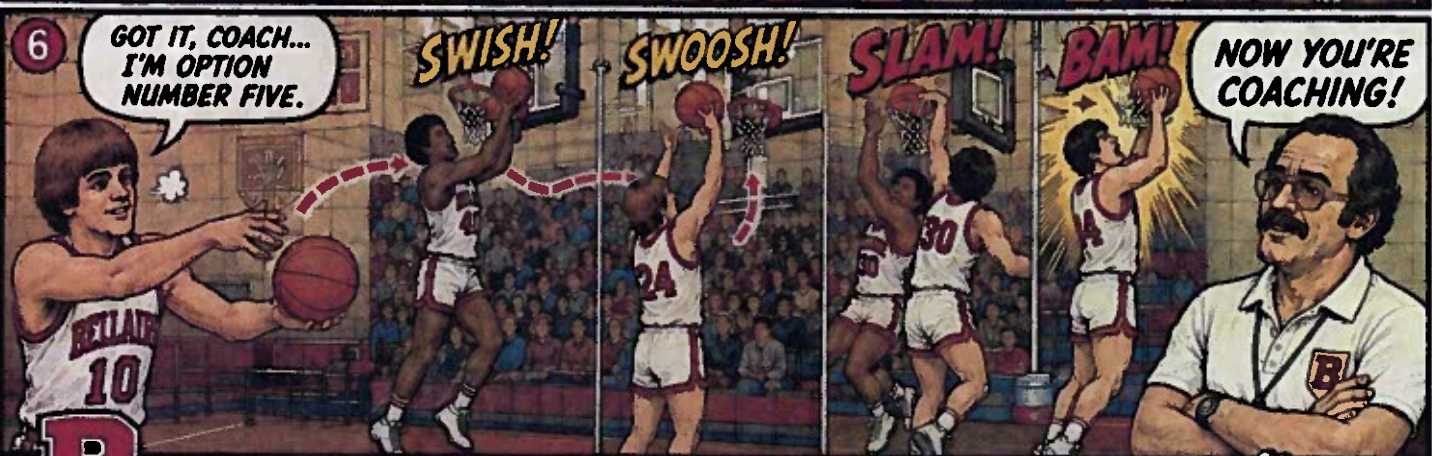
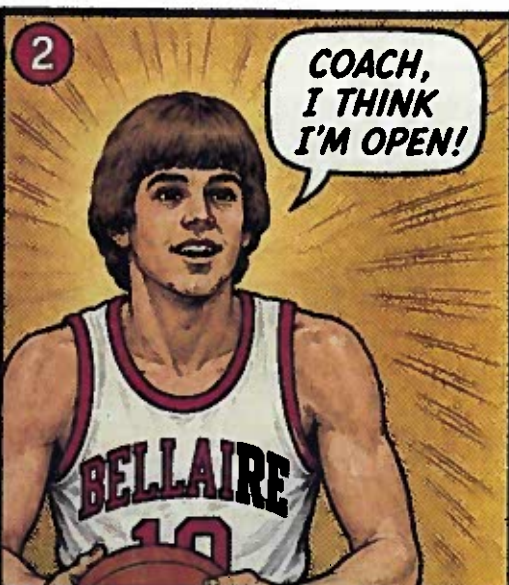


10
DICKIE
SKETEL



BELLAIRE BIG REDS—A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

1 COACH MATZ HAD
ONE RULE FOR DICKIE...



B
Big Reds

DICKIE SKETEL: QUARTERBACK OF THE BIG REDS OFFENSE...
AND PROUD OWNER OF THE FIFTH-BEST SHOT SELECTION.





DICKIE SKETEL: THE ASSIST KING



123 assists in 1978-79... and plenty more around Bellaire!

1

At Bellaire High, #10
Dickie Sketel was
famous for one thing...



2

On the court, he dished out
assists like nobody else!

1978-79
123
★ ASSISTS ★

Thanks,
Dickie!



3

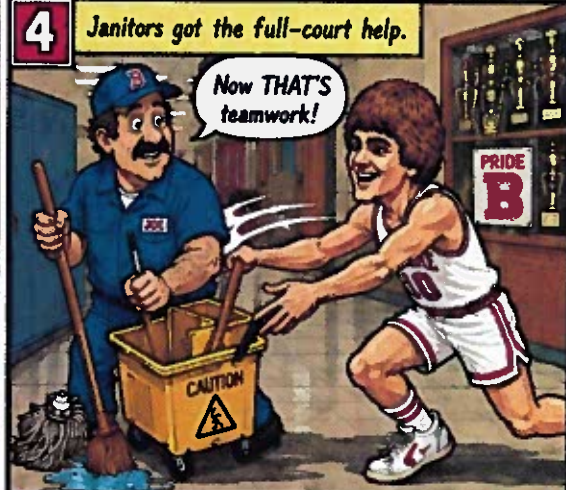
Teachers got assists, too.



4

Janitors got the full-court help.

Now THAT'S
teamwork!



5

Even the cafeteria staff got
a no-look lunch assist.



6

ALL-TIME ASSIST RECORD —

★ **123** ★

Hey, I'm just
trying to lead the
school in assists!



Whether it was on the hardwood or in the hallways,
Dickie Sketel was always ready to help.

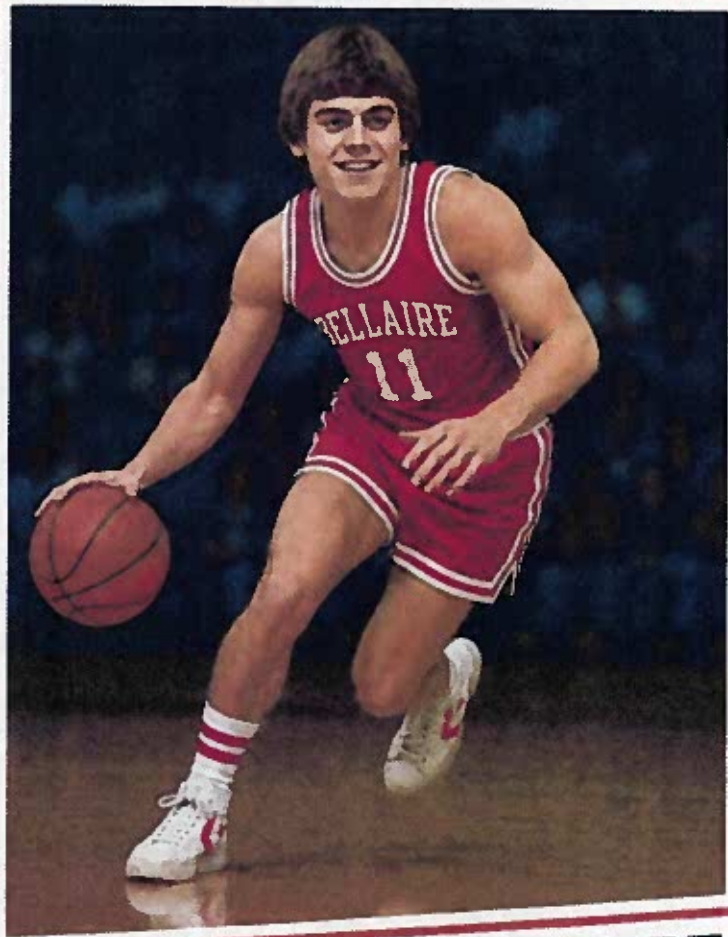


Dec. 1979
Basketball
Digest
\$1.25 (Canada \$2.00)
BASKETBALL'S
MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

**DICK
SKETEL &
JO JO
CAMPBELL**

*Is this the best
backcourt in
the OVAC*



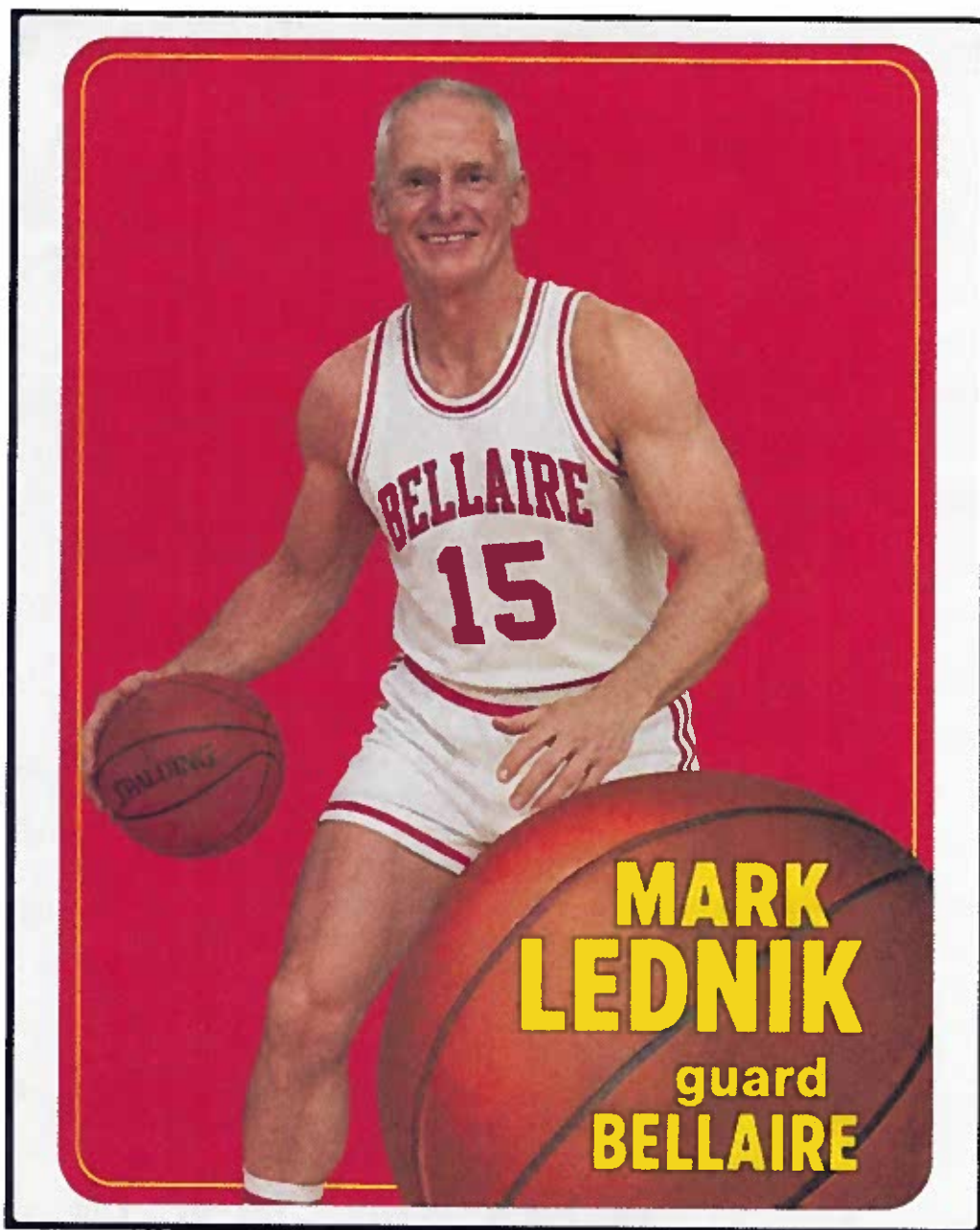


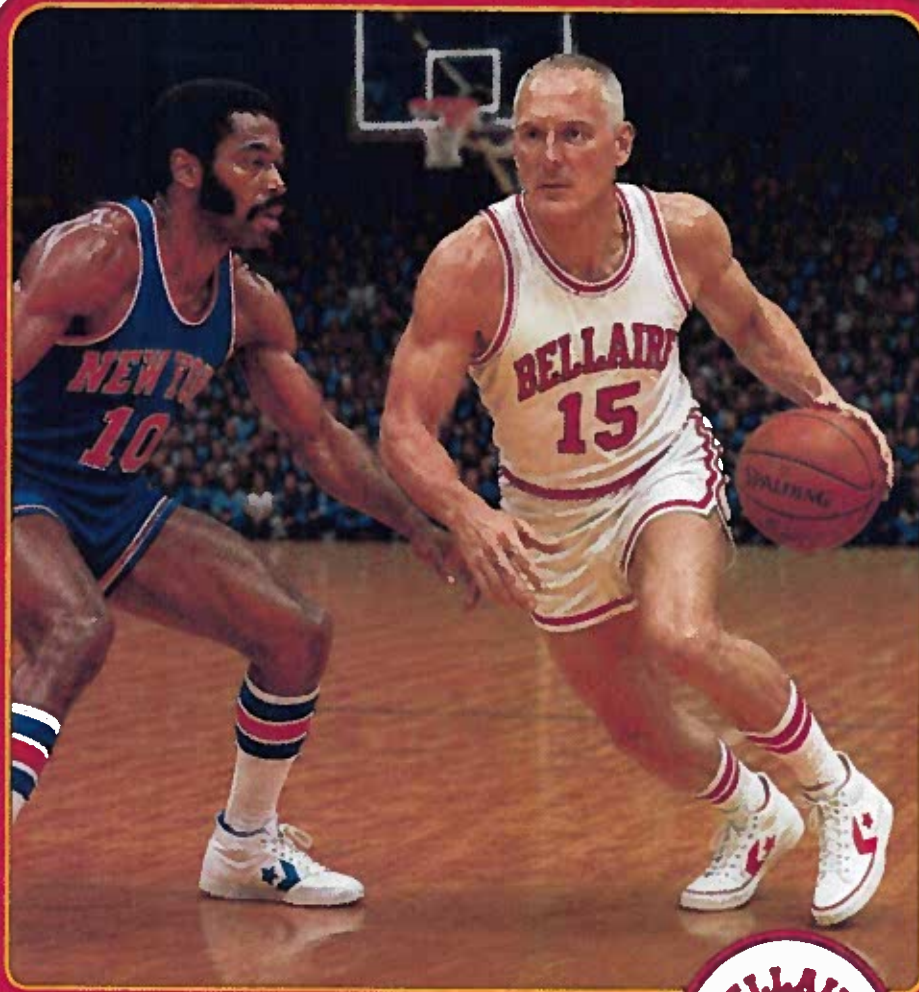
BELLAIRE BIG REDS



SKETEL

DICK





MARK LEDNIK

Guard
Bellaire Big Reds







BELLAIRE
15

PREMIUM
COLLECTOR SERIES

Clyde the Glide

★★★★★

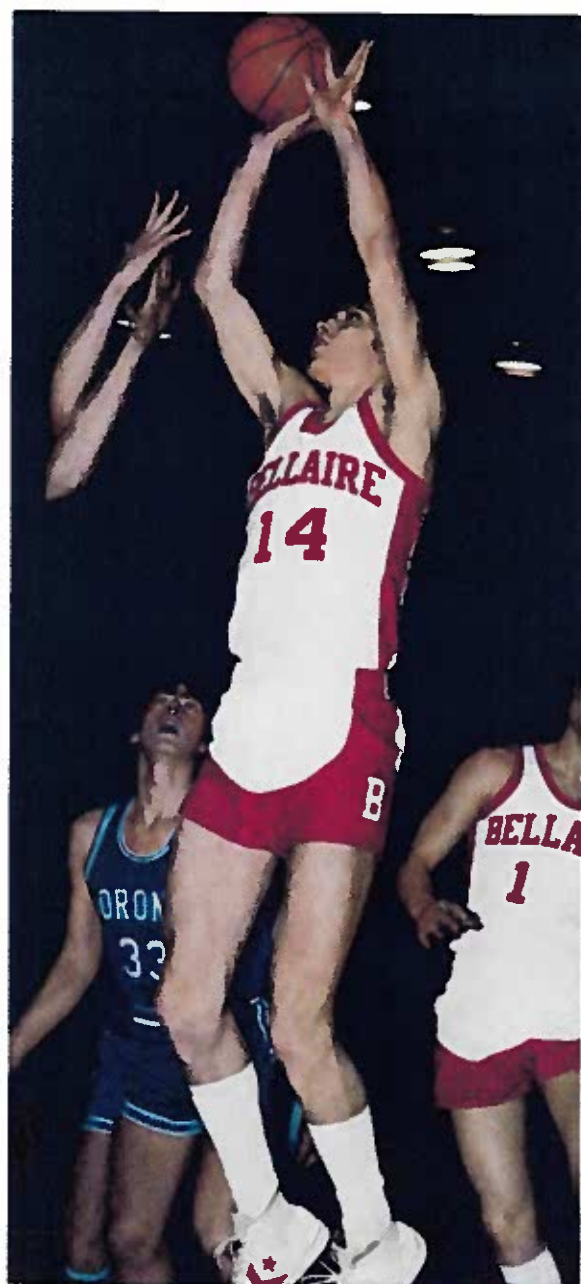
PULL STRING
VOICE FEATURE!
"No Fancy Hands"
"No Fancy Hands"



