

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!

THE WARM-UP THAT TURNS
BOYS INTO WARRIORS!



AT THE
GRAVEYARD
— NOBODY
SLEEPS!

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!

LET'S GO,
BIG REDS!

RUN!

SHUFFLE!

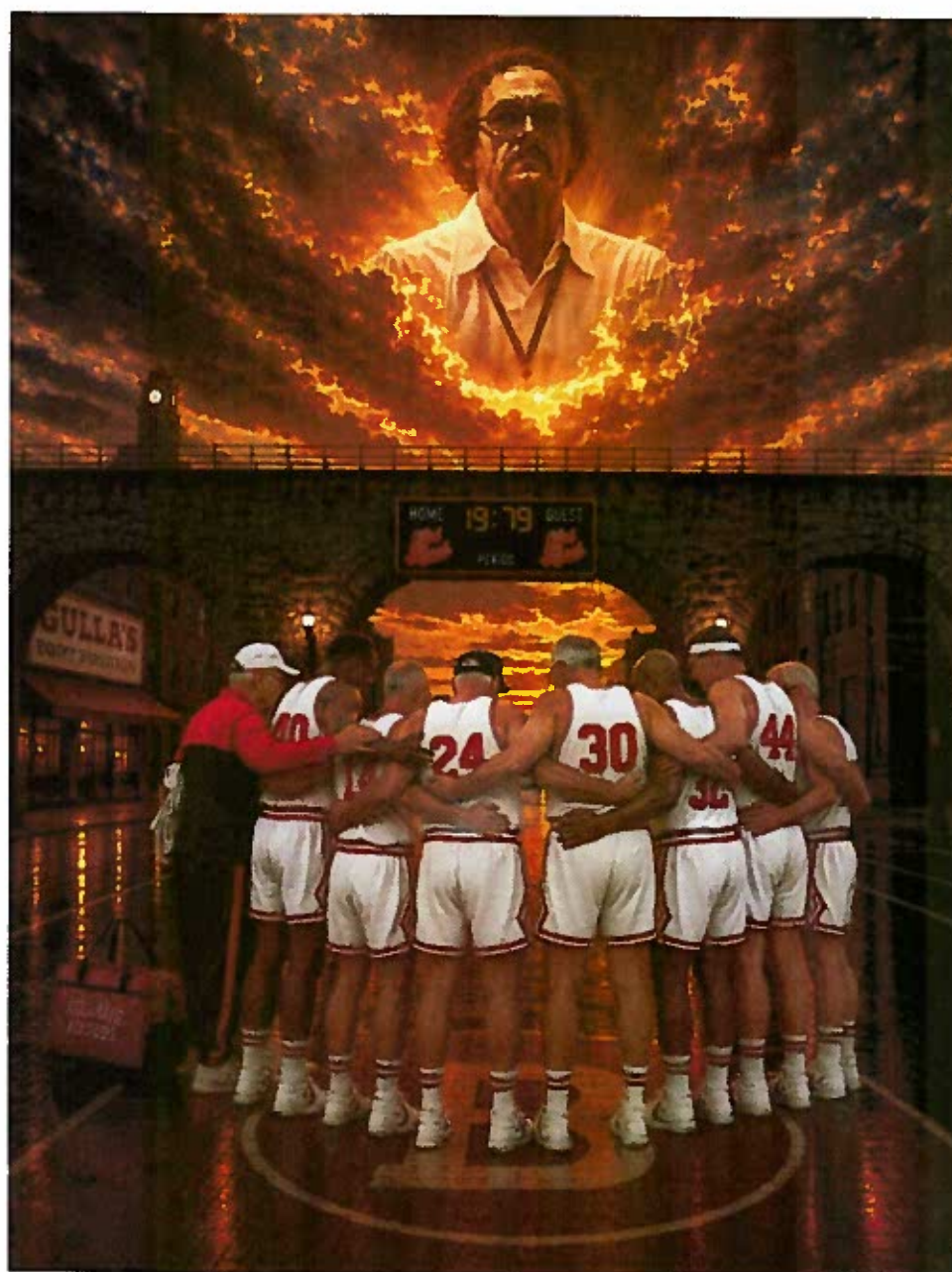
SHUFFLE!

SLIDE!

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

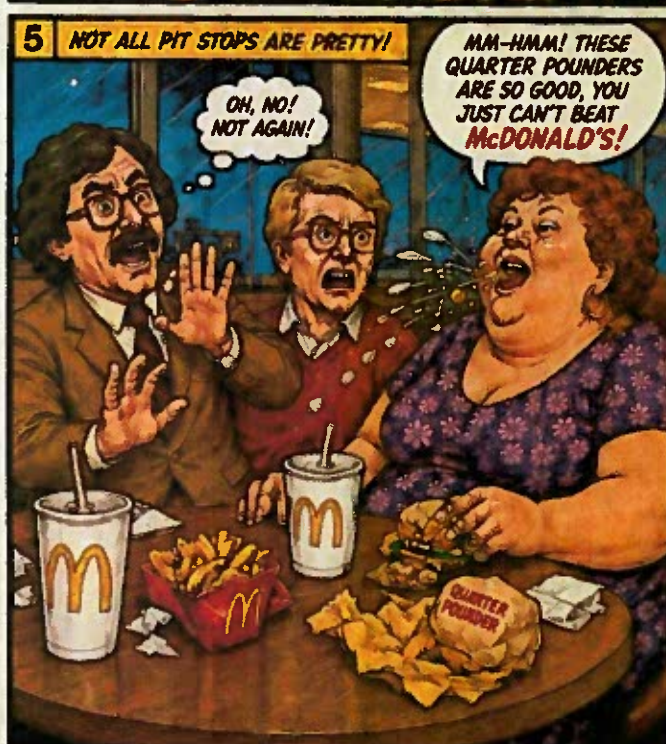
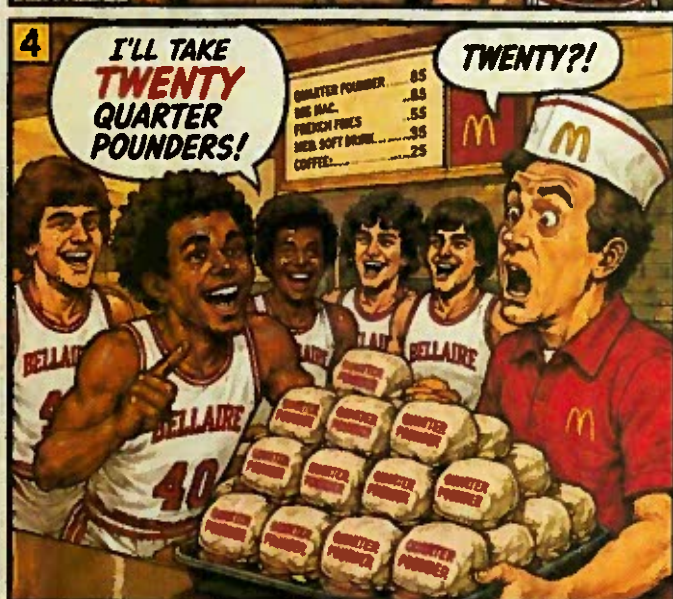
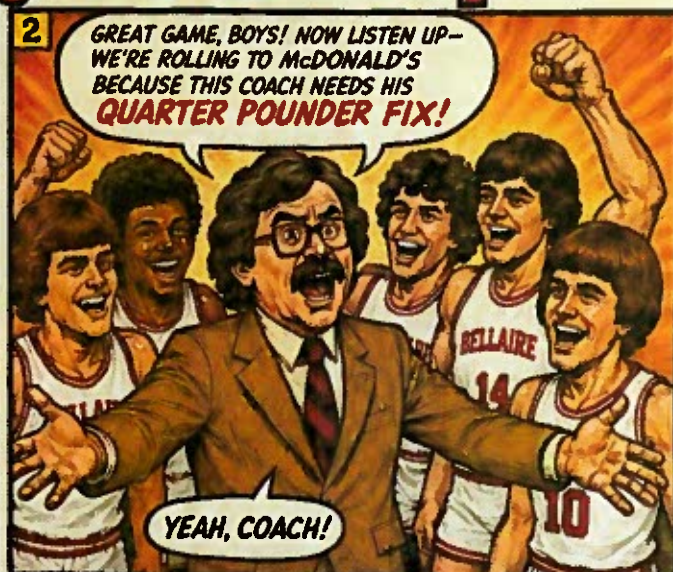








Coach Matz's Playoff Pit Stop



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





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.





THE HOUSE OF CHAMPIONS



1978
1979

BELLAIRE BIG REDS

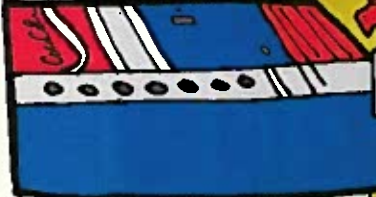


OAC AAAA Champions
Settling the Score from
'87 No. 7
17 Wins in a Row
Best Record in Division
18 School Records Broken
Best Margin of Victory in OAC
Best Record in OAC

LEAPER
MACHINE



F@*#!



RESERVED
FOR
CHOPPER
DRILL

I feel
like Bustin'
like Loose

Chopper
Drill Time!

Man,
I love this
game!

CHOPPER
DRILL

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!

TWEET!
TWEET!

Huh?

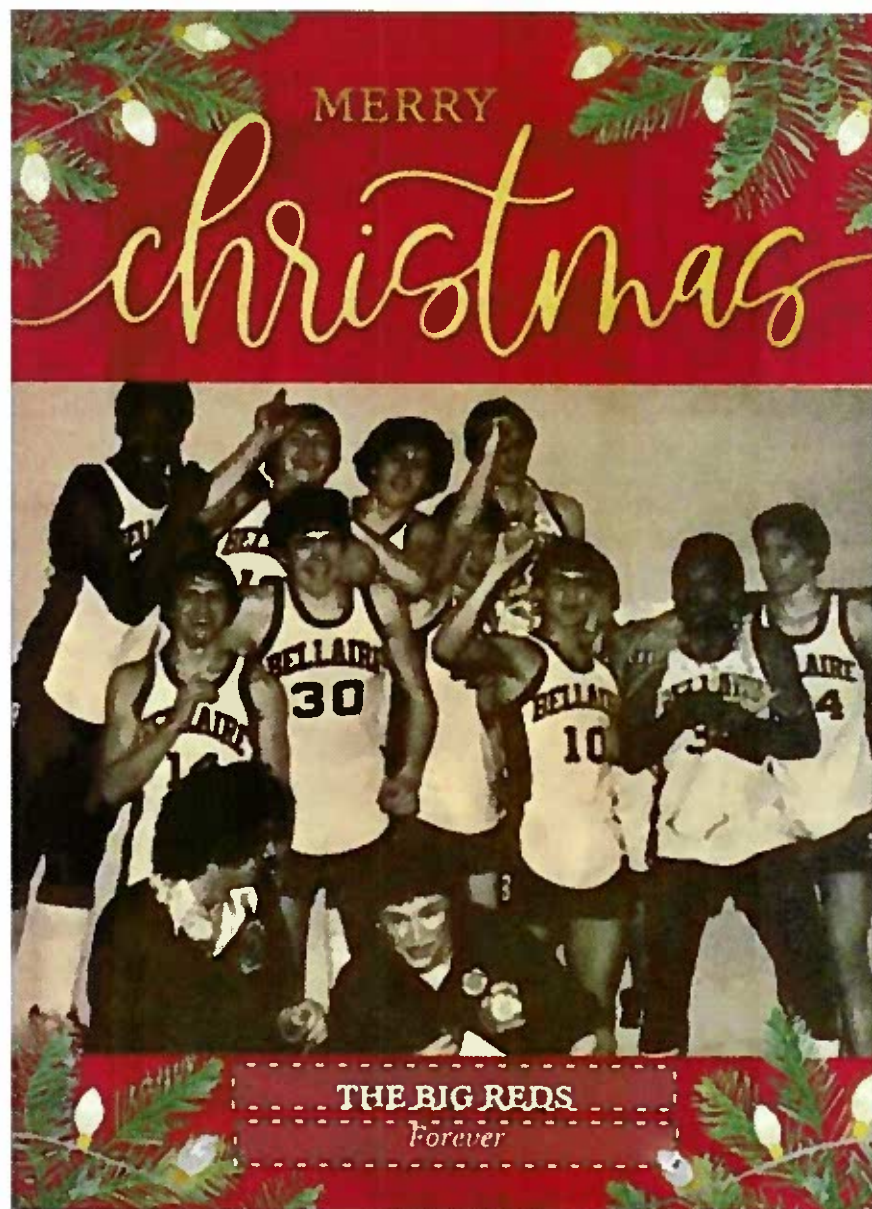
Ooof!

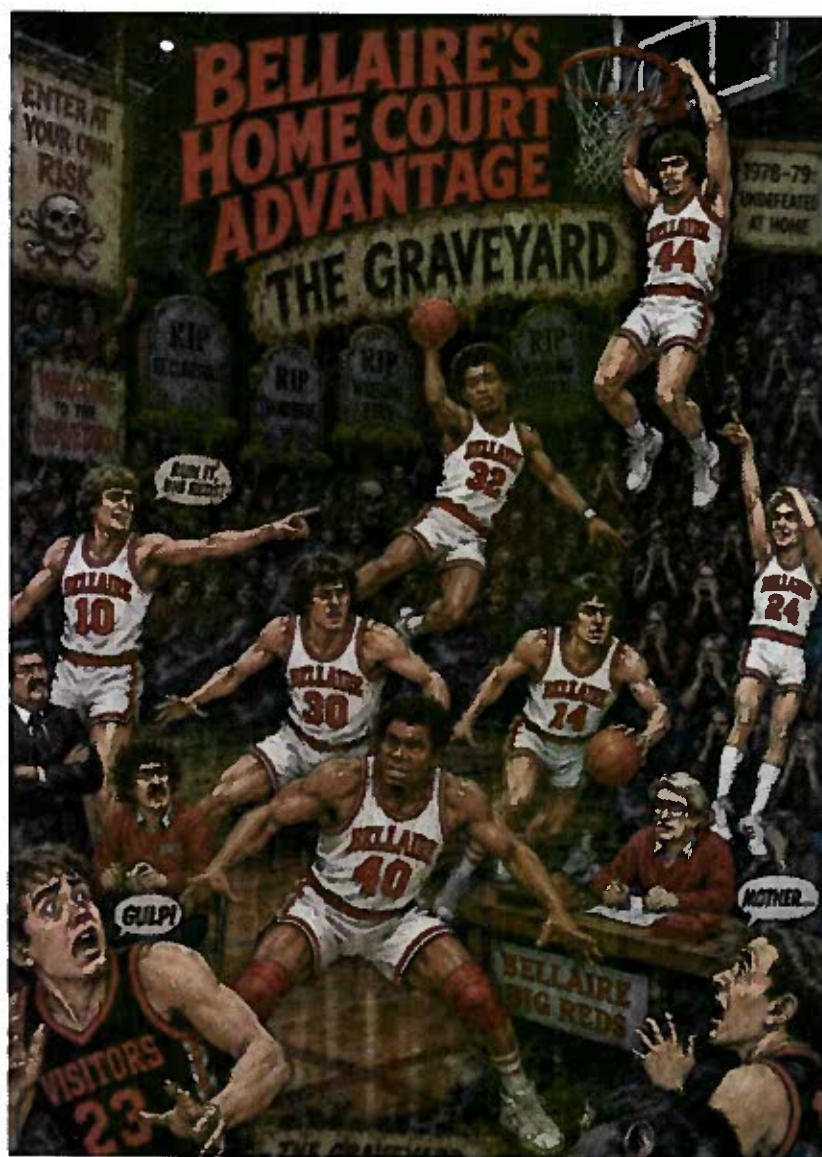
OH,
BROTHER!

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

IT **ALWAYS** PUMPED UP THE FANS!









BELLAIRE
B

ENTER AT
YOUR OWN RISK

BIG REDS
HOME 100 VISITOR 62
PERIOD 2
19:19
NOBODY LEAVES WITH A "W"

BIG REDS

SHADYSIDE
TIGERS

WHEELING
PARK
PATRIOTS

ST. JOHNS
IRISH

MINGO
MINERS

TRI-VALLEY
SCOTTIES

CAMBRIDGE
BOBCATS

WHEELING
CENTRAL
MAROONS

WINTERSVILLE
WARRIORS

RIVER VIEW
RIDERS

THIS IS
BIG REDS
COUNTRY

BIG REDS
STATISTICAL
BOARD

RAT
OFFICIAL STATISTICIAN
SINCE 1900

LEGENDS DON'T RETIRE.
THEY REWRITE THE GAME.

