

# TECMO® SUPER NBA® BASKETBALL™

## INSTRUCTION BOOKLET





Thank you for choosing the fun-filled TECMO Super NBA BASKETBALL game pak by TECMO,LTD.

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# Table of Contents

	Page
1. Tecmo Super NBA Basketball	4
*Convenient Power-off Memory Function	4
2. Operation of the controls	5
*Making menu and data choices	5
*Window controls	5
3. Tecmo Super NBA Basketball — Three Game Modes	6
#1 Preseason Game	6
#2 Regular Season Game	7
#3 All Star Game	8
*Team Data	8
*Team Data Screen	9
*All Star Game	13
*Team Control	14
*Regular Season Game	15
*Reset Schedule Command	19
*Type of Schedule	20
4. Game Start	22
*List of Control Techniques	23
*Tip-off	24
*Controlling the Offense	24
*Controlling the Defense	28
*Game Composition	28
5. Getting to the NBA Finals	29
Technique Section	29
Strategy Section	30
Team Introductions	31



# 1. TECMO SUPER NBA BASKETBALL

Tecmo Super NBA Basketball is a basketball game that simulates the games of the National Basketball Association. Players can enjoy the entire NBA season, starting from the preseason games and continuing to the NBA Finals. All 27 official NBA teams are included in this game. Each team is made up of the actual 12 players of each NBA team. Each player is based upon data which was taken from the 1991-1992 NBA Basketball season. We hope that you enjoy the fast paced action and excitement of this basketball game to your heart's content.

THE PLAYERS AND STATISTICS IN TECMO SUPER NBA BASKETBALL HAVE BEEN PICKED FROM ACTUAL NBA ROSTERS. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO PROGRAMMING AND OTHER LIMITATIONS, WE COULD NOT INCLUDE ALL PLAYERS FROM ALL TEAMS. WE HAVE ENDEAVORED, HOWEVER, TO CREATE THE MOST AUTHENTIC BASKETBALL GAME POSSIBLE. IF PER CHANCE WE HAVE MISSED ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PLAYERS, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY.

## • **Convenient Power-off Memory Function**

This game pak is equipped with a back-up battery to save the results of games which have been played during the **regular season**.

To protect the data which is saved by the battery, never turn the power switch on and off rapidly.

Doing this may cause data or scores that has been saved by the back-up battery to be changed or lost.

(To reset the Memory—see page 19)

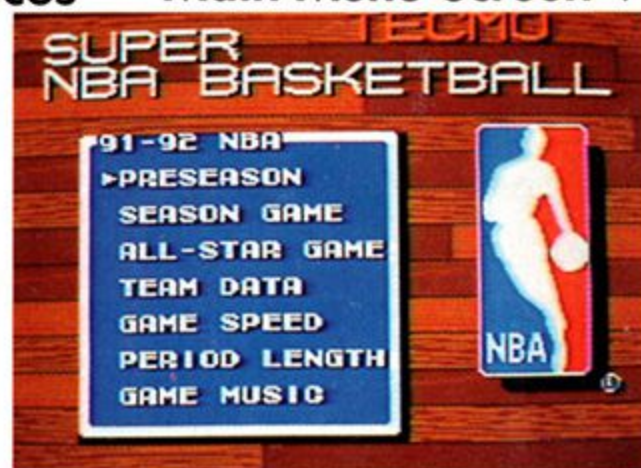
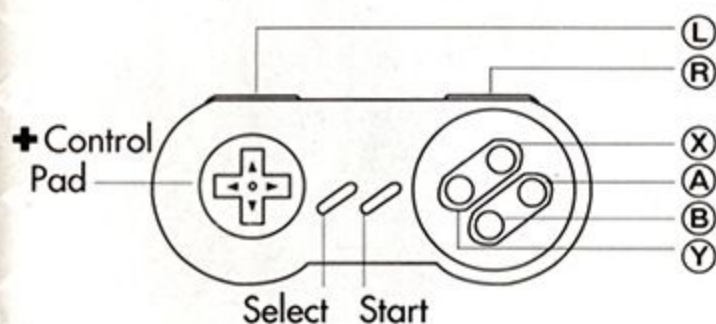


## 2. Operation of the Controls

Pressing any button during the demo screens will cause the title screen to appear. Press the **start** button for the Main Menu screen. Move the **+** Control Pad up and down to make your choice among the main menu options: 1) Preseason Game, 2) Season Game, 3) All Star Game, 4) Team Data, 5) Game Speed, 6) Period Length, and 7) Game Music. For details concerning the menus, refer to the corresponding sections which follow.

### Making menu and data choices      Main Menu Screen ↓

#### Controller



#### Menu Controls

<b>+</b> Control Pad	Used to move the ► mark when choosing items.
<b>(A)</b> Button	Used to make your choices.
<b>(B)</b> Button	Used to cancel your choices.

#### Window Controls

Choosing items	<b>+</b> Control Pad
Entering a choice	<b>(A)</b> Button
Canceling a selection or returning to the previous screen	<b>(B)</b> Button
Looking at the player's data	<b>Start</b> Button
Calling a Play (during a game)	<b>Start</b> Button



# 3. Tecmo Super NBA Basketball

## 3 Game Modes

### #1—Preseason Game

To play a preseason game, begin by choosing **Preseason Game**, then choose the Division and Team from among the 27 NBA teams. (Data from preseason games is not saved by the backup memory)

If you choose **Preseason** from the menu, the Team Control Window will appear.

Team Control Window ↓

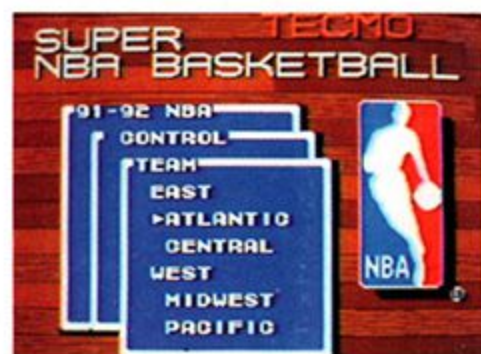
- \* Use this window to determine the play mode for your game (see Team Control for more Details--Page 14).



- \* Once you have selected your game mode, the Division screen will appear.
- \* Use this window to pick the division of the team.

Division Screen ↓

You may cancel your choice by pressing the (B) button.





\* Once you have selected the division, a team select screen will appear.

### Team Select Screen ↓

\* Use this window to pick a team within the division.

\* Repeat this process to choose the opposing team.

\* The game will begin after both teams have been selected.