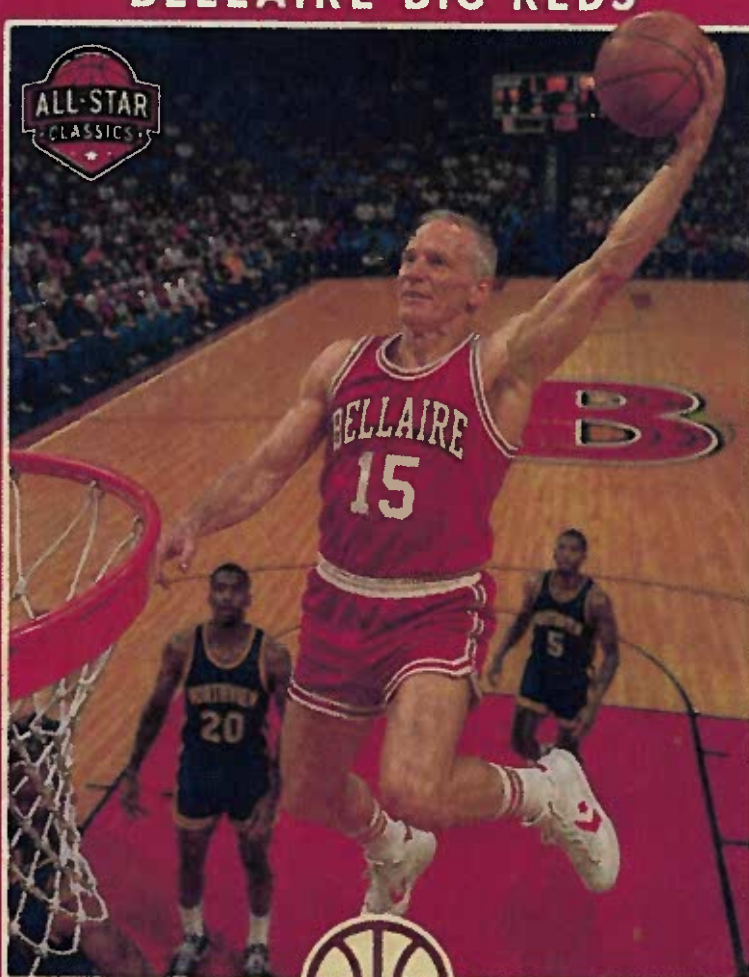
- GALLER.
- GOLFER.
- LEGEND.

15

Clyde the Glide



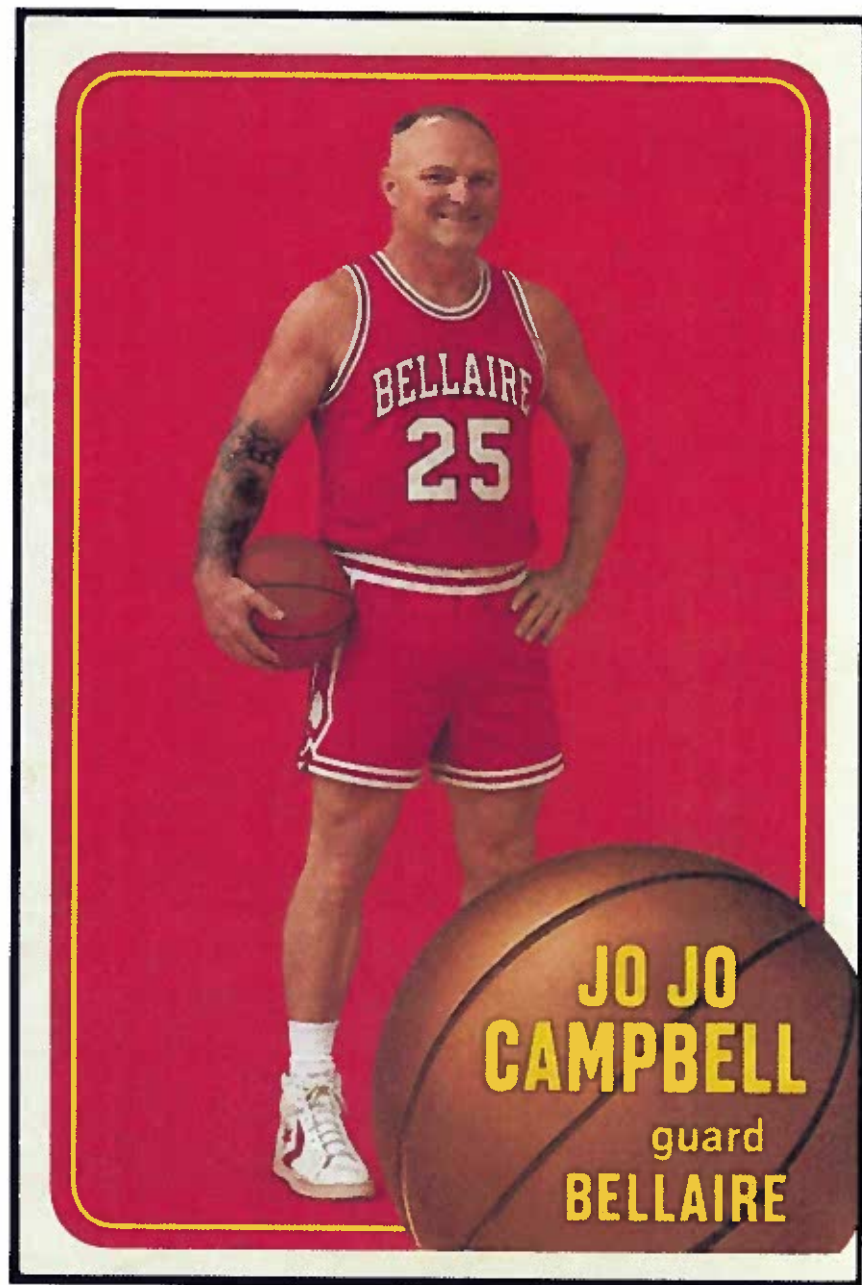
BELLAIRE BIG REDS



F

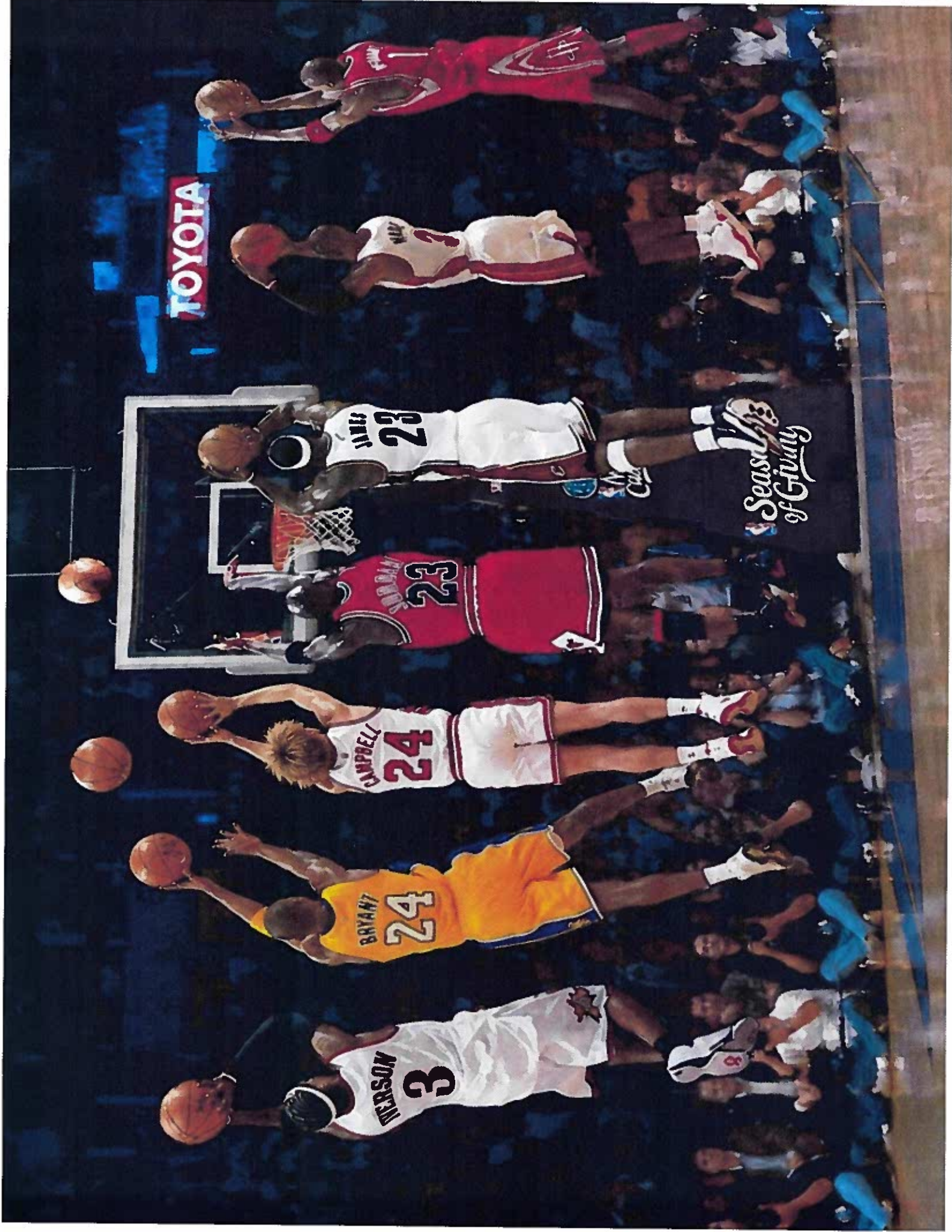
MARK LEDNIK

15



JO JO
CAMPBELL

guard
BELLAIRE



TOYOTA

Season of Giving

MURSON
3

BRYANT
24

CAMPBELL
24

23

JAMES
23

3

1

Mmmm...
Good!

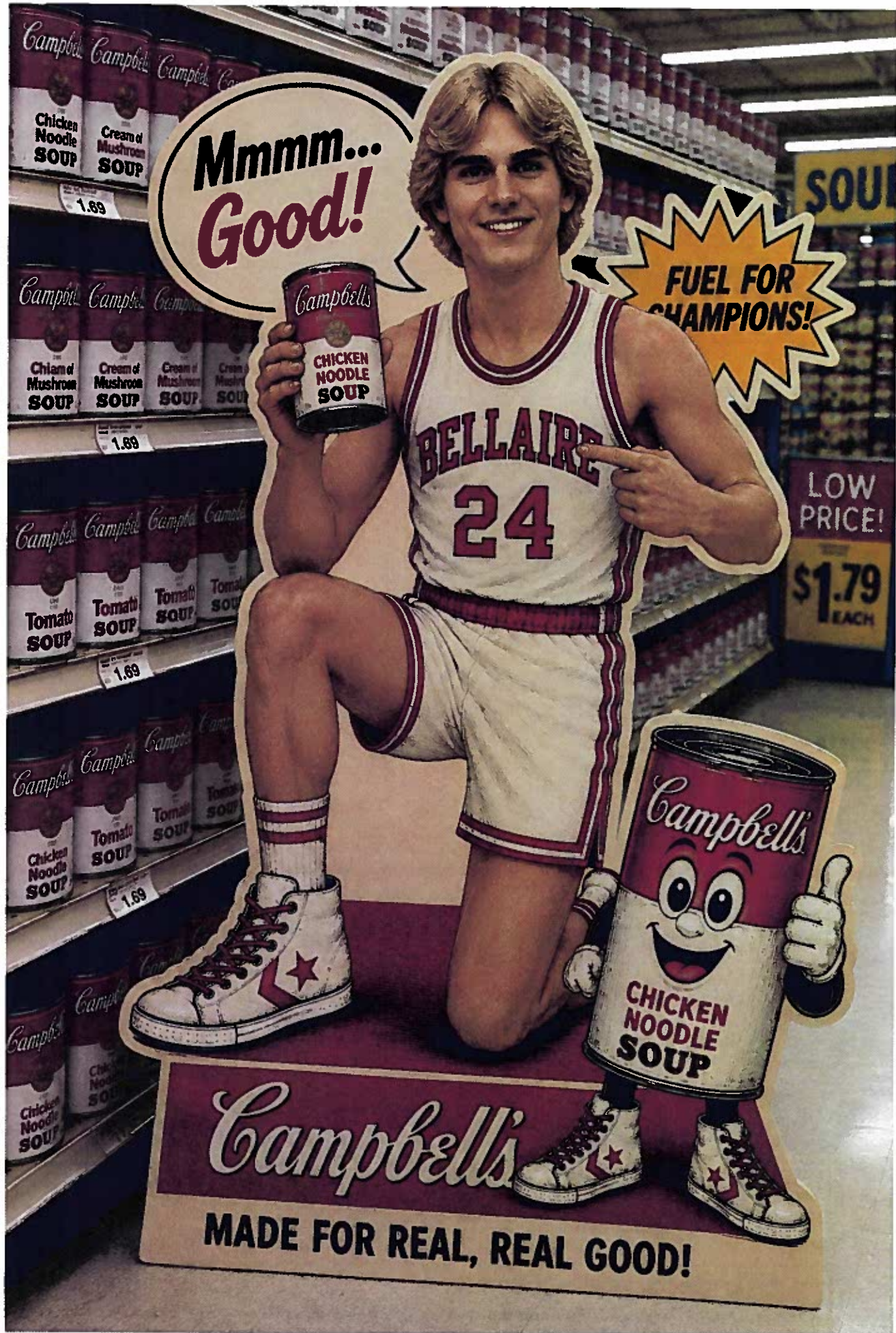
**FUEL FOR
CHAMPIONS!**

**LOW
PRICE!**

**\$1.79
EACH**

Campbell's

MADE FOR REAL, REAL GOOD!



AGES 18+

LIMITED EDITION
1 OF 2,500

Jo Jo Doll

★ BASKETBALL • LINEMAN • LEGEND ★



Jo Jo's Beautiful Shooting Form

★ ★ *A textbook jumper built on balance, touch, and pure rhythm.* ★ ★

PERFECT WRIST SNAP
a soft flick creates
natural backspin.

FULL EXTENSION
shooting arm reaches
long and smooth
through the finish.

ELBOW IN
shooting elbow stays
under the ball,
creating a true line
to the rim.

SQUARE SHOULDERS
chest and shoulders
stay aligned
to the basket.

BALANCED BASE
rises straight up with
excellent body control
and no wasted motion.

CLASSIC FOLLOW-THROUGH
fingers down, arm up,
and held beautifully.

SOFT GUIDE HAND
off hand supports
the ball without
pushing it.

CALM EYES AND POISE
looks composed,
confident, and
locked in.

EFFORTLESS RHYTHM
the motion flows
from legs to release
in one smooth
sequence.



★ ★ *"It's not just the shot.
It's the way he makes it look so easy."* ★ ★

PURE FORM. PURE TOUCH. PURE JO JO.

TV GUIDE

FALL PREVIEW!

What's New, What's Coming,
What's Out of This World! Page 4

HE'S NOT FROM
THIS PLANET...
BUT HE'S OUR
FAVORITE!

