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Detroit Pistons Visit 6/20/89 [OA 6345]

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Peggy

REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 20, 1989
11:30 A.M.

SENATORS REIGLE AND LEVIN, MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. COMMISSIONER STERN OF THE NBA. THE UNSUNG HEROES -- HEROINES -- OF THE DETROIT PISTONS: THE PLAYERS' WIVES. PISTONS OWNER BILL DAVIDSON, AND THE D.C. POLICE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB: WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

- 2 -

((AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO BILL LAIMBEER, WHO TOLD ME BACK IN OCTOBER WHEN APPEARING WITH ME AT A POLITICAL EVENT THAT HE'D SEE ME AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN JUNE. ACTUALLY, BILL WAS SURE HE WOULD BE HERE -- NOT QUITE SO SURE ABOUT ME.))

AND TO ALL OUR GUESTS TODAY: I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU'VE ALL JOINED ME HERE TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW WORLD CHAMPIONS OF BASKETBALL, THE DETROIT PISTONS.

- 3 -

YOU WON THE TITLE IN STYLE -- FOUR STRAIGHT, OVER THE LEGENDARY L.A. LAKERS. I KNOW YOU HAD A SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO MAKE IT A SWEEP. JUST THINK OF CHUCK DALY'S DRY CLEANING BILL FOR A SEVEN-GAME SERIES....

CHUCK'S KNOWN AS THE DICK CLARK OF THE NBA -- 59 GOING ON 29. BUT DON'T LET THOSE YOUTHFUL LOOKS FOOL YOU. CHUCK'S WAITED 35 YEARS FOR THIS DAY -- FOR A COACH'S DREAM COME TRUE.

- 4 -

HE'S GOT A TEAM LOADED WITH TALENT -- AND DETERMINATION. NO TEAM GOES A FULL 82 GAMES AND INTO THE PLAYOFFS WITHOUT A FEW INJURIES ALONG THE WAY. THE PISTONS WERE NO EXCEPTION. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT SOMEHOW THE PISTONS MANAGED TO KEEP ALL THE PARTS IN WORKING ORDER. ISIAH THOMAS PLAYED HURT -- PLAYED HARD -- WITH A BROKEN HAND THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

CREDIT A COUPLE OF CHAMPIONSHIP-SIZED ASSISTS TO YOUR TRAINER AND TEAM PHYSICIAN: MIKE ABDENOUR [AB DEH NOWER] AND DR. BENJAMIN PAOLUCCI.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID BASKETBALL IS BALLET WITH A BACKBOARD. WHOEVER IT WAS DEFINITELY WASN'T UNDER THE BOARDS WITH BILL LAIMBEER OR RICK MAHORN [MAH-HORN] WHEN A SHOT GOES UP. NOT EXACTLY SWAN LAKE OUT THERE.... BUT YOUR BRAND OF BUMP-AND-RUN BASKETBALL IS A WINNER.

I KNOW THAT YOUR AGGRESSIVE STYLE HAS GIVEN THE PISTONS SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION. BUT COMMISSIONER STERN HAS TOLD ME ABOUT THE WORK YOU DO IN THE DETROIT COMMUNITY -- WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, AND OTHER WORTHY CAUSES. YOU MAY BE THE BAD BOYS OF BASKETBALL, BUT OFF THE COURT, PEOPLE SEE THE KINDER, GENTLER SIDE OF THE DETROIT PISTONS.

NOW, YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE TALENT IN THE WORLD, BUT YOU CAN'T WIN IT ALL UNLESS YOU'VE GOT THAT ONE SPECIAL INGREDIENT: NICKNAMES. AND THE PISTONS HAVE SOME LEAGUE-LEADERS. THE MICROWAVE -- VINNIE JOHNSON. HE HEATS UP IN A HURRY. THE SPIDER AND WORM -- JOHN SALLEY AND DENNIS RODMAN -- A COUPLE OF SUPERHEROES OFF THE BENCH.

THEN THERE'S THE GUY WITHOUT THE NICKNAME, MVP JOE DUMARS [DOO-MARS], THE PRIDE OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA. HERE'S A MAN WHO KEEPS QUIET, AND LETS HIS SCORING DO THE TALKING. TAKE GAME 3: 21 POINTS IN 12 MINUTES -- SOUNDS MORE LIKE PINBALL THAN BASKETBALL. ALL OF YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE EXTRAORDINARY. SOME OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE NBA GO AN ENTIRE CAREER WITHOUT WINNING THAT RING. IT TAKES A TEAM TO WIN -- TALENT, DRIVE AND DEDICATION THAT GOES 12 MEN DEEP.

- 9 -

**THAT'S THE SECRET TO SUCCESS OF ANY KIND -- AND IT'S
THE WINNING FORMULA THAT MADE THE DETROIT PISTONS WORLD
CHAMPS.**

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY, AND ONCE AGAIN,
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, TO THE CITY OF DETROIT AND THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN.**

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DM, g*
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *w*
SUBJECT: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, June 20, 1989, at 11:00 a.m., you will greet the NBA world champion Detroit Pistons in the Rose Garden.