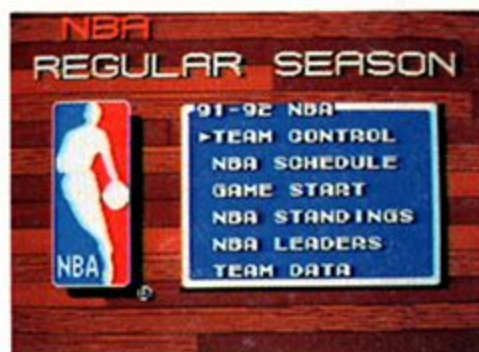
## #2—Regular Season Game

Each team will play the games listed in the schedule. You can choose to play a **Regular**, **Reduced**, **Short**, or **Programmed** Season when you reset the Season Schedule. The teams with the best season records will compete in the playoffs to decide which two teams will play in the NBA Finals. The NBA Finals decides which team is the Season Champion. Records for each team and player is kept in the memory of the cartridge throughout the entire season.

### Regular Season Window ↓

Choose **Season Game** from the Main Menu. The **Regular Season** window will appear.

Check the **Schedule** and set the **Team Control** before using **Game Start** to begin your season. (See the Regular Season Game section for details - page 15)





### #3 — All Star Game

The All Star game is the match-up between the best players of the **East** and **West** Conferences. The starting line-ups of the all-star teams can be changed by using **Team Data**.

Choose **All Star Game** from the Main Menu and the Team Control Window will appear. After setting the game mode, choose either Eastern or Western Conference to begin the game.

#### Team Control Window ↓



#### Team Data

When you want to look up a team or players data, or to change the line-up, choose the team from the list and press the **A** button. Data for the team you have chosen will appear on the screen.

#### A Team List Screen ↓





## Team Data Screen



① Select **Players Data** to look at statistics and abilities for an individual player.

Use the **+** Control Pad to select **Player Data** and press the **(A)** button. The **►** mark will be displayed in the roster column. Use the **+** Control Pad to select a player then press the **(A)** button to see the players abilities, condition and statistics data.

\*Looking at the Players Data





**a) A player can have five different Conditions.**

Excellent: Best physical condition.

Good: Still in good shape, but slowing down.

Average: Average condition, needs to rest on the bench.

Poor: Poor condition, getting very tired and slow.

Bad: Bad condition, too tired to play or shoot well.

Injured: Out with an injury.

**b) Record**

FG%: Field Goal Percentage.

FT%: Free Throw Percentage.

3PT%: Three Point Percentage.

STL: Steals

BLK: Blocks

REB: Rebounds

PTS: Points Scored.

**c) Ability**

This area displays the abilities of the various players.

**Ability indicators for all players.**

Running Speed: How fast a player can run.

Jumping: The height a player can jump.

Stealing: How well a player can steal.

Blocking: The player's ability to block shots.

Shooting Range: How well a player can shoot baskets.

Stamina: How long a player can play before tiring.

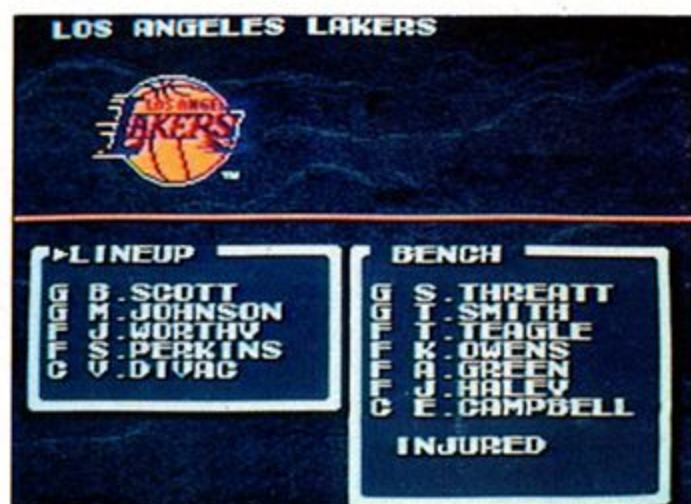


## ② Line-up

Use the **+** Control Pad to select **Line-up** then press the **(A)** button to make changes or to check the starting line-up.

Line Up ↓

Use the **+** Control Pad and **(A)** button to move the players from the **bench** to the **Lineup** column and vice versa. See the section on making substitutions for more details (page 27)



### \* Reset

Move the **▶** mark to **Lineup**, press the **(A)** button and the **Starter** window will appear. Choose **Yes** to return to the original starting line-up.

\*You can check a player's data by choosing the player's name then press the **Start** button.

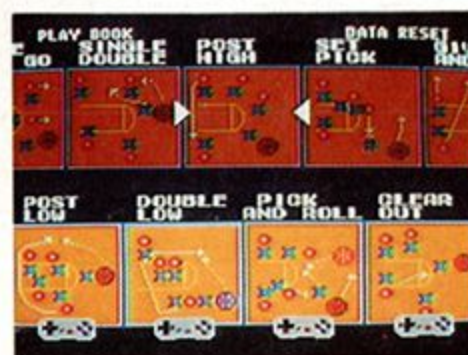


### ③ Offensive Play Book

Use the **+** Control Pad to select **Playbook**, then press the **(A)** button. You can look at, or make substitutions to the four plays in the Playbook. During the game, you are able to call one of the four plays from your Play Book. This command lets you choose which plays are loaded into the offensive play book.



Changes are made to the position of the play book which is flashing. Use the **+** Control Pad to choose the play pattern you do not want to keep then press the **(A)** button.



Substitute plays will appear in the play display area when changing from one play to another. Move the **+** Control Pad to the right or left to choose the play pattern that you want to use in that position of the Play Book.