Starring
BILL MEHL
as

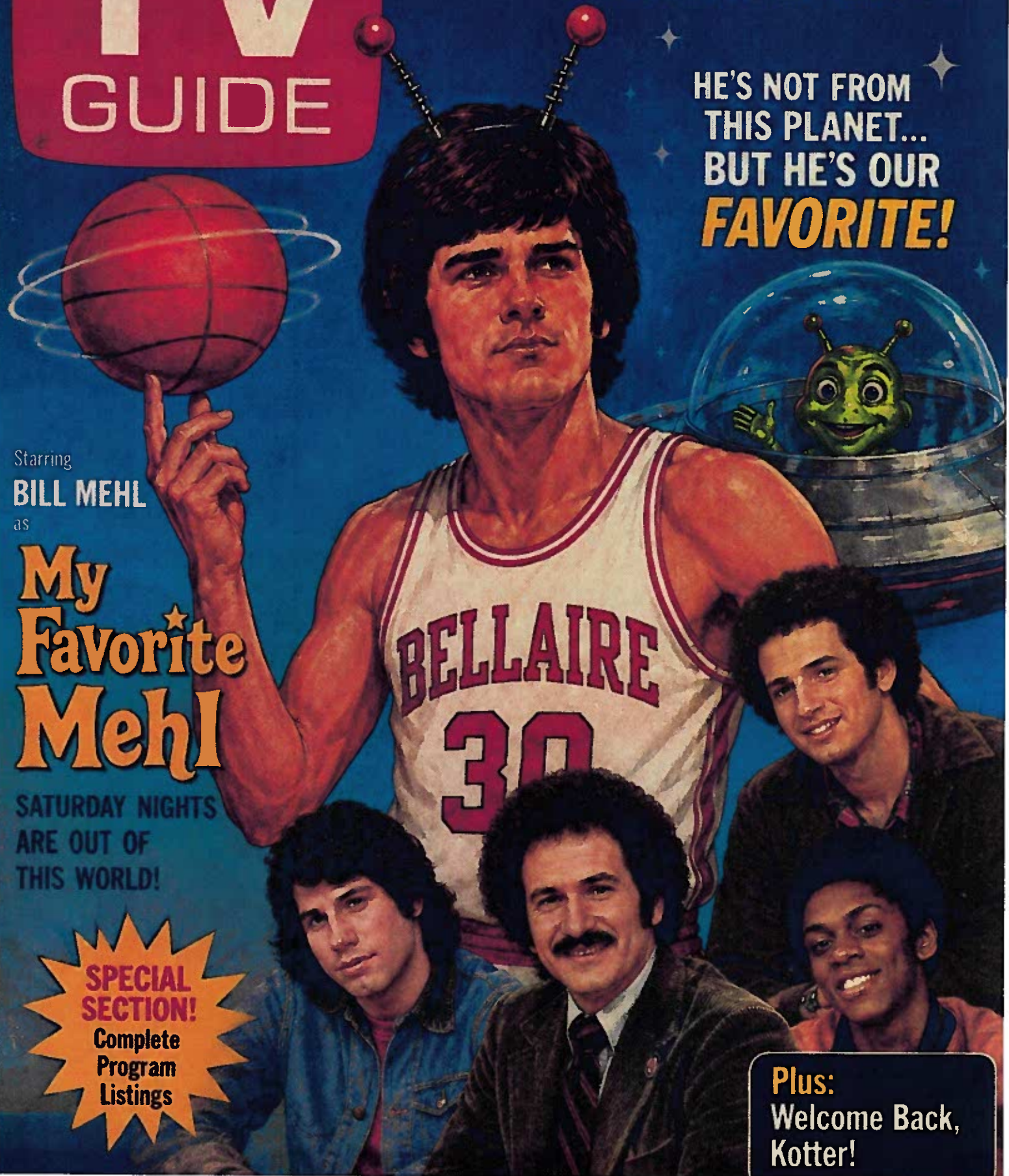
My Favorite Mehl

SATURDAY NIGHTS
ARE OUT OF
THIS WORLD!

**SPECIAL
SECTION!**

Complete
Program
Listings

Plus:
Welcome Back,
Kotter!

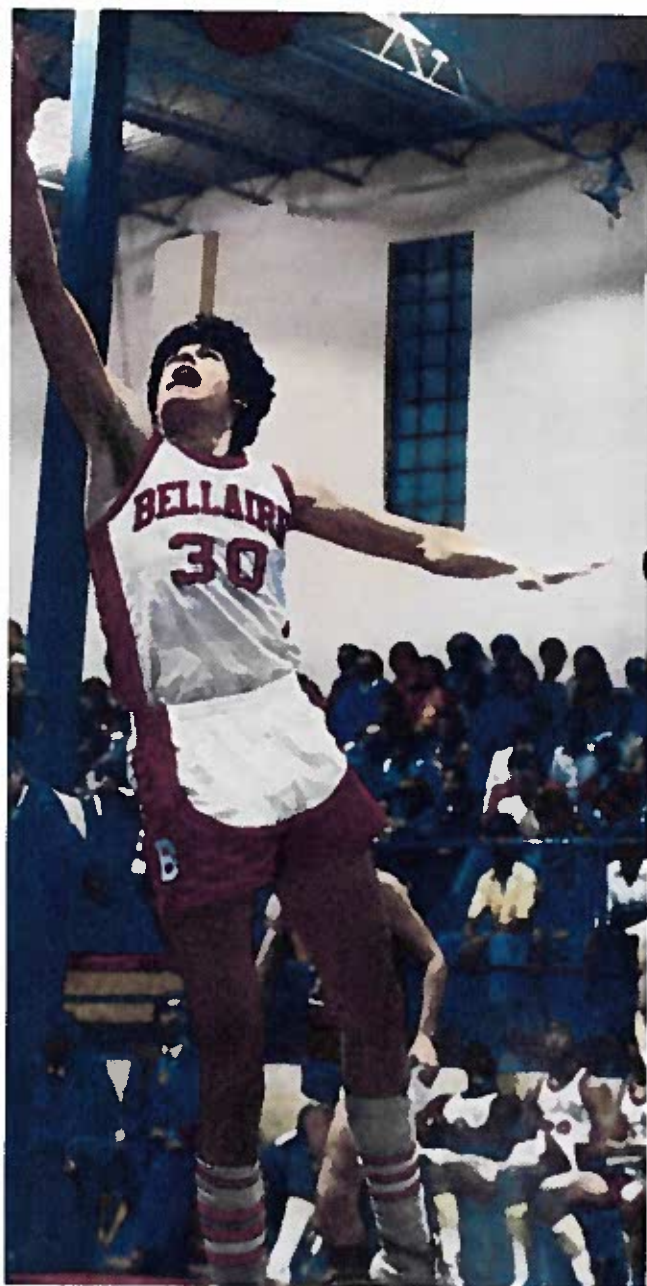


Jan. 1986
**Basketball
Digest**
COC 02121

\$1.75 (Canada \$2.00)

**James Worthy:
The Lakers'
Aerial Artist
Sacramento
Hails the Kings**









STREET & SMITH'S
Basketball
Digest

DEC. 1978 \$1.25

**BELLAIRE
BIG REDS**

DOMINATE NIGHTLY

- POINTS
- REBOUNDS
- BLOCKED SHOTS

**THREE TOWERS
ONE MISSION**

**BELLAIRE'S
TOWERING TRIO**

- 40 BILL WILEY**
- 30 BILL MEHL**
- 45 DEAN LIPPERMAN**

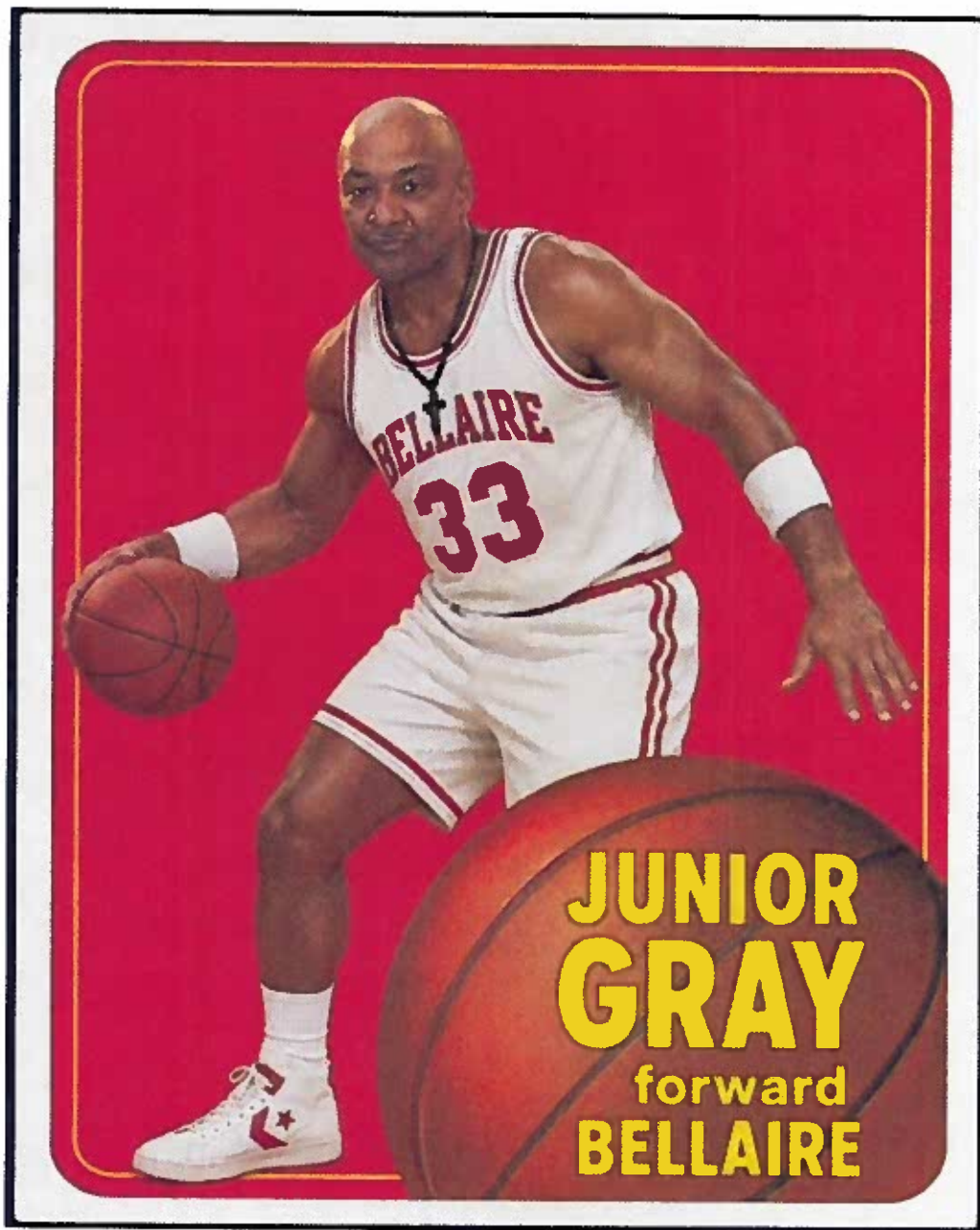
**CLEAN THE GLASS
PROTECT THE RIM
FINISH THE JOB.**

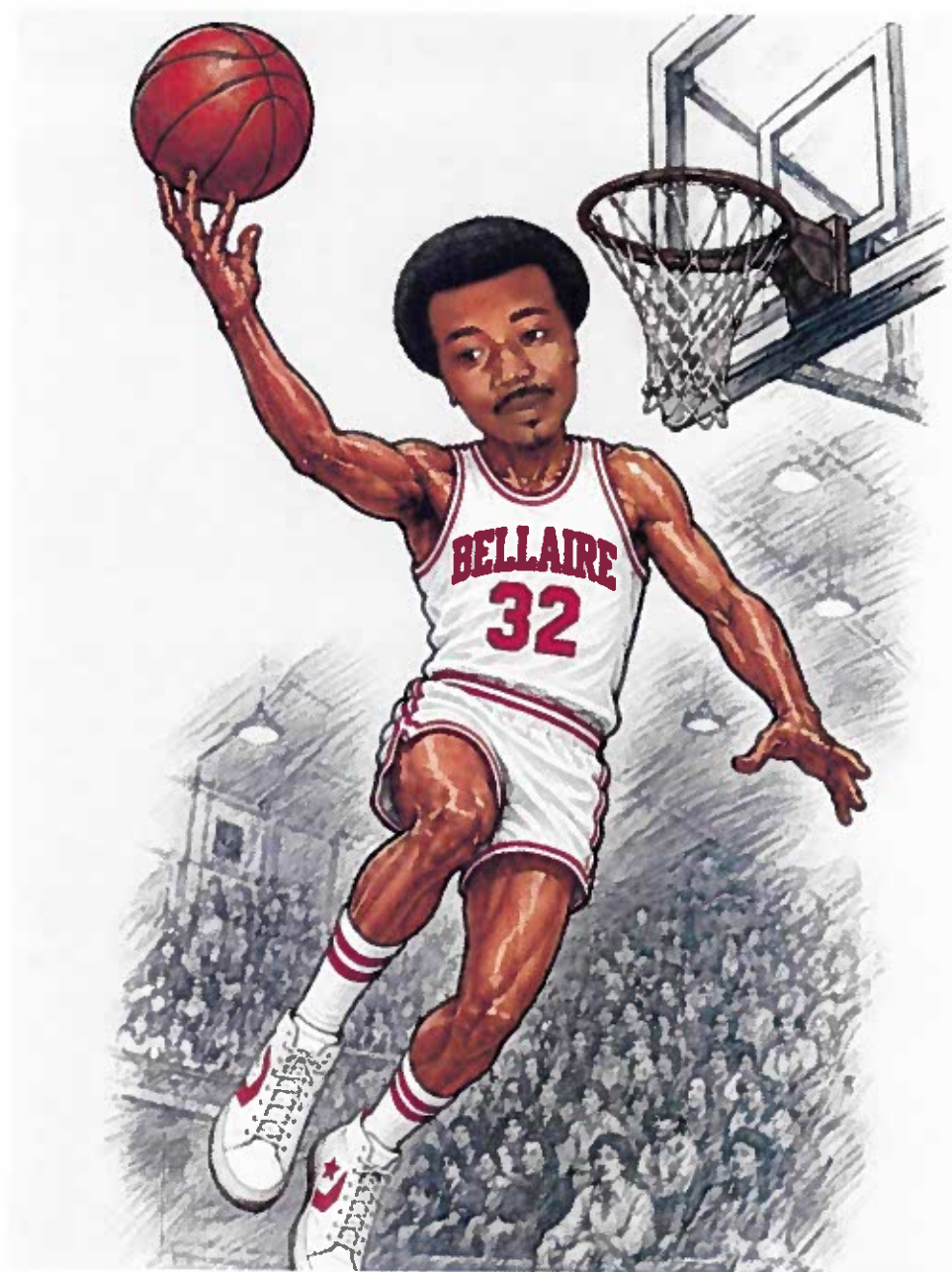
BIG REDS

**A WINNING FORMULA
BUILT ON SIZE,
SKILL & HEART**



**THE GRAVEYARD
NO VISITORS LEAVE
UNSCATHED!**





GRAY'S HISTORIC SHOT!

1978—
BELLAIRE NEEDED
ONE BUCKET
TO MAKE HISTORY.



WITH ONLY
SECONDS LEFT,
JUNIOR GRAY
WENT UP
FEARLESS...



GRAY'S HISTORIC SHOT
SENDS THE BIG REDS
TO THEIR FIRST EVER
REGIONAL PLAYOFF
APPEARANCE.



SCORES WITH JUST
SECONDS LEFT TO LIFT
BELLAIRE PAST
TRI VALLEY.

DR. GRAY CHOOSES ★ CONVERSE

You've got to
give it all you've got.
That's why I wear
Converse.
They help me
explode toward
the basket with
confidence.

