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If we could trade Tony and Eva for Chauncey

By Jacques E. Strap
Action sports analyst

As was accurately predicted here back in the fall, the Spurs won their third NBA championship. As the world now knows, San Antonio's entire season came down to one last quarter in a game 7 do-or-die finish against the big, bad, ugly, stuff-the-ball-down-your-throats Detroit Pistons.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said, “I don’t know how in the hell we did it, but we did,” and that expresses my sentiments exactly.

I don’t know exactly how this one came to pass, either, but I have learned a few things to go along with what I already know.

I already knew that Tim Duncan is the greatest forward to ever play the game of basketball, and I now know that he may be the grittiest competitor ever to shoulder the load for any team.

Playing through two ankle sprains which were severe enough to knock lesser players out for an entire season, the three-time MVP persevered against seemingly insurmountable obstacles with names like Wallace, Billups, Prince, and Hamilton.

And Duncan did it with herculean help from Emanuel Ginobili and Robert Horry.

I knew Horry is a 3-point bomber noted for last-second heroics, but I didn’t know that Big Shot Bob is a multi-talented workhorse who also plays defense, grabs rebounds, and hands out assists.

And I knew that Emanuel Ginobili is a tireless and talented slasher who could seemingly pass through a needle’s eye in one of is frenetic bolts for the basketball bucket. But I didn’t know that our wild bull from the Argentine pampas might be classified as the eighth wonder of the world.

Ginobili is a fitting partner for big Timmy, and a valuable team asset who can pick up the slack that others might leave hanging in the team rope.

But this final game was too damn close for my lights, and one the Spurs could easily have blown during those last frightening fourth quarter minutes. We managed to out-muscle a team with bigger muscles than ours, and I’m glad we don’t have another best-of-seven-game series coming up with Detroit next week.

All of which brings me to the unpleasant subject at hand. I know that every Spur on the floor against Detroit played his heart out, and every single one of them deserves the ring and all the goodies that go along with it.

But a familiar refrain popped into my brain as I saw Parker wrapped in a French flag at the press conference following game 7.

Parker had scored eight points in that final game, and the Spurs probably wouldn’t have won the championship had Popovich not had the gumption to use both Ginobili and Brent Barry on the point during part of the second half.

Pretty little Tony blows his cool when his balls are to the wall, and one could plainly see his glaring defects as the Pistons chocked him out of the paint with the smothering defense which Ginobili finally managed to penetrate.

continued on pg. 14
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Frankly Speaking
It was a cool spring night
and she stayed at my place
"And a warm gentle breeze
was caressing my face"
This was quite the scenario
and you think it just fine -
But at that very moment

*4* Action Magazine, July 2005
The following is a bit of music business history which might ring your bell. It includes famed movie stars, an even more famous preacher, and a songwriting whore monger who found redemption.

I got this piece from Rex Sherry, a childhood friend who is now an Austin private eye and parttime songwriter and guitar picker.

It’s too good to keep, so here goes:

Back in the 1950s there was a well-known radio host and comedian songwriter in Hollywood named Stuart Hamblen. He was noted for his drinking, womanizing, partying, etc.

One of his bigger hits at the time was I Won’t Go Hunting With You, Jake, But I’ll Go Chasing Women.

One day, along came a young preacher holding a tent revival. Hamblen had him on his radio show, presumably to poke some fun at the holy man.

In order to gather more material for his show, Hamblen showed up at one of the revival meetings.

Early in the service the preacher announced, “There is one man in the audience who is a big fake.” There were probably others who thought the same, but Hamblen was convinced that he was the one the preacher was talking about (some would call that conviction), but he was having none of that.

Still, the words continued to haunt him until a couple of nights later he showed up drunk at the preacher’s hotel door around 2 a.m. demanding that the preacher pray for him.

But the preacher refused, saying, “This is between you and God and I’m not going to get in the middle of it.”

But he did invite Stuart in and they talked until about 5 a.m. at which point Hamblen dropped to his knees, and with tears in his eyes, cried out to God.

Hamblen quit drinking, woman chasing, and everything else that was fun, and it wasn’t long until he began to lose favor with the Hollywood crowd.

He was ultimately fired by the radio station when he refused to accept a beer company sponsor, something most of us would consider a bit on the extreme side, but Hamblem stuck with his guns.

Hard times were upon him. He tried writing a couple of Christian songs but the only one that had much success was This Old House, a song Hamblen wrote for his friend Rosemary Clooney.

As Hamblen continued to struggle, a longtime friend named John took him aside and told him, “All your troubles started when you got religion. Was it worth it?”

