

indiana pacers PLAYOFFS 2003



Indiana Pacers vs. Boston Celtics



SCHEDULE

GAME #	DATE	SITE	TIME (INDY TIME)
1	Saturday, April 19	2:00 p.m.	Conseco Fieldhouse
2	Monday, April 21	7:30 p.m.	Conseco Fieldhouse
3	Thursday, April 24	5:00 p.m.	Fleet Center
4	Sunday, April 27	11:00 a.m.	Fleet Center
5	Tuesday, April 29	TBD	Conseco Fieldhouse
6	Thursday, May 1	TBD	Fleet Center
7	Saturday, May 3	TBD	Conseco Fieldhouse

* if necessary

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at Boston

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2003 playoffs ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	BIRTHDATE	SCHOOL / YEAR	YEARS PRO
23	Ron Artest	F	6-7	246	11/13/79	St. John's '01	3
24	Jonathan Bender	G/F	7-0	219	1/30/81	Picayune Memorial H.S. '99 (Miss.)	3
44	Austin Croshere	F	6-10	242	5/1/75	Providence '97	5
10	Jeff Foster	F	6-11	242	1/16/77	S.W. Texas State '99	3
3	Al Harrington	F	6-9	250	2/17/80	St. Patrick's H.S. '98 (N.J.)	4
14	Tim Hardaway	G	6-0	195	9/1/66	Texas-El Paso '89	13
5	Ron Mercer	G/F	6-7	210	5/18/76	Kentucky '99	5
52	Brad Miller	C	7-0	261	4/12/76	Purdue '98	4
31	Reggie Miller	G	6-7	195	8/24/65	UCLA '87	15
7	Jermaine O'Neal	F	6-11	242	10/13/78	Eau Claire H.S. '96 (S.C.)	6
21	Erick Strickland	G	6-3	210	11/25/73	Nebraska '96	6
11	Jamaal Tinsley	G	6-3	195	2/28/78	Iowa State '01	1

HEAD COACH

Isiah Thomas, Indiana '87

ASSISTANT COACHES

Brendan Malone, Iona '62

Jim Stack, Northwestern '83

Vern Fleming, Georgia '84

Mark Aguirre, DePaul '82

Dan Burke, Portland State '88

ATHLETIC TRAINER

David Craig, Purdue '70

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC TRAINER

Tom Jennings, Butler '90

STRENGTH/CONDITIONING COACH

Bill Dean, Wisconsin-Stevens Point '92

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Joe Qatato, Emerson College '82

NUMERICAL ROSTER

3	Al Harrington	21	Erick Strickland
5	Ron Mercer	23	Ron Artest
7	Jermaine O'Neal	24	Jonathan Bender
10	Jeff Foster	31	Reggie Miller
11	Jamaal Tinsley	44	Austin Croshere
14	Tim Hardaway	52	Brad Miller

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Conseco	con-SEE-co
Croshere	CROW-zhur

pacers sports & entertainment DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE

Owners	Melvin Simon Herbert Simon
President	Donnie Walsh
Executive Sr. Vice President/Executive Director of Conseco Fieldhouse	Rick Fuson
Special Advisor	David Kahn
Special Consultant to the President	Quinn Buckner
Assistant to President-Player Relations	Chuck Person
Administrative Assistant	Susy Fischer
Administrative Assistant/Special Events Coordinator	Paula Curry

PACERS BASKETBALL

Head Coach	Isiah Thomas
Sr. Vice President/Basketball Administration	David Morway
Manager/Basketball Administration	Sonya Clutinger
Director of Player Personnel/Assistant Coach	Mel Daniels
Director/Player Development	George Glymph
Assistant Coaches	Mark Aguirre Dan Burke Vern Fleming Brendan Malone Jim Stack
Scouts/Assistant Coaches	Al Menendez Nediljko "Misho" Ostarcevic
Pro Scout/Assistant Coach	Jimmy Powell
Scouts	George Felton York Larese Steve Yoder
Head Athletic Trainer/Team Administrator	David Craig
Assistant Athletic Trainer	Tom Jennings
Equipment Manager	Joe Qatato
Strength & Conditioning Coach	Bill Dean
Physical Therapist	Julie Bender
Video Coordinator	Derek Pierce
Administrative Assistant	Cory Burnett
Administrative Assistant to Head Coach	Raquel Burnette
Team Orthopedist	Sanford Kunkel, M.D.
Team Medical Consultant	Robert F. Brueckmann, M.D.
Team Consultant	R. Ray Hawkins, M.D.
Team Physicians	John Abrams, M.D. George E. Kirtley, D.D.S. Kevin McCallum, M.D. King Yee, M.D.