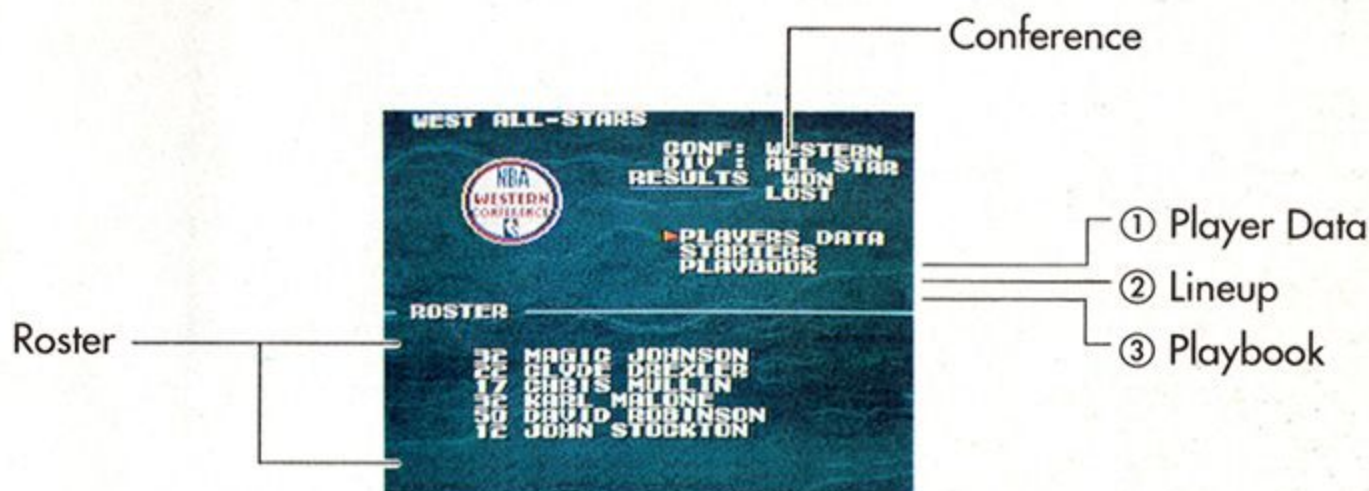
Position the play pattern you want at the center of the screen. Then press the **(A)** button to place the play in your Play Book.

\*Choose **Data Reset** to return to the original play settings.

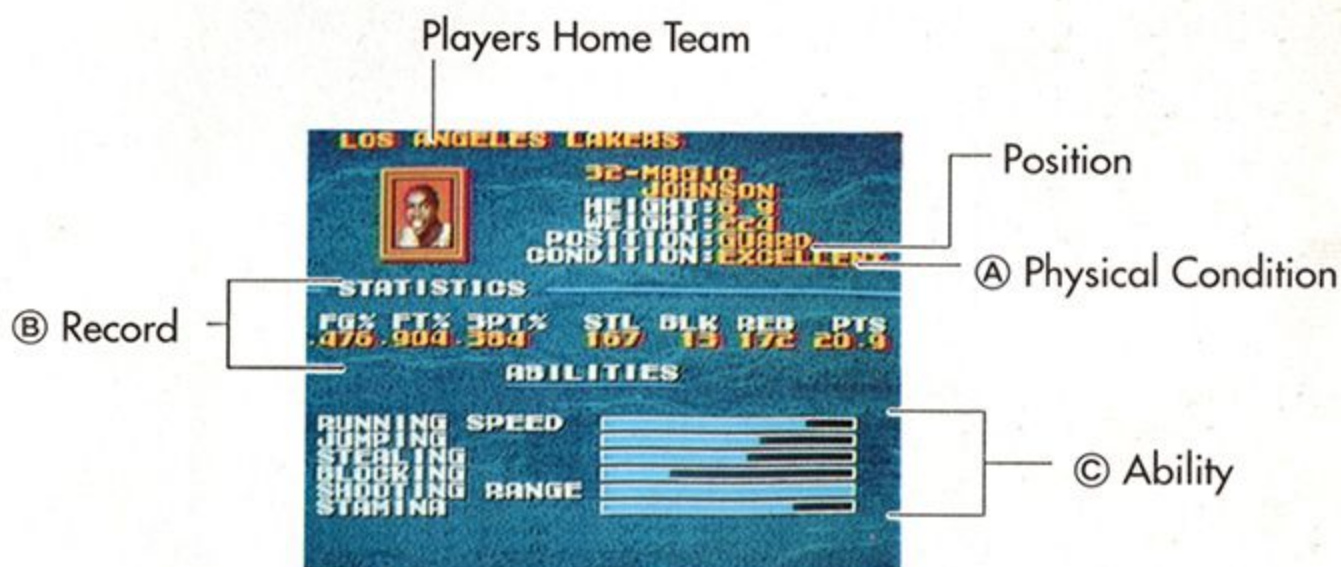


## All Star Game

When you choose an All-Star Team from the Team List screen and then press the **(A)** button, the All-star Team data screen will appear. This screen operates the same as the **Team Data** screen described on page 8.



## All Star Players



\*Even injured players can play in the All Star games.

Choose a substitute

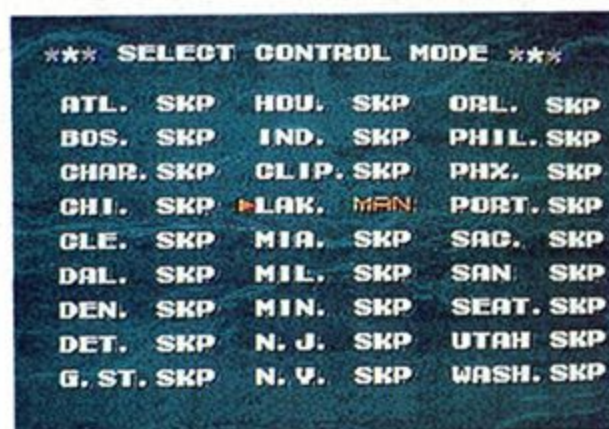
Move the **+** Control Pad up or down to choose a player, then press the **(A)** button to set your selection.



## Team Control

\* Use the following modes to control your teams.

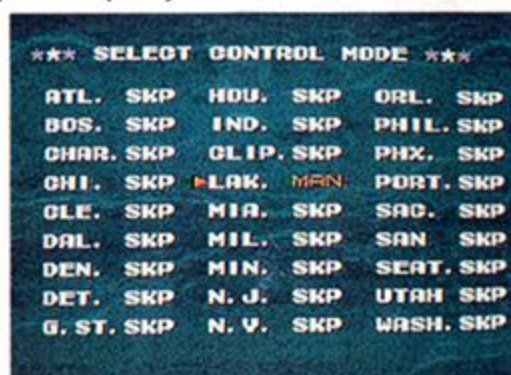
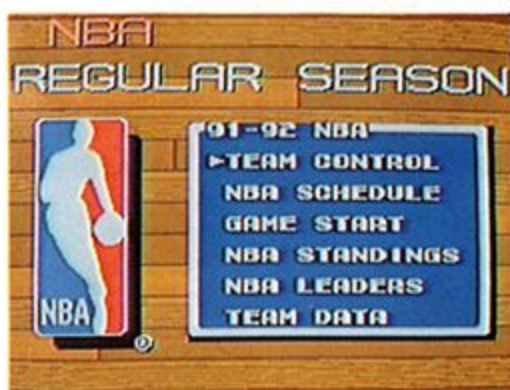
- ① MAN: Used to control an individual team (Manual Player).
- ② COA: Used to enjoy the experience of being the head coach. Use this mode to select the plays, call time outs, and for making substitutions to the line-up. During the game the players will automatically move according to the coach's instructions. (Coach Player).
- ③ COM: Used to leave all the controls to the computer (Computer player).
- ④ SKP: Used to skip past computer controlled games.