Old Skool

BELLAIRE
BIG REDS
BASKETBALL

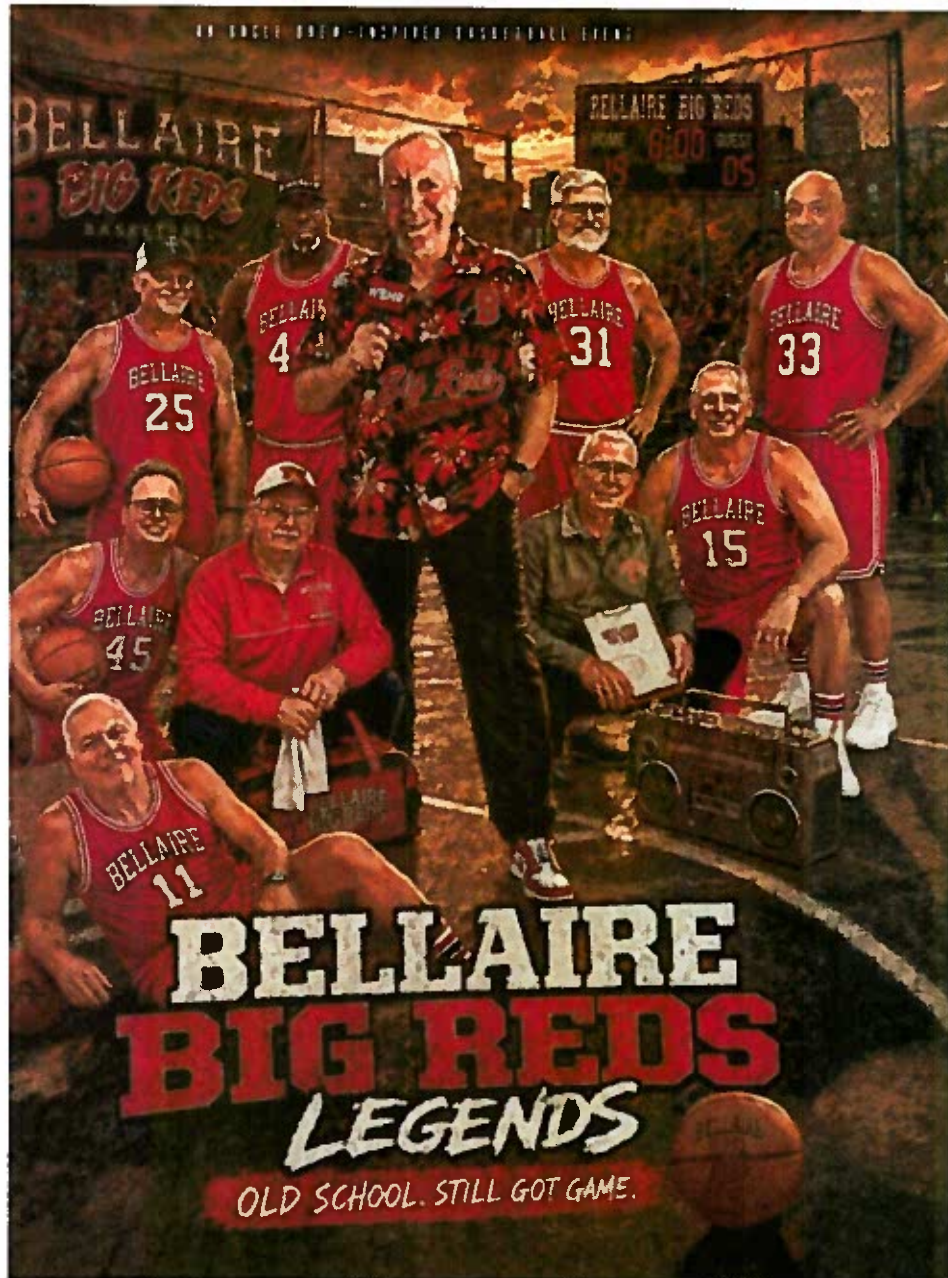
THE MOVIE

HOME 19:79 GUEST
PERIOD



A 26th Street Production

AN UCCLE BROW-INSPIRED BASEBALL EVENT



BELLAIRE BIG REDS LEGENDS

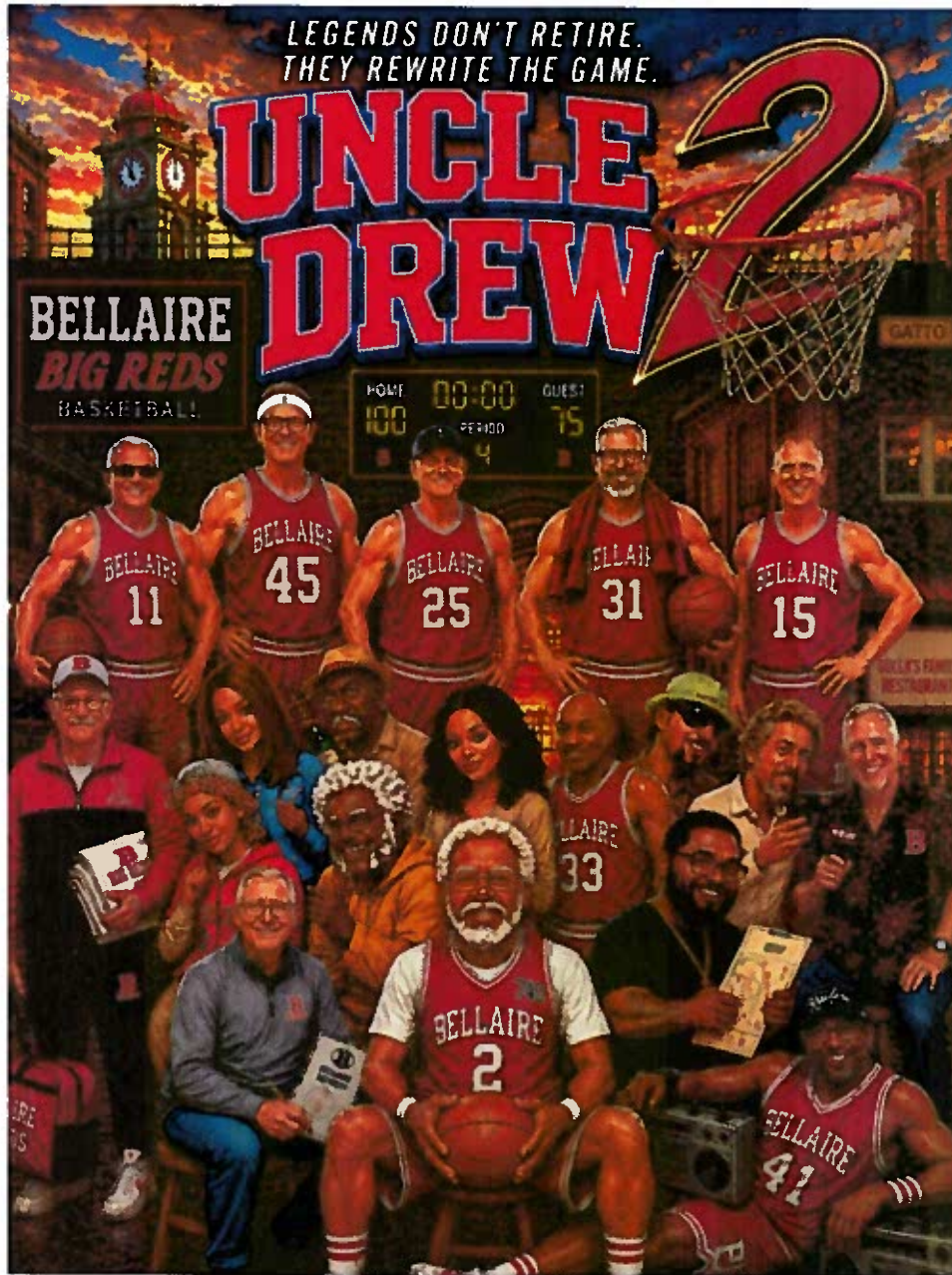
OLD SCHOOL. STILL GOT GAME.

LEGENDS DON'T RETIRE.
THEY REWRITE THE GAME.

UNCLE DREW 2

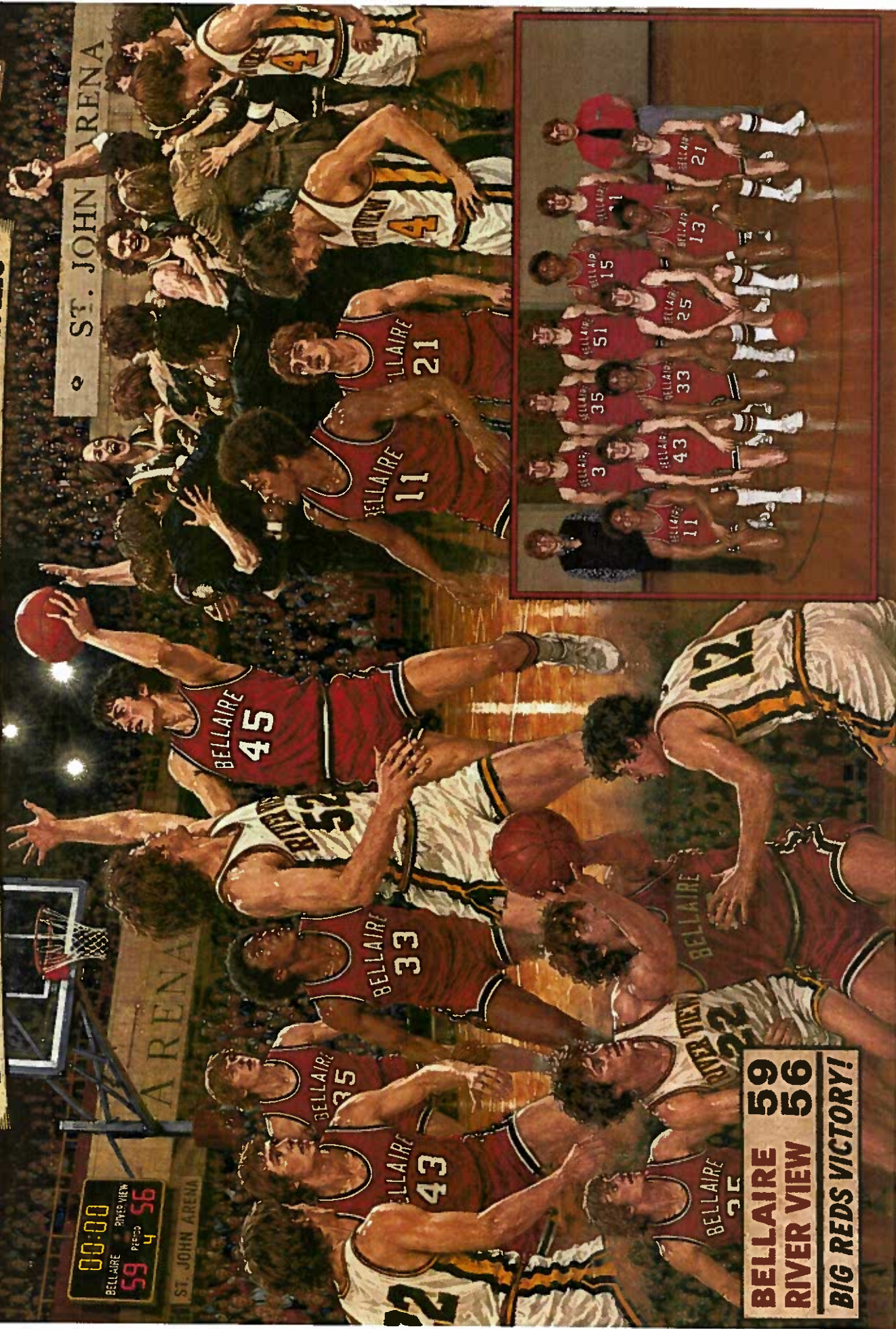
BELLAIRE
BIG REDS
BASKETBALL

HOME 00:00 GUEST
100 PERIOD 75
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

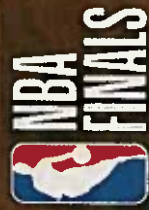
NEW YORK

KNICKS

VS

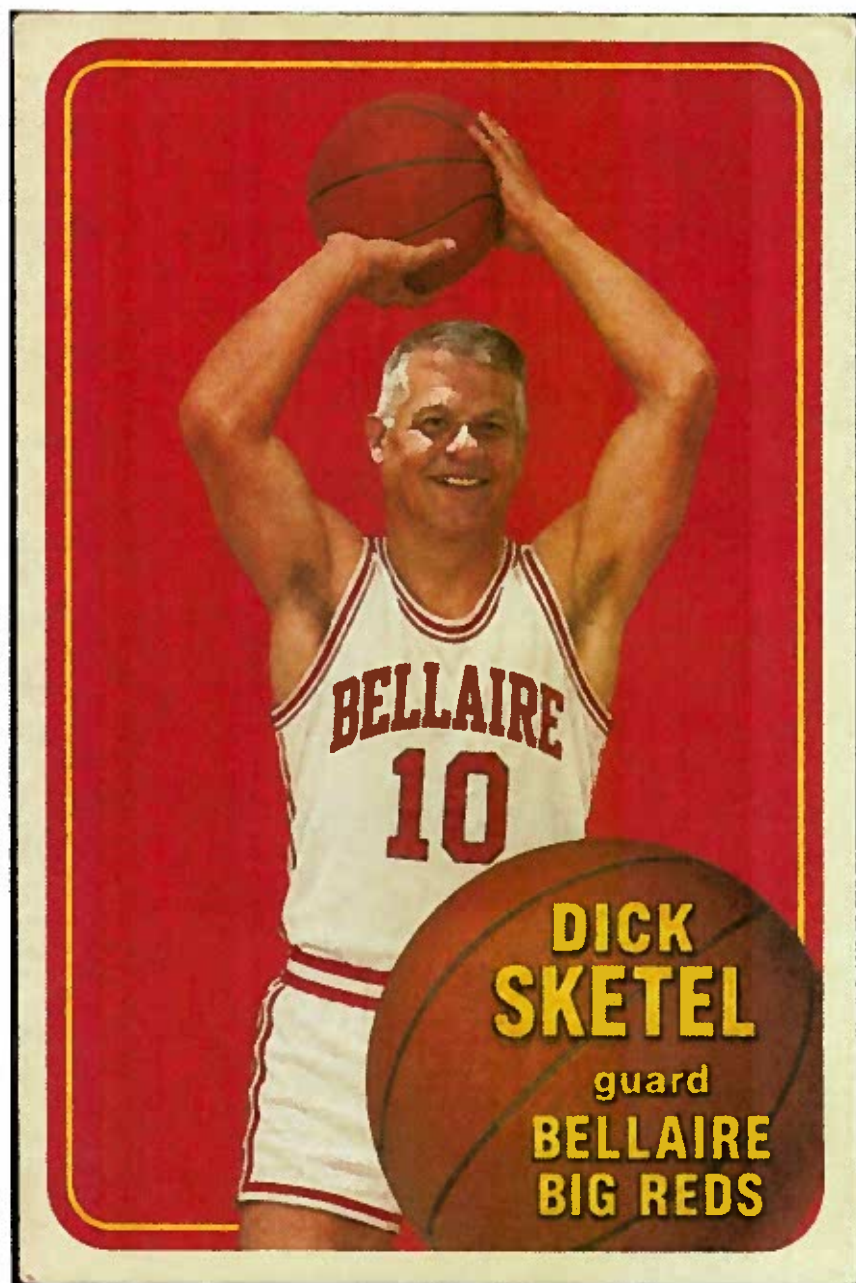


BELLAIRE BIG REDS VS NEW YORK KNICKS



GAME 3 | TONIGHT | 9:00 PM EST





**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

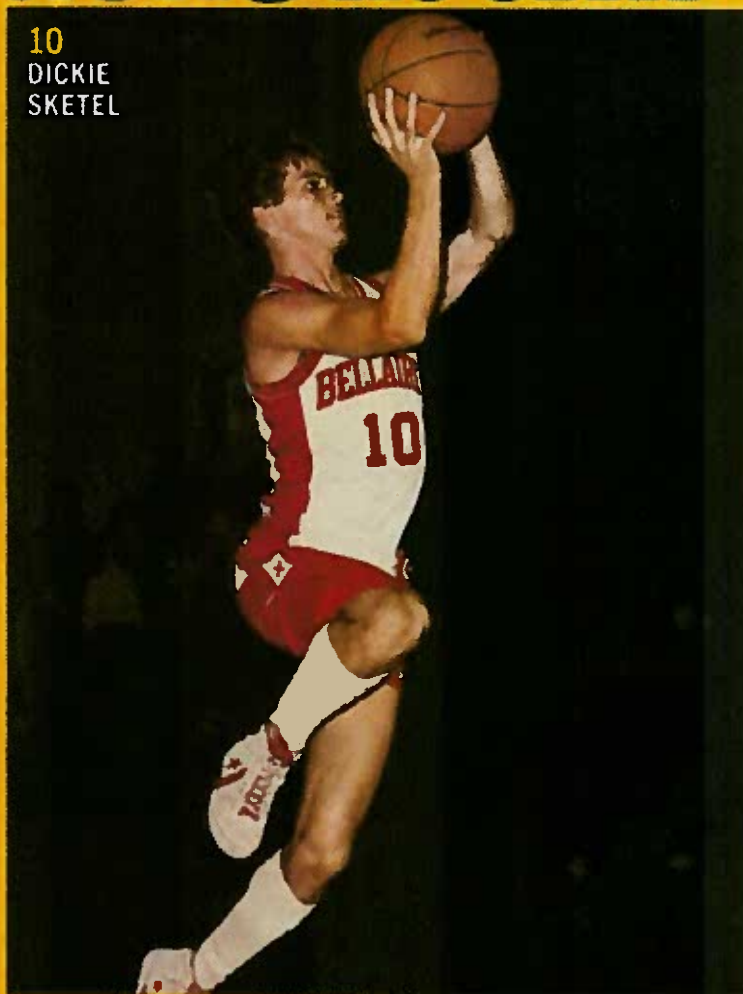
**BELLAIRE BIG
REDS SENIORS
LEAD THE WAY**