FEVER BASKETBALL CORPORATION

Sr. Vice President/Chief Operating Officer	Kelly Krauskopf
Head Coach/General Manager	Nell Fortner
Assistant Coaches	Shelley Patterson Julie Plank
Director/Community Relations	Lori Satterfield
Director/Media Relations	Kevin Messenger
Basketball Operations Coordinator	Elizabeth Dewhirst
Video Coordinator	Rob Cleveland
Administrative Assistant	Michelle Cassaday
Head Athletic Trainer	Holly Heitzman
Team Physician	David Harsha, M.D.
Team Orthopedists	Sanford Kunkel, M.D. Scott A. Lintner, M.D.

FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES

Sr. Vice President/Finance and Chief Financial Officer	Kevin Bower
Finance	
Vice President/Controller	Doug McKee
Director/Budget	Jane Wardle
Assistant Controller	Ann Scott
Staff Accountant	Michelle Clark
Accounting Assistants	Nancy Doyle Theresa Walsh
Office Manager/Travel Specialist	Sandy Clouser
Mail Clerk/Courier	Rex Brake
Receptionists	Nancy Duffin Janice Franks

Human Resources

Vice President/Human Resources	Donna Wilkinson
Director/Human Resources	Angela Heady
Human Resources/Payroll Assistant	Pamela Groeschel

Management Information Systems

Vice President/Management Information Systems	Larry Taylor
Director/Management Information Systems	Kevin Naylor
Manager/Management Information Systems	Ronnie Aarons
Technician/Management Information Systems	Brian Brown

MARKETING

Sr. Vice President/Marketing	Larry Mago
Administrative Assistant	Wendy Crumley

Pacers Foundation

Pacers Foundation Executive Director	Dale Ratermann
Pacers Foundation Coordinator	Sarah Furimsky

Communications

Vice President/Communications	Kathryn Jordan
Administrative Assistant	Marilynn Wernke
Director/Advertising	Wendy Sommers
Director/Camps, Clinics And Alumni Relations	Darnell Hillman
Youth Basketball Coordinator	Donnell Spriggs
Director/Community Relations	Vonda Brooks
Community Relations Manager	Kelli Towles
Community Services Coordinator	Richard Smith
Community Relations Administrative Assistant	Jeremy Brigham
Director/Media Relations	David Benner
Media Relations Manager	Jeff McCoy
Media Relations Assistant	Tim Edwards
Publications Manager	MaryKay Scott
Media Relations/Publications Assistant	Krissy Myers
Staff Writer/Internet Content Provider	Conrad Brunner
Communications/Marketing Manager	Jeff Johnson
Team Photographer	Frank McGrath
Statistics Crew Director, Pacers	Bill York
Statistics Crew, Pacers	Bob Bernath, Bill Bevan, Ty Cheatum, Brian Eaton, Randy Fishman, Mike Furimsky, Paul Furimsky, David George, Gene Hemelgarn, Ed Hruskocy, Elliott Segal, Ed Whitehead, Jeff Yarbrough, Rick York
Media Room Attendants, Pacers	Kevin Buerge, Charlie Eversole, Scott Fishman, Kathy Geiger, Deborah Hughes, Susan Kessler, Melinda Kesterson, Kaye Totton, Erica Wise
Memorabilia Consultant	Bill Allee