\* In a regular season game, move the "►" mark to your team's name and press the (A) button to change your team's control mode.

Pressing the (A) button will switch the control from SKP, COM, MAN, to COA. Press the (B) button when you have completed your settings.

- MAN vs COM/SKP One player game.  
Controller 1 PLAYER against the COMPUTER.
- MAN vs MAN Two player game.  
Controller 1 PLAYER against Controller 2 PLAYER.
- MAN vs COA Two player game.  
Controller 1 PLAYER against Controller 2 COACH.
- COA vs COM/SKP One player game.  
Controller 1 COACH against COMPUTER.
- COA vs COA Two player game.  
Controller 1 COACH against Controller 2 COACH.
- COM vs COM/SKP COMPUTER against COMPUTER.  
Computer plays both teams!
- SKP vs SKP COMPUTER against COMPUTER.  
**Game is skipped.** Computer plays both teams!



## Regular Season Game



- ① TEAM CONTROL
- ② NBA SCHEDULE
- ③ GAME START
- ④ NBA STANDINGS
- ⑤ NBA LEADERS
- ⑥ TEAM DATA



- ① Team Control: Use this option to choose the "play mode" for games between the various teams (SKP-COM-MAN-COA) (see the Team Control page for details--Page 14).
- ② NBA Schedule: Use this mode to see the schedule of games. You can see a few games before and a few games after the "next game" to be played in the season. Three **Stars** indicate the next game to be played.

Note: Games are listed in different colors (For more details see page 21).

- \* You can also use this mode to check the play-off schedule. Press the (A) button during the schedule screen to get the schedule window. (Use the (B) button to return to the schedule screen). Use the + Control Pad to choose **Play-Off**, press the (A) button, and the **Play Off Schedule** screen will be displayed.

### ↓ Schedule Window



Move the + Control Pad to the right or left to see the entire play-off schedule.  
(See page 19 for details concerning the reset command.)

### ↓ Play-off Schedule



◀ Slide to the Right or Left ▶



③ Game Start: Select this option, and press the **(A)** button to start the next game in the regular season schedule. The final results of the season games are recorded in the cartridge memory.

Note: Data from Preseason and All-Star games is not saved in the cartridge memory.

④ NBA Standings: The win/loss record for each team is displayed according to the teams conference.

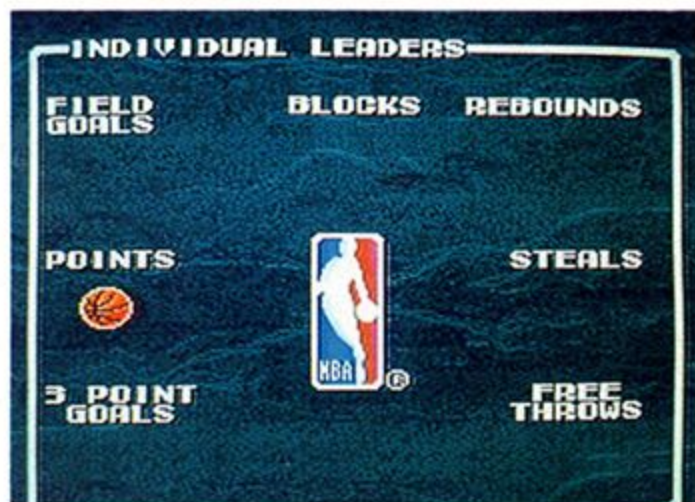
Won - Number of games won.

Lost - Number of games lost.

PCT - Winning percentage.

GB - Number of Games behind.

⑤ NBA Leaders: Use this mode to see the rankings of the top ten players in each category. Choose the category and press the **(A)** button to review this data.



Viewing items: Use the **+** Control Pad to select which item to view. Press the **(A)** button to view your selection.

To see the teams ranked below 7th place.

Press the **+** Control Pad Downward

To return to the higher rankings

Press the **+** Control Pad upward



# Looking at the NBA LEADERS categories:

## \*Field Goal Percentages

FGA: Field Goal Attempts  
FGM: Field Goals Made  
PCT: Field Goal Percentages

## \*Points

FGM: Field Goals Made  
FTM: Free Throws Made  
G: Games Played  
PTS: Points Scored  
AVG: Average Points Per Game

## \*3 Point Field Goal Percentage

FGA: 3 Point Field Goal Attempts  
FGM: 3 Point Field Goals Made  
PCT: 3 Point Field Goal Percentage

## \*Blocked Shots

G: Games Played  
BLK: Total number of Blocked Shots  
AVG: Blocked Shots Average

## \*Rebounds

G: Games Played  
REB: Total number of Rebounds  
AVG: Average Rebounds Per Game

## \*Steals

G: Games Played  
STL: Total number of Steals  
AVG: Average Steals Per Game

## \*Free Throw percentages

FTA: Free Throw Attempts  
FTM: Free Throws Made  
PCT: Free Throw Percentage

## ⑥ Team Data

Use this option to see Team Data and Player Data. (See the Team Data page for more details--page 8).

## Reset Schedule Command

To Reset the regular season schedule, Press the (A) button during the display of the **NBA Schedule**. A window will appear which contains **Reset**. Use the + Control Pad to select **Reset** and press the (A) button. If you do not want to reset the memory in your cartridge, press the (B) button. Another box will appear. If you select **Yes** and press the (A) button, all of the information that was saved in the game pak memory will be erased.

### ↓ Reset Window



### ↓ Question Window



When you have played all of the **regular season** games, selecting **schedule** will display the playoff schedule instead of the regular schedule. To get the option window, press the (B) button when the playoff screen is displayed.



# Type of Schedule

After you have reset your schedule, the **Season** window will appear.

Use the **+** Control Pad to select the type of schedule you wish to use and press the **(A)** button.

The **Regular**, **Reduced**, **Short**, and **Programmed** season setting determines the number of games that are played in the regular season and in the playoffs.

↓ **Type of Schedule**



Games played for each type of schedule	Regular Season	1st Round (Best of)	2nd Round (Best of)	Conference Finals (Best of)	NBA Finals (Best of)
REGULAR Schedule and PROGRAMMED	82	5	7	7	7
REDUCED Schedule	41	3	3	3	5
SHORT Schedule	26	1	1	1	3

- \* Whenever the cartridge memory is reset, other items saved in the game pak memory are reset including the Team Control settings which are reset to SKP. Be sure to set your favorite team to MAN or COA before you select **Start Game**.

## Programmed Season

The **Programmed** season allows you to input a win/loss record for one or more teams. When you select Programmed from the season window, an **NBA STANDINGS** display appears. Use the + Control Pad and move the ► indicator to the column of win or loss that you wish to enter.