Hamblen answered simply, “Yes.” Then his friend asked, “You liked your booze so much, don’t you ever miss it?” And the answer was “No.” Then John said, “I don’t understand how you could give it up so easily.”

Hamblen’s response was, “It’s no big secret. All things are possible with God.”

To this John said, “That’s a catchy phrase. You should write a song about it.”

As they say, the rest is history. The song Hamblen wrote is It Is No Secret.

Many may recognize the spiritual monster. It goes:

It is no secret what God can do, What He’s done for others, He’ll do for you. With arms wide open, He’ll welcome you,

It’s no secret, what God can do....

Hamblen’s friend was John Wayne.

The young preacher who refused to pray for Hamblen was Billy Graham.

Action Magazine, July 2005 •5•
Pauline Reese hits
Country music scene
with refreshing bang

Pauline Reese is a relatively new cowgirl on the Texas music circuit who has worked her way into the San Antonio area with a couple of appearances at Big John's Hangin' Tree Saloon in Bracken.

She worked there last month, and another show is scheduled for this month, July 22, which is a Friday night.

A songsmith and country music vocalist with a powerful delivery and blond good looks to match, Pauline is now touring in support of her third CD, a record which features her in a duet with Willie Nelson.

In referring to Pauline as a "cowgirl," we write in the literal sense, for Ms. Reese wears jeans, boots, and western-style hats with the authority of a girl who is as comfortable on a horse as she is on a stage.

One of eight children, Pauline was raised on a small ranch near Mount Pleasant in East Texas. She grew up fast and crossed both Texas and Oklahoma, working honkytonks of all sizes and descriptions, and gathering up new Pauline Reese fans everywhere they go.

"I love it," said the 27-year-old Pauline. "Some weeks we work six or seven shows, and I might add that I could never keep it up without John. He provides the support and extra strength I need when the going gets tough. I love him very much."

Says Burris: "I'm some years older than Pauline, and she keeps me stepping. We both have a faith in God. We have been married six years, and since we have yet to have children, most of our time is taken up by the music career."

Pauline Reese has accomplished a lot in a relatively short time. Aside from working honkytonks across Texas and Oklahoma, she is often called upon to kick off rodeos and other sporting events with her awe-inspiring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. And she has been equally busy off the stage, appearing on radio shows in two states, and modelling at fashion shows as well.

She is currently sponsored by Michelob Ultra (Anheuser-Busch), Elixir Strings, Bad Company Rodeo and Martin Audiology.

Known as one of the hardest-working artists in Texas, Pauline has shared bills with the likes of Willie Nelson, Gary P. Nunn, Freddy Powers, Kevin Fowler, Mark Chesnutt, Johnny Rodriguez, Billy Joe Shaver, Merle Haggard, Johnny Bush, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Cory Morrow, Pat Green, Gene Watson, Jack Ingram, Sonny Throckmorton, Roger Creager, and many others.

Pauline toured Europe in 2003, and she has since been nominated for the western swing female vocalist of the year award by the Academy of Western Artists.

"I guess you could list me as a country artist," Reese said, "but there is much more than country in my music. There is some big band sound, some redneck rock, and definitely some Tex-Mex. I don't want to be limited by any music labels."

Pauline's main influence has been her mother, an artist in her own right and a music director of the family's church in Mount Pleasant.

When Pauline was 14, the family moved to Austin where Ms. Reese was exposed to a variety of musical styles. She started singing backup in a local band at age 16, and by the time she turned 18, she was fronting her own group, the Pauline Reese Band.

Her first record was a self-titled Pauline Reese CD which got both name and voice on the market with some interesting tunes by other artists, but it was the second album which started drawing a lot of attention to the young singer-songwriter.

Titled Trail to Monterey, this second record includes the title cut, written by Pauline and Marcus David Kennedy Jr.; Clay Blaker's Love Me; Bob Hart's Rodeo Man, Kate Wolf's Green Eyes, and the Willie Nelson classic Night Life which proved to be Ray Price's biggest hit.

But it's the current record—a CD titled The Good, Bad, and The Ugly which showcases Pauline's writing talent and the ability to deliver her own songs.

This record is currently garnering rave reviews and quickly climbing the Texas and Oklahoma charts. On this project she has written or co-written eight of the 14 tracks, including a duet with Willie Nelson titled Pick Up The Pieces.

Her first single off this record—a snappy tune titled One Less Honky Tonk which she co-wrote with Freddy Powers—reached number 15 on Texas-Oklahoma charts, and Pauline's Cowboy Way is currently among the top-30 on Texas charts.

Title cut from The Good, Bad and The Ugly is a song of redemption which winds up with this irrefutable assessment of humanity: 'He's the good, the bad and the ugly—he's the one that lives in us all; Through his joy, his pain and his downfalls—there's forgiveness in this life for us all...'