Entertainment

Vice President/Entertainment	Jamie Berns
Director/Broadcast Engineering	Greg Smith
Broadcast Coordinator	Susan Skelton
Director/Game Operations and Promotions	Jeff Scalf
Display Technology Manager	Brian McLaughlin
Game Operations Manager	Doug Morgan
Promotions Managers	Karen Atkeson Dean Heaviland
Game Operations Assistants	Ray Henderson Jonathan Jones
Dance Teams Coordinator/Choreographer	Stacy Austin
Director/Production	Eric Nelson
Senior Producer/Editor	Dean McDowell
Producers/Editors	Todd Andrews Gary Joe Rice Matthew Scott
Production Assistant	Christopher Patton
Radio Announcers, Pacers	Mark Boyle Bob Leonard Kevin Lee
Television Announcers, Pacers	Al Albert Clark Kellogg Quinn Buckner Scott Hoke
PA Announcer, Pacers	Reb Porter

ps&e DIRECTORY

Sales

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Vice President/Corporate Partnerships	Keith Hendricks
Sales Coordinator	Susan Lane
Director/Sales Development	Mike Henn
Director/Sponsorship Sales	Mike McClure
Sponsor Services Coordinators	Ramona Christen
	Sara Herman
	Michael Lake
Sponsor Services/Marketing Coordinator	Kristin Stittle
Sponsor Sales Account Executives	Chris Clawson
	Rick Heliste
	Thorpe Miller
	Kimberly Tarowsky
Sponsor Sales/Service Administrative Assistant	Alice Smith
Director/Corporate Relations/Premium Sales and Services	Jack Woodside
Senior Premium Services Manager	Heather Denton
Premium Services Managers	Eddie Bird
	Marcus Fehman
Premium Services Coordinator	Bethanie Smith

TICKETS

Vice President/Ticket Sales	Doug Dawson
Director/Group Sales	Rob Robinson
Ticket Manager	Brenda Smith
Assistant Ticket Manager	Jill McQueeney
Ticket Sales Manager, Fever	Julie Southworth
Ticket Sales Account Executives	Tammy Bush
	Brett Cole
	Montez Currin
	Mark Davenport
	Tyler Enyart
	Craig Holloway
	Alice Laskowski
	Darla Jo Parker
	Sharie Peterson
	Adam Schwab
	Jake Vernon
	Mike White
Customer Service Specialists	Travis Bowen
	Tanya Roberts
Ticket Sales Administrative Assistant	Robin Burger

FACILITIES

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant	Carrie Tipton
Services/Merchandising & Operations Assistant	Beth Springman
Administrative/Scheduling Assistant	Kathy Lacy

Administration

Vice President/Facilities Administration	Harry James
Director/Box Office	Paul Congress
Box Office Manager	Julie Kolner
Box Office Ticket Sellers	Julie Clark
	Ursula Harvey
	Barbara Maynard
	James Wills
Director/Safety/Crowd Management	Bob Shorter
Safety/Crowd Management Manager	Larry Jackson
Facility Security Coordinator	Mick Jackson
Facility Security	Odell Brooks
	Ken Hooks
	Larry Ison
	Abraham Kennedy, Jr.
	Aaron Lawton
	Tonya Northington
	Terry Watkins
	Stanley Woods

Operations

Vice President/Operations	Eddie Grover
Director/Operations	Chuck Devers
Central Plant Manager	Bob Taft
Central Plant Coordinator	Charles Miles
Utility Carpenter	Tom Surface
Shift Engineers, Central Plant	Ed Fish
	Dan Karch
	Jim Schilling
	Scott Sermersheim

Director/Housekeeping	Ed Bland
General Housekeeping Coordinator	Ruth Lawrence
Lead/General Housekeeping	Ronald Kelley
General Housekeeping	Andre Filer

Robert Haegele
Charles Kent
Stephanie Kent
Tom Pritsch
Terry Sumler
Lesa Tyson
Nichole Waith

Seating Area Housekeeping Coordinator	James Mason
Lead/Seating Area Housekeeping	Annie Harrington
Seating Area Housekeeping	Sherwood Buchanan