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

Scouting Report
DICKIE SKETEL
pg. 68

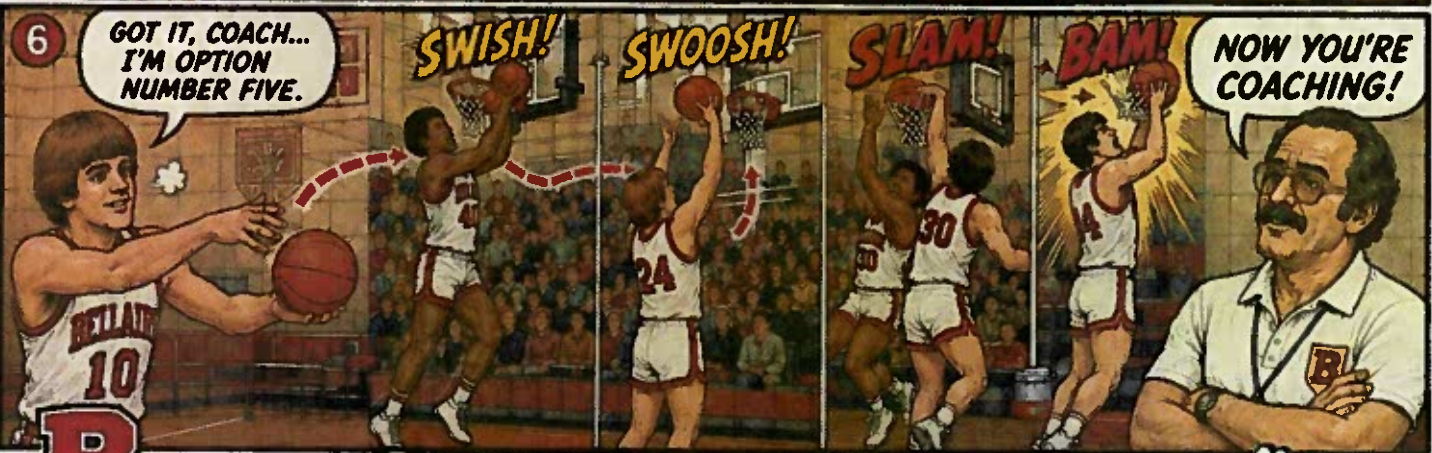
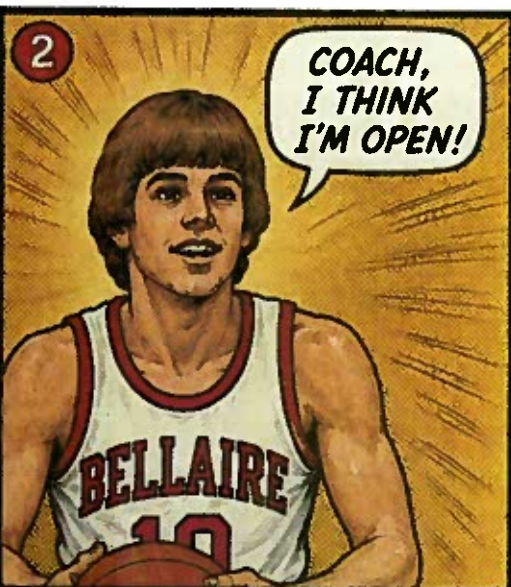


10
DICKIE
SKETEL



BELLAIRE BIG REDS—A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

1 COACH MATZ HAD
ONE RULE FOR DICKIE...



B
Big Red's

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

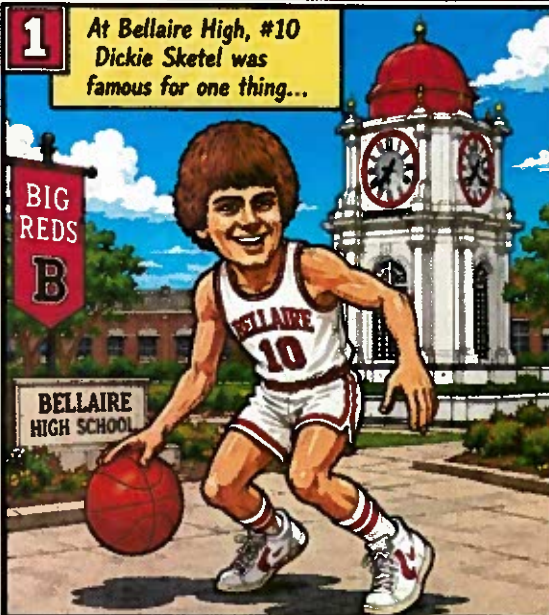




DICKIE SKETEL: THE ASSIST KING



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



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

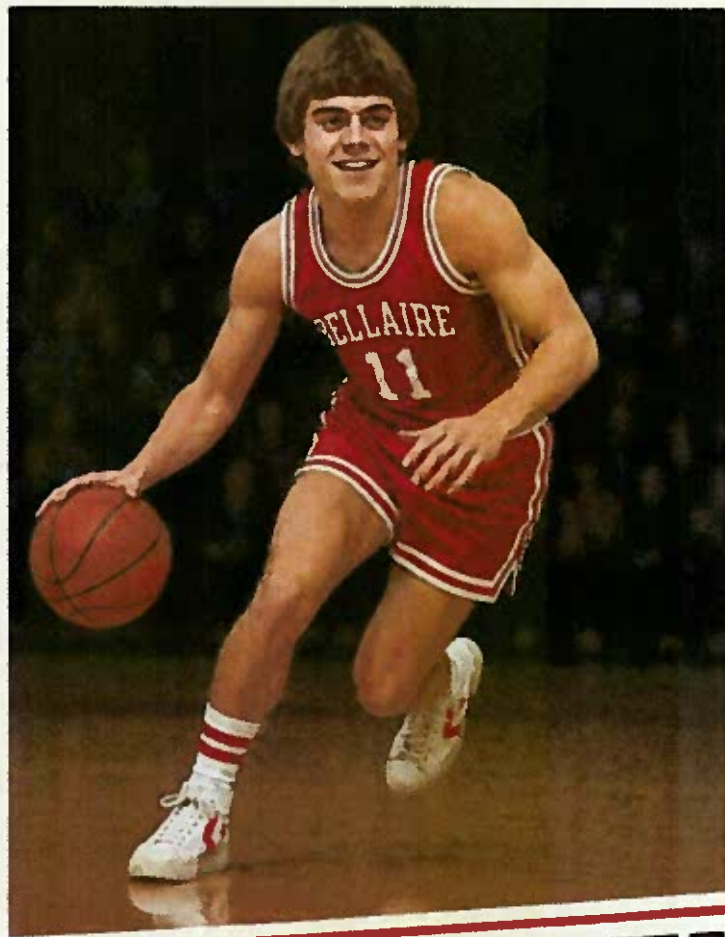


Dec 1979
Basketball
Digest
\$1.25 (Canada \$2.00)
BASKETBALL'S
MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