Use the (A) button to increase the number.

Use the (B) button to decrease the number.

You may enter any win/loss record for any team, however the total of wins and losses can not exceed 82 games per team. If an attempt is made to input more than 82 games for one team, the win/loss columns are automatically adjusted to prevent it.

After entering the desired win/loss records, press the **Start** Button to return to the **NBA Schedule** display.

### \* Colors of games listed in the Schedule.

In the **NBA Schedule** a game may be listed using 'three' different colors.

**WHITE:** Games which are actually played. All games which are set to a COM, MAN or COA settings appear in white.

**PINK:** Games which will be skipped (automatically played by the computer).

**GRAY:** Games which have already been played, or games which are not scheduled to be played are displayed in grey.

Note: If the **Reduced** or **Short** season is selected, games from the Regular Season which are not played appear in grey.

Note: If the **Programmed** season is selected, any game which are eliminated, due to the settings of the win/loss records, appears in grey.



## 4. GAME START

### It's time to start the action!

When you select **Game Start**, the next game appearing in the schedule will begin. The **next game** in the schedule is indicated by three **stars** next to the game.

### Control Mode Settings

SKP-vs-SKP.

The computer will play the entire game, and only the final results of the game is displayed.

COM-vs-COM, COM-vs-SKP & SKP-vs-COM

The computer will play the entire game on the screen.

MAN-vs-COM & MAN-SKP.

This is a one player **manually controlled** game against the computer.

COA-vs-COM & COA-vs-SKP.

This is a one player **coach mode** game against the computer.

MAN-vs-COA, COA-vs-MAN.

This is a two player game. One of the teams is **manually controlled** and the other is a **coach mode** player.

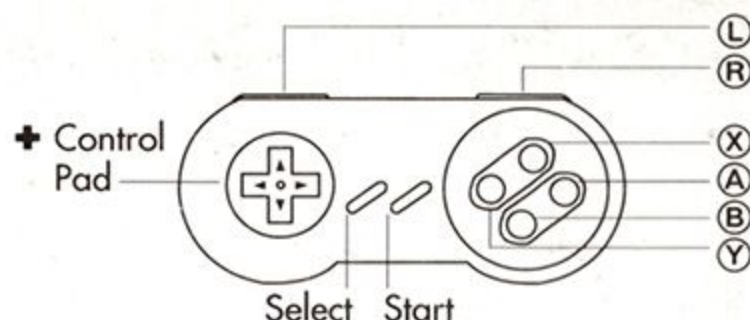
MAN-vs-MAN

This is a two player game (each manually controlled).

After you have checked the schedule, and set your Team Control, you are ready to begin a game.

Note: After you have selected **Game Start**, and before the game actually begins, you can return to **Regular Season** menu by pressing the Ⓑ button.

# Controller



## List of Control Techniques

### Offense

Select the pass receiver.	Use the + Control Pad to select the player you wish to indicate as the pass receiver.
Passing the ball.	Press and Hold the (A) button to stop your player, release the (A) button to pass the ball to the player identified by the pass indicator.
Making a basket.	Press the (B) button to start a shot sequence, release the (B) button at the top of the jump to take the shot.

### Defense

Blocks (stopping a shot)	Press the (B) button to start the jump, release the (B) button at the top of the jump to attempt a block.
Steals (standing or running)	Press the (Y) button (release is not used).
Control a different player	Use the + Control Pad to select the player you wish to indicate as the pass receiver. Press the (A) button to pass control to the player identified by the <i>pass indicator</i> .
Change control of the best computer choice player	Press the (X) button.
Intentional foul	Press either (L) or (R) button when you are close to the ball carrier.

### Pause Menu

When you want to call a time-out, make a substitution, or view players data, change the game speed or game music, or use the instant replay	<b>Select</b> Button.
Entering a choice	(A) button.
Cancelling a choice	(B) button.



## Play Selection

Calling a Play	+ Control Pad and <b>Start</b> button at the same time
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## Tip Off & Half Time

Tip off.	Ⓑ button to jump for the tip off.
Skip Half Time.	Ⓐ button

## List of Main Window Controls

Choosing items.	+ Control Pad
Entering your choices	Ⓐ button
Cancel selection and return to the previous screen.	Ⓑ button
Look at player data.	<b>Start</b> Button.
Choosing a control mode	Ⓐ button to change, Ⓑ button to exit screen.

## The Tip-Off

To jump for a Tip-off, press the Ⓑ button. The height of the players and the timing to the ball will determine which team gets the tip.

## Controlling the Offense

### \* Ball Carrier:

When using Controller 1, the ball carrier is identified by a numeral "1" indicator.

When using Controller 2, the ball carrier is identified by a numeral "2" indicator.

The **Jersey Number** and **Name** of the player you are controlling appears near the bottom of the screen.

## \* Ball Receiver

A **Pass Indicator** identifies the player that will receive the ball when you press the **(A)** button.

As you manipulate the **+** Control Pad the **Pass Indicator** will move to the player which is the closest in that direction.

The **Jersey Number** of the pass receiver also appears near the bottom of the screen when you press and hold the A button while passing the ball.

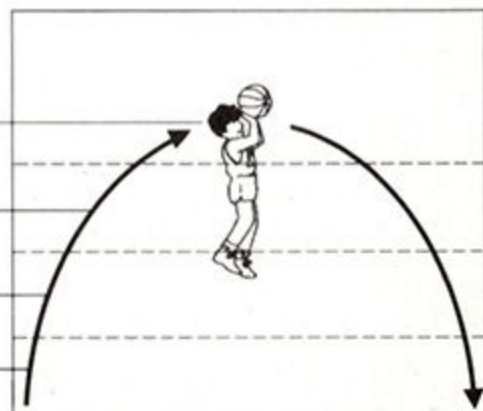
## \*Tip for making good shots and blocks.

Release **(B)** button  
here, for best results

Second Best

Third Best

Worst Results



Player "1" Indicator



Player "2" Indicator



Pass Indicator

**F** = Forward

**G** = Guard

**C** = Center

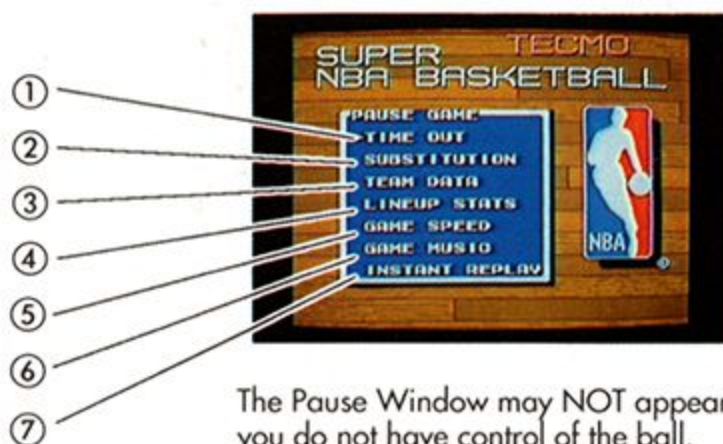
## Calling a Play

When you control the ball, you may call an Offensive Play by pressing the **Start** button. The position of the **+** Control Pad, at the time the Select button is pressed, will determine which Offensive Play is called. You may change the offensive play selection at any time. The offensive play remains in effect until either the play has been concluded, or you have departed from the play sequence.