Danny Lisby
Bob Olsen
Stacy Manuel
Cathy Olsen
Randy Phipps

Event Housekeeping Coordinator

Event Housekeeping

Scheduling/Production

Vice President/Scheduling Production Services	Jeff Bowen
Director/Event Production	Tom Rutledge
Event Coordinators	Stephanie Clark
	Courtney Howell
	Doug Weitkamp

Stage Foreman	Dave Teepe
Assistant Stage Foreman	Rod Fish
Houseman	Jerry Horne
Conversion Manager	Steve Zimmerman
Conversion	Rodney Jenkins
Coordinator/Utility Setup	Kerry Kent
Utility Setup	Donald Anderson

Terrie Carter
Kevin Ligon
David Reeves
Roy Woods

Services

Vice President/Event Services and Merchandising	Rich Kapp
Guest Relations Manager	B.J. Matthews
Guest Relations Coordinator	Michele Hoosier
Guest Relations Assistant	Clifford O'Neal
Director/Merchandising	Gary Nelson
Merchandising Operations Manager	Brenda Goins
Retail Manager	Mark Lippott
Assistant Retail Managers	Brad Amberger
	Jeff Blackman
	Steve Keeling

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Virginia Avenue Garage/Parking Manager	Walt Cwikla
The Levy Restaurants/General Manager	Mike Majercik
Aramark Entertainment/General Manager	Greg Costa

DONNIE WALSH
President



Not only has Donnie Walsh been an assistant coach, general manager and now, team president, for the Indiana Pacers, he has been the franchise's builder and believer.

On and off the court.

In the last eight years, the Pacers have become one of the NBA's elite teams, reaching the NBA Finals in 2000, reaching the Eastern Conference Finals five times and winning three Central Division Championships. Consider that when Walsh took over the Pacers as general manager in April 1986, the team was coming off a 26-56 season and had reached the playoffs only once in 10 NBA seasons. Under Walsh's guidance, the Pacers have now reached the playoffs 13 of the last 14 years and he has also brought three of the game's most respected names, Larry Brown, Larry Bird and Isiah Thomas (all Hall of Famers), in to coach the team.

His ability to mold the Pacers into one of the top franchises, while continually keeping the team competitive, earned him recognition in the 2000-01 season from Bloomberg News Service as the NBA's top basketball executive in a vote of the league's coaches.

In 2000-01, Walsh proved himself again. With three starters from the 2000 NBA Finals team gone (Rik Smits retired, Mark Jackson left via free agency and Dale Davis was traded for Jermaine O'Neal), the Pacers, under Thomas in his first season, finished the year 41-41 to again make the playoffs. In 2001-02, Walsh orchestrated a trade that brought Ron Artest, Ron Mercer, Brad Miller and Kevin Ollie to the team in exchange for Jalen Rose, Travis Best and Norm Richardson. The trade made the Pacers the youngest team in the NBA, yet they remained competitive (reaching the playoffs again) while establishing themselves as a team to watch for years.

That was certainly the case in 2002-03. The Pacers improved by six games from the season before with a 48-34 record. They earned the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference and at the All-Star break had the best record in the East, earning Thomas All-Star coaching honors. Jermaine O'Neal and Brad Miller joined their coach as All-Stars.

The 1999-2000 season was one of the more interesting, yet impressive, trips to the postseason. In June, the Pacers traded veteran Antonio Davis to Toronto for the

draft rights to a talented high school player, Jonathan Bender, the fifth overall pick in the NBA draft. Many predicted the Pacers to not only finish low in the Eastern Conference, but in the bottom half of the Central Division.

At season's end, the Pacers had not only won the Central for the second straight year, but for the first time in franchise history had compiled the best outright record in the Eastern Conference at 56-26. That mark was also the Pacers' second-best overall record (58-24 in 1997-98) in the team's NBA history. The Pacers also tied a league-best (with the L.A. Lakers) 36-5 record at home that included a 25-game home winning streak, both franchise records.