**DICK
SKETEL &
JO JO
CAMPBELL**

*Is this the best
backcourt in
the OVAC*



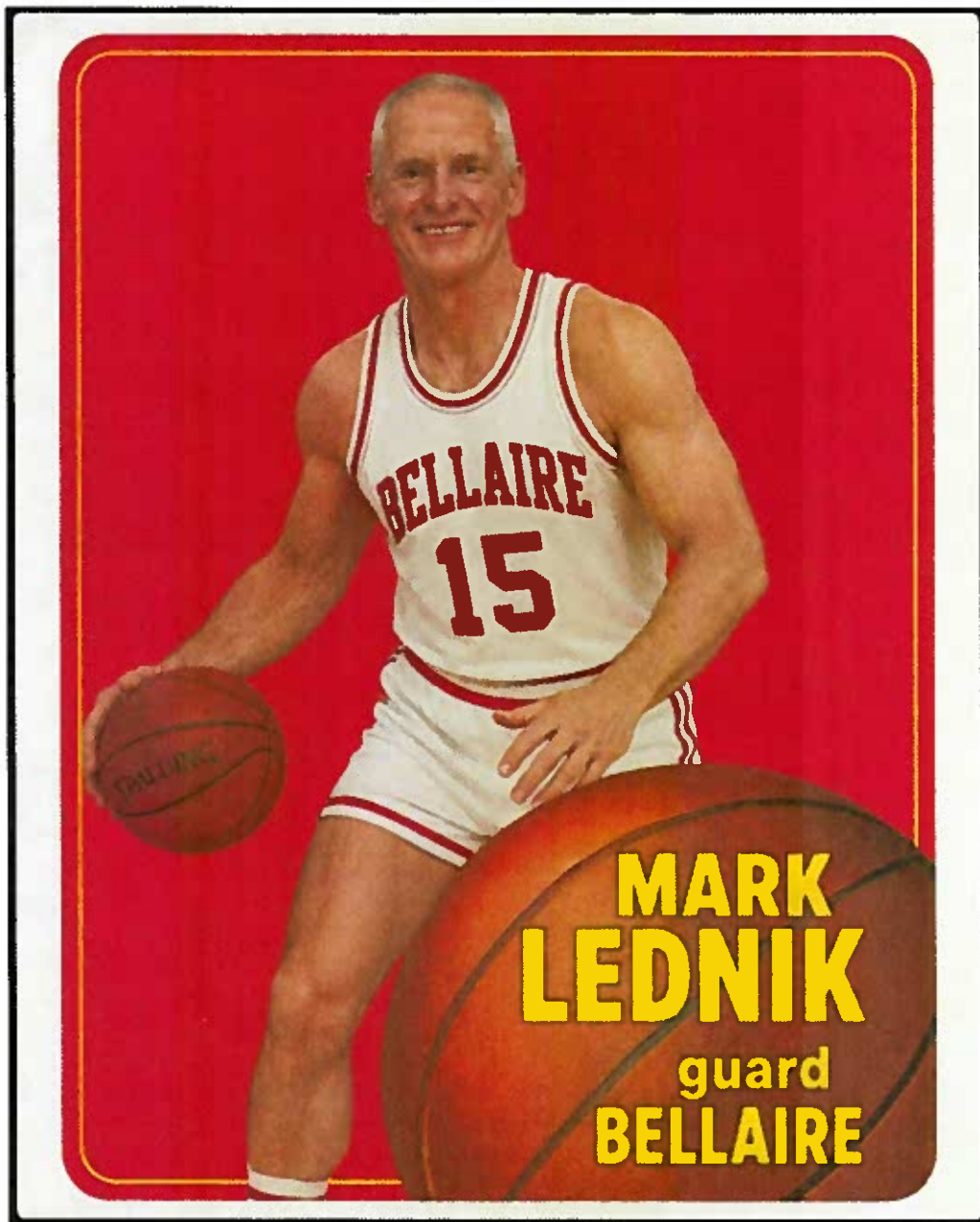


BELLAIRE BIG REDS

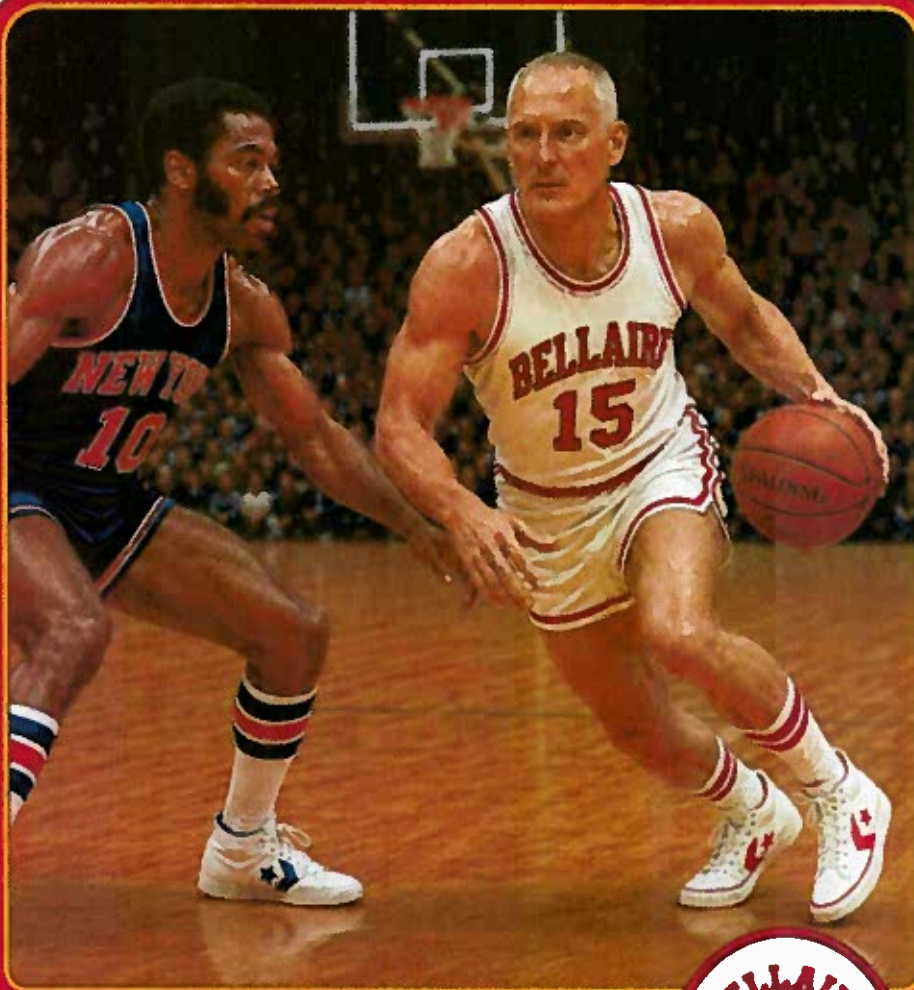


SKETEL

DICK



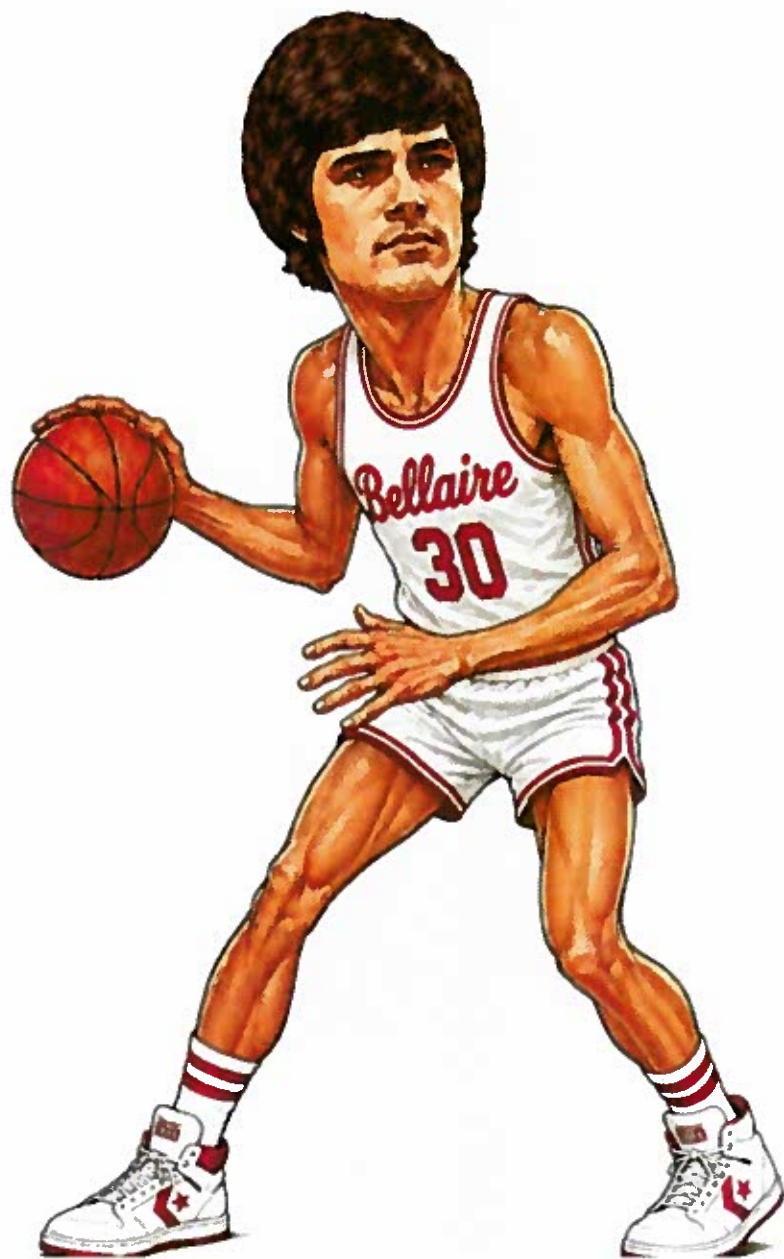
**MARK
LEDNIK**
guard
BELLAIRE



MARK LEDNIK

Guard
Bellaire Big Reds







BELLAIRE
15

PREMIUM
COLLECTOR SERIES

Clyde the Glide

★★★★★

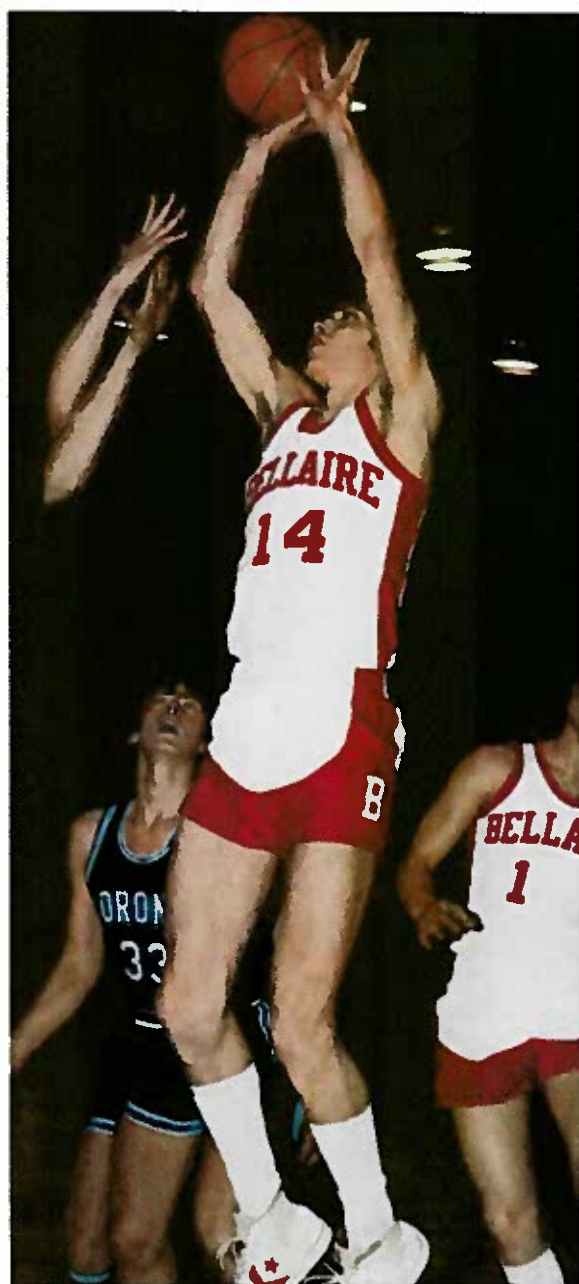
PULL STRING
VOICE FEATURE!
"No Fancy Hands"
"No Fancy Hands"



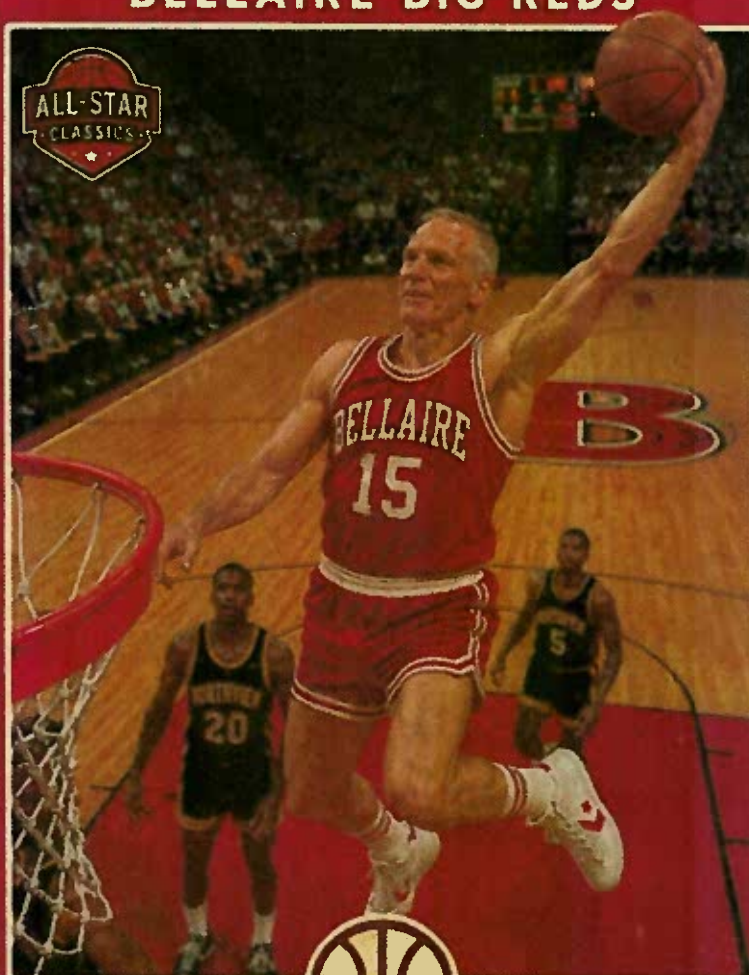
• BALLER.
• GOLFER.
• LEGEND.

15

Clyde the Glide



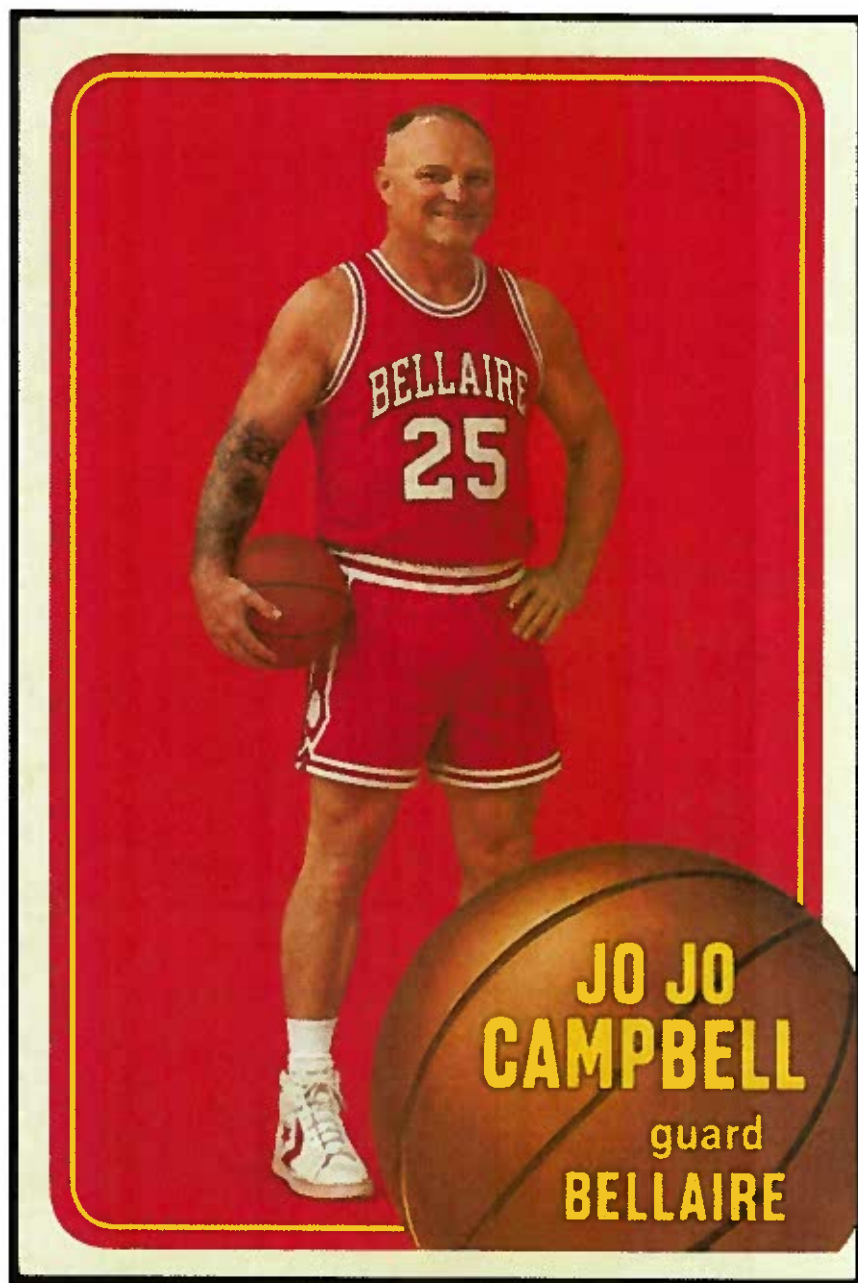
BELLAIRE BIG REDS

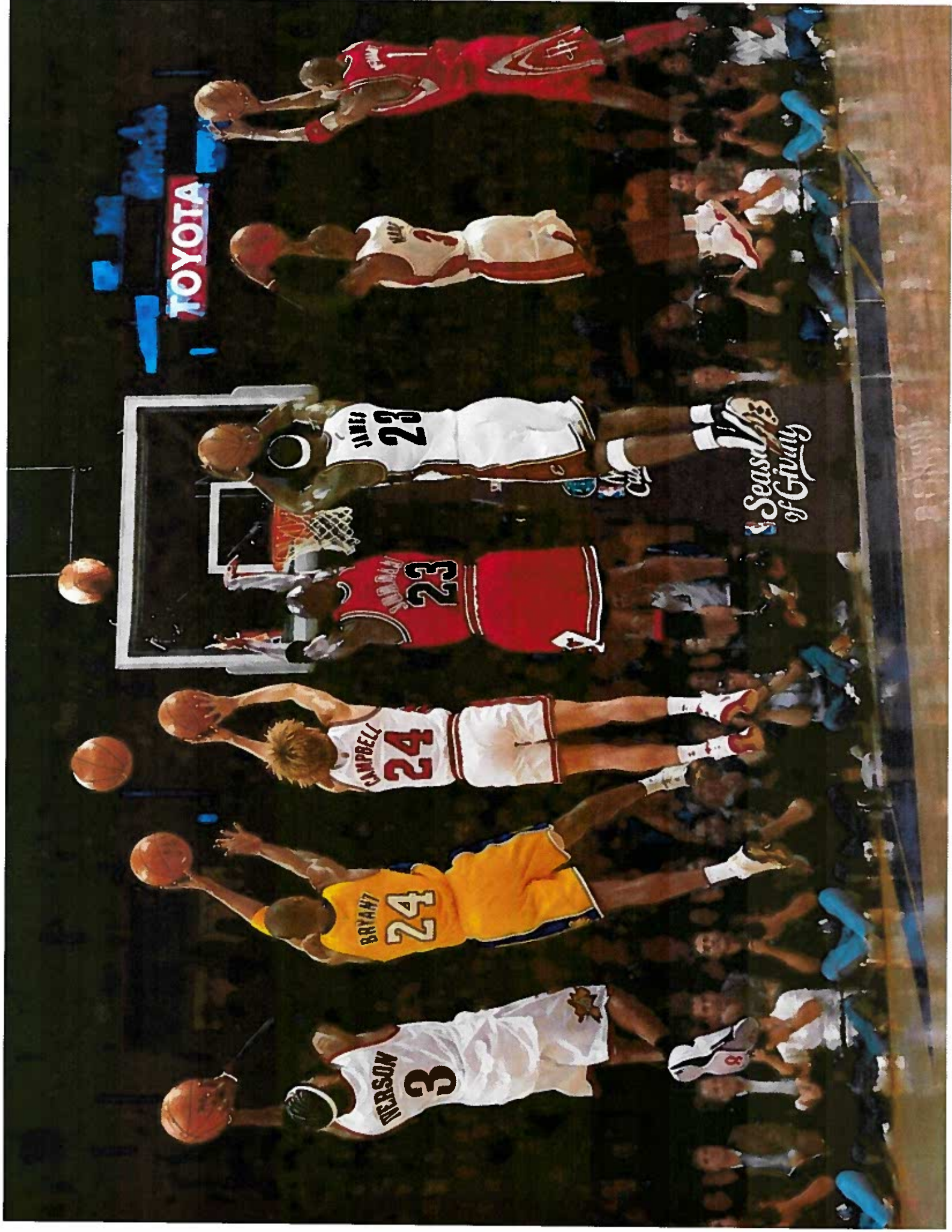


F

MARK LEDNIK

15





TOYOTA

Season of Giving

AGES 18+

LIMITED EDITION
1 OF 2,500

Jo Jo Doll

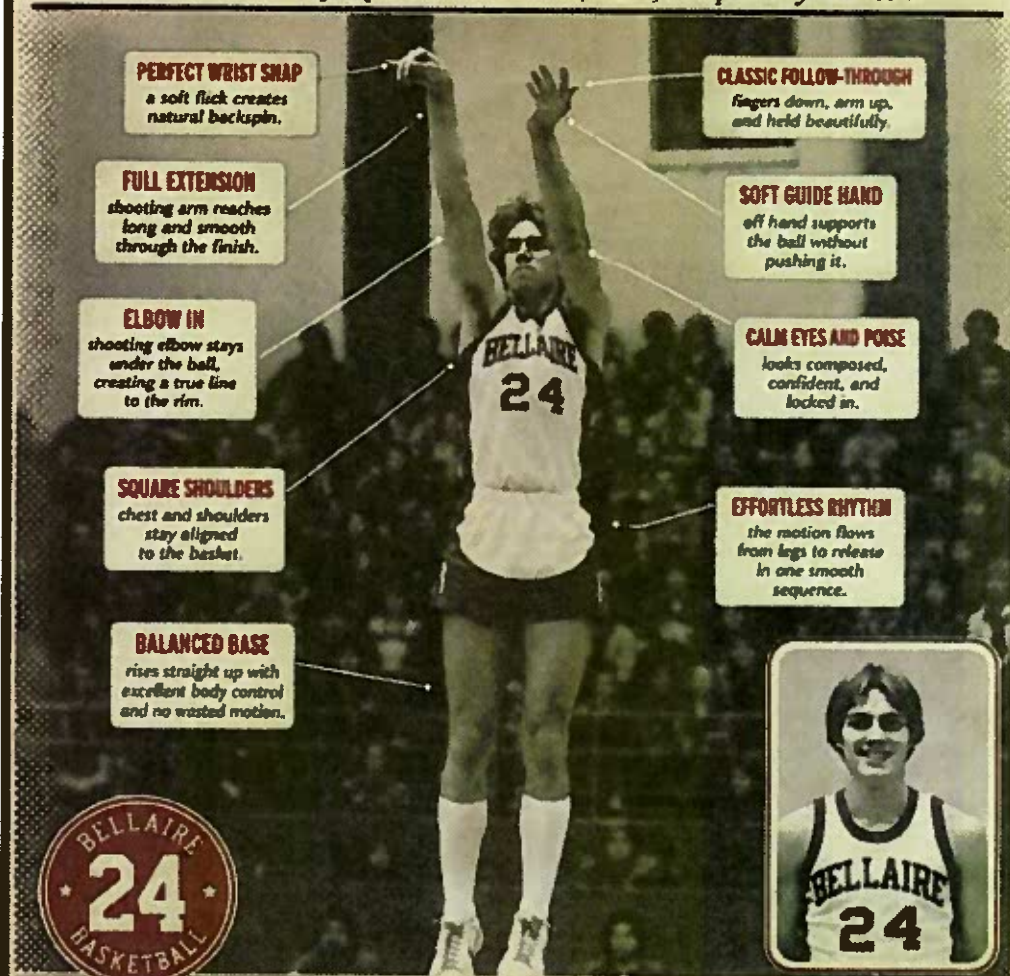
★ BASKETBALL • LINEMAN • LEGEND ★





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.



