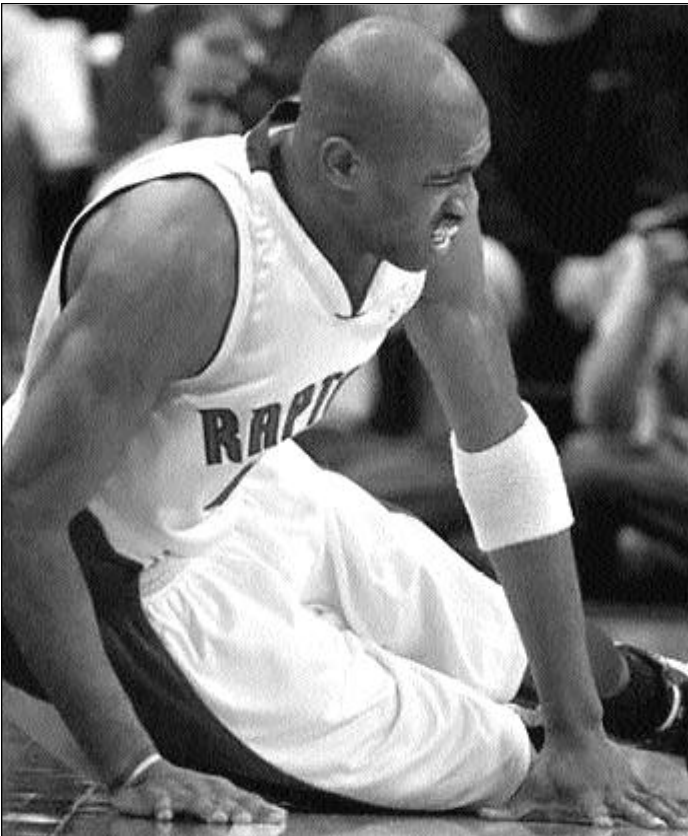
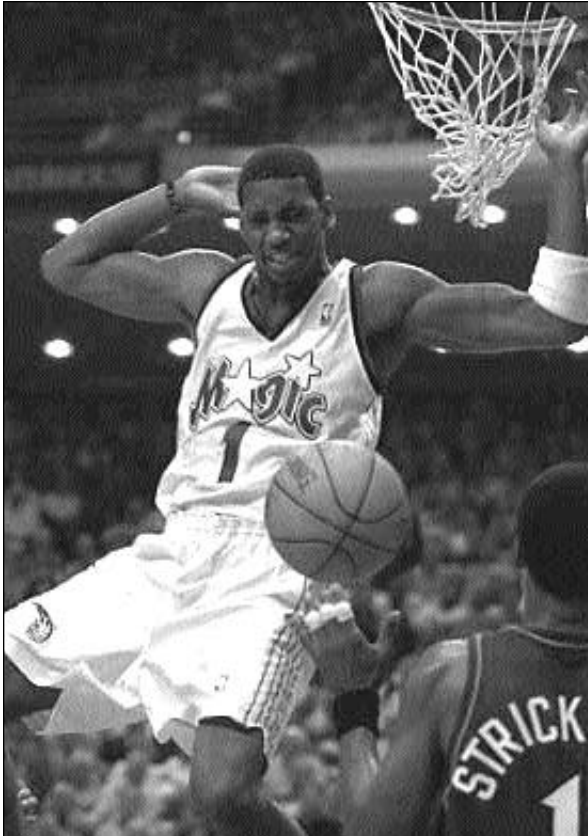