With her dog, husband John, and a full six-piece country band, Pauline Reese may well hit the very top in Texas music. She's working mighty hard toward that goal.
Hancock keeps doing music his way without record firm direction

Maybe it was because school had just let out, and maybe it was just the early June blahs.

But for some inexplicable reason, Wayne (The Train) Hancock failed to draw his usual capacity crowd at Casbeer's last month as he marked his 40th birthday.

The low turnout was a temporary condition, however, for other live music venues in the area reported similar dropoffs in attendance for live shows.

Hancock was an unflappable self and the smaller-than-usual crowd was treated to another hard-driving trip back into the Hank Williams 1950s with plenty of those old-timey Hancock originals sprinkled throughout the mix.

"I just turned 40," Wayne grinned, "so I believe we will sing happy birthday to me."

Hancock sounds more like Hank Williams Sr., than anyone in recent memory, but he writes original music and puts a Wayne The Train twist on cover material which distinguishes him as far more than an imitator.

When Action interviewed Hank Williams III, the grandson of the legend had nothing but high praise for Hancock and his work, and while Wayne The Train and Hank III have never worked a stage together, Wayne told us at Casbeer's that he hoped to get Hank III on the new CD which is now in progress.

"We might even do a show together one of these days," Hancock said. "We have talked."

Some things about Wayne Hancock never change, and that's all part of his appeal.

"I still hate most record companies," he grinned, "and I still don't have a drum in my band. But you never know about things...drums I mean."

Working like the pro that he is, Hancock performed at Casbeer's as if he were on stage before a thousand fans.

He calls his music "juke joint swing." He yodels, sings through his nose, and delivers a cutting-edge brand of modern-day Hank which has earned him such handles as the "roots Renaissance man," and the master of hillbilly swing.

And Hank Williams III isn't the only accomplished picker to call Hancock the real deal. Joe Ely has said it, and so has Bobby Koefer from the Texas Playboys.

Since we haven't had a Wayne Hancock piece in some time, it might be well to bring out some background on the ex-Marine who many call a cross between Williams and Gershwin.

A member of the Austin music colony, Wayne The Train's recording career debuted in 1995 with the CD titled Thunderstorms and Neon Signs, a remarkable record produced by steel guitar legend Lloyd Maines. The release was met with critical acclaim.

Newsweek called it the most promising debut album of the season, and more than 22,000 copies of that original record were sold on the tiny independent label.

In 1997, Hancock signed with ARK 21, an eclectic and well-anchored label owned by former Police manager Miles Copeland. Miles and his staff were impressed with Wayne's genuine ability for writing and performing and have dubbed him "arguably the hardest-working man in show business" for his willingness to tour solidly and his insistence on efficiency and untainted live energy in the studio.

In support of his first record, Hancock played 250 dates throughout the country, including brilliant performances on Austin City Limits and NPR's Prairie Home Companion.

Hancock spent only three days recording his second CD, a brilliant example of his Texas swing and rockabilly roots. The album is called That's What Daddy Wants, and the bugle call on its title track was used to wake astronauts on the space shuttle Columbia.

After That's What Daddy Wants generated even more critical suc-

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Goodbye to Ram

Musicians, friends, media people, and nightclub and restaurant operators such as Barbara Wolfe and Steve Silbas of Casbeers, and Lisa and Sam Asvestas of The Cove, were devastated and confused by the murder of Taco Land owner-operator Ramiro (Ram) Ayala.

Shot dead by some punk who walked up and poked a pistol in his gut, the 72-year-old heart attack survivor and genuine, dyed-in-the-wool San Antonio character, will be sorely missed by people from every rung of the social ladder.

Be they older rich kids from Alamo Heights or homeless wins who frequented the Taco Land outdoor patio during closing hours, Ram treated them all alike. And the Taco Land live music was reminiscent of old outlaw KEXL FM of the late 1970s. You might hear anything from the old outlaw music, including a special appearance by the TEXACALA JONES and others.

When we showed up at Taco Land during evening hours with Action copies, Ram would always holler, "Hey, papa, put 'em here and stay for a while."

When the magazine was delivered during closing hours, one of the homeless guys who frequented the Taco Land premises would take the Actions and hold them until Ram opened the doors.

Ram was as off-the-wall as his joint, and he was loved by many.

We all miss him.

We Called It

Prior to Phil Hardberger's narrow victory in last month's mayoral race, Action Magazine predicted that this one would be decided more by physical appearance of the candidates than by qualifications.

Bingo!