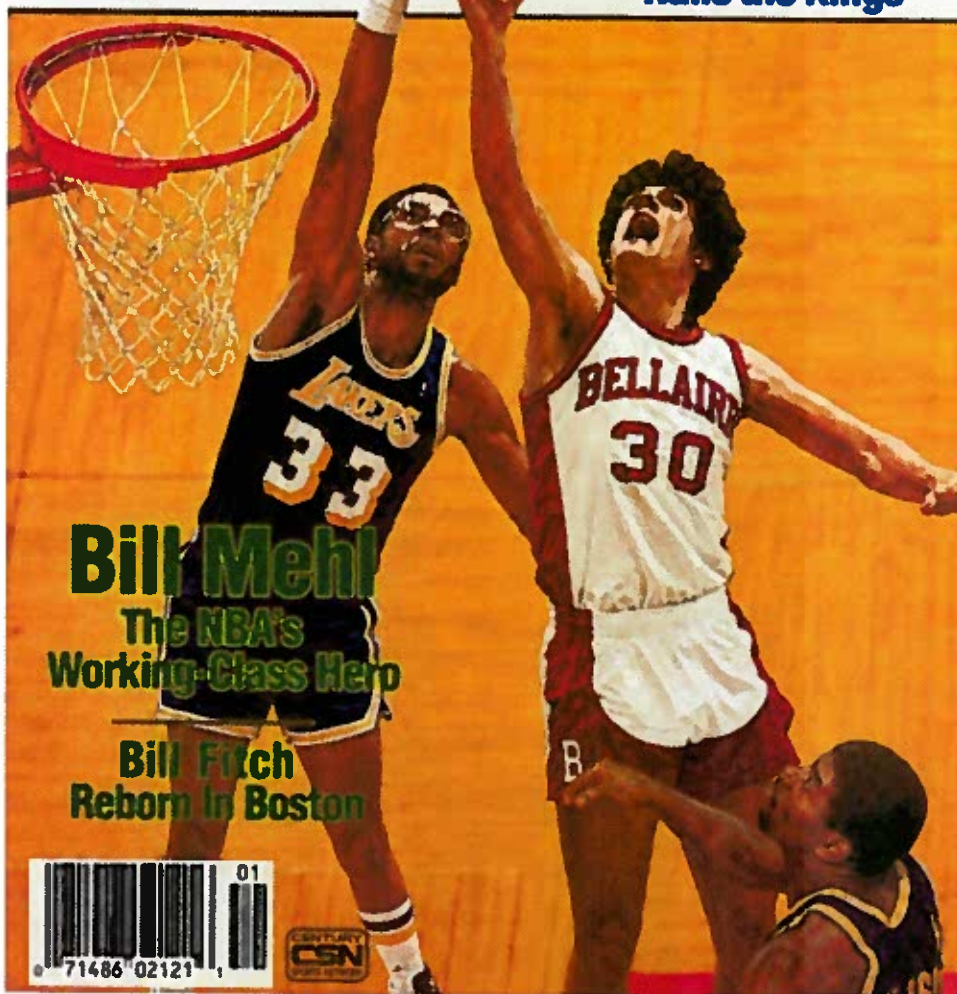
★ ★ *"It's not just the shot.
It's the way he makes it look so easy."* ★ ★

— PURE FORM. PURE TOUCH. PURE JO JO. —

Jan. 1986
**Basketball
Digest**
COC 02121

\$1.75 (Canada \$2.00)

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



Bill Mehl
The NBA's
Working-Class Hero

Bill Fitch
Reborn in Boston







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.

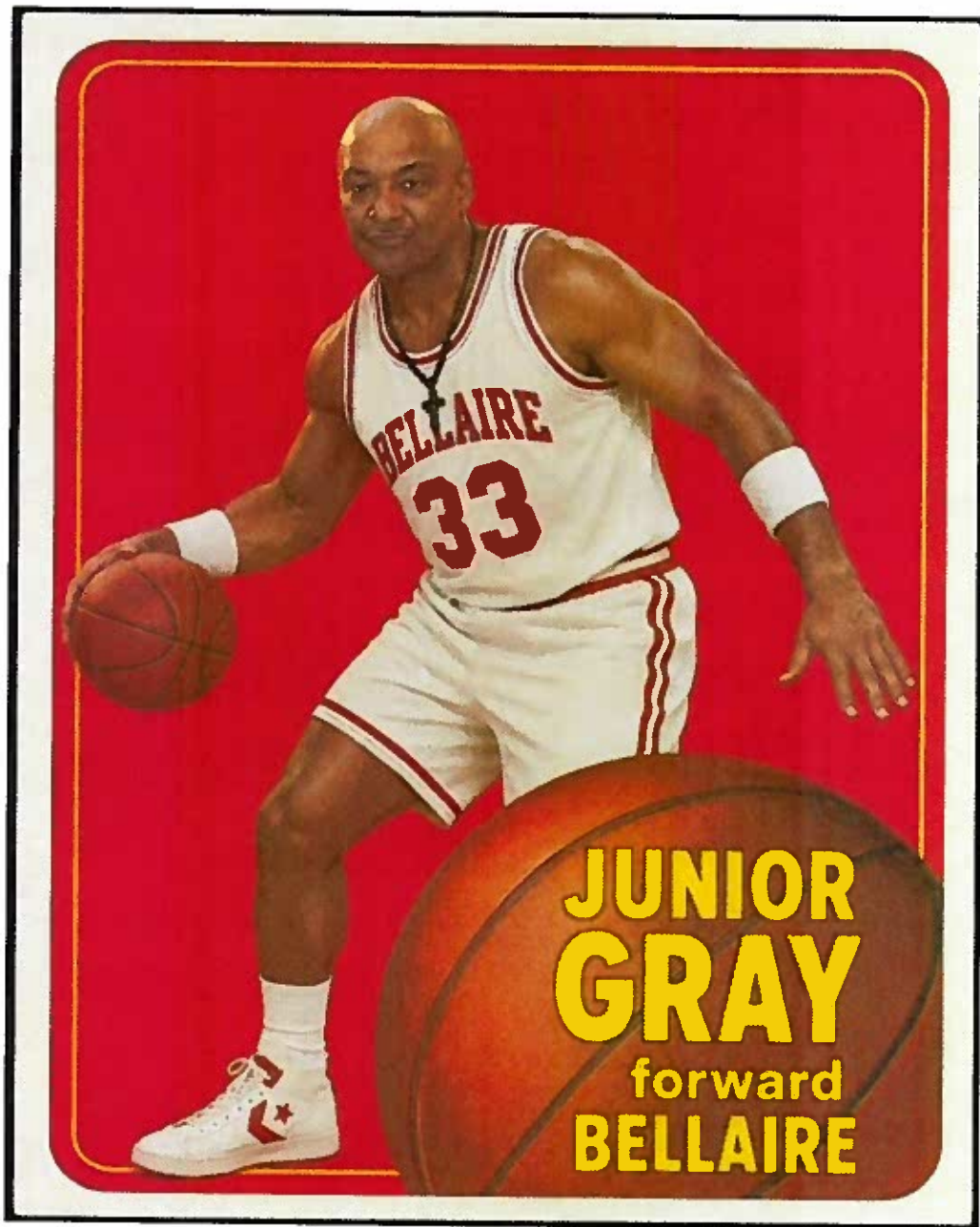
BIG REDS

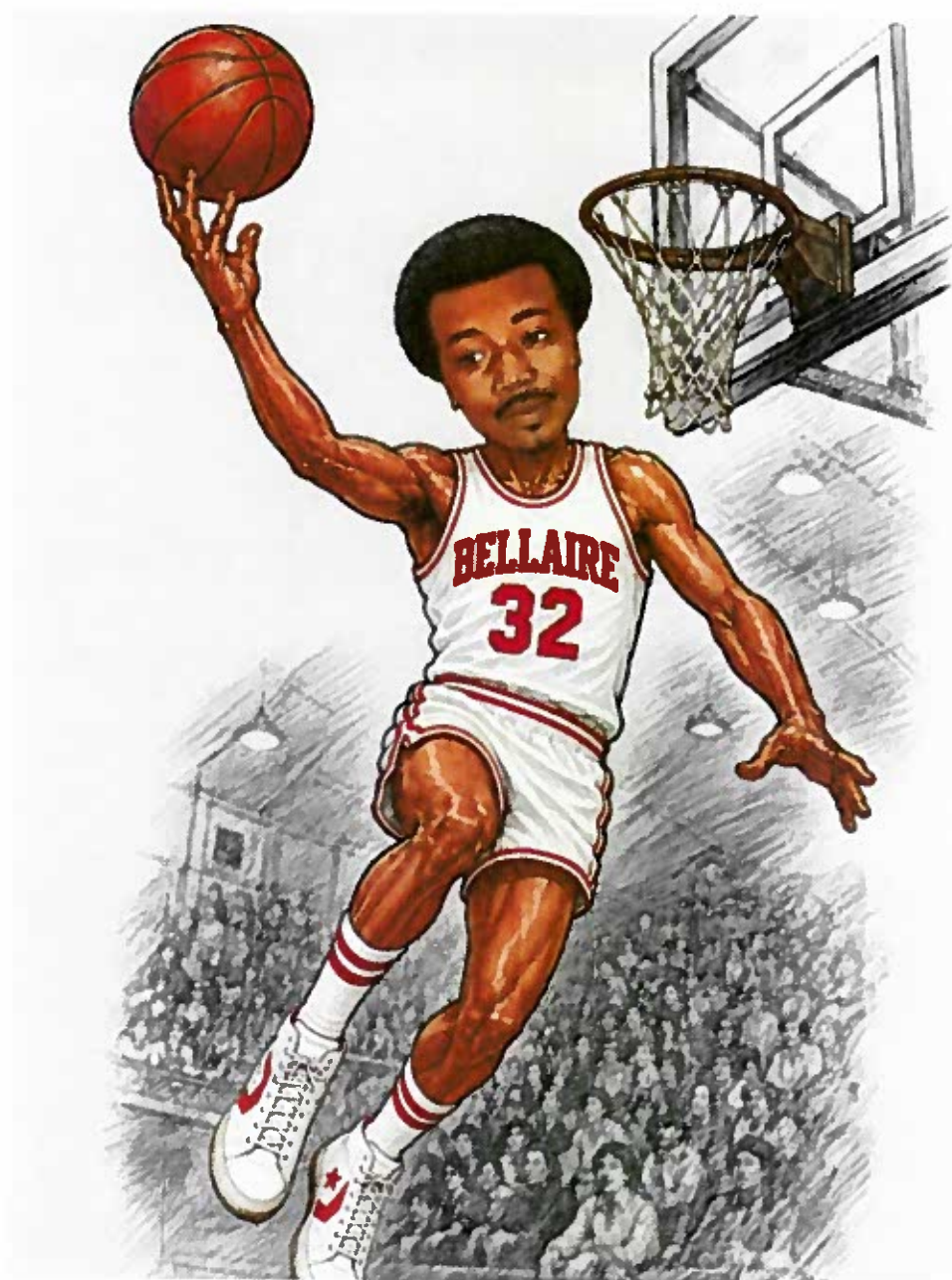
A WINNING FORMULA
BUILT ON SIZE,
SKILL & HEART



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

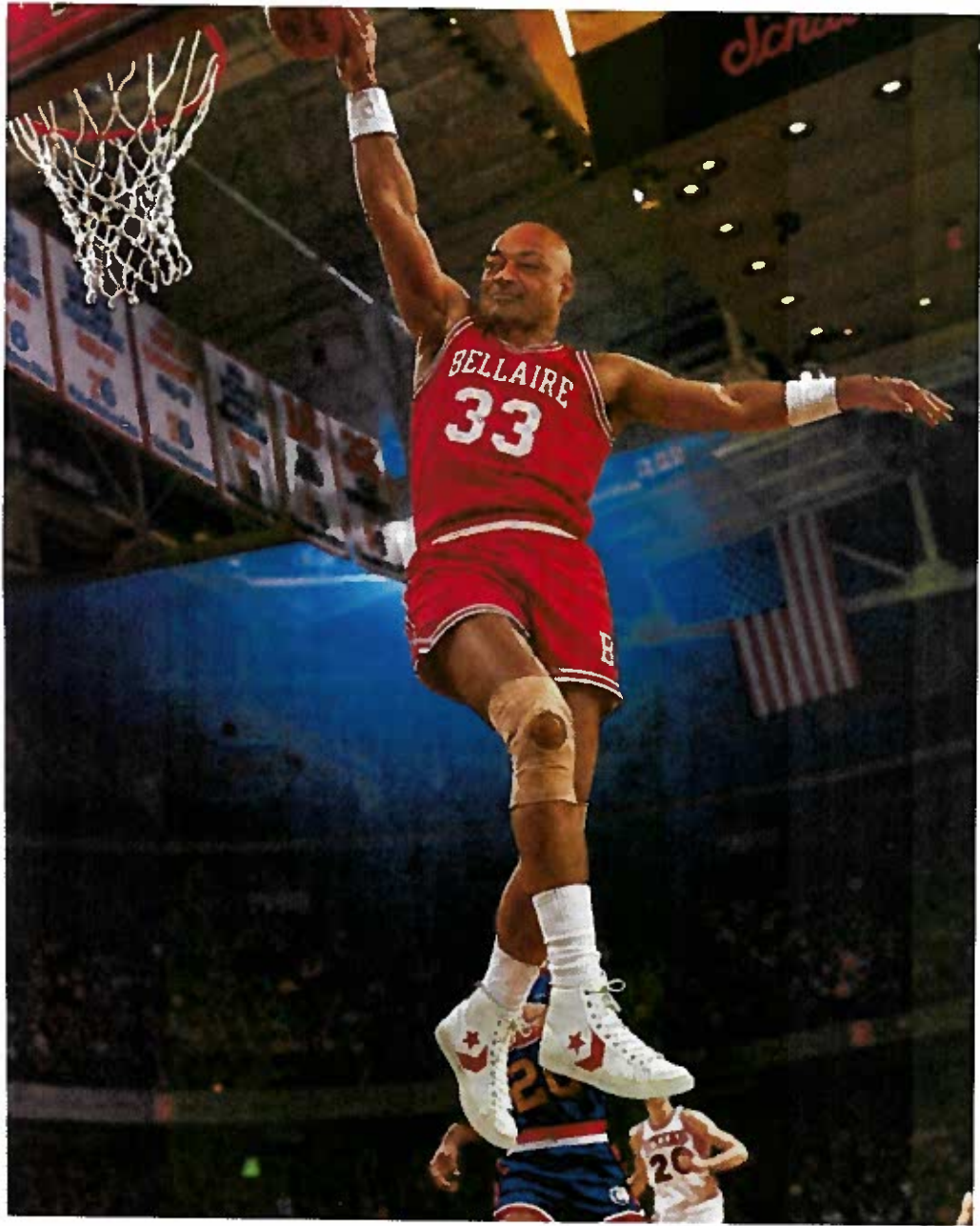
\$19⁹⁵

Suggested Retail



★ CONVERSE®

The shoe of the 80's.