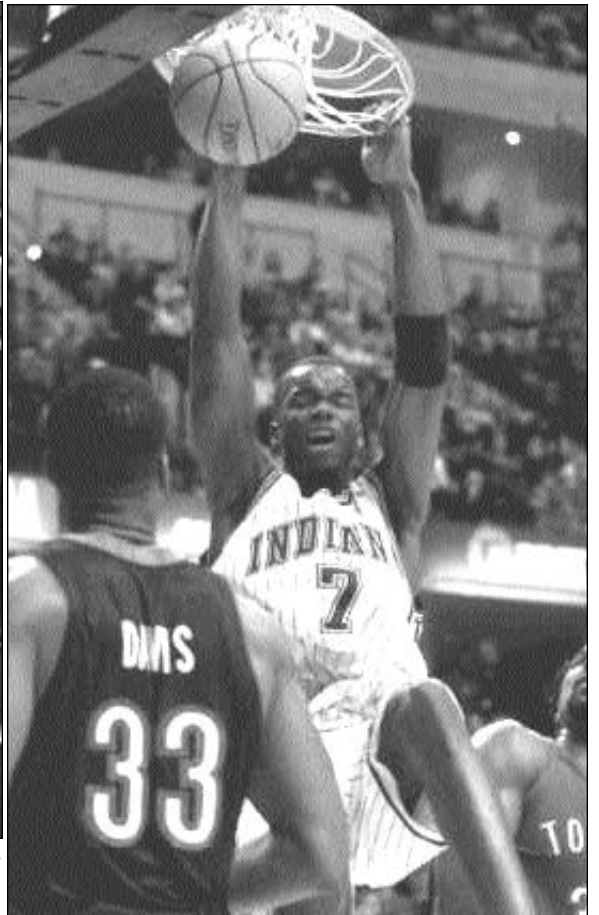
# .com After All



Injuries, like the one Vince Carter recently sustained, are killers for fantasy teams.



Tracy McGrady (above) and Jermaine O'Neal (right) are scoring huge for their new teams.



FILE

**“I’ve never really followed the NBA too much. I used to only like college basketball, but now I’m always watching NBA games to see how my players are doing. ‘Owning’ a team made me learn a lot about the players in the NBA.”**  
 - Bronxite and Smallworld player, Mike Palacia

... cont'd from A-14.

Watching games can be addictive, and playing Smallworld.com quickly becomes compulsive. “At first, I just made my team, and once in a while I’d watch to see my guys play,” says Anthony Galasso, another Smallworld.com player from the Bronx, “but after about a week, I started spending hours at the computer trying to figure out stats and how many times my guys play every week.”

Palacia adds, “When I’m watching a game, and someone from my team misses a free-throw I yell at him through the t.v., ‘you just lost me 1 point.’” Palacia says that he works on his team “at least five hours a week,” and adds, “Gary Payton has been my main weapon so far.”

Gary Payton is indeed a good fantasy selection. Though he is the most expensive guard at over \$11 million fantasy dollars, he is well worth it, as he makes nearly 50 fantasy points per game, which is top 5 in the NBA.

The idea of the game is to buy players who will not only make managers a profit, but also give them points at the same time. To be successful at fantasy basketball, managers must be on top of all news at all times.

Buying a player who just comes off the injured-list, for example, is a smart move. True, they will be rusty for a few games, but their value will quickly rise as their play improves. After some time, he can be sold, and the money earned can be put into another position or another player. Conversely, if a star player gets injured and will be out for a substantial amount of time, then he should be traded for his replacement. He will receive the minutes and the shots that the injured player would have seen, and his productivity should increase. When the injured player comes back from injury, his replacement can be sold for a major profit.

Although by the end of the season, managers may look like cave men--hunched over, un-shaven, un-showered, circles around their eyes, and maybe even foaming at the mouth--fantasy basketball is a fun, free treat for all who decide to play it. Not only do players come away with fond memories of playing throughout the season, they also come away with a much better knowledge of the game and its players. “I played at Smallworld last year, and I bet I can probably name everyone in the NBA right now,” says Palacia. After experiencing it for yourselves, I am sure you won’t doubt him.

**Who’s Hot: (These are the top guns)**

- Guards:  
 1- Gary Payton  
 2- Jason Kidd  
 3- Kobe Bryant  
 4- Tracy McGrady  
Forwards:  
 1- Kevin Garnett  
 2- Chris Webber  
 3- Karl Malone  
 4- Rasheed Wallace  
Centers:  
 1- Shaquille O’Neal  
 2- David Robinson

**Who’s Not: (Over-rated and Pricey)**

- Guards:  
 1- Michael Finley  
 2- Eddie Jones  
 3- Allan Houston  
Forwards:  
 1- Antonio McDyess  
 2- Derrick Coleman  
 3- Shawn Kemp  
Centers:  
 1- Dikembe Mutombo  
 2- Arvydas Sabonis

**Sleepers: (Under-rated and Cheap)**

- Guards:  
 1- Baron Davis  
 2- Travis Best  
 3- Jeff McInnis  
Forwards:  
 1- Shawn Marion  
 2- Brian Grant  
 3- Marcus Camby  
Centers:  
 1- Jermaine O’Neal  
 2- Jahidi White

**TRADE TIPS:**

**Sell:** players that A.) are injured (their stock will plummet very quickly), B.) do not play as many games in a week as players on other teams, C.) have not played well in recent games and are losing value.

**Buy:** players who A.) are back-ups for players who were recently injured (they will receive the minutes the injured player would have received), B.) play a bunch of games that week, C.) just come off the injured list (their stock will rise, and you can later sell them for a huge profit), and D.) are on a hot streak.



Shots like the one above by the sitting Latrell Sprewell help teams.