*Junior Gray
Dr. Gray*



PRO LEATHER

- ★ Full-Grain Leather for Long Wear
- ★ Padded Ankle Support for Protection
- ★ Durable Outsole for Quick Cuts
- ★ The Choice of Champions

Converse Basketball Shoes
for Men and Women

\$19⁹⁵

Suggested Retail

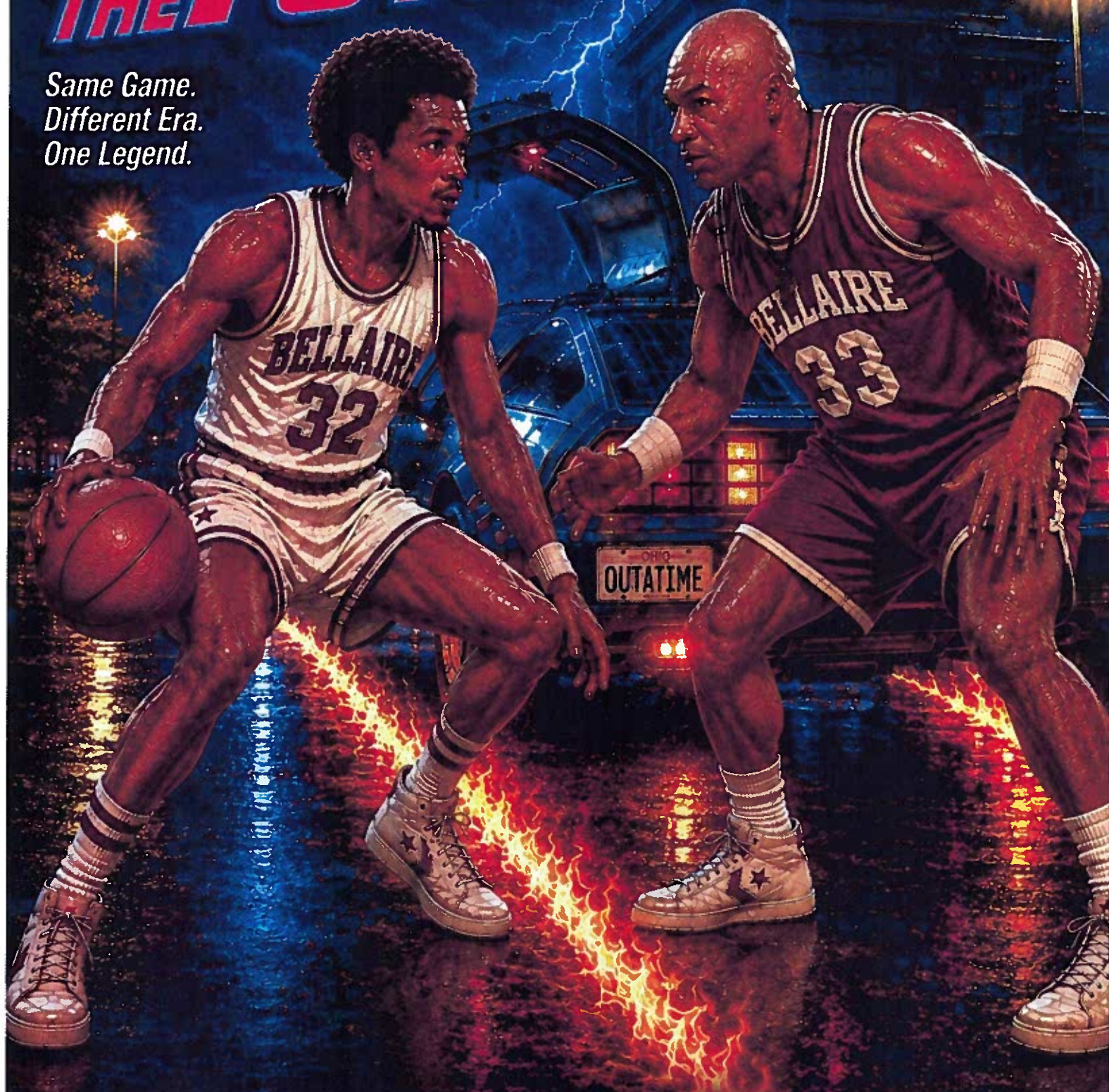


★ CONVERSE®

The shoe of the 80's.

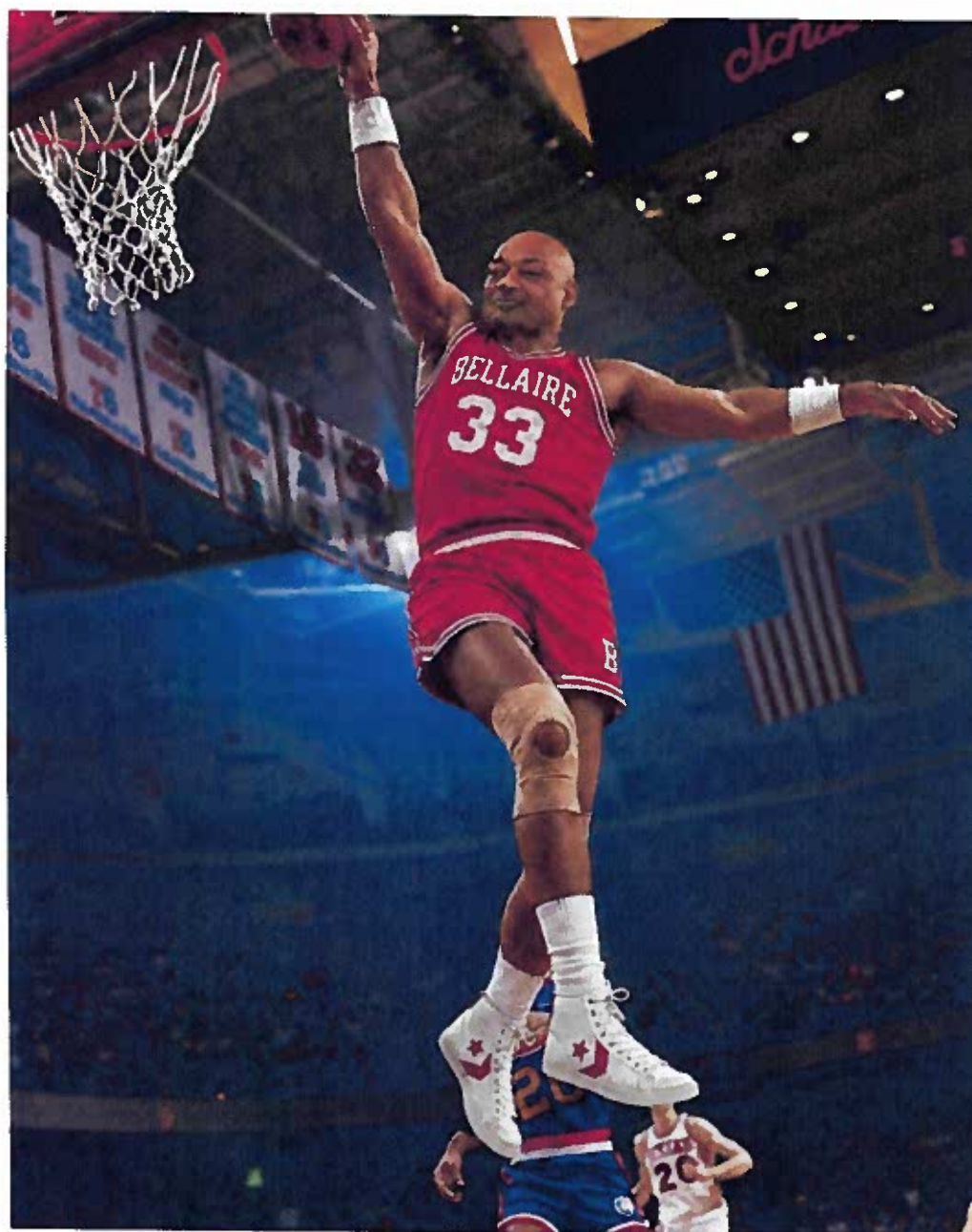
BACK TO THE FUTURE

Same Game.
Different Era.
One Legend.



PRESENTS JUNIOR GRAY ★ MYCHOL GRAY ★ "BACK TO THE FUTURE"

STARRING BELLAIRE BIG REDS COACHED BY MARK MATZ STATISTICS BY RAT ★ EQUIPMENT MANAGER RICH ANNOUNCER BOBBY "BIG RED" STEWART



December 1985 \$1.50
Basketball
Digest
THE BASKETBALL
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Complete NBA
Season Schedules
Updated Team Rosters
Why This Will Be the
NBA's Greatest Season

**Junior
Gray &
Julius Erving
Challenge
the NBA--**

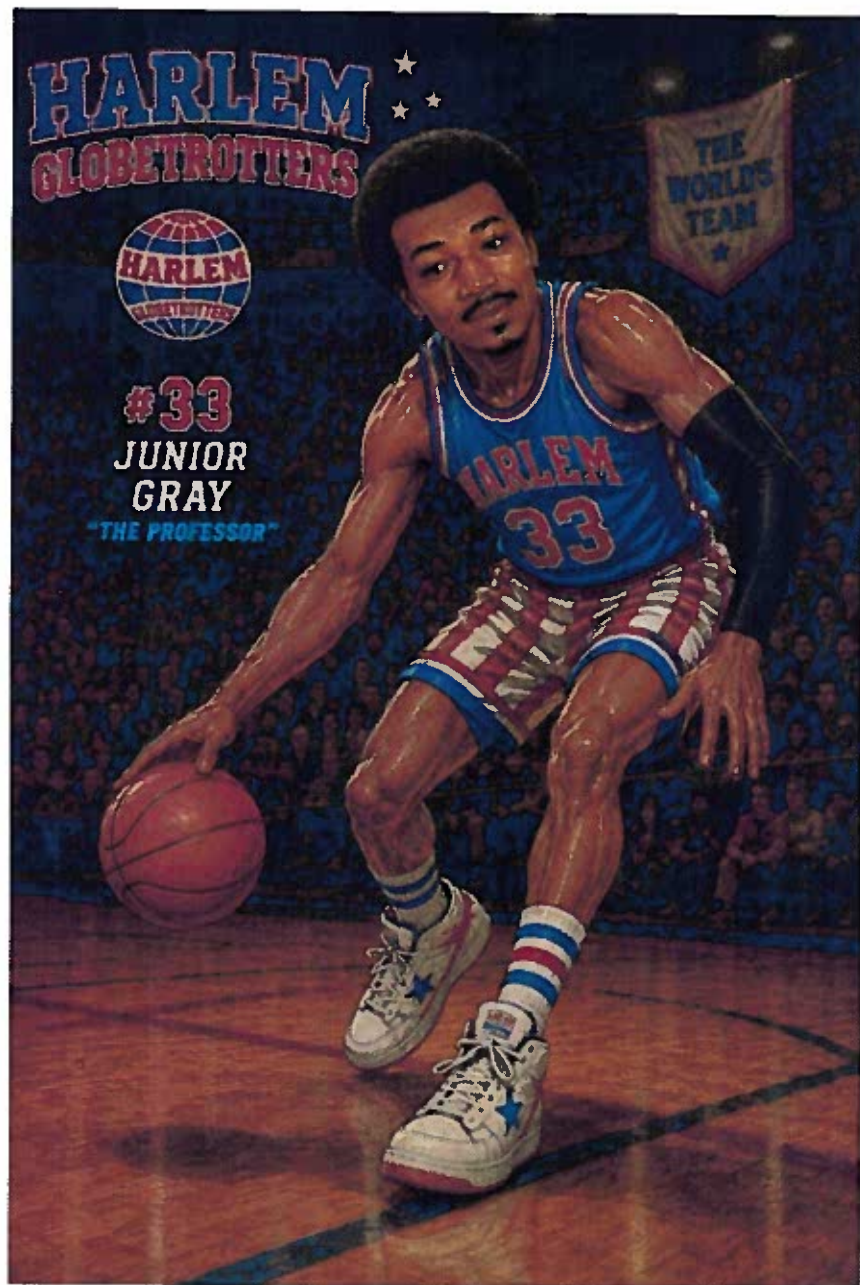
**Each Wants
To Prove He's
the Best**

The 10 Best
Rookies
of '85-'86

•
Bob McAdoo
Speaks Out

•
John Havlicek
On the East
Championship





CURFEW BREAK IN ATHENS, 1978

ATHENS, OHIO.
MARCH 1978.
BELLARE IS IN
TOWN FOR THE
REGIONAL
TOURNAMENT.

AFTER CURFEW,
TWO BROTHERS,
ONE PLAN.

WE ONLY
LIVE ONCE,
JUNIOR.

THAT'S RIGHT,
BROS. LET'S
GET OUTTA HERE.
THERE'S A DANCE
DOWNTOWN.

FIRST, THE WINDOW.
THEN...

MALL'S
CLEAR.
LET'S MOVE.

DOWN THE
FIREMANS
SIDE AS
SHADOWS.

HOTEL

SUPPER—FOOTSTEPS.
DON'T GET CATCHY.

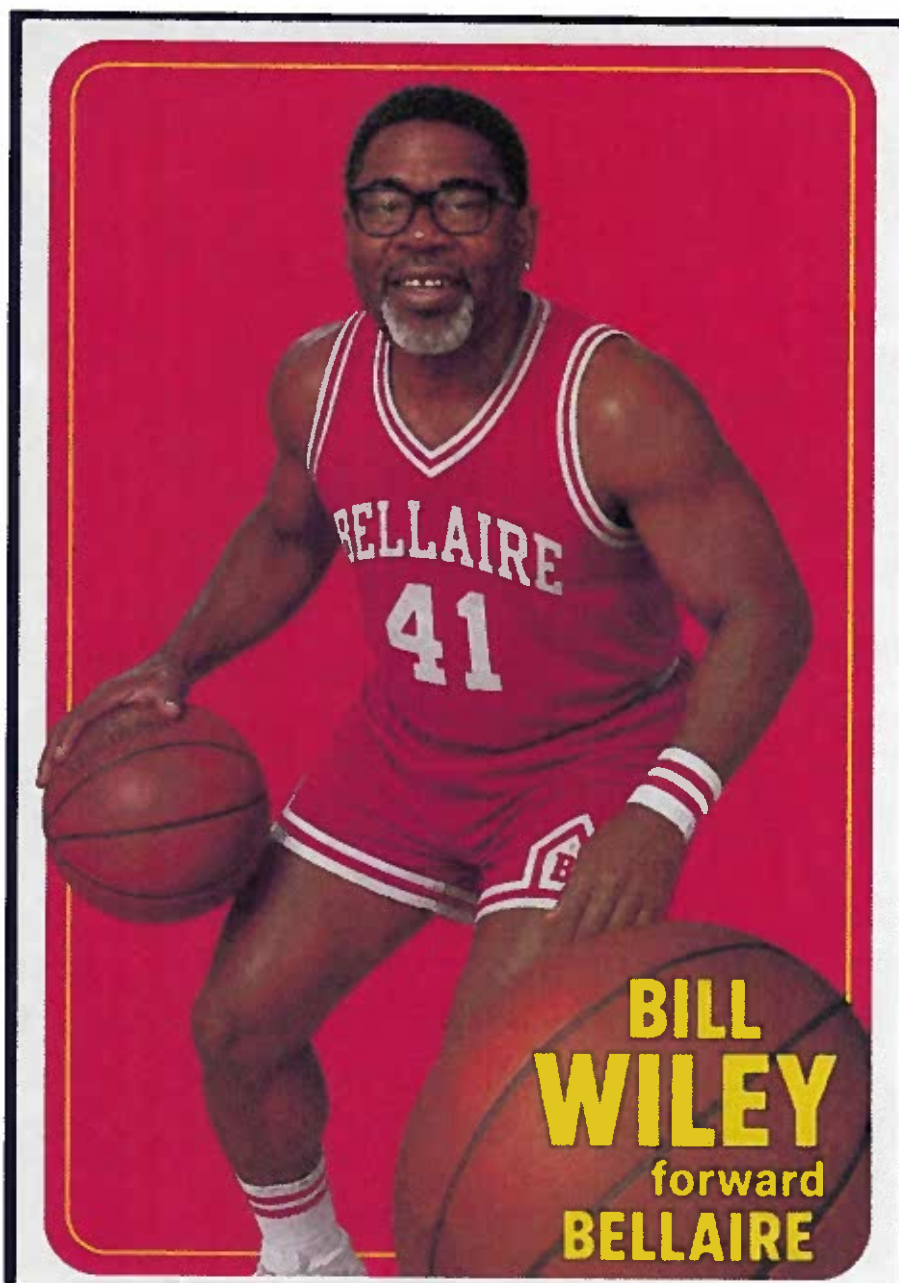
ALL
ROOMS
BETTER BE
CLOSED.