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

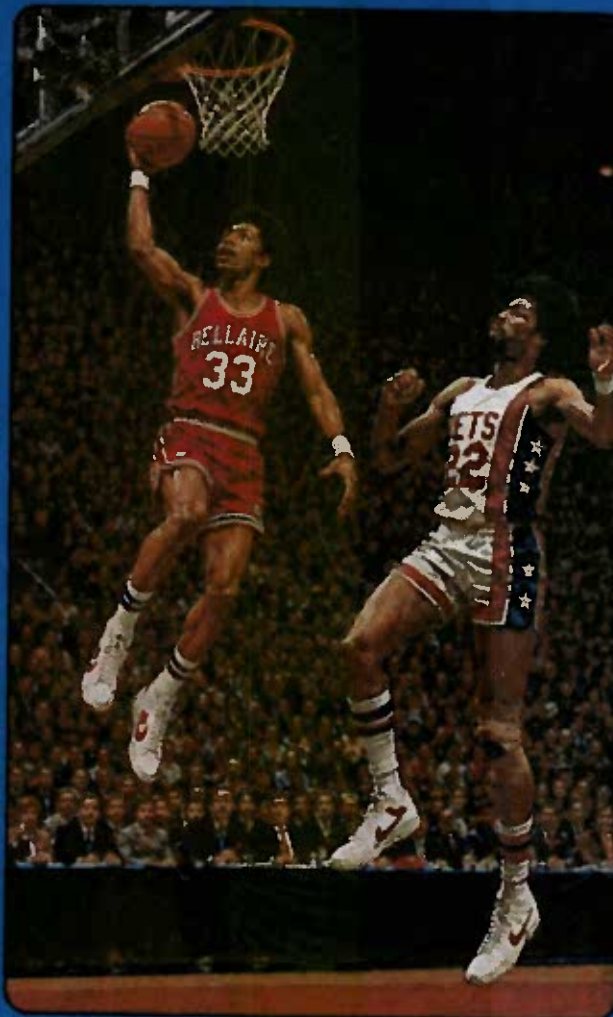
**Junior
Gray &
Julius Erving
Challenge
the NBA--**

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

The 10 Best
Rookies
of '85-'86

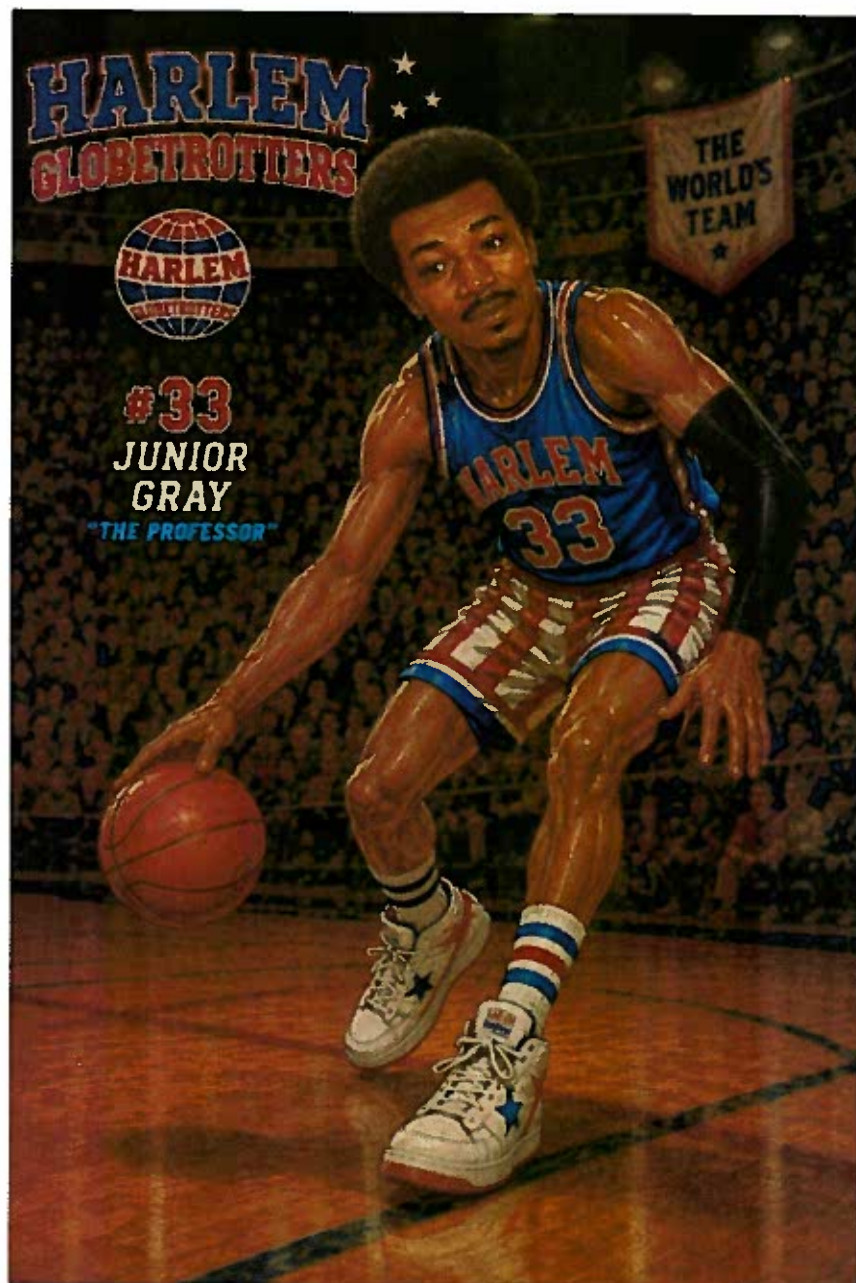
•
Bob McAdoo
Speaks Out

•
John Havlicek
On the East
Championship



\$1.50





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,
GESS. LET'S
GET OUTTA HERE.
THERE'S A DANCE
DOWNTOWN.

FIRST, THE WINDOW.
FRESH... LISTEN.

BALL'S
CLEAR.
LET'S MOVE.

DOWN THE
FIRESCOPE
GIBBY AS
SHADOWS.

SUDDENLY—FOOTSTEPS.
DON'T GET CAUGHT.

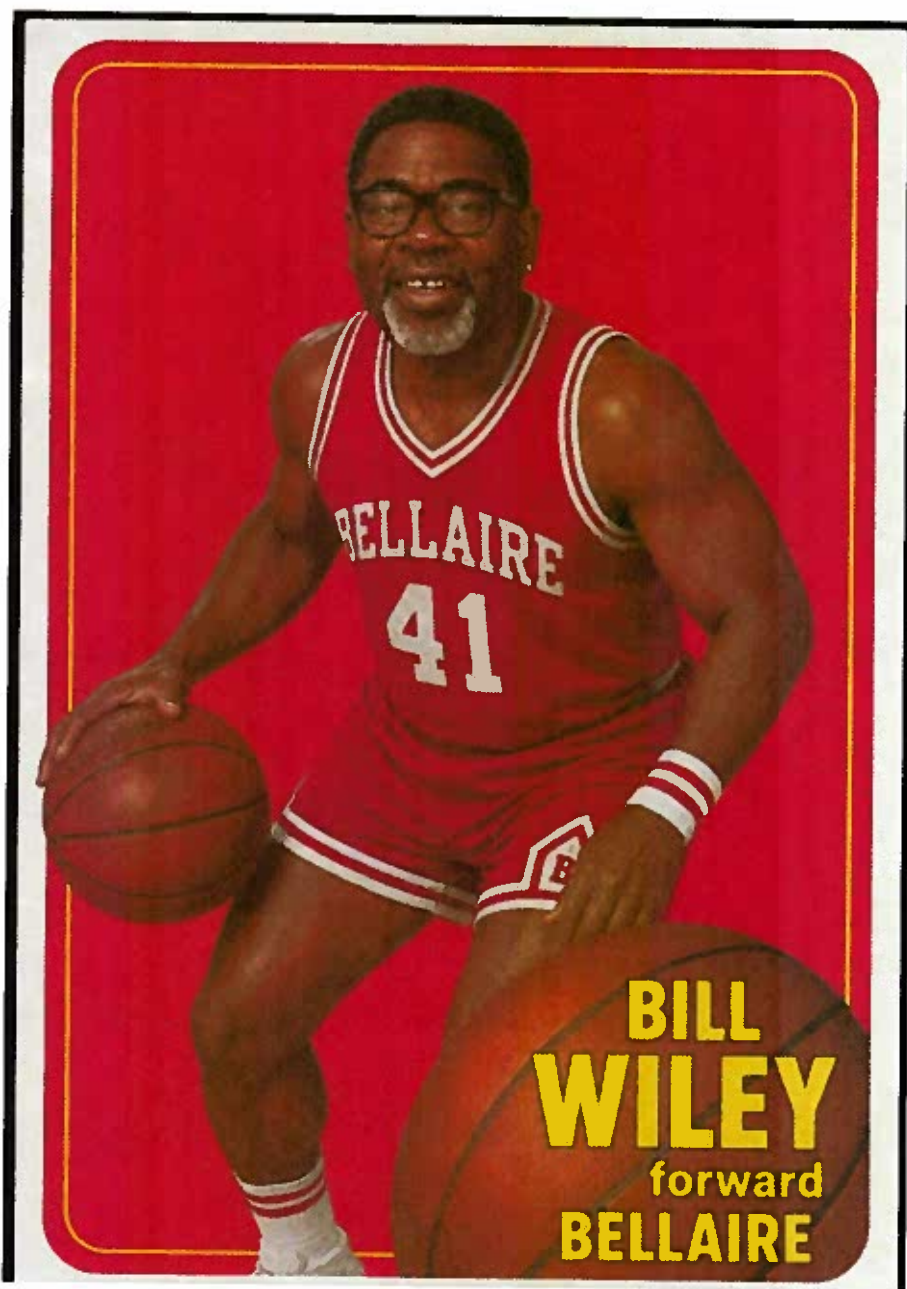
ALL
ROOMS
BETTER BE
DARK.

SAFE!
NOW FOR A NIGHT
STILL REMEMBER

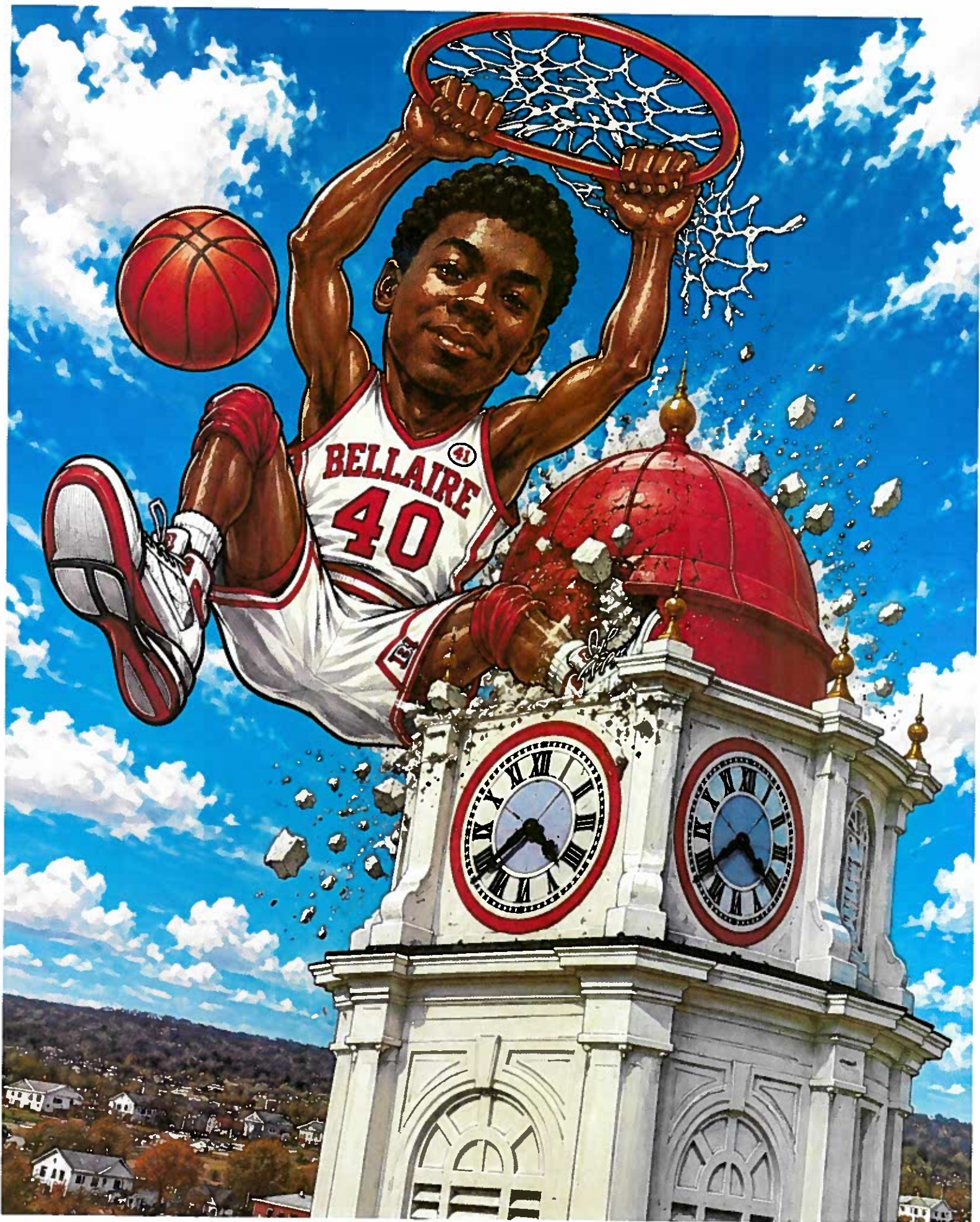
DANCING
MUSIC.
NO CURFEW.
THAT'S HOW WE
DO IT '78.

LET'S GO,
BIG BRO.
TONIGHT'S
OUR NIGHT.

Wild
Cherry
DISCOTHEQUE
DANCING TONIGHT!



**BILL
WILEY**
forward
BELLAIRE



Bill Wiley

THE BOOM BOX LEGEND

6'3" OF TALENT, ENERGY, AND GOOD VIBES! HE ROCKS SWEET, HE CROON SENSITIVE AND HE BRINGS THE BEATS!

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

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

FRESHME Huddle...

ON THE BUS TO THE GAME...

ONE BAYTON UNDER A GROOVE!

TURN IT UP, WILEY!

IN THE LOCKER ROOM... BEFORE THE GAME!

ONE BUSTIN' LOOSE!

THAT'S OUR SONG!

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

BACK IN THE LOCKER ROOM...

PICTURE SOUNDING GOOD!

ONE BAYTON UNDER A GROOVE!

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

ANOTHER BIG BEATS!

AFTER THE GAME...

ONE BUSTIN' LOOSE!

LET'S GET BIG BEATS!