In the playoffs, the Pacers beat Milwaukee and Philadelphia before meeting their old nemesis, the New York Knicks, in the Eastern Conference Finals. But there, the Pacers won their first-ever Eastern Conference Championship in six games and advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time where they fell to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games for the world championship.

"My personal goal for the Pacers' franchise was to always be included in the great tradition of Indiana basketball with both high school and college," said Walsh. "Our reaching the NBA Finals and reaching the Conference Finals five out of seven years is a point of excellence that I think puts us in that category of Indiana basketball and reflects well on the basketball in this state. I think we're now firmly part of that mix and I feel good about that. But the ultimate goal is still to win a championship."

Off the court, Walsh oversaw another building process. As the Pacers headed toward the next century, the need for a new arena in downtown Indianapolis was becoming more and more evident. In 1994, after the Pacers reached the Eastern Conference Finals for the first time, he began quiet discussions with city leaders.

On July 22, 1997, ground was broken.

Today, 18,345-seat Conseco Fieldhouse fits neatly into place in downtown Indianapolis, the NBA and with Indiana's rich basketball tradition for a very unique trifecta. The retro-style, multi-purpose facility has drawn rave reviews for its blending of the modern amenities - such as suites and club seats - with attention to the basketball heritage of Indiana and ensuring that all fans are at home in what is truly a basketball house. It is a basketball destination and a tourist attraction.

In the 1999-2000 season and postseason, the Pacers sold out every game in the Fieldhouse, the first time that has been done in franchise history. In the 1999-2000 season, the only other NBA teams to sell out every home

game were the Chicago Bulls and New York Knicks.

"I think it culminates all of our dreams for the Pacers, but I think it also encompasses everything that is Indiana basketball to me," said Walsh. "That was our goal when we started this and I'm talking about when we started back in 1986 to build a team. We wanted the team to be a part of the tradition of Indiana basketball, which it really hadn't been up until that point in the NBA. It has been a long process over many years, but I think it culminates with Conseco Fieldhouse because it kind of embodies it."

On both counts of building the Pacers and Conseco Fieldhouse, it took a believer. Walsh fits that mold perfectly.

In 1986, the Pacers were struggling. They had lost two key players, Clark Kellogg and Steve Stipanovich, to career-ending knee injuries. But Walsh, rarely taking a day off in his 17 years on the job, believed he could turn the franchise around. And he has.

Starting with his first draft, Walsh took Chuck Person, who went on to become Rookie of the Year. Person, with Detlef Schrempf, acquired by Walsh in a trade, and a young gun named Reggie Miller who was drafted by Walsh, led the Pacers to the first of many memorable playoff series, a five-game loss to Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics in 1991.

In 1993, Walsh hired Brown as coach and in 1994 they reached the Eastern Conference Finals before losing to New York in seven games. In 1995, the Pacers again reached the East Finals (losing to Orlando), but they had their first 50-win NBA season and won their first NBA banner, the Central Division championship.

The 1996 playoff run was cut short by Atlanta in the first round, but Miller missed the first four games of that series with an eye injury. In 1997, the Pacers slipped to 39-43 and didn't make the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons, due to injuries to Rik Smits, Derrick McKey and key backup, Haywoode Workman. Brown resigned in April, but Walsh - thinking ahead as always - had a high-profile replacement ready, the legendary Bird.

The Pacers finished the 1997-98 season with an NBA team record 58 victories and their 58-24 record provided a .707 winning percentage, the best in franchise history. They also went the last 63 games of the regular season without losing two straight games. Also that season, the Pacers compiled the best record in the East at the All-Star break, earning the coaching staff of Bird and assistants Dick Harter and Rick Carlisle, All-Star coaching honors. They were joined in New York by Miller and Smits, only the second time in team history the Pacers

executive STAFF

had two NBA All-Stars. Bird eventually was named Coach of the Year and the Pacers extended the eventual World Champion Chicago Bulls to seven games before losing in the Eastern Conference Finals.

Then, in 1998-99, the Pacers tied for the best record in the Eastern Conference (33-17), won their second Central Division championship and their winning percentage of .660 was the second-highest in their NBA history. With Conseco Fieldhouse rising in the Indianapolis skyline, Walsh has seen two projects reach prominence.