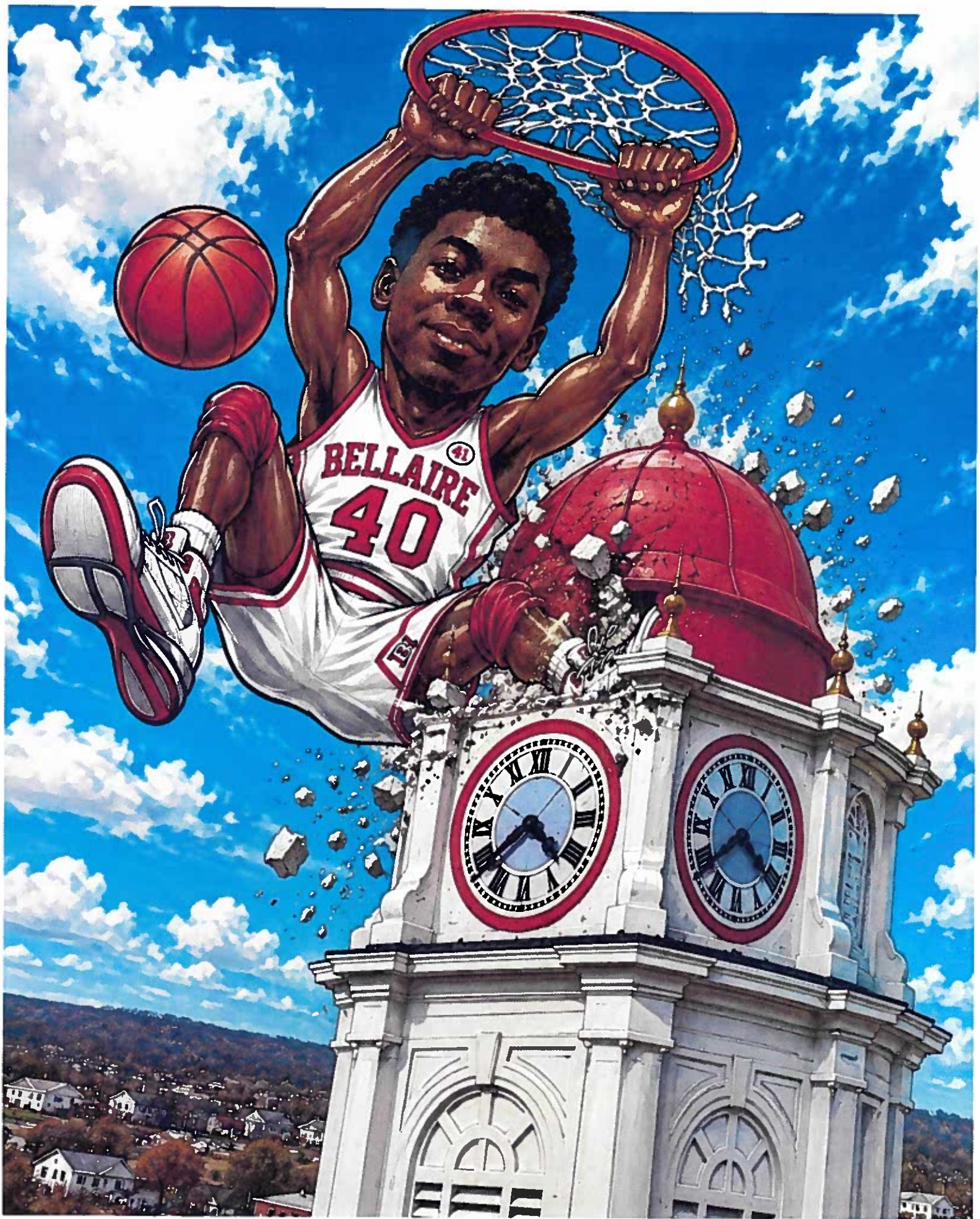
SAFE!
NOW FOR A NIGHT
OF THE REMINDER.

DANCING,
MUSIC.
NO CURFEW.
THAT'S HOW WE
DO IN '78!

LET'S GO,
BRO.
TOWN'S
OUR HOME.

Wild
Cherry
DISCOTHEQUE
DANCING TONIGHT!





Bill Wiley

THE BOOM BOX LEGEND

6'5" OF TALENT, ENERGY, AND GOOD VIBES! HE BLAZES INTO THE COURT, HE GRABS REBOUND, AND HE BRINGS THE BEATS!

CAN'T BEAT A GOOD SONG AND A BIG WIN!

IF IT DON'T JAM... IT DON'T BOOM!

PREGAME Huddle...

ON THE BUS TO THE GAME...

ONE NATION UNDER A GROOVE!

TURK IT UP, WILEY!

IN THE LOCKER ROOM... BEFORE THE GAME!

LET'S GET LOOSE... THEN LOCK 'EM DOWN!

THAT'S OUR SONG!

BACK IN THE LOCKER ROOM...

RETRY SOUNDS GOOD!

IF YOU HEAR ANY NOISE IT'S JUST ME AND THE BOYS HITTING IT!

ANOTHER BIG LEGS!

AFTER THE GAME...

IF YOU HEAR ANY NOISE IT'S JUST ME AND THE BOYS HITTING IT!

LET'S GET THE FEELS!

BDub, DJ of the Mothership

BDub, DJ of the Mothership

Bill Wiley

BRINGING THE ENERGY. BRINGING THE BOOM. BRINGING HOME THE W!

★ SAME SONGS. DIFFERENT GYM. SAME RESULT. BIG REDS WIN! ★

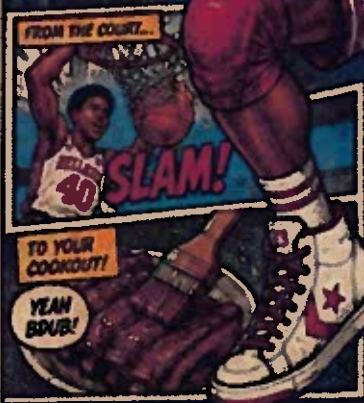
A NEW SECRET WEAPON
OFF THE GRILL...

BDUBS

BBQ SAUCE

MADE FOR
CHAMPIONS
NOT
AMATEURS!

- ★ BOLD FLAVOR!
- ★ SMOKY SWEET!
- ★ PERFECT
ON ANYTHING!



SAUCE
SO GOOD,
IT'S A
**SLAM
DUNK!**

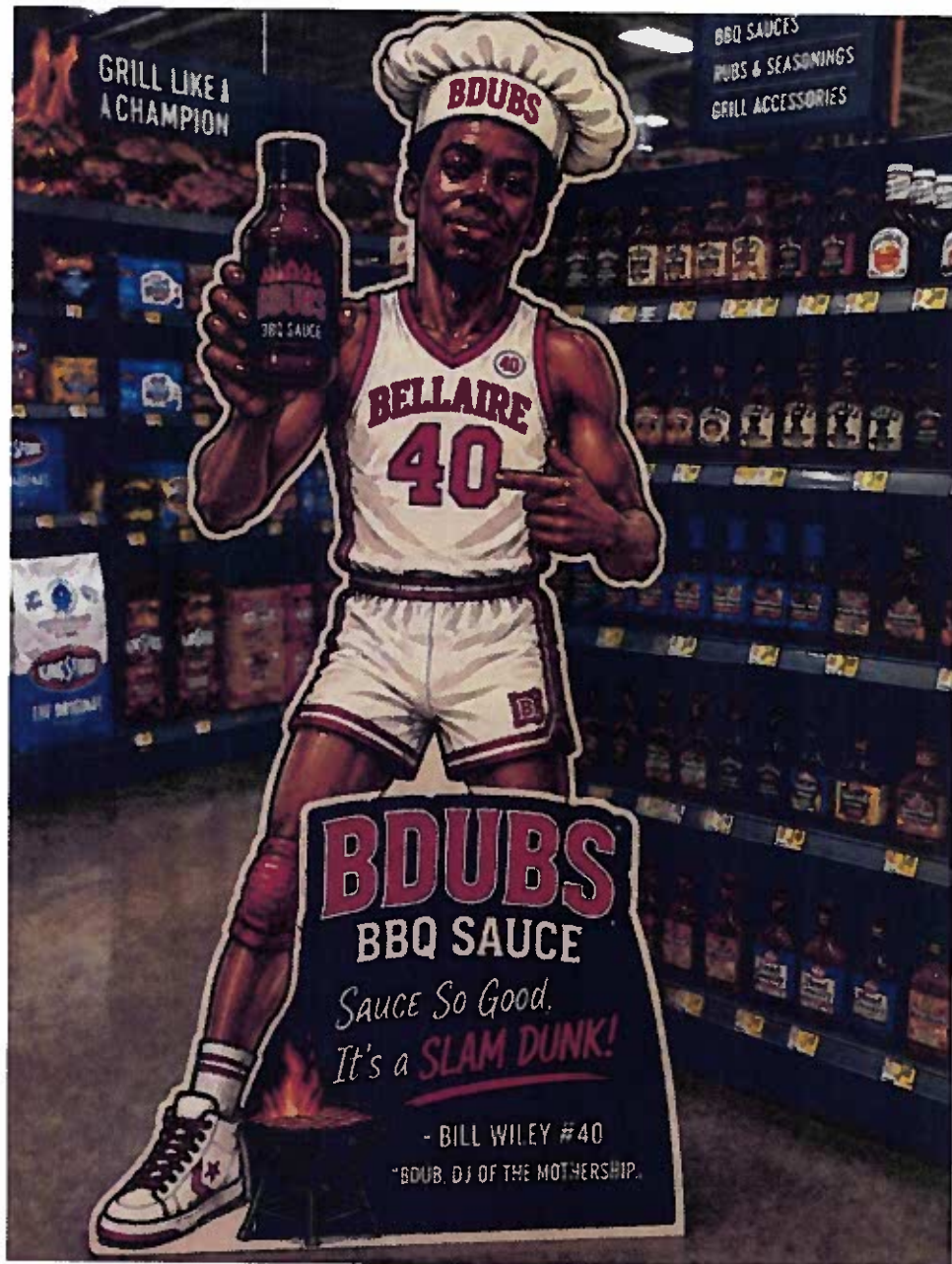
I'M BDUB,
DJ OF THE
MOTHERSHIP...
AND THIS IS
MY SAUCE!

- GREAT ON:
- ★ RIBS
 - ★ WINGS
 - ★ CHICKEN
 - ★ BURGERS
& MORE!