Bill Wiley

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

BDub, DJ of the Mothership

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

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

AGES 14+

LEGENDS
★ SERIES ★

BILL WILEY

★ BASKETBALL LEGEND ★



★ THE LEGEND ★

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

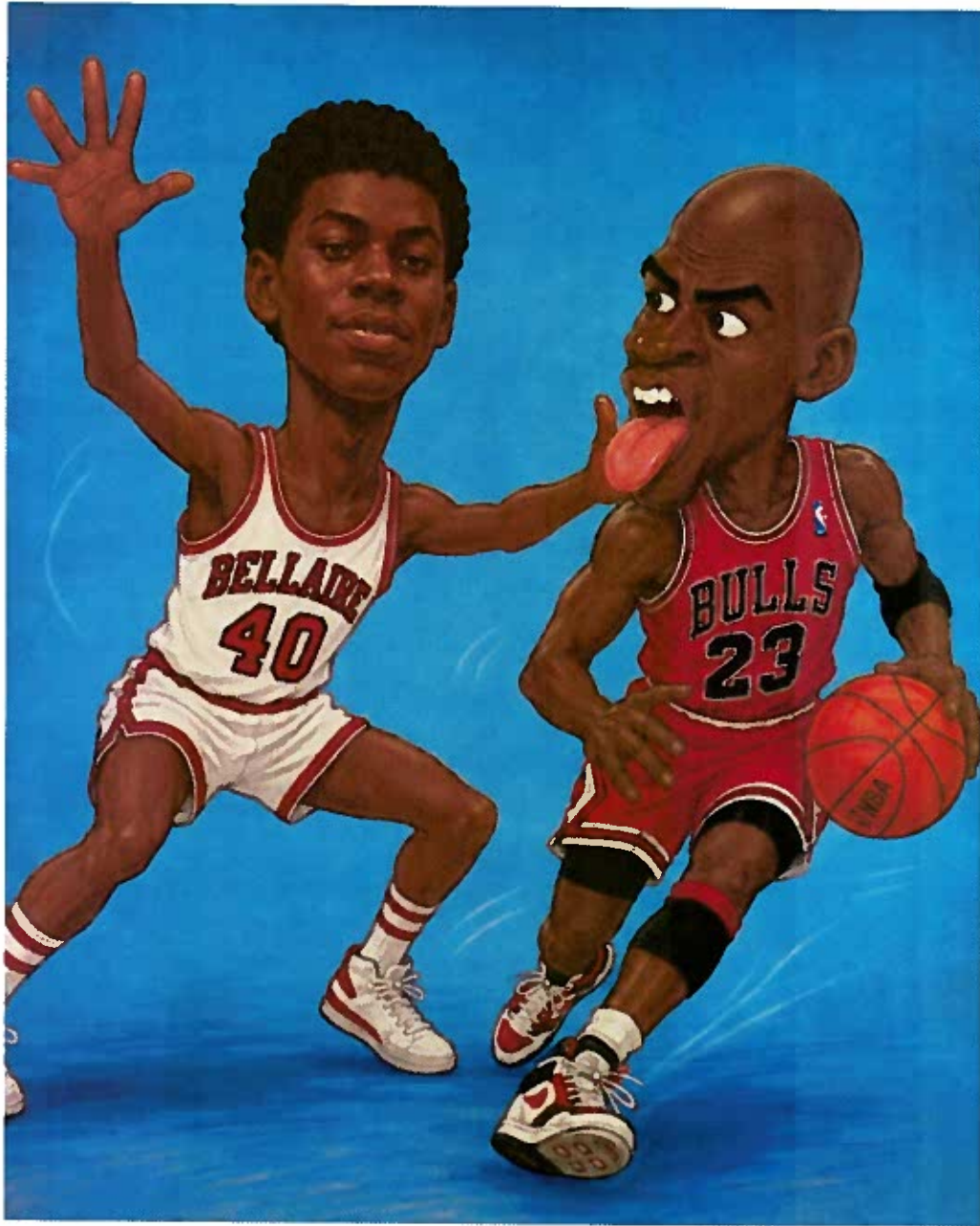


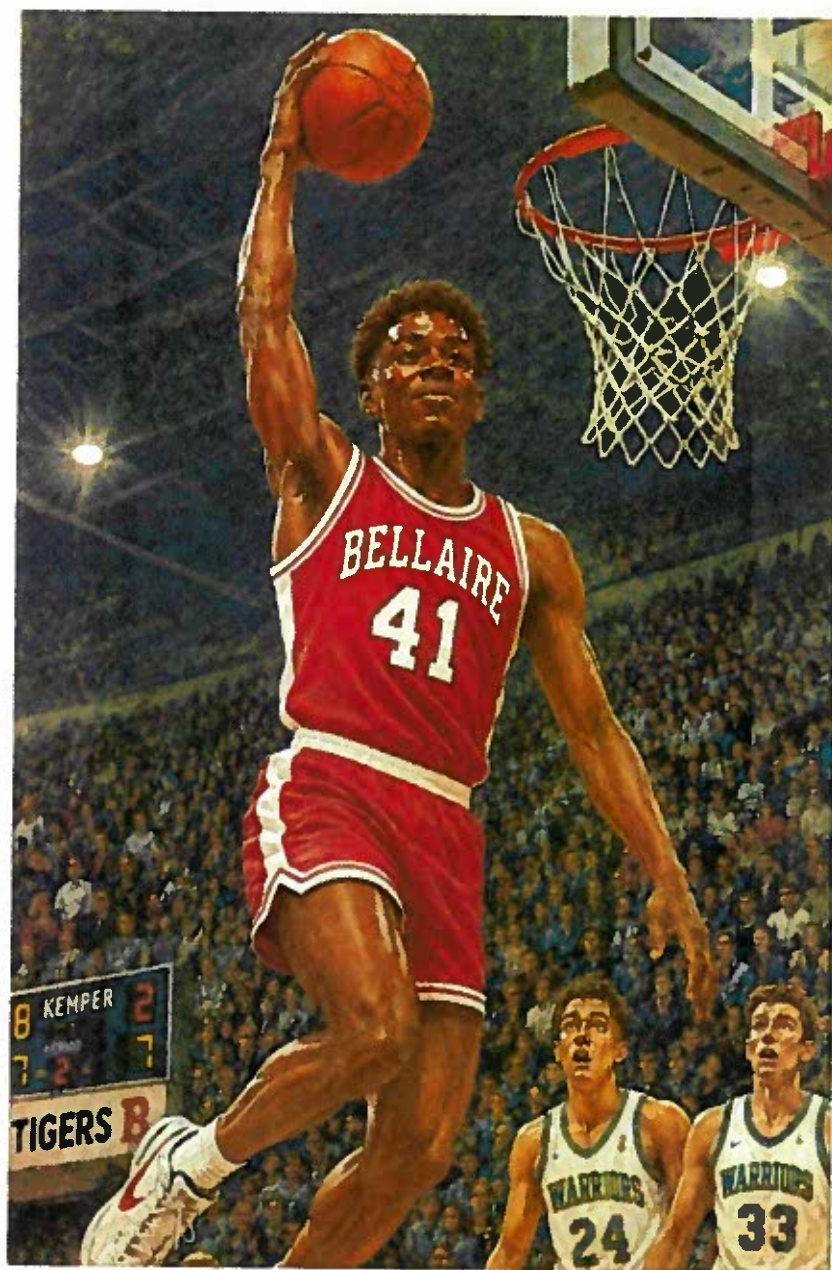
BILL WILEY

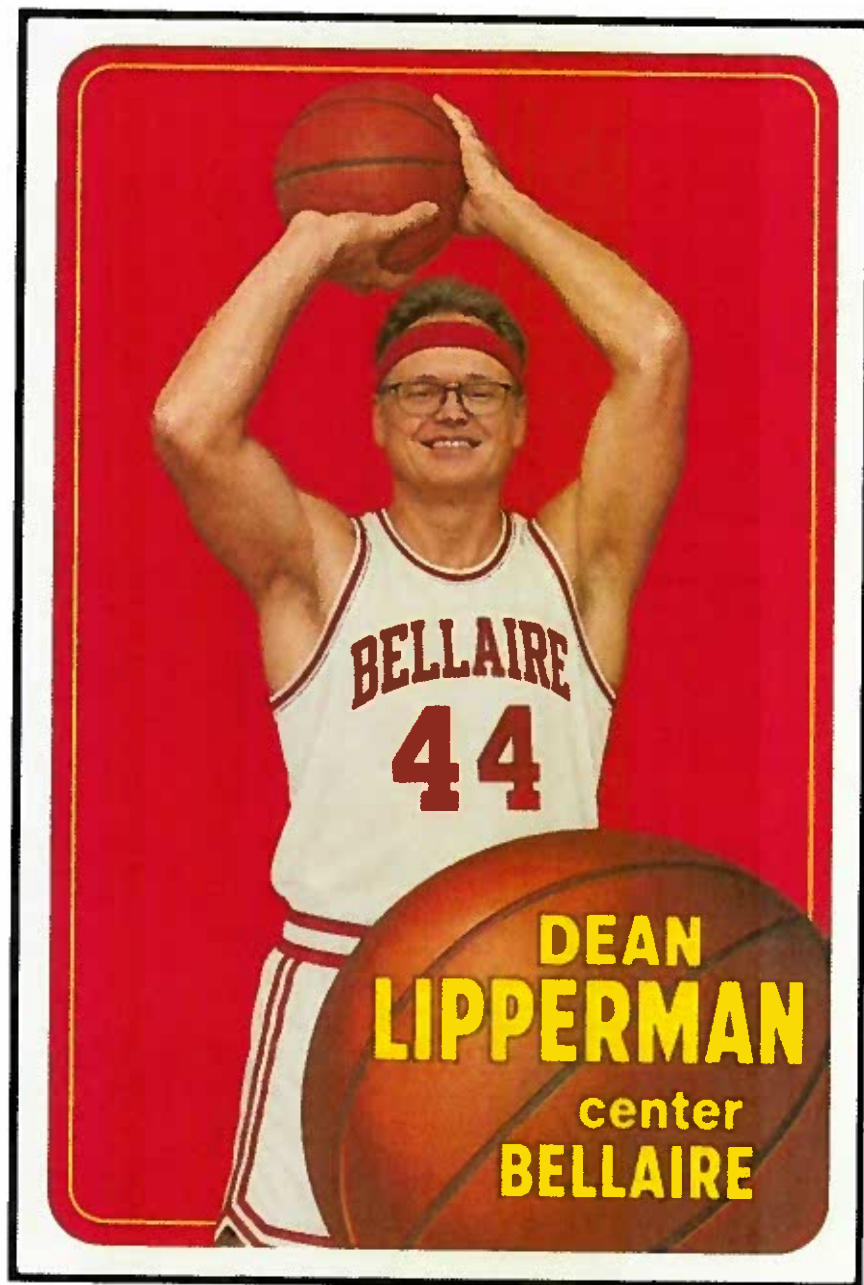
★ BASKETBALL LEGEND ★

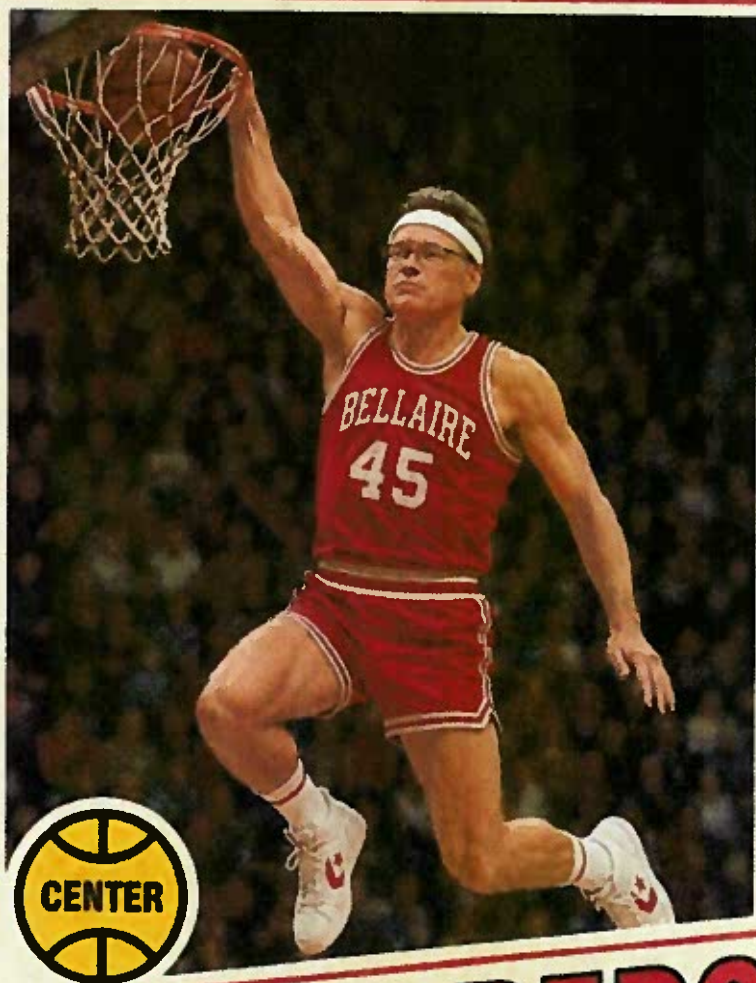












BELLAIRE **BIG REDS**
DEAN LIPPERMAN

DEAN LIPPERMAN

ACTION FIGURE

44

STAT CARD

POSITION
CENTER

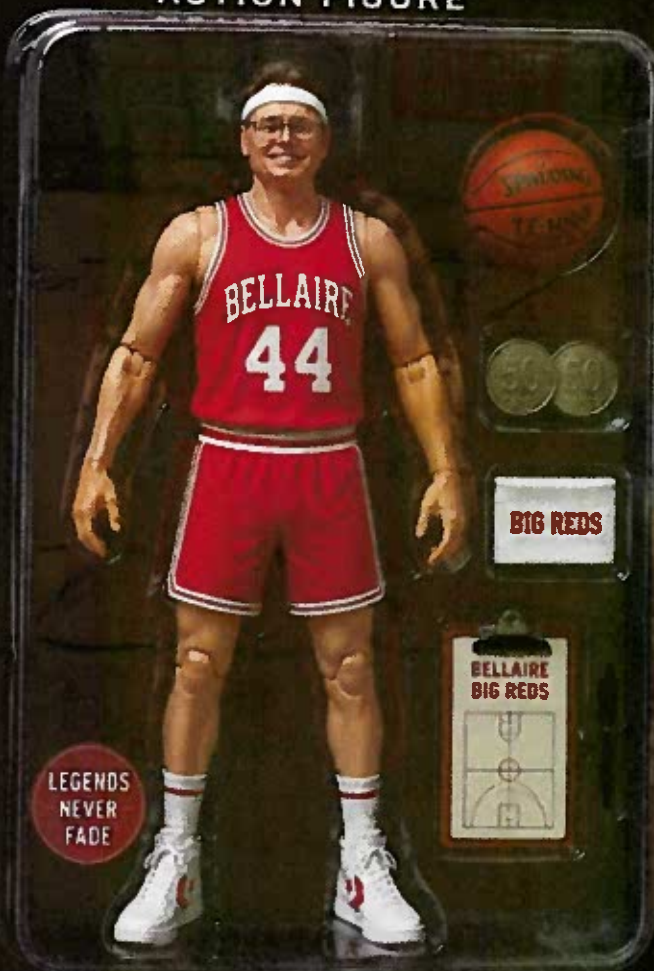
HEIGHT
6'7"