"Looking back at it, I'm glad we've been able to get the team to the point where it is," he said. "There's great satisfaction in doing that. As for Conseco Fieldhouse, I get the feeling of accomplishment in the sense that after being here for so many years, if I have a part in this building it's that it is something permanent I can look back on and think, 'Well, I had something to do with that.'"

The 62-year-old (3/1/41) Walsh has also seen fan appreciation rise during his tenure. Attendance in Market Square Arena was the highest in franchise history the last 12 seasons before the record-breaking move to the Fieldhouse, capped by 1995-96 in which the Pacers had

a record average of 16,438, that included 29 sellouts and a season-ending run of 13 straight sellouts. In 1997-98, fans filled MSA to 96 percent of its capacity and in its last season an average of 16,182 (98 percent capacity) visited MSA. In 25 home dates in the 1998-99 season, the Pacers had 15 sellouts.

Walsh, who in 1988 was named president of the Pacers Basketball Corporation (now Pacers Sports & Entertainment which runs the Pacers, the WNBA's Indiana Fever, the Pacers Foundation and also directs the management of Conseco Fieldhouse), has spent his life in and around basketball.

An outstanding high school player in New York City, Walsh played at North Carolina under Frank McGuire and Dean Smith. After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, Walsh attended the North Carolina Law School and helped coach the Tar Heels' freshman team for two seasons.

After graduating from law school and turning down offers from then former Vice President Richard Nixon's law firm in New York City and the U.S. Justice Department's Honors programs, he took a graduate coaching position under Smith at North Carolina and then became

an associate head coach under McGuire at South Carolina. In 1977, Walsh was about to enter private law practice in South Carolina, but Brown, the head coach of the Denver Nuggets, asked Walsh to join him as an assistant. Walsh stayed with the Nuggets as an assistant coach and a head coach before entering private business in 1982.

But in 1984, Walsh was back in basketball as a Pacers' assistant to George Irvine. He remained on the bench until becoming general manager two years later. He has since been a member of the U.S. Olympic Games Committee for men's basketball for Dream Teams I and II, a member of the WNBA Operating Committee and was recently named to the NBA's Special Committee on Rules.

Walsh's knowledge, professionalism, accessibility and courtesy are highly-recognized throughout the NBA by players, coaches, front office personnel and the media. He is also a respected member of the Indianapolis community, serving on the boards of many charities.

He and his wife, Judy, both natives of New York, have five children and live in Indianapolis. They also have two dogs, Murph and Belle.

RICK FUSON

**Executive Sr. Vice President/
Executive Director of Conseco Fieldhouse**



Since joining the Pacers' organization in 1984, Rick Fuson, 49, (6/12/53) has been instrumental in shaping events within Market Square Arena, Conseco Fieldhouse and many other events elsewhere in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Indiana University and a life-long resident of Indianapolis, he joined the staff of Market Square Arena in 1984 as director of special events and was promoted the following year to vice president. Fuson helped oversee the Pacers' move to Conseco Fieldhouse in September, 2000 and was promoted to Executive Senior Vice President of Pacers Sports & Entertainment in November, 2001. In his current role, Fuson is responsible for execution of all aspects of the business side of

Pacers Sports & Entertainment in addition to his role as Executive Director of Conseco Fieldhouse.

Through the years, Fuson has been active in pursuing major events for Conseco Fieldhouse and the City of Indianapolis. In the past, he was a member of the Executive Committee for the 1991 World Gymnastics Championships and served as chairman for the opening ceremonies. He was co-chairman of special events for the 1991, 1997 and 2000 NCAA Final Four. He produced the opening ceremonies of the 2001 World Police & Fire Games and the closing ceremonies of the Pan American Games in 1987. Fuson also served on the Local Organizing Committee for the 2002 Big Ten Basketball Championships and 2002 FIBA World Basketball Championships. He currently serves on the Local Organizing Committee for the 2004 World Swimming Championships. He will serve on the Local Organizing Committee for the 2005 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

Throughout his career, he has received such honors as Recipient of the Indianapolis Ambassadors 1988 Community Service Award, Indianapolis Business Journal's "Who's Who in Hospitality," "Who's Who in Sports" and "Forty Under Forty." He has also been active with the Indianapolis Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the 1985 NBA All-Star weekend, the grand opening of the Indianapolis Zoo in 1988, the White River Park State Games and Indianapolis Downtown Space 2010.