FIRE
UP THE GRILL
AND BRING
THE **HEAT!**

BARBECUE
TASTE SO GOOD,
MAKE YOU WANNA
**SLAP
YO MAMA!**

GET YOUR BOTTLE TODAY! | BDUBSBBQ.COM



AGES 14+

LEGENDS
★ SERIES ★

**BILL
WILEY**

★ BASKETBALL LEGEND ★



★ THE LEGEND ★

- BELLAIRE ICON
- COMMUNITY LEADER
- CHAMPION ON & OFF THE COURT

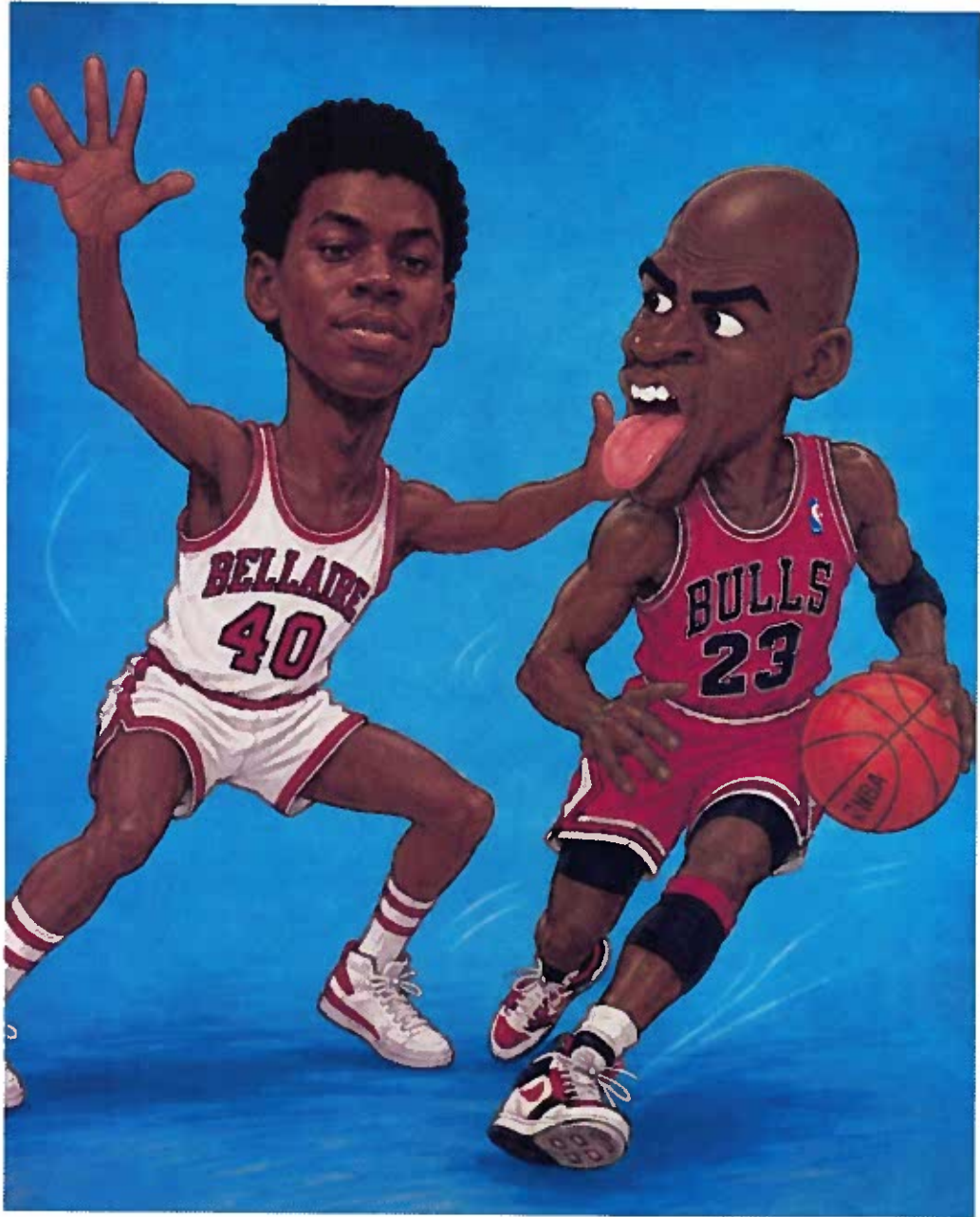


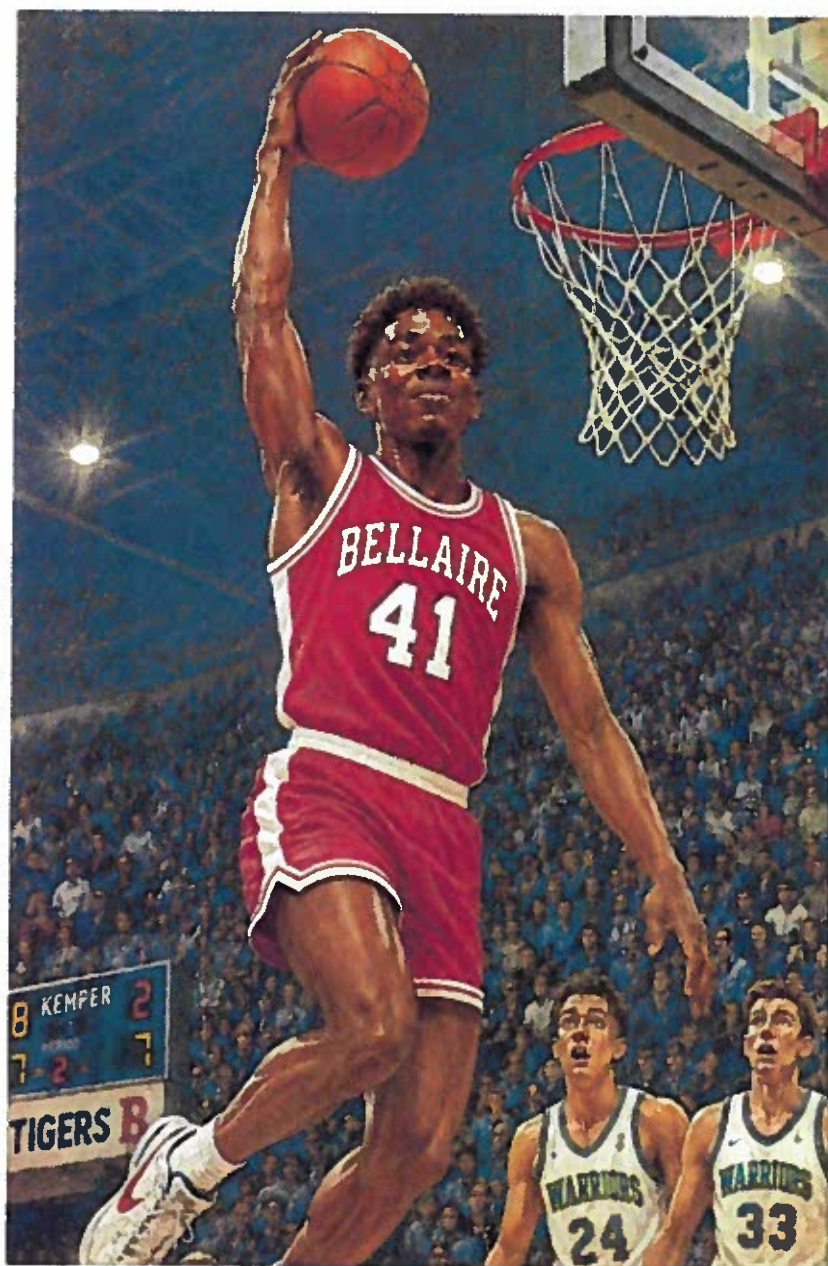
BILL WILEY

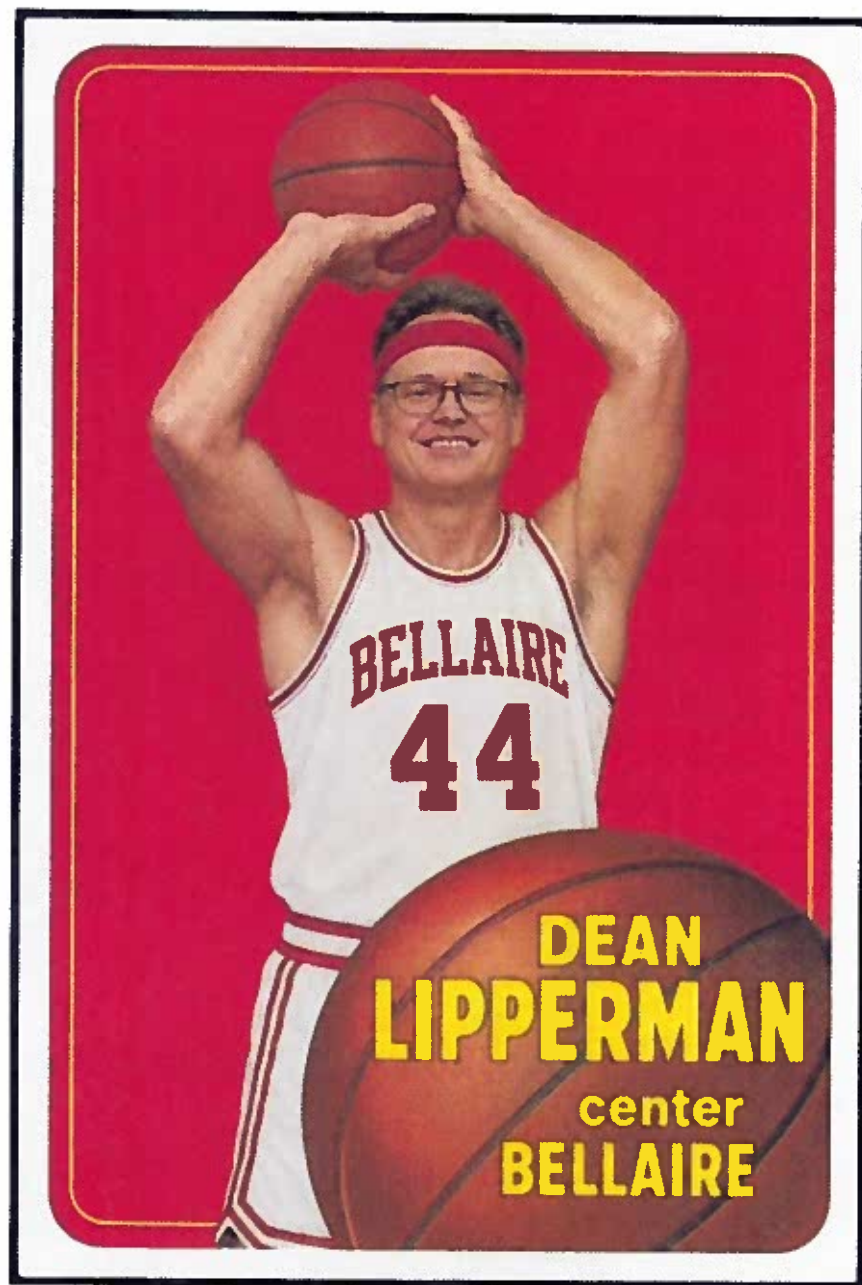
★ BASKETBALL LEGEND ★

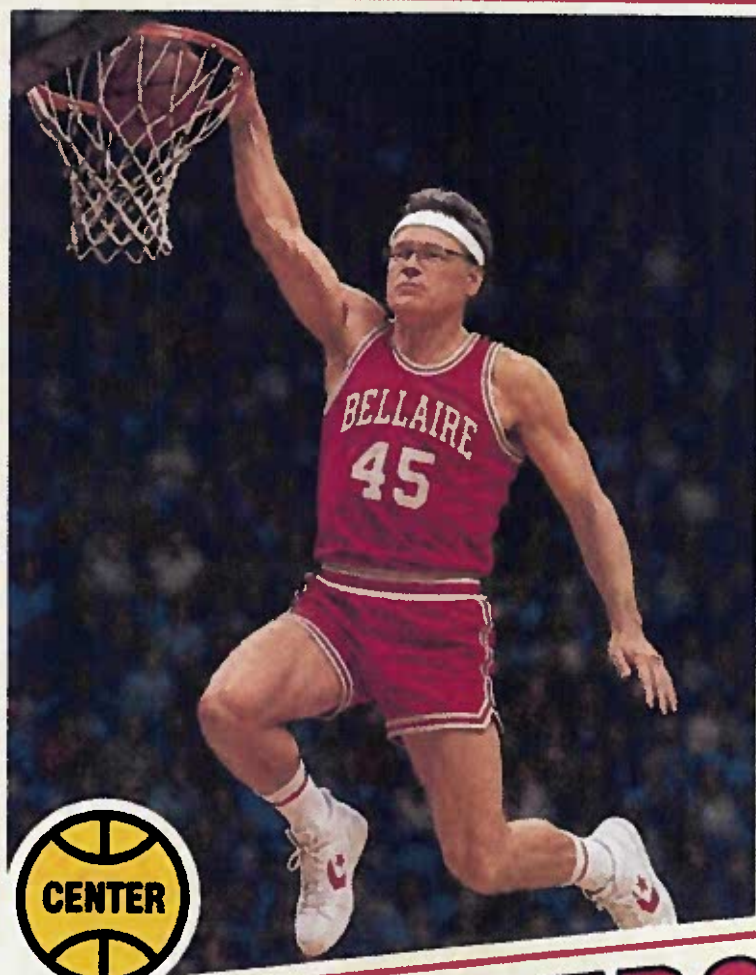












BELLAIRE **BIG REDS**
DEAN LIPPERMAN

DEAN LIPPERMAN

ACTION FIGURE

44

STAT CARD

POSITION
CENTER

HEIGHT
6'7"

WEIGHT
215 LBS

HOMETOWN
**BELLAIRE,
OH**



**BELLAIRE
BIG REDS**



LEGENDS
NEVER
FADE

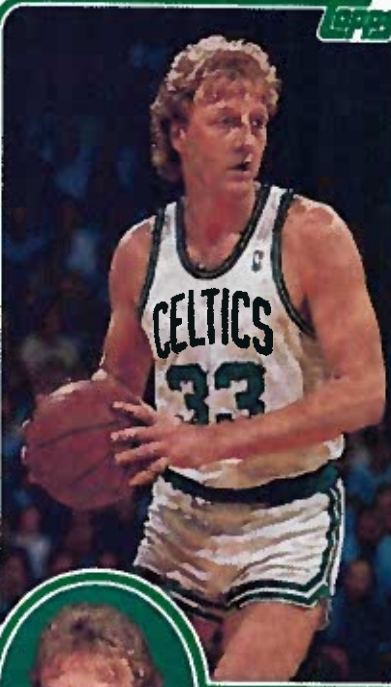
BIG REDS

**BELLAIRE
BIG REDS**



A 26TH STREET
PRODUCTION

Topps




**LARRY
BIRD**
FORWARD

CELTICS

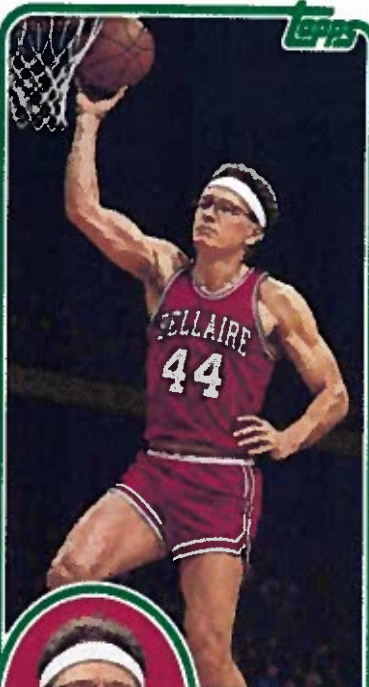
Topps




**MAGIC
JOHNSON**
GUARD

LAKERS

Topps




**DEAN
LIPPERMAN**
CENTER

BIG REDS

1979



CENTER

6'7"

#44



DEAN LIPERMAN

★ BELLAIRE BIG REDS ★

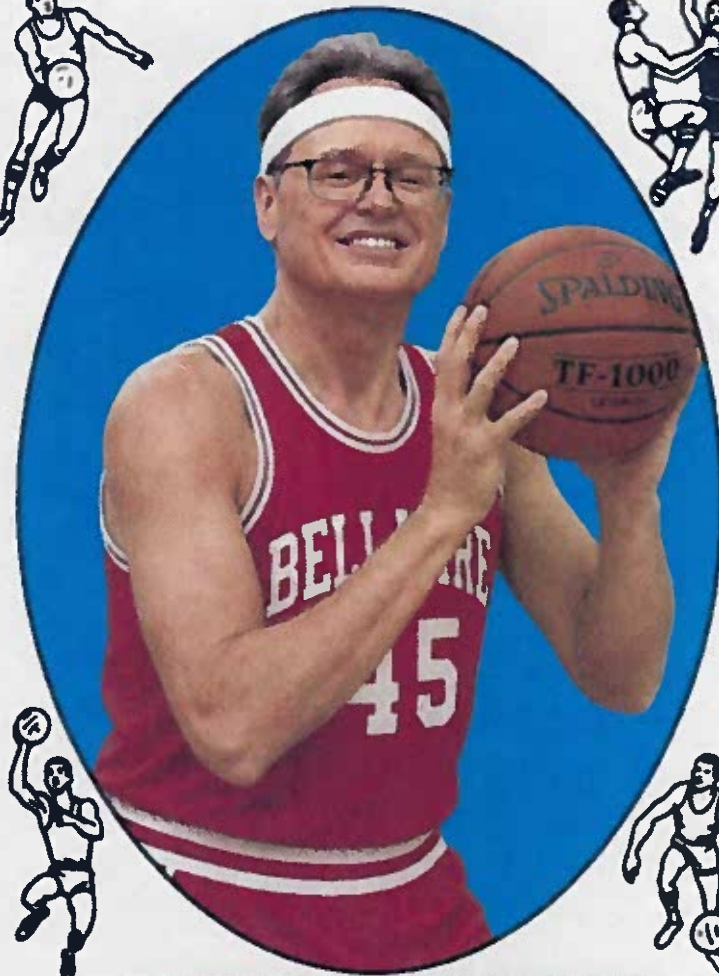
Bellaire, Ohio

Big Reds Center

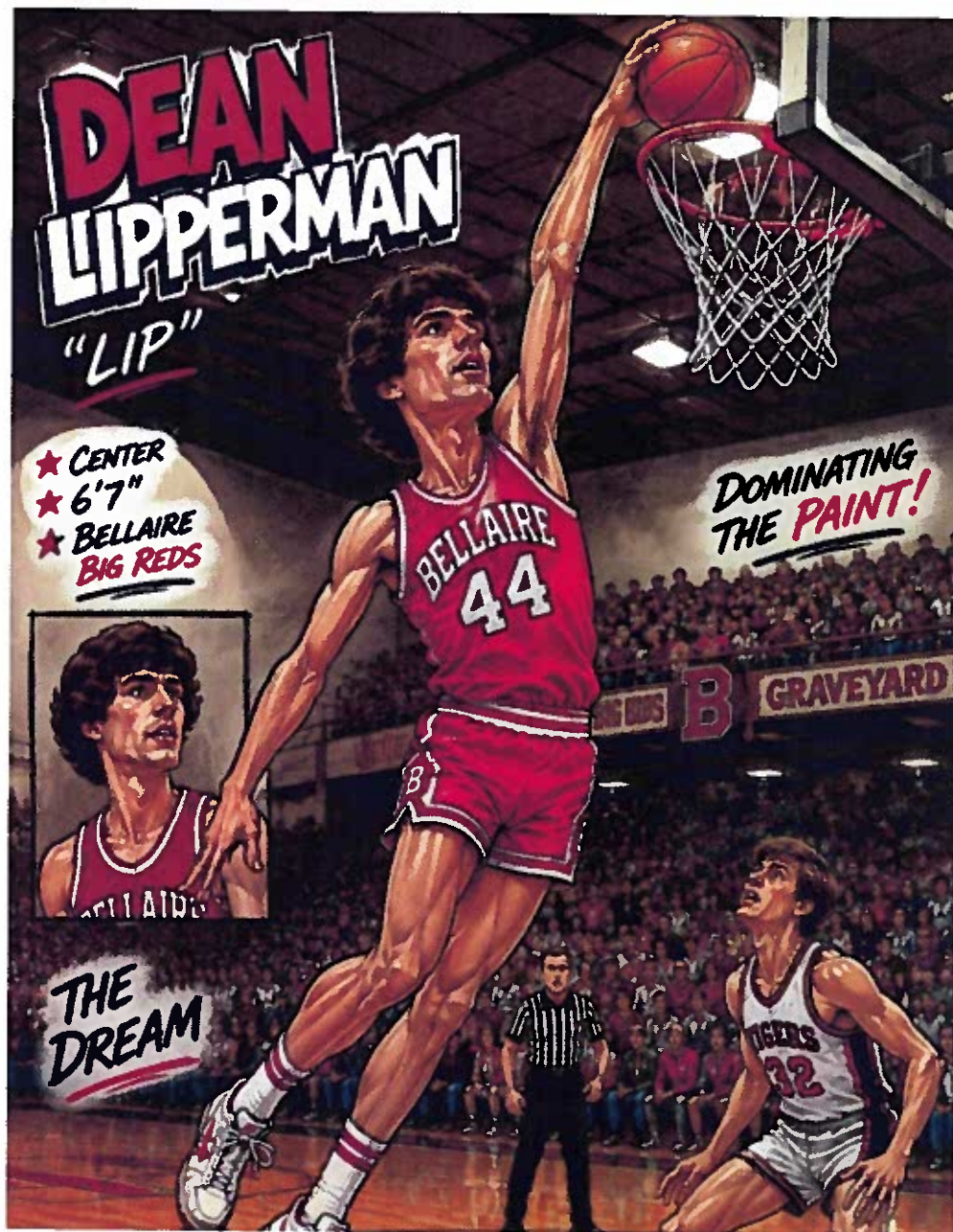


DEAN LIPPERMAN

center



BELLAIRE



Kenner

AGES 4 AND UP

No. 71500

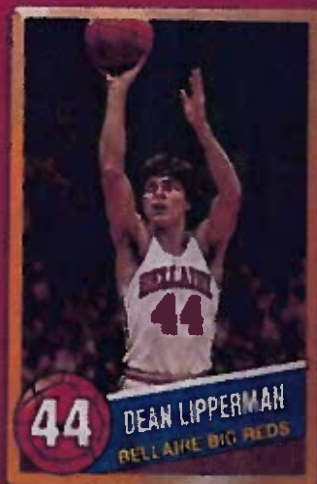
STARTING LINEUP

SPORTS SUPER STAR COLLECTIBLES



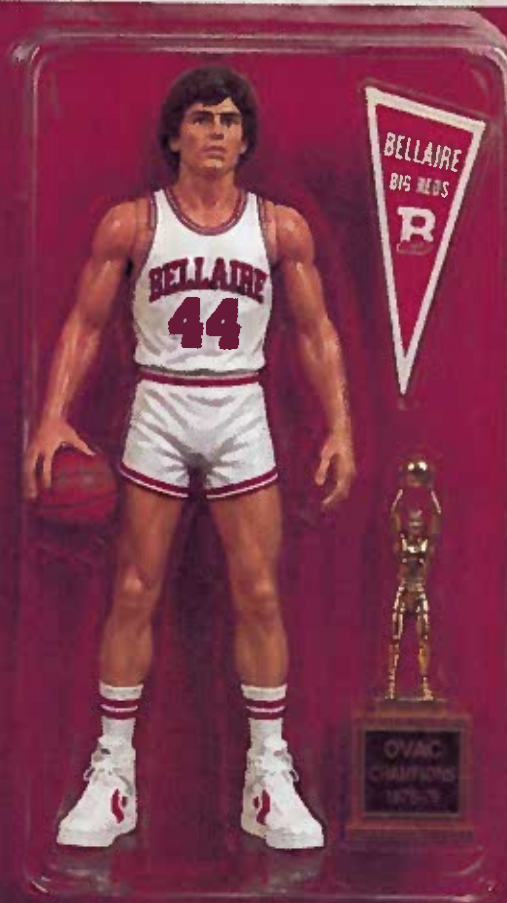
OVAC CHAMPION
1978-79

DEAN LIPPERMAN CENTER



- ★ 6'7" CENTER
- ★ OVAC CHAMPION 1978-79
- ★ BELLAIRE BIG REDS
- ★ "DEAN THE DREAM"

WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD: Small parts.
Not for children under 3 years.