## Pause Window

You can press the "Select" button to bring up the Pause Window.



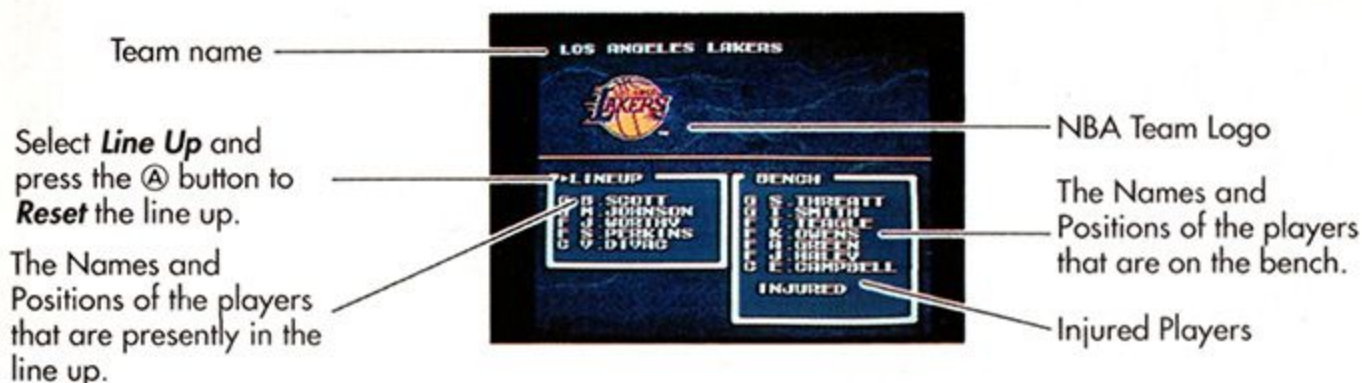
Use the + Control Pad to move the ► indicator, press the (A) button to make your selection.

To return to the game, press the (B) button.

The Pause Window may NOT appear if you do not have control of the ball.

- ① **Time Out** - Select this option to call a Time-Out, and stop the game clock. You can take 7 Full Time-Outs and also 2 "20 second" Time-Outs during each game.
- ② **Substitutions** - Select this option to make a player substitution (For more details, see page 27).
- ③ **Team Data** - Select this option to view Team Data, Player Data, Playbook, and the Starting Line-Up.
- ④ **Lineup Stats** - Use this option to quickly check the condition and statistics of the 5 players presently in your lineup.
- ⑤ **Game Speed** - Select this option to change the speed of the game.
- ⑥ **Game Music** - Select this option to turn the game music on or off during the game.
- ⑦ **Instant Replay** - Select this option to start an instant replay. The Instant Replay option will replay portions of the game which occurred just prior to starting the Instant Replay.

## \* Making Substitutions



An X mark appears beside the names of players which are on the bench due to fouling out. Fouled out players can not be placed in the line-up.

### \* To substitute a player

Using the + Control Pad, move the ► indicator to the name of the player you wish to remove from your line-up, and press the (A) button. The ► indicator will move to the players which are on the bench. Move the ► indicator to the player that you want to put in the line up and press the (A) button to make the substitution.

### \* When a player has to leave the game due to an injury.

Once a player has been injured, the game can not continue until a substitution is made for the injured player.



If your player gets injured, he won't be able to play in the game.



## Controlling the Defense.

### \* **Controlled Player.**

When using Controller 1, the defensive player you are controlling is indicated by the numeral "1" indicator.

When using Controller 2, the defensive player you are controlling is indicated by the numeral "2" indicator.

The **Jersey Number** and **Name** of the player you are controlling appears near the bottom of the screen.

### \* **Changing the controlled player.**

The **Pass Indicator** identifies the player that will be controlled if the (A) button is pressed.

As you manipulate the + Control Pad the **Pass Indicator** will move to the player which is the closest to you in that direction.

## Game Composition

Each game is made up of four play periods. There is a half time wrap up between the second and third periods. You can skip the half time wrap up by pressing the (A) button.

## 5. GETTING TO THE NBA FINALS

The road to the NBA Finals is long and demanding. You can not reach the NBA Finals without learning outstanding play techniques and strategies. Keep polishing your skills and use your best play strategy to achieve the victories you need to reach the NBA Finals.

### TECHNIQUE SECTION

#### Offensive Play

Use your knowledge of the NBA to improve your playing skills. When shooting for a basket, favor the players with the best shooting abilities and in good physical condition. Your ability to manipulate the controls has more effect with better players. It is easier to make critical shots when your player is open and without coverage. Learn the offensive plays, and use them to gain an advantage over your opponent. Learn to get the ball to your basket before your opponent can set up a defense (fastbreak). The closer you are to your basket, the better your chances of making the basket. Be careful which defensive players you go up against. Watch your players' conditions, and make substitutions to keep your line-up in top condition. Learn to call your time-outs when they will do the most good.

#### Defensive Play

Learn to call a defense to shut down your opponents playing style. Use your knowledge of the NBA and set the line-up to stack the odds in your favor. Learn to anticipate your opponents moves. Be a good coach, remember that a player in poor condition is worse on defense than on offense. Maneuver yourself into the best position for shutting down the play. When you choose to double team you opponent, keep track of the player that is left open, and be ready to change control to one of your team mates to defend against that player if the ball is passed. Try to place yourself between your opponent and the basket to stop the drive toward the basket. Change control to the defender that is in the best position. Convert quickly from offense to defense, don't waste valuable time after making, or missing a basket, make a quick conversion to defense and get set up to stop your opponents' advances.



## **STRATEGY SECTION**

Make the most of your team's talents. There are many different types of teams: teams that shoot well, teams that control the ball well, teams with strong offensive abilities, teams with strong defenses, etc. Discover the strengths of your team and make your play choices based on those strengths. Study your opponent to discover the strengths and weaknesses. During the game concentrate on shutting down your opponent's favorite plays and upsetting his game plan.