Fuson is a professional member of the International Association of Assembly Managers. He also is a member of the executive committee of the Indiana Sports Corporation, I.A.T.S.E. Local #30 Health and Welfare Fund and Pacers Foundation.

He is married to 1988 Olympic Gymnast Kelly Garrison and has three children, Amy, Emily and Matthew.

basketball STAFF



David Morway
Sr. Vice President
Pacers Basketball Administration



Mel Daniels
Director of
Player Personnel



David Craig
Head Athletic
Trainer



Julie Bender
Physical Therapist



Cory Burnett
Administrative Assistant



Raquel Burnette
Administrative Assistant
to Head Coach



Sonya Clutinger
Manager/
Basketball Administration



Bill Dean
Strength & Conditioning Coach



George Felton
Scout



George Glymph
Director/
Player Development



Tom Jennings
Assistant
Athletic Trainer



York Larese
Scout



Al Menendez
Scout/Assistant Coach



Nediljko "Misho" Ostarcevic
Scout/Assistant Coach



Derek Pierce
Video Coordinator



Jimmy Powell
Pro Scout/Assistant Coach



Joe Qatato
Equipment Manager



Steve Yoder
Scout



HEAD COACH

isiah
THOMAS

Isiah Thomas, the former point guard, went straight to the point.

"Our goal is to win a championship," said Thomas. "That's the only goal."

So on July 20, 2000, when Thomas was named coach of the Indiana Pacers, he made it clear that second place is no place he wants to be. And he has the resume to prove it.

College? NCAA champion in 1981 with Indiana University. NBA? Back-to-back championships with the Detroit Pistons in 1989-90. He won a gold medal with the 1979 United States Pan-Am Games basketball team. Had it not been for the 1980 Olympic boycott, Thomas would probably have an Olympic championship as well, since he had been selected for the United States basketball team. Finally, there is the personal recognition of being a champion in his sport: on Oct. 13, 2000, Thomas was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Now, after his third year as coach of the Pacers, Thomas remains intent on bringing an NBA title to a team that has been in the Eastern Conference Finals five of the last eight years and just three seasons ago reached the NBA Finals for the first time before falling to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games.

"We have obstacles in front of us, but my goal and my job is to continue to develop our younger players, to get the most and the best out of our veteran players, to not have a losing record, to make the playoffs every year and to lead this organization and this team to a level that it has yet to reach," said Thomas. "I always look forward to the challenge and opportunity and I am looking forward to continuing the success of Indiana basketball."

In his first three seasons as coach, the Pacers have compiled 41-41, 42-40 and 48-34 records, making the playoffs all three years and continuing a string where the Pacers have made the playoffs 13 times in the last 14 seasons. They did so under a variety of challenging circumstances. The team that reached the NBA Finals in 2000 lost three starters but Thomas fulfilled his promise to develop young players on the roster. Jermaine O'Neal, Al Harrington and Jeff Foster all played key roles while compiling significant minutes. The Pacers finished the 2000-01 season strong, going 8-2 in April, and earning Thomas NBA Coach of the Month honors.

Heading into the 2001-02 season, the challenges continued. The Pacers had the second-youngest team in the NBA (behind the L.A. Clippers), then lost Harrington - a leading candidate for Sixth Man of the Year - to a season-ending knee injury in January. Then in February, the Pacers made a trade that sent Jalen Rose, Travis Best and Norm Richardson to Chicago for Ron Artest, Ron

Mercer, Brad Miller and Kevin Ollie. That trade made the Pacers the youngest team in the league, but they finished the season by winning five straight and making the playoffs again, becoming the fifth-youngest team to ever make the NBA Playoffs.

