

step back

June 22, 1994, **ROCKETS vs. KNICKS**, NBA Finals, Game 7

A last second three-pointer by John Starks in Game 6 could have won the series for the Knicks, but Hakeem seemingly came out of nowhere to block the shot and force a Game 7.

The NBA Draft Lottery was created in 1985 and Ewing was the first player to be selected via the lottery system.

Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon had 25 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in what was then the biggest game in Rockets history. He was a unanimous choice as NBA Finals MVP, and became the only player in NBA history to win the MVP, Finals MVP and Defensive Player of the Year awards in the same season.

Long before the Knicks and Rockets met in the NBA Finals, Patrick and Hakeem already were rivals. In 1984, the Ewing-led Georgetown Hoyas defeated Olajuwon's University of Houston Cougars in the NCAA championship game.

The Knicks' 25 playoffs games in 1994 set a new NBA record for most games played in one postseason.

Carl Herrera had injured his shoulder against the Suns in the Western Conference Semifinals, but he came back in Game 1 of the Finals to give the Rockets a sixth-man secret weapon against the Knicks. He averaged 17 minutes a game and pulled down just under four boards a night in the NBA Finals.

Charles Oakley was known for his gritty and aggressive style of play, and he epitomized what fans loved and opponents hated about the Knicks. In Game 4 of the '94 NBA Finals, Oakley played on a sprained ankle and still pulled down 20 of New York's 50 boards.

Hakeem's patented "Dream Shake" move, a series of fakes and spins, made him one of the most difficult centers to guard in the history of the game.

Ewing set an NBA Finals record for most blocked shots, stuffing the Rockets 30 times.

After shooting 46 percent in the first six games of the series and scoring 27 points in Game 6, the Knicks were expecting a huge performance from fan favorite John Starks in the Finals' deciding game, but it wasn't to be. Starks shot a dismal 2-for-18 in Game 7 and was 1-for-10 in the fourth quarter. "I cried after the game," Starks wrote in his autobiography years later. "I was heartbroken."

Oakley started every single regular season and playoff game in 1994, setting an NBA record of 107 starts in a single season.

Oakley now owns a chain of car washes in New York, and acts from time to time as Michael Jordan's de facto bodyguard.

Vernon Maxwell aka "Mad Max" was known for his clutch three-point shooting, which was on display for the world to see in the series against the Knicks. In Game 7, he dropped 21 points, including a key three-pointer in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter.

For the first time since the shot clock was introduced in 1954, neither team scored 100 points during the '94 NBA Finals.

During the 2006 NBA Finals, ex-Knicks coach Pat Riley admitted that sitting Rolando Blackman in favor of John Starks during Game 7 was "the biggest mistake I ever made."