## **TECMO SPORTS NEWS**

At Half Time, the Tecmo Sports News screen will show a display of the statistics from the first half of the game. This is followed by a Half Time Show.

At the end of each game, the NBA Sports Wrap Up Screen will appear, followed by the Tecmo Sports News which shows a display of the statistics for the completed game. The Lineup Stats screen will then appear for each team. Press the **(A)** button to exit each screen.

# TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

## ATLANTA HAWKS

Central Division - East

The Hawks made some changes in the 1991-92 season and had to adjust due to new players and injuries. But Dominique Wilkins continued to be one of the league's top scorers, and Keven Willis developed into one of the league's top rebounders, ranking second in the NBA last season. The addition of defensive specialist Stacey Augmon and the gradual emergence of point guard Rumeal Robinson and other young players make this a team to watch in the future.

## BOSTON CELTICS

Atlantic Division - East

The Big Three of Robert Parish, Larry Bird and Kevin McHale may be on the way out, but there are still signs of hope in Boston. Reggie Lewis has played his way into superstar status, and with Dee Brown healthy once more, the Celtics have some young legs to balance the old, instilling some running into the Celtics half-court game. Ed Pinckney became a crowd favorite, ranking second on the team in rebounding, and once again the Celtics led the NBA in free throw percentage.

## CHARLOTTE HORNETS

Central Division - East

The Hornets came on strong at the end of the season under the direction of Coach Allan Bristow and the outstanding play of last year's top rookie, Larry Johnson. The leagues smallest player, Muggsy Bogues, is always a fan favorite and talented young guard Kendall Gill continued on his path to NBA stardom. With veteran Dell Curry at the point, Charlotte hopes to follow Miami's lead of the expansion teams into the Playoffs.



## **CHICAGO BULLS**

**Central Division - East**

The Bulls are a force at both ends of the court, excelling both offensively and defensively. Chicago was second in the league in field goal percentage and ranked second in assist-to-turnover ratio in 1991-92. With two of the league's best all-around players in Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant coming into his own at power forward, steady John Paxson in the back court and a bench quickly gaining experience, the Bulls are no longer a one-man team.

## **CLEVELAND CAVALIERS**

**Central Division - East**

After several disappointing years due to injuries, the Cavs have made the move into the upper echelon of NBA teams. Point guard Mark Price recovered completely from injury to regain All-Star form, while Brad Daugherty has taken his place among the NBA's top centers. Larry Nance ranked among the league's leaders in blocked shots, and Craig Ehlo and Hot Rod Williams help round out a deep, talented team. The Cavs also led the NBA in fewest turnovers and assist-to-turnover ratio and ranked second in free throw percentage.

## **DALLAS MAVERICKS**

**Midwest Division - West**

A rebuilding year for the Mavericks allowed the team to give its younger players significant playing time, a trend which may continue. Young players like Doug Smith, Mike Luzzolino, Donald Hodge and Randy White got the minutes they need to develop. The team is anchored by the veteran back court of Rolando Blackman and Derek Harper, still two of the league's top guards, and the healthy return of Fat Lever would complete a strong three-guard rotation. Forwards Herb Williams and Rodney McCray are solid up front.



## **DENVER NUGGETS**

## **Midwest Division - West**

With Dikembe Mutombo having a strong rookie year as a defensive force in the middle and the continued improvement of Mark Macon, Reggie Williams and Greg Anderson, the Nuggets have been making great strides. Williams led the team in scoring, while both Mutombo and Anderson ranked in double figures in scoring and rebounding. Denver ranked near the top of the league in forcing turnovers but needs to work on scoring more points in order to be competitive.

## **DETROIT PISTONS**

## **Central Division - East**

The Pistons may be aging, but the team can still get it done defensively. Detroit led the NBA in fewest points allowed last season and featured the league's top rebounder in Dennis Rodman. Some roster moves shook the team up in 1991-92, but with the back court of All-Stars Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars intact and a veteran core of Bill Laimbeer, Orlando Woolridge, Mark Aquirre, John Salley and Darrell Walker able to play, the Pistons are still a team that knows how to win and should be feared.

## **GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS**

## **Pacific Division - West**

The Warriors led the NBA in scoring last season, and with the league's highest scoring trio of Chris Mullin, Tim Hardaway and Sarunas Marciulionis on the court, you usually can count on a lot of points being scored. The Warriors also led the NBA in forcing turnovers and ranked second in shooting percentage. Golden State's problem in the past has been its lack of size, although 6-9 Billy Owens, acquired for his size and versatility, has helped in that area.



## **HOUSTON ROCKETS**

**Midwest Division - West**

The Rockets are led by Hakeem Olajuwon, one of the top three centers in the NBA. Olajuwon ranked second in the league in blocked shots and fifth in rebounding as well as leading Houston in scoring for the seventh straight season. Forward Otis Thorpe made his first All-Star appearance in 1992, averaging in double figures in both scoring and rebounding. Point guard Kenny Smith has played well since joining the Rockets, and the team has become a long-range threat with three-point specialist Vernon Maxwell.

## **INDIANA PACERS**

**Central Division - East**

The Pacers are a talented young team which has yet to reach its potential. Point guard Micheal Williams ranked second in the NBA in steals and eighth in assists, while Reggie Miller is one of the league's top shooters. Center Rik Smits at 7-4 is solid in the middle, and Indiana brings in the NBA's top Sixth Man, Detlef Schrempf, off the bench. Inconsistent but explosive scorer Chuck Person teams with Miller to make the Pacers one of the best three-point shooting teams in the NBA.

## **LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS**

**Pacific Division - West**

After many tears of frustration, the Clippers finally headed to the Playoffs in 1992 under Coach Larry Brown, who joined the team after the All-Star break. With the addition of veterans Doc Rivers and James Edwards to add stability and leadership and a core of talented players like Danny Manning and Ron Harper, who have both made amazing recoveries from anterior cruciate ligament surgery, the Clippers have come together to challenge their cross-town rivals for L.A. supremacy.



## **LOS ANGELES LAKERS**

### **Pacific Division - West**

The Lakers went through a year of turmoil and injury and now face an uncertain future. With a healthy roster, the team can still challenge the best with the likes of veteran performers James Worthy, Byron Scott, A.C. Green and talented young center Vlade Divac. And with the NBA's all time assist leader Magic Johnson running the shot, proven veteran ability may once again bring showtime and the fast break basketball that Hollywood loves back to the Great Western Forum.

