



**Eric
Money**

Nets Acquire Rebounder

By **MALCOLM MORAN**
Special to The New York Times

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 7 — In an effort to get badly needed rebounding help, the New Jersey Nets traded Eric Money, their third highest scorer and the leader in assists, and Al Skinner, another guard, to the Philadelphia 76ers today.

In return, New Jersey got Harvey Catchings, a 6-foot-9-inch reserve center, and Ralph Simpson, once a high-scoring guard who has struggled for the last 2½ seasons. The Nets also received financial considerations believed to be of help in the payment of Simpson's contract.

Kevin Loughery, the Net coach, hoped to have both players available for the game against Detroit tomorrow night.

The key man for New Jersey was the 27-year-old Catchings, who has played in 24 games, averaging 12 minutes and four rebounds. Loughery believes that Catchings can have a rebounding average in double figures with enough playing time. Since the trade was completed, he said, two clubs have called the Nets to ask if Catchings was available.

"It was just a situation where we were getting de-

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**Ralph
Simpson**

Nets Swap Two Players With Philadelphia 76ers

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stroyed on the boards," he said. "We needed a big guy." The Nets were out-rebounded, 59 to 33, in a 119-100 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers last night. Their entire front line had one less rebound than Cleveland's John Lanberg, who had a career high of 22. The leading Net rebounder in the game was Ed Jordan, a guard, with six.

Simpson, 29, left Michigan State after his sophomore season to join Denver of the American Basketball Association. He averaged 20.4 points for six seasons (including a 27.4 average in 1971-72, his second season). Loughery considered him one of the top four guards in the league. That was two years ago.

"Two years is a long time," Loughery said today.

Simpson averaged 9.7 points in the last two seasons. This year he has played in 36 games, with an average of 5.4 points in 12 minutes per game. He has been in four trades in the last three seasons, going from Denver to Detroit, back to Denver, to Philadelphia last August and now to New Jersey.

'It Was Matter of Time'

The Nets obtained Money from Detroit last September in a trade for Kevin

Porter. "I thought the first time I got traded it was a good move," said Money, who was averaging 16.6 points this season. "This time I knew it was coming. It was just a matter of time. The surprise is that its coming so late in the season, if it's a surprise at all."

The trade will put John Williamson back in the Nets' starting lineup and give Jordan a chance for more playing time. "I found out if you're overloaded in this game," Loughery said, "don't be overloaded at guard. I would prefer to be overloaded at the center spot."

The trade came when the Nets had lost five straight games and 15 of the last 21. "I just know our defense wasn't as effective as it was before," Skinner said. "We weren't as aggressive lately. I think there's been a lack of communication. I know the times I've played it wasn't the same. There wasn't talking on defense. There wasn't helping out."

In Philadelphia, General Manager Pat Williams said the deal for the two Net guards was necessary in light of Doug Collins's continued absence with a foot injury.

"We felt we had to replace Doug's offense," Williams said. "Harvey was a luxury on the club. We had to make a choice between a necessity and a luxury. We feel Money was the best available talent for what we need."

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