

NBA Round-up: Western Conference gains stamina, Rodman visits North Korea

Nathan McMahon
STAFF WRITER

Since the All-Star break, the talk of the league has been all about the Miami Heat and the MVP-like play by LeBron James, who together are simply dismantling opponents. They have taken down 13 straight opponents in a historical unbeaten streak. While LeBron leads the way, Dwayne Wade seems to have found his niche in this high powered offense with his numbers improving.

Meanwhile the Chicago Bulls have failed to find their top form going 3-3 in their last six games and slipping in the Eastern Conference standings. One of the only bright spots has been the play of Joakim Noah, who recorded a triple-double against Philadelphia where he had 23 points, 21 rebounds, and 11 blocks to propel the Bulls to victory.

It seems like the Bulls are simply missing their primetime player, Derrick Rose, and his scoring more than ever as they rank 28th in the league in scoring. Rumors have been telling conflicting stories on Rose's return, with some saying he is a week away from a return, while others say he may not return until next season.

Rose was spotted dunking the ball in a pregame warm up at Oklahoma City this week although it should be noted he neither jumped off of nor landed on his surgically repaired knee. It is apparent the Bulls desperately need "The Return" if they are to be serious contenders in the East.

The Western Conference still appears to be the stronger of the two conferences, now even more so than ever with the Lakers

finally starting to reach some of their potential. With players like Kobe Bryan, Dwight Howard, and Steve Nash the Lakers should have been near the top of the conference standings all season. However, they are just now starting to win consecutive games, winning four of their last five, and are competing to earn a playoff spot as they are just 2.5 games out of the eighth and final playoff spot.

It would seem that if they can fix their defense, which remains one of the league's worst, then they have a very real chance to do what many thought impossible before the All-Star break and make the playoffs. The San Antonio Spurs remain on top of the conference with Oklahoma City and the Clippers three and three and a half games back, respectively.

The Spurs will be tested after the recent injury to Tony Parker, which will have him missing the next few weeks due to an ankle sprain.

Outside of the NBA, Dennis Rodman continues to make the news after his recent diplomatic trip to North Korea. He is the first high profile American to meet the new North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un. During his trip he put on clinics for kids, watched some of North Korea's finest players, and even got out on the court and balled with his new friends.

There have been many criticisms of his trip, especially since he talked about what a great guy the North Korean leader is and how he has made a lifelong friend. It is yet to be seen what kind of political effect his ultra-important diplomatic trip to North Korea will have.



Photo courtesy of audioboo.fm

Campus cricket league at Keating for spring season

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Good news for cricket fans at IIT. The Keating Premier League (KPL) will start from March 2 through April 13.

For those who haven't heard about KPL, it's an indoor tape tennis-ball cricket tournament played at Keating Sports Center. It's an Intramurals and Recreation sports event and is wholly sponsored by the Students Activities Fund and the Intramurals and recreational Sports Committee at IIT.

Team registrations have begun. You can either register as a team or an individual (eventually, you'll be included in a team). KPL is open to all current IIT students, faculty and

staff members.
The organizers have planned for 16 teams participating in the league matches, which would be a knockout format. Each team would comprise of 6 players with two additional players as substitutes. Since the actual game has lots of rules and formats, KPL too has specified rules which can be checked out on the IIT Intramurals website. The registration date has been extended by 1 week to March 8. The organizers are quite optimistic about the outcome of the event following last year's success. As they say, lots of prizes are to be won.
Dates: March 9 – April 13
Time: 7.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. (Wednesday)
12.00pm – 6.00 p.m. (Saturday)

SLIPSTICK

And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp
TECHNEWS WRITER