BELLAIRE



DEAN LIPPERMAN

BIG REDS' CENTER



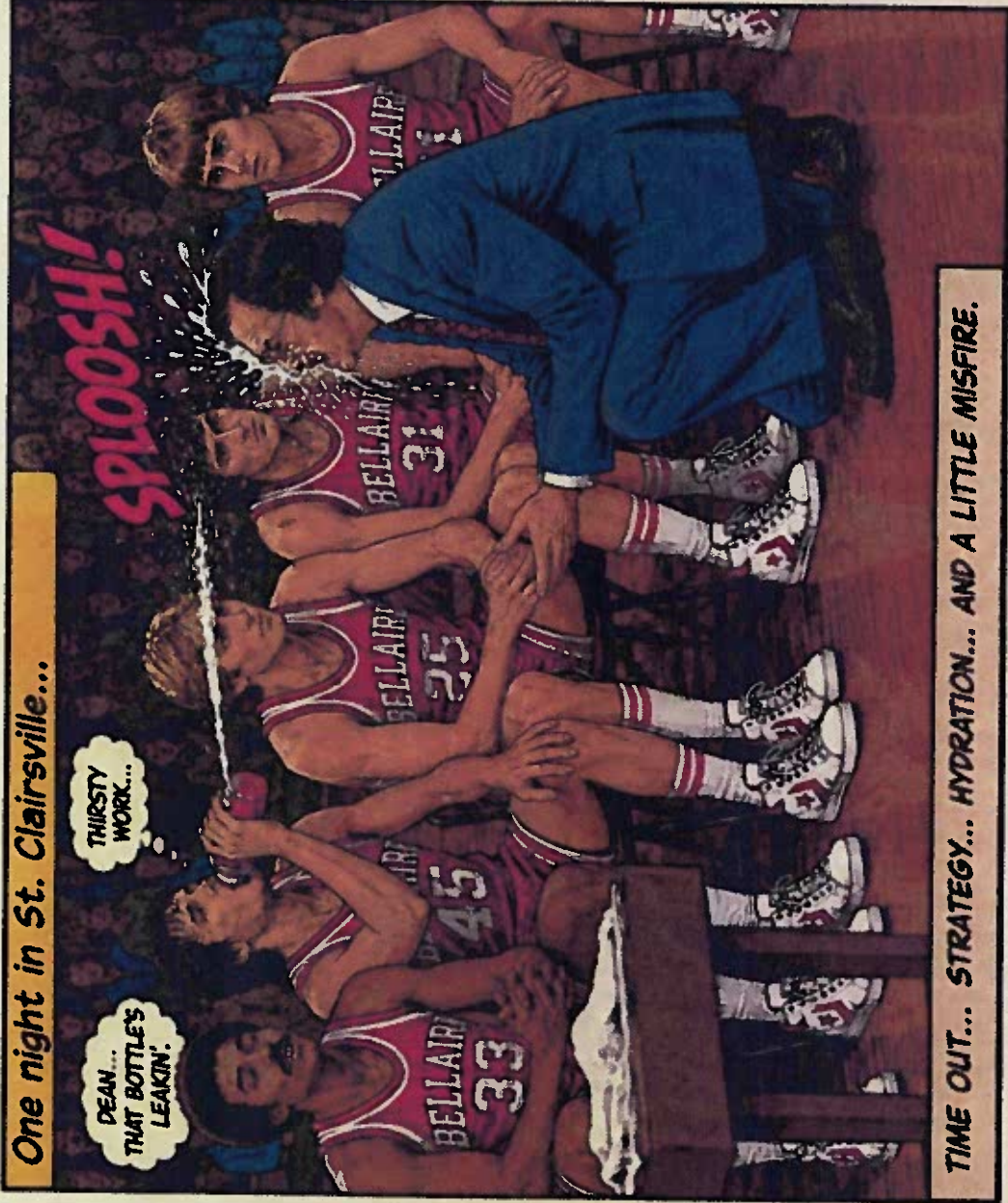
One night in St. Clairsville...

DEAN...
THAT BOTTLE'S
LEAKIN'!

THIRSTY
WORK...

SPLOOSH!

TIME OUT... STRATEGY... HYDRATION... AND A LITTLE MISFIRE.



DEAN THE DREAM- GARBAGE MAN! THE GLASS!

1 WHEN BELLAIRE MISSED... DEAN DIDN'T POUNCE— HE PUNCHED IN FOR SANITATION DUTY!



2 CLANK! OFF THE RIM! OFF THE BOARD! NO PROBLEM—DEAN CALLED THAT CURBSIDE PICKUP!

SNATCH!



3 CAN SOMEBODY BOX HIM OUT??

WE DID... HE CAME BACK WITH A BIGGER TRASH BAG!



4 EVERY MISS HAD A SECOND HOME.



5 JUST THROW IT NEAR THE RIM—DEAN WILL TAKE OUT THE TRASH!



6 MISSED SHOT? AROUND HERE, THAT WAS JUST DEAN'S FAVORITE KIND OF PASS.



TONIGHT'S CLEANUP REPORT
OFF. REBOUNDS 22
2ND CHANCE PTS 28

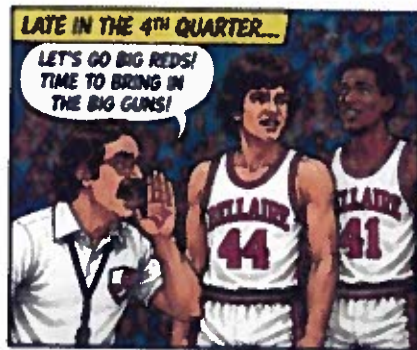
7 IN BELLAIRE, WHEN THE GLASS GOT DIRTY, DEAN LIPPERMAN CLEANED IT SPOTLESS.

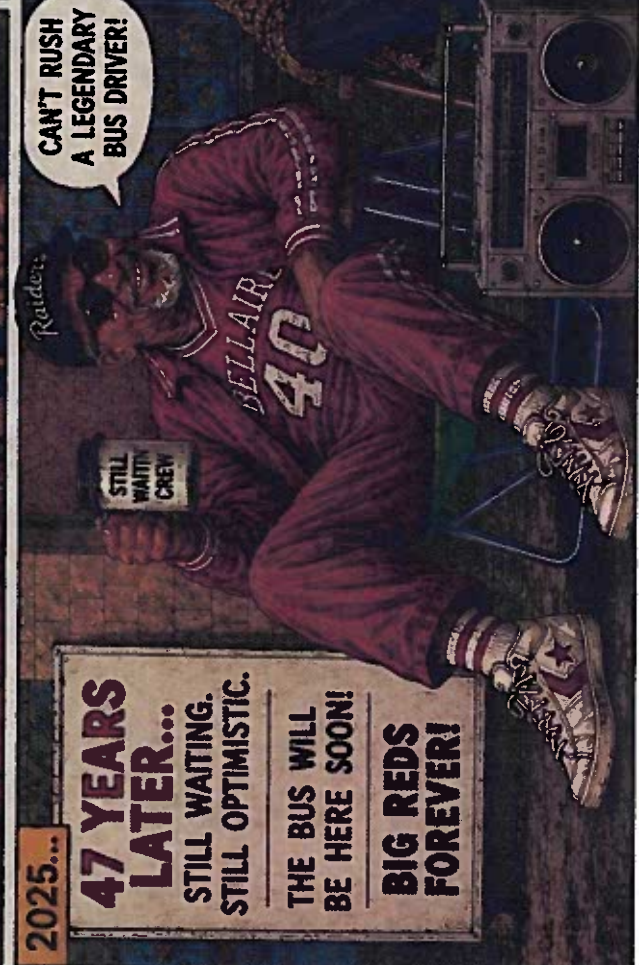
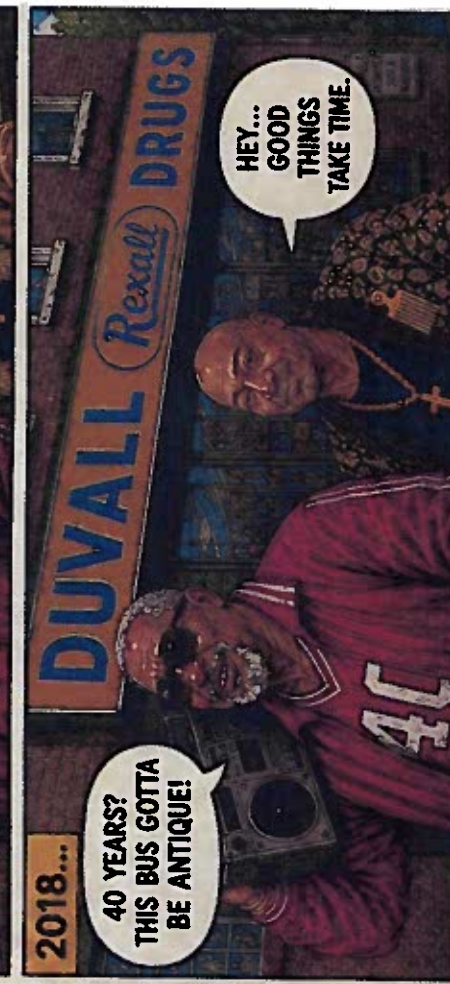
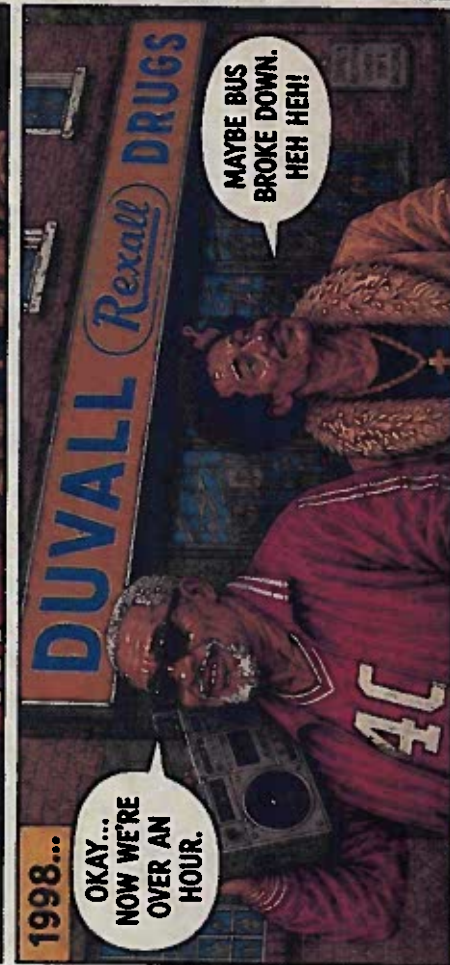
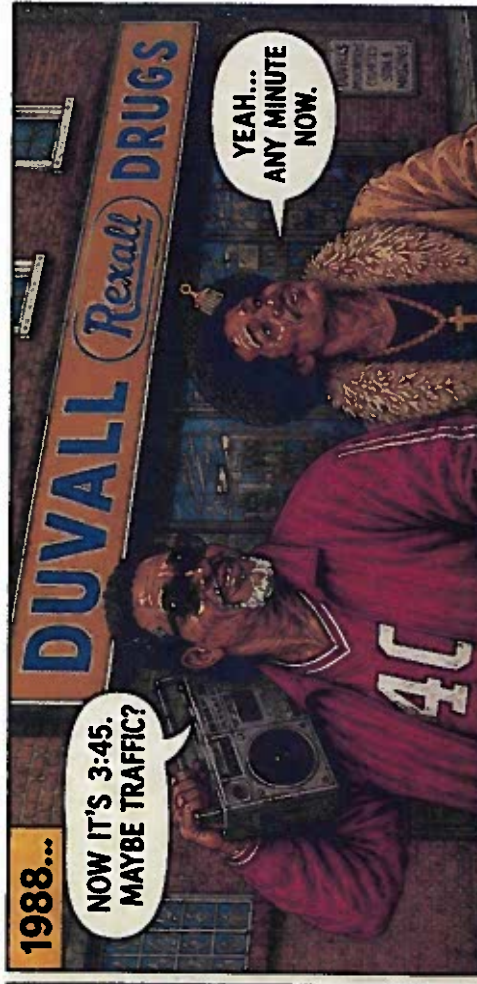
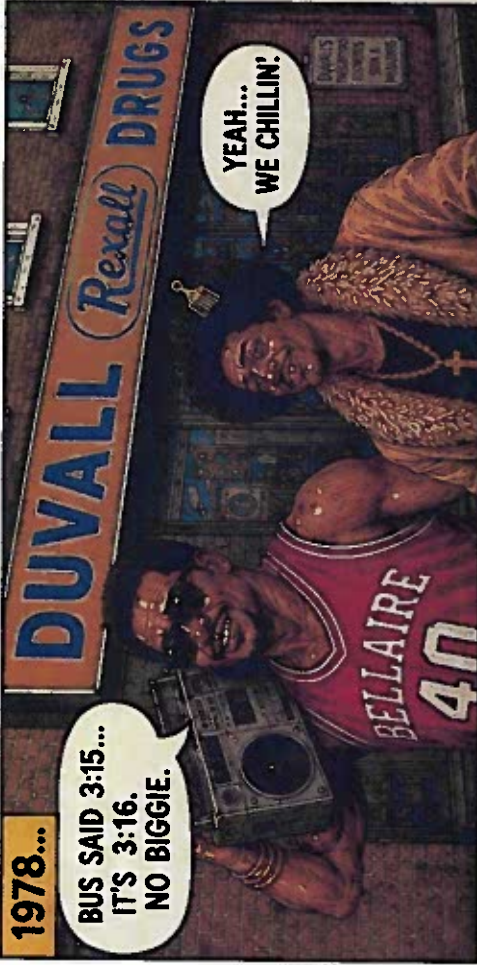
JUST DOB MY JOB!