Thomas' plan of player and team development continued to show progress in 2002-03. The Pacers got off to a 13-2 start, earning Thomas Eastern Conference Coach of the Month honors for November, and had the best record in the Eastern Conference at the All-Star break, earning Thomas All-Star coaching honors. He was joined by two players, O'Neal and Brad Miller. By season's end, the Pacers had earned the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, while being just two games shy of the No. 1 seed.

So facing challenges, and conquering them, is nothing new to Thomas.

Born April 30, 1961, in Chicago, Thomas grew up learning discipline and leadership from his mother, Mary. In a neighborhood plagued by drugs, violence and crime, Mary kept Isiah going in the right direction. It didn't stop with the formative years, though. When Thomas left Indiana University after his sophomore season to enter the NBA, his mother made him promise to return to school to earn his degree.

In 1987, while Isiah was playing in the NBA Playoffs, Mary was fittingly accepting his diploma during IU graduation ceremonies.

It is that sense of purpose which has made Thomas successful, both on the floor and off. As a player, his accomplishments are numerous.

After his brief, but successful, collegiate career, Thomas was selected in the first round of the 1981 NBA Draft by the Pistons and what ensued was near dominance from a player just 6-1. He was a 12-time NBA All-Star game participant (and starter), earning MVP awards in that game in 1984 and 1986.

In 1982, he was The Sporting News Rookie of the Year and in 1990 he was the NBA Finals MVP. When his 13-year career concluded, Thomas was the Pistons' all-time leader in points, assists, steals and games played for the regular season and playoffs. His 13.9 assists per game in 1984-85 set an NBA record that was later broken by John Stockton. Thomas, along with Stockton, Magic Johnson and Oscar Robertson, is only one of four players with 9,000 career assists.

It is no wonder that the Pistons retired his No. 11, nor is it a surprise that Thomas was voted one of the NBA's 50 Greatest. In November 1999, he was also cited as one of the 50 Greatest Players to have played in Indiana.

After retiring from the Pistons in 1994, Thomas turned his leadership qualities toward business. A former president of the National Basketball Players Association, Thomas became part owner and Executive Vice President/Basketball of the expansion Toronto Raptors.

From there, he became a studio analyst for the NBA on NBC and in 1999, he purchased the Continental Basketball Association and became its chairman and CEO. Also in 1999, Thomas founded Enlighten Sports, Inc., a full-service web development group specializing in sports marketing and merchandising for collegiate and minor league athletic programs.

Now Thomas turns to coaching, his first turn at the profession, although many considered him a coach on the floor during his playing days.

"My greatest gift that I have in life is basketball," he said. "It's something that I have been blessed with in terms of playing the game and being able to understand the game. Not being able to exercise that gift while I was out of the game, I really found a void in myself and a hole in my soul. I said the biggest problem that I have had in that time was that I woke up and I didn't go to the gym. I have been successful in a lot of other areas but not having the ability to exercise the greatest gift that I have, which is basketball, you know I have missed it."

As for the team, "I do envision championship basketball and when you talk about championship basketball, you talk about a good defensive team, you talk about a good offensive team and you talk about a team that really has its act together once they step on the floor. Our goal is to dominate the east and we must continue to dominate the east so that we can have another return to the NBA Finals. And I think mentally we have to become a tougher basketball team. I think mental toughness is going to be the thing that makes us champions."

Away from the floor, Thomas is extremely active. He is founder of the Isiah Thomas Foundation, an organization that is committed to promoting and creating educational and recreational opportunities for inner-city youth in the Detroit area. He is also active in educational, anti-crime and anti-poverty programs that he became involved with as a player and has continued since.

He has been honored as the 1985 Michiganian of the Year and the University of Detroit Mercy President's Cabinet Medallion in 1992 for his contributions to the community.

Thomas is married to Lynn and they have two children, Joshua and Lauren. In his spare time, Thomas enjoys traveling, golf, reading and relaxing with his family.