## **MIAMI HEAT**

### **Atlantic Division - East**

The Heat became the first of the recent expansion teams to make the Playoffs in 1992 and now looks to improve upon that success. Center Rony Seikaly gives the team a strong inside game, while the Heat's fast-paced style takes advantage of young athletic players like talented shooter Glen Rice and versatile guard Steve Smith. With the addition of Brian Shaw for added depth in the back court, Miami seems to have made all the right moves to assure future success.

## **MILWAUKEE BUCKS**

### **Central Division - East**

Although the Bucks did not make the Playoffs in 1992, the team did lead the NBA in two statistical categories, three-point field goals (made, attempted and shooting percentage) and steals. With long-range shooters like Dale Ellis, Alvin Robertson, Jay Humphries and Brad Lohaus, Milwaukee is always a threat from outside, while Robertson and Humphries both rack up the steals. Veteran center Moses Malone is still effective, and with a little luck the team will soon get back on track.



## **MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES**

**Midwest Division - West**

The Timberwolves are led by explosive shooting guard Tony Campbell and point guard Pooh Richardson; both averaged more than 16 points per game last season. A trade in the middle of last season brought veteran forward Thurl Bailey into the fold, and his contributions should become more evident as he grows accustomed to the team. Guard Doug West also received significant playing time. The team has become more transition-oriented under Coach Jimmy Rodgers, but is still one of the lowest-scoring teams in the NBA.

## **NEW JERSEY NETS**

**Atlantic Division - East**

The Nets came on strong in 1991-92 to make a long-awaited return to the Playoffs. 1991's top rookie, forward Derrick Coleman, sharp-shooter Drazen Petrovic and point guard Mookie Blaylock all had their best seasons and helped the team make tremendous strides. New Jersey led the NBA in both blocked shots and rebounds, thanks to role players Chris Dudley and Terry Mills and starters Sam Bowie and Chris Morris. With guard Kenny Anderson in the wings, the Nets' future is looking bright.

## **NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS**

**Atlantic Division - East**

The Knicks assumed a new identity in 1991-92. Under first year coach Pat Riley, New York concentrated all season on defense, ranking second in the NBA in points allowed and first in defensive rebound and overall rebound efficiency. After making a statement against Chicago in the Playoffs, the Knicks, led by All-Star center Patrick Ewing and tough Charles Oakley and Xavier McDaniel in the front and a rejuvenated Mark Jackson at the point, may step into the Pistons' shoes as a strong, physical, defensive force.



## **ORLANDO MAGIC**

**Atlantic Division - East**

Injuries to key personnel like Dennis Scott and Nick Anderson hurt the Magic in the 1991-92 season, but hopes are high for the future. Scott is a dangerous outside shooter, while Anderson, an athletic shooting guard, seemed to be on the verge of stardom before missing a number of games at the end of the season. Forward Terry Catledge led the team in minutes played, and 1991 Draft choices Brian Williams and Stanley Roberts should continue to improve.

## **PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**

**Atlantic Division - East**

The Sixers had a disappointing season in 1991-92, despite the play of forward Charles Barkley, still one of the NBA's best forwards and the team's primary scoring threat. The Sixers' back court of Johnny Dawkins and Hersey Hawkins, when healthy, can match up with the best of them. If Philadelphia can find a center and if players like Armon Gilliam and Ron Anderson can play up to their potential, the Sixers can expect to remain competitive.

## **PHOENIX SUNS**

**Pacific Division - West**

The Suns feature Kevin Johnson and Jeff Hornacek in one of the league's most talented back courts. Johnson ranked second in the league in assists in 1991-92, while Hornacek led the team in scoring. Phoenix also features a top Sixth Man in Dan Majerle coming off the bench, the only reserve to make the 1992 All-Star team and a tough defensive player. Although Tom Chambers' productivity is down, the veteran forward still has the ability to score a lot of points on any given night.



## **PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS**

**Pacific Division - West**

One of the most athletic teams in the NBA, the Trail Blazers have been one of the league's top teams the past few years. Versatile Clyde Drexler is the NBA's second-best shooting guard, while back court mate Terry Porter may be one of the leagues most underrated point guards. With the athletic ability of Jerome Kersey and Cliff Robinson, the veteran leadership of Buck Williams and the ever dangerous Danny Ainge coming in to hit the three, Portland is the team to beat in the West.

## **SACRAMENTO KINGS**

**Pacific Division - West**

The Kings have struggled in the past, but with the core of talented young players, Sacramento may be on the way up. Mitch Richmond left Golden State but continued his Warrior-like scoring, leading the Kings in that category. Lionel Simmons ranked second on the team in scoring and led the Kings in rebounds and steals, while Spud Webb took over competently at the point. With significant contributions from Wayman Tisdale, Anthony Bonner and Duane Causwell, Sacramento seems likely to continue to improve this season.

## **SAN ANTONIO SPURS**

**Midwest Division - West**

The Spurs' success may depend on the league's top center, David Robinson. Robinson ranked in the NBA's top 10 in five categories and was the league's top defensive player last season. Injuries to Robinson and Willie Anderson took their toll, but a healthy team, strong contributions by Terry Cummings and Sean Elliot and steady play at the point by talented but inconsistent Rod Strickland should make the Spurs a top team in the west.



## **SEATTLE SUPERSONICS**

### **Pacific Division - West**

The SuperSonics, powerful, athletic and talented, had one of their best seasons in recent history in 1991-92. Forward Shawn Kemp can both score and rebound and is approaching superstar status. Eddie Johnson and Ricky Pierce are both proven scorers, and point guard Gary Payton has begun to live up to his advance billing. Nate McMillan, Derrick McKey and Michael Cage help make Seattle one of the league's deepest team, and the only question mark may be Benoit Benjamin at center.

## **UTAH JAZZ**

### **Midwest Division - West**

The duo of John Stockton and Karl Malone is one of the most feared combinations in the NBA and the heart of the Jazz. Stockton led the league in both assists and steals, while Malone ranked second in scoring behind Michael Jordan. Sharpshooter Jeff Malone scores over 20 points a game for Utah, while 7-4 center Mark Eaton fills up the middle. Since moving into the Delta Center, the Jazz have been almost unbeatable at home, losing only four games there for the best regular season record at home in 1991-92.

## **WASHINGTON BULLETS**

### **Atlantic Division - East**

The Bullets were decimated by injuries in the 1991-92 season, but the overachieving Washington team still played hard every night. Michael Adams ranked among the league leaders in three-pointers made and played in his first All-Star Game, while center Pervis Ellison averaged more than 20 points and 11 rebounds to win the NBA's most improved player award. Harvey Grant and Ledell Eackles also showed promise, and with the addition of Rex Chapman and the return of Bernard King and John Williams, the Bullets should show great improvement.



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Sequoia Commerce Center  
19260 S. Van Ness Avenue  
Torrance, CA 90501**

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