DEAN'S STAT SHEET
OFFENSIVE BOARDS:
TOO MANY TO COUNT
SECOND-CHANCE POINTS:
ALL OF THEM

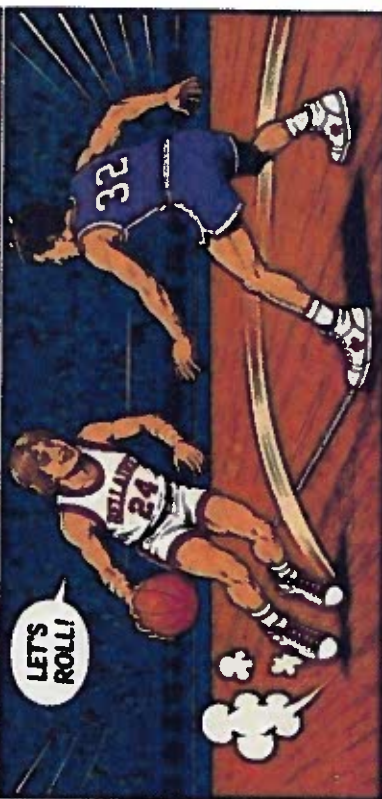
BELLAIRE BASKETBALL—
WE DON'T MISS CLEANUPS!

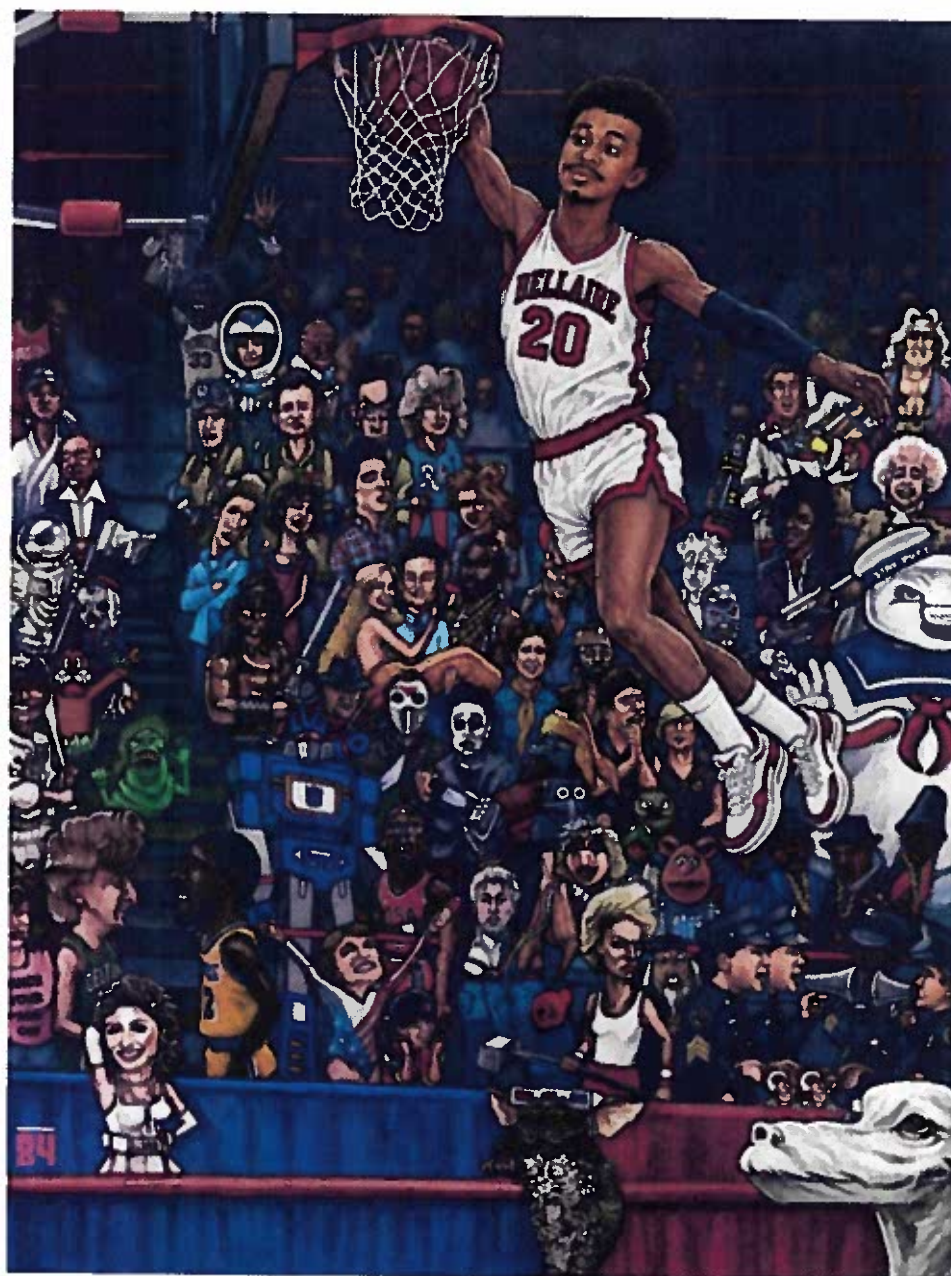












Basketball Digest

1976-2011
35 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

COACH GENE AMMIRANTE

469 CAREER
TOTAL WINS
AT BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL

HIS MENTOR
MARK MATZ
BUILT THE
FOUNDATION...

COACH "A"
LAID THE
BRICK WORK
FOR THE
HOUSE OF
CHAMPIONS.



\$4.99 U.S.



A COMBINED
548
TOTAL WINS

.700
WINNING PCT.

IN 35 YEARS
OF COACHING.

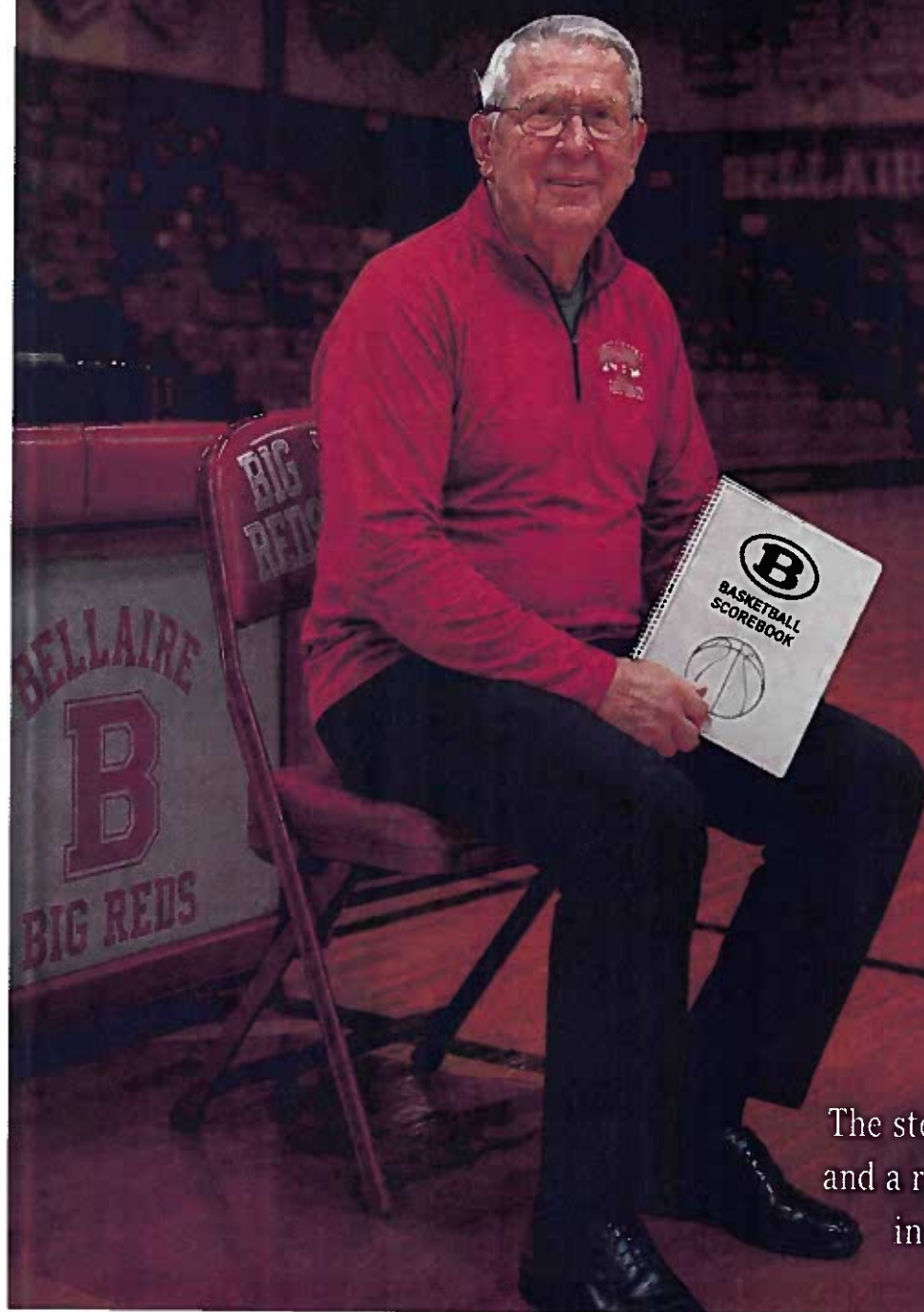


BUT WHO'S COUNTING?

B

Tom Rataiczak, Bellaire High School,
and a Lifetime of Dedication

HOME	PERIOD	GUEST
0	1	0
05		50



The story of loyalty, tradition,
and a record scorekeeper streak
in **Big Reds** basketball.

RAT'S AMAZING STREAK!

The story of Tom Rataiczak — Bellaire Big Reds scorekeeper/statistician extraordinaire



1 Meet Tom Rataiczak... or "Rat," as he's affectionately known!

Rat's been part of Big Reds basketball forever!

POSS



Home of the
BIG REDS



2 Since 1970, Rat has faithfully kept the book for Bellaire Big Reds Basketball.

(But who's counting?)

HOME 3:41 GUEST 26
PERIOD 2



Home of the
BIG REDS



3 Decade after decade, game after game, Rat was always in his seat!



Home of the
BIG REDS

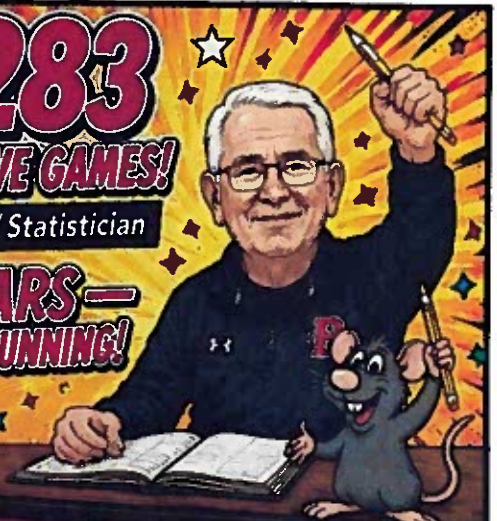


4 **2,283**
CONSECUTIVE GAMES!

Scorekeeper / Statistician

**56 YEARS—
AND STILL RUNNING!**

(But who's counting?)



5 For Rat, every game matters.

Rat, how long you been doing this, anyway?

Oh... just a few games.

A few?!

DETAILS MATTER!

RAT'S RULE:
No play too small,
No number too big!

NUMBERS DON'T LIE!

6 Rat's streak is still alive... and the legend keeps growing!

THANKS RAT!

Next Goal:
Pass
Cal Ripken Jr.'s
2,632
consecutive
games streak!

Keep that pencil ready!

349
to go!



Home of the
BIG REDS



THANK YOU, RAT, FOR THE NUMBERS, THE MEMORIES, AND A LIFETIME OF DEDICATION!
YOU'RE THE HEART OF **BIG REDS** BASKETBALL!



100

10

BELLAIRE
BIG REDS

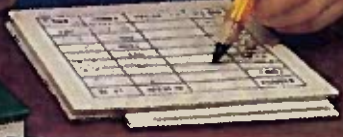


LEGENDARY
STATISTICIAN
& SCOREKEEPER

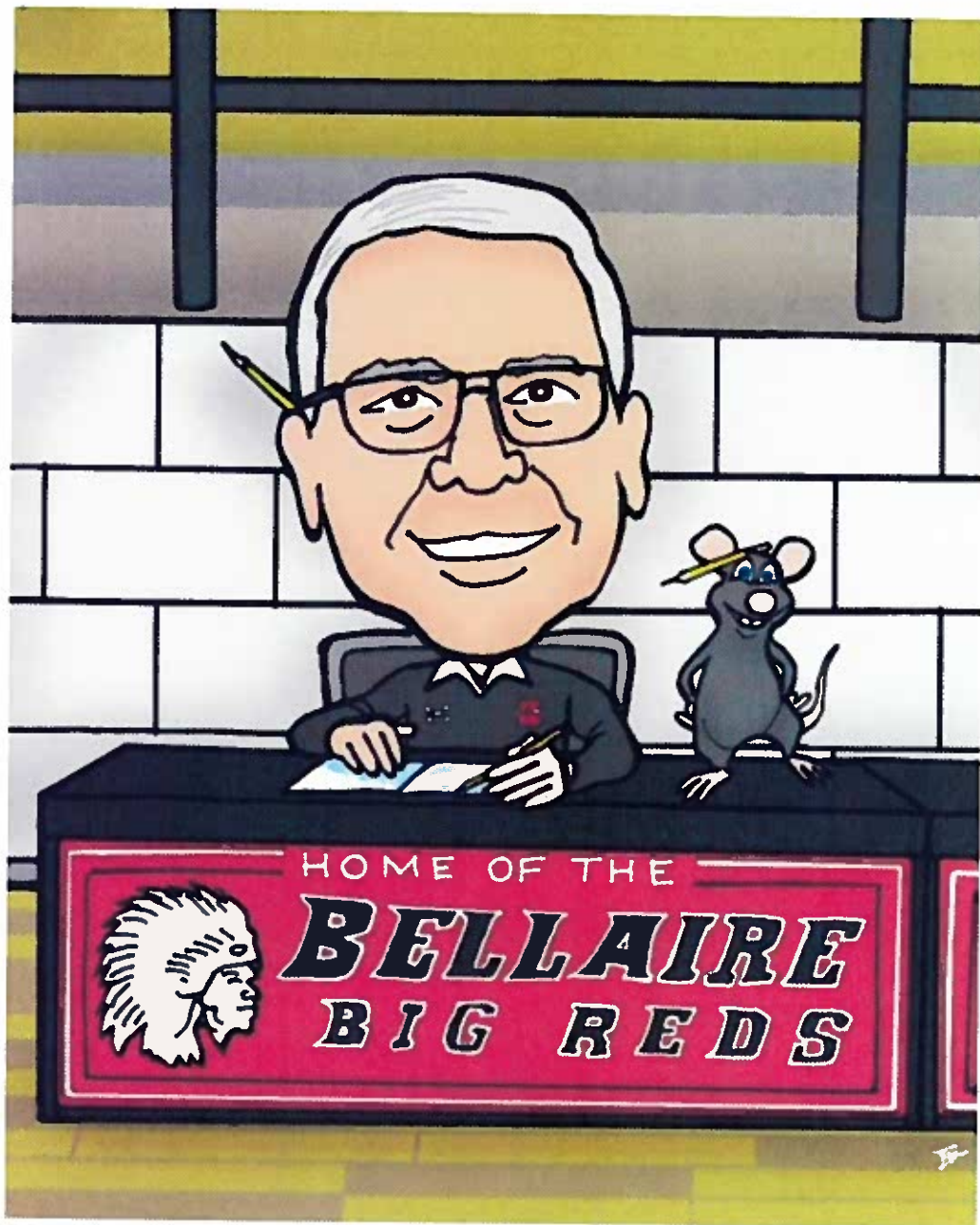
STATISTICS

	BELLAIRE	OPP.
FG		
FT		
REB		
AST		
PF		
PTS		

BELLAIRE
BIG REDS



TOM "RAT" RATAICZAK





COLLECTOR SERIES
1 OF 1000

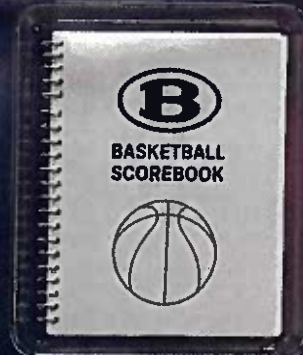
TOM RATAICZAK "RAT"

BELLAIRE BASKETBALL SCOREKEEPER



Home of the

BIG REDS



◀ POSS. ▶



HOME OF THE

BELLAIRE BIG REDS

BELLAIRE
B
BASKETBALL