The babyface 30-year-old was defeated by a 70-year-old retired judge, and the newspaper ink detailing this race wasn't good and dry before an Associated Press article confirmed what we had predicted.

The babyface look, according to a Princeton study, is not what the voters prefer. The AP article described the majority of voters prefer a more mature countenance, and the AP article described the loser look of a babyface, i.e.: High forehead, larger eyes, smaller chin, and nose, and a rounder face.

So there you have it, followers and fans of politics. That describes losing candidate Julián Castro to a T.

The Slob Section

No-class ignorance appears to be the norm for many Spurs fans in a city which already rates among the slobbiest in the nation.

If you don't believe it,
Backfire

check out the film shots from both the SBC Center and sports bars which attract occasional television attention.

There are far too many signifying monkeys sporting Spurs shirts and caps, a condition which was televised around the world during the recent NBA finals.

Mr. and Mrs. Dumbshit a-la-San Antonio on parade, shamelessly jumping, waving, and otherwise displaying their less-than-pleasing anatomies before national TV cameras. It's kinda sad to see these exhibitionist fans wearing black jerseys with athlete names such as Duncan, Ginobili, and Parker.

Most of them wouldn't know a pump fake from a pick-and-roll, but they represent the majority of faces which hit TV during the playoff games. These are the so-called loyal fans who converge upon the airport to welcome home the Spurs, many of them mothers who drag pre-schoolers and toddlers alike out near the tarmac at hours like 2, 3, and 4 a.m., there to screech, wave their flags, and behave like mindless moles for local TV cameramen.

The Spurs are probably not proud to be a part of this public embarrassment, but they can't afford to admit the like. Even the freakiest of fans are among the great unwashed masses who buy the tickets and scoop up the paraphernalia. These people are truly among the many who sorely need to get a life. And this goes for the electronics media jokers as well. Without them, we wouldn't have nearly so many so-called "fans" dragging their kids around in the middle of the night.

Bulverde Market
The popular Bulverde Farmer's Market which features fresh fruit, vegetables, homemade bread, and other goodies each Saturday afternoon will soon be ruined and on the way out if some control isn't exercised over the vendors. People selling fresh tomatoes, peaches, watermelons, okra, squash, and other garden products are already being crowded by the junk hawkers who invariably try to infiltrate such wholesome and much-needed events. Organizers in charge of this worthwhile project must limit sales to produce and home-cooked edibles. Bulverde needs a farmer's market more than another flea market.

Neverland Weirdo

No telling how much money went down the drain as the State of California unsuccessfully tried to convict Michael Jackson of child molestation.

With his lipstick, bleached hide, blade-thin plastic nose, and mewling sub-human way of talking, Jackson appears more continued on pg. 14
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Adam Carroll fourth CD might be his best

Adam Carroll is a poet and a prophet with a songwriting style that nobody can emulate.

His new album Far Away Blues is probably the best of his four CDs from a technical point of view. From a lyric hound's perspective, Carroll's stock in trade, and humanity in general which includes quirky tunes he wrote with Ray Wylie Hubbard titled Last Day of Grace.

Hubbard and Terri Hendrix join with Carroll on the vocals for this one, a cut which would make Carroll's fourth CD well worth the money if he didn't have anything else on the disc.

But there is plenty more, including quirky love songs, some pathos, and the brand of humor which seems to have followed Carroll from his East Texas upbringing. Subtlety is Adam Carroll's stock in trade, and the unattentive will miss what they deserve for being unattentive. This guy who now lives in San Marcos can carve to the heart and soul with a unique view of humans and humanity in general which has remained crisp and fresh since he released his debut CD South of Town in 1999.

His second album was Lookin' Out The Screen Door, and, like his first release, was given rave reviews by the Austin press. Adam Carroll Live was the other record prior to the current Far Away Blues.

The new record includes original Carroll tunes such as Alright, Rice Birds, Dream On, Low In The Mountains, and the wistful title cut Far Away Blues. Carroll weaves his dry brand of East Texas wit throughout much of his material, but the really funny one on the new CD is a tune titled AFI-CIO. Like many young writers, Carroll sometimes comes across with the youthful optimism of one who might entertain the notion of living forever, but no disrespect is meant for Lester the aging heart patient. He does his picking at the AFI-CIO Rubber Division, and displays his name on his guitar strap, a reminder of kid days when he picked continued on pg. 14

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Action Magazine, July 2005 •13•
knows that Jackson was likely guilty of every offense outlined by the prosecution—from hand jobs to oral sex on a kid.

Augie Meyers Show
Augie Meyers, one of San Antonio’s most talented and well known musicians of current times, spends more time working the road in both the U.S. and Europe than he does in San Antonio.