WEIGHT
215 LBS

HOMETOWN
**BELLAIRE,
OH**



**BELLAIRE
BIG REDS**



LEGENDS
NEVER
FADE

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 ★

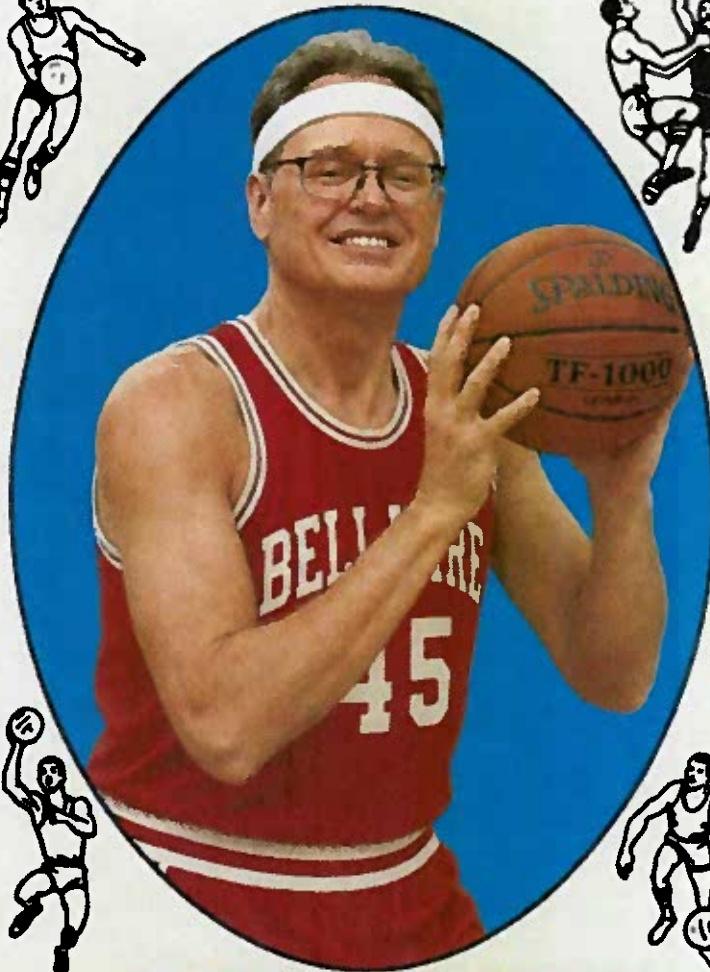
Bellaire, Ohio

Big Reds Center



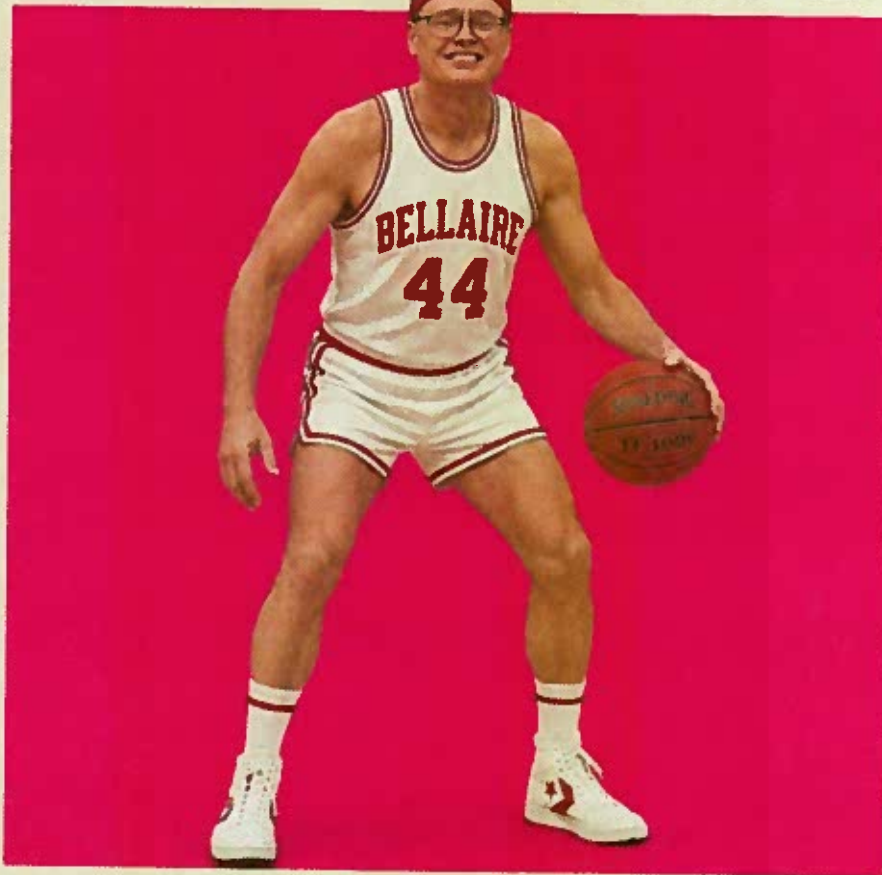
DEAN LIPPERMAN

center



BELLAIRE

BELLAIRE



DEAN LIPPERMAN

BIG REDS' CENTER



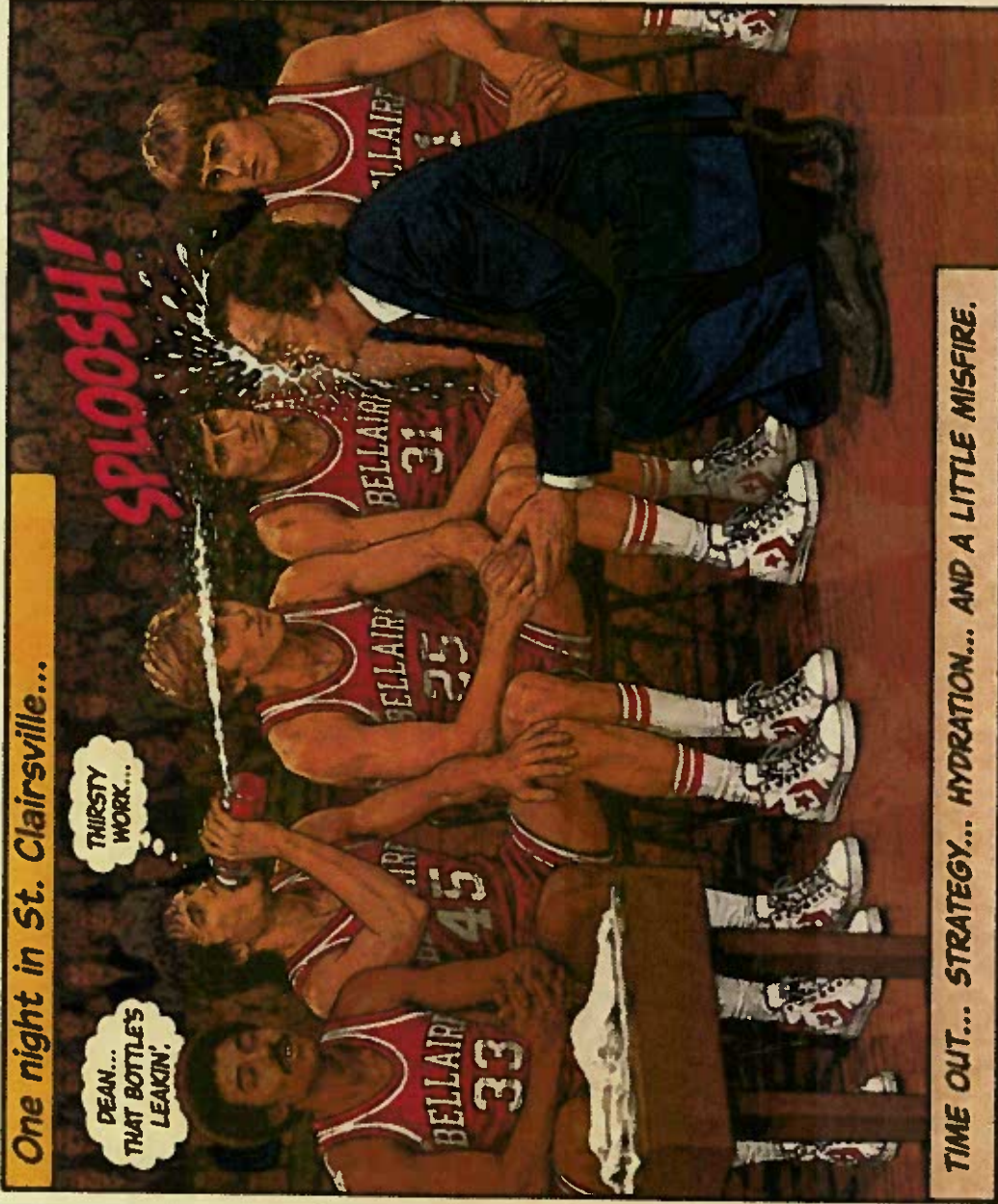
One night in St. Clairsville...

DEAN...
THAT BOTTLE'S
LEAKIN'!

THIRSTY
WORK....

SPLOOSH!

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

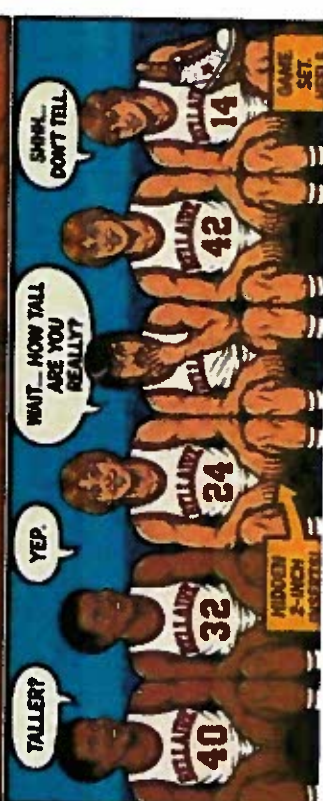
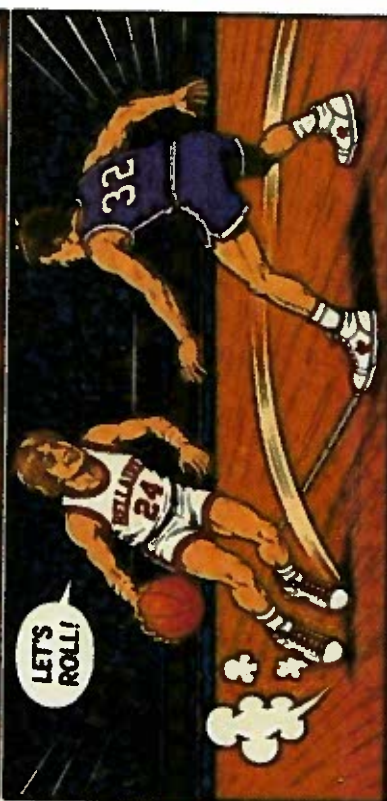


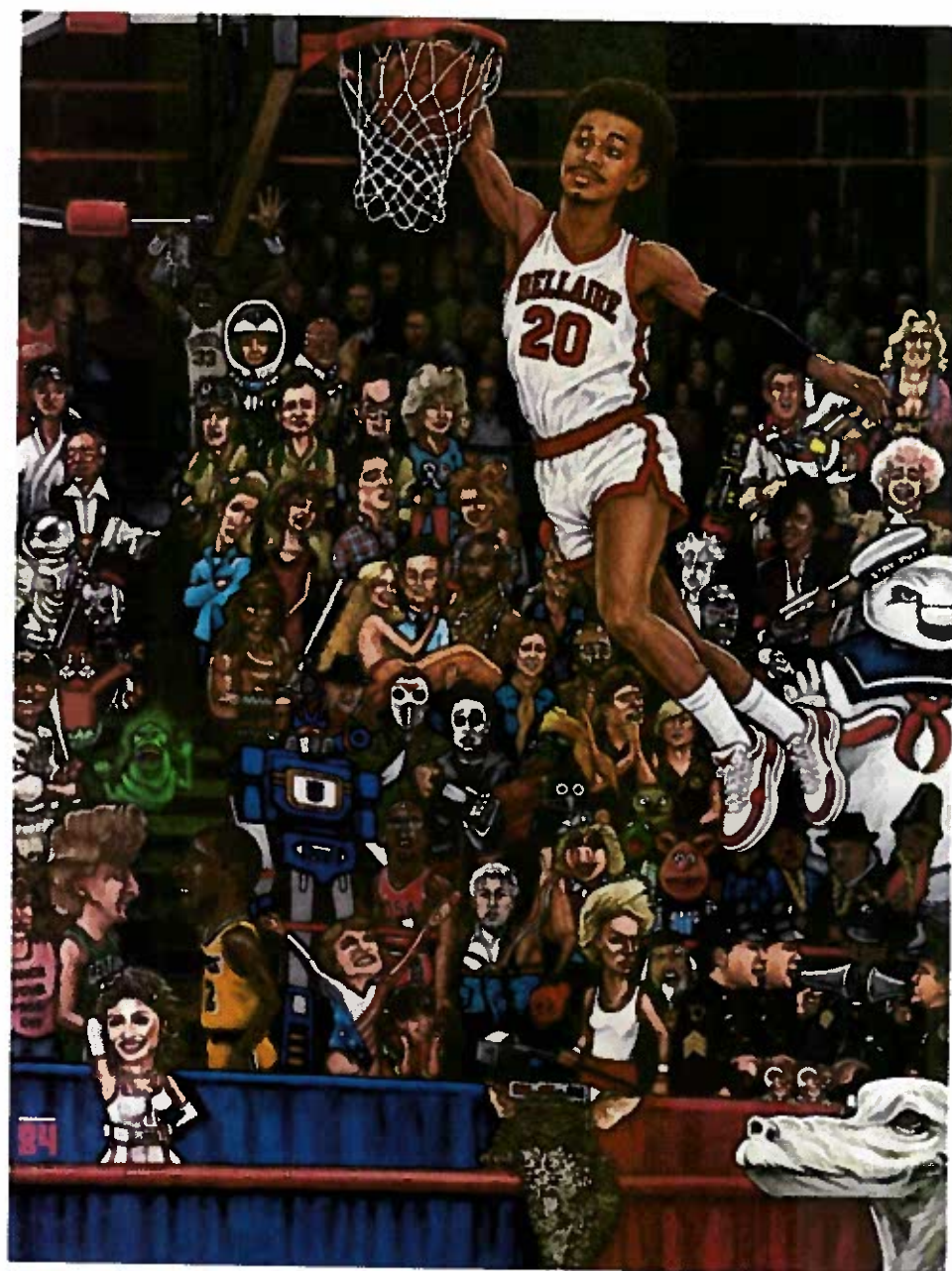












Basketball Digest

1976-2011
35 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

COACH GENE AMMIRANTE

469 CAREER
TOTAL WINS
AT BELLAIR 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

20:00
0 1 0
0 5 5 0

BELLAIRE **B** BIG REDS

BIG REDS
BELLAIRE
B
BIG REDS

B
BASKETBALL
SCOREBOOK

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 28 PERIOD 2 26

Home of the **BIG REDS**

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

1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s 2010s 2020s

BELLAIRE 30 BELLAIRE 32 BELLAIRE 45 BELLAIRE 23 BELLAIRE 11 BELLAIRE 3

SCOREBOOK
STATS
RECORDS
HISTORY

POSS

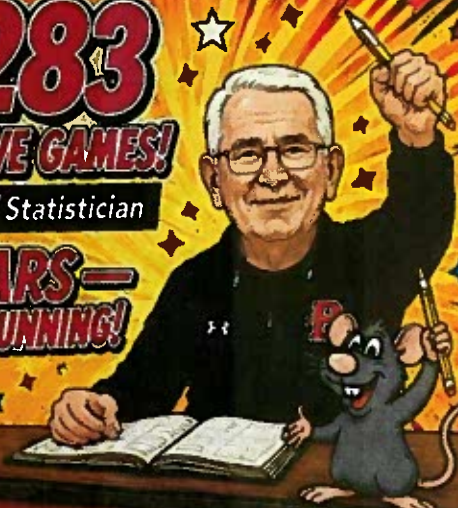
Home of the **BIG REDS**

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!

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

THANKS RAT!

Keep that pencil ready!

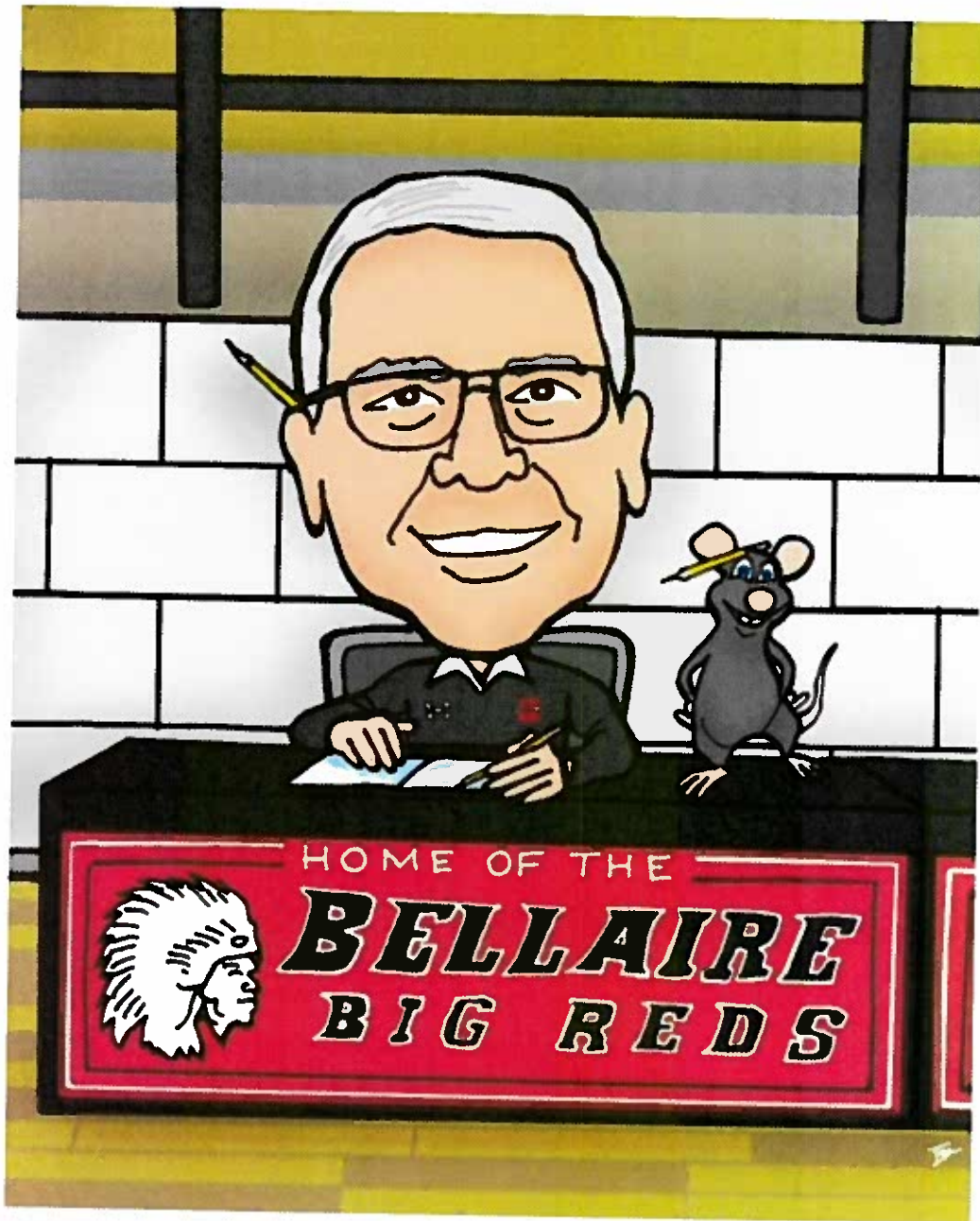
349
to go!

Home of the **BIG REDS**

B

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

B





COLLECTOR SERIES
1 OF 1000

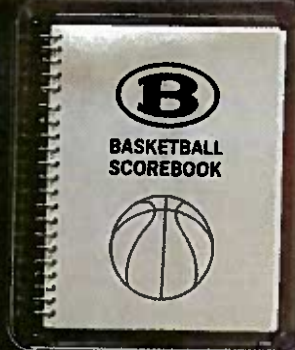
TOM RATAICZAK "RAT"

BELLAIRE BASKETBALL SCOREKEEPER



Home of the

BIG REDS



◀ POSS. ▶



HOME OF THE
BELLAIRE
BIG REDS

BELLAIRE
B
BASKETBALL