II. DISCUSSION

The Pistons won the championship in a four game sweep over the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers. Your remarks focus on the coach and key players who made the victory possible.

Matt Doughback

313/435-5337 (home)

313/377-0130 (work)

McGroarty/Dooley
June 16, 1989
6:00 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 20, 1989

owner?
Bill Davidson

X
Senators Reigle and Levin: welcome. We've got the whole
team from the Michigan Congressional delegation. Commissioner
Stern of the NBA. The unsung heroes -- heroines -- of the
Detroit Pistons: the players' wives. *families?*

st
((And a special welcome to Bill Laimbeer, who told me back
in October he'd see me at the White House in June. Actually,
Bill was sure the Pistons would be here -- and he hoped I would
be, too.))

And to all our guests today: I'm delighted that you've all
joined me here to congratulate the new world champions of
basketball, the Detroit Pistons.

You won the title in style -- four straight, over the
legendary L.A. Lakers. I know you had a special incentive to
make it a sweep. Just think of Chuck Daly's dry cleaning bill
for a seven-game series....

best-dressed

Chuck's known as the Dick Clark of the NBA -- 59 going on 29. But don't let those youthful looks fool you. Chuck's waited 30 years for this day -- for a coach's dream come true.

X
99 incl.
playoffs

5
He's got a team loaded with talent -- and determination. No team goes a full 82 games and into the playoffs without a few injuries along the way. The Pistons were no exception. The difference is that somehow the Pistons managed to keep all the parts in working order. Isiah Thomas played hurt -- played hard -- with a broken hand the past two months. Credit a couple of championship-sized assists to your trainer and team physician: Mike Abdenour and Dr. Benjamin Paolucci.

reg. season

Someone once said basketball is ballet with a backboard. Whoever it was definitely wasn't under the boards with Bill Laimbeer or Rick Mahorn when a shot goes up. Not exactly Swan Lake out there.... But your brand of bump-and-run basketball is a winner.

Pronun -

I know that your aggressive style has given the Pistons something of a reputation. But Commissioner Stern has told me about the work you do in the Detroit community -- with Special Olympics and Muscular Distrophy, and other worthy causes. You may be the Bad Boys of basketball, but off the court, people see the kinder, gentler side of the Detroit Pistons.

Now, you can have all the talent in the world, but you can't win it all unless you've got that one special ingredient:

nicknames. And the Pistons have some league-leaders. The Human

Microwave -- Vinnie Johnson. He heats up in a hurry. The Spider

and the Worm -- John Salley and Dennis Rodman -- a couple of superheroes off the bench.

Then there's the guy without the nickname, MVP Joe Dumars, the pride of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Here's a man who keeps quiet, and lets his scoring do the talking. Take Game 3: 21 points in 12 minutes -- sounds more like pinball than basketball.

All of you have accomplished the extraordinary. Some of the best players in the NBA go an entire career without winning that ring. It takes a team to win -- talent, drive and dedication that goes 12 men deep. That's the secret to success of any kind -- and it's the winning formula that made the Detroit Pistons world champs.

Thank you for visiting today, and once again, congratulations to you, to the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan.

#

6/16/89

Matt Dobeck / Team publicist

313 377-0130

home 435-5337

Nicknames: Vinnie Johnson - Microwave

Salley - Spide

Dennis Rodman - Worm(!?)

Isiah T. - broke left hand in April.

Trainer: Mike Abdouour

Team Doc: Dr. Benj. Palucci - Thomas out
1 week

Daly - \$1000 stolen suits...

oldest coach in league (59)

30 yrs. in coaching

Dumars - MVP: from Lake Charles, LA.

21 pts - 3rd g. / 3rd game

⁴ Bad BoysTM Image - team involved in Special Olympics, Marc. Dyslexia in Detroit...

"fake-collar" B.Ball - work ethic

B. Limbeer	C
Mabom	F
Aguirre	F
Thomas	G
Dumars	G
V. Johnson	G
D. Rodman	F
J. Salley	F/C
J. Edwards	C

Everyone in this room today knows the bottom line: ~~You America~~
can't be a world-class economy without a world-class education
system. You know that first-hand -- and that's why the work
you're doing is so important....

Today's conference has brought you all together, given you
the chance to learn from each other, to build a ^{broad} partnership ^{in ed.}
~~Let's~~ ^{I want to thank you for your work, +} keep these channels open. ^{reform.}
promise as support to # # #

We don't stand for cheating in the classroom. Let's not
cheat our young people....

It's time to stand up and speak out. When the schools fail
their children, parents should be angry. Students should demand
change: an education equal to their hopes and aspirations.
Teachers and administrators should be able to count on our
complete support. Few people shape the future more directly than
our teachers.... Everyday in that classroom they have the
opportunity to spark a lifetime of learning.... All of us must
work together....