The reasons are obvious. Augie needs the home time to rest and work on new material, and he has always avoided the possibility of burnout in a city which is literally crawling with neophyte musicians who will work for little or nothing.

So local fans don’t get a lot of opportunities to hear the former member of both the Sir Douglas Quintet and the Texas Tornados up close and personal.

For this reason, Meyers should draw a mob for his upcoming August 6 concert at Texas Pride Barbecue on Southeast 1604 near Adkins and St. Hedwig, the area where Augie grew up.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. The show will be at the big outdoor patio and stage of Texas Pride. Baritone Henry U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar will be a guest baritone horn player when the Alamo City Community Marching Band holds its “American salute” concert at 2:30 p.m. July 2 at American Legion Post 2, 3518 Fredericksburg Road.

Javier Tapia, director of the band, was instrumental in getting Cuellar for the concert. The two of them both played with the J.W. Nixon High School Band of Laredo.

“This will be a concert for everybody,” Tapia said. “We are going to salute our great American spirit by recognizing American people, groups, cities, the military and the very fiber that is uniquely American.”

More Club Stuff
Big John Oaks is holding a benefit July 10 at the Hangin’ Tree to defray medical expenses for Greg Greget, who was injured in a motorcycle accident.

Music will be furnished by Geronimo Trevino, Alan Torans, The Whoozits, the Barn Danglers, and more.

The event lasts from 1 until 8 p.m. There will be brisket plates available for $5.

Big John, incidentally, is now a first-time grandpa. The grandson is Ryan Daniel Oaks, son of Big John’s son Toby and daughter-in-law Sonya Oaks.

Darlene’s Next Place on Randolph Boulevard has a Tuesday night jam that is packing them in. Host band is an outfit called All The Way. All musicians are welcome to join in the fun.

Jacques E. Strap cont’d
Parker stopped sharing the ball. He held it and dribbled it too long, and he’s damn lucky that Ben or Rasheed didn’t just eat him alive.

I know what I’d like to see—the impossible, of course. I would like to see us accomplish a three-way trade which would bring Chauncey Billups to San Antonio and send both Tony Parker and Eva Longoria to Detroit.

The Spurs still have need for a real point guard, and Manu just might be the man for the job. Ginobili has clearly established himself as a team co-leader with Tim Duncan, and he has as much ice in his veins as George Gervin ever had.

And you didn’t see Ginobili wearing an Argentine flag like a bathrobe as he talked with national media representatives following the championship game.

A dog can have as many as 500 mates in one year.

(So much for being loyal)

The fact is two breeding dogs with all of their offspring can produce 6,000 puppies in just six years. Spaying and neutering will prevent homeless puppies and help your dog live a longer, healthier life.
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July 16
$200.00 1st Place
Music by Southern Mix
Also in JULY
3 Bob & Bear ................................ 4-8
10 Lesti Huff & Jim Bard ...................... 4-8
17 Bob & Bear ................................ 4-8
24 Sylvia & Scott ............................. 4-8
31 Nelson Royal ............................. 4-8

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1st-Publio - Nite Wing
8th-Face First
15th-The Groove
22nd-Mimic
29th-Oldies with Publio
Jerry Savoy on Sax
Nite Wing II

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July 1-7 - Closed for Vacation
July 8 - TBA
July 9 - Willie Jae
July 12 - The El Orbits
July 14 - David Holt
July 15 - Sisters Morales
July 16 - Susan Gibson CD Release
July 17 - Gospel Brunch
July 19 - Open Mic
July 22 - Ruben V
July 23 - Two Hoots and a Holler
July 26 - Smith and Warwick
July 28 - The McKay Brothers
July 29 - The Swindles

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Hill Country Fun
Well Worth
The Short Run

JULY 2005
FRIDAYS - 7:30-11:30 p.m.
1 .................................................. Haslett Bros.
8 .................................................. Slim Roberts & Texas Weather
15 .............................................. Bobby Baker & The Longnecks
22 .............................................. Thomas Michael Riley
29 .............................................. Bobby Jordan & Ridge Creek

SATURDAYS - 8:30-12:30 p.m.
2 .................................................. Drugstore Cowboys
9 .................................................. Crooked Toe Band
16 .............................................. Lonestar Pickers
23 .............................................. Dukes of Hap Hazard
30 .............................................. Soul Shakers

WEDNESDAYS
6 .................................................. Call For Info
13 .................................................. Homefire
20 .................................................. Classic Cowboys
27 .................................................. Homefire

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11 a.m. til 1 a.m. Saturday
Noon til Midnite Sunday

KITCHEN
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7 days a week

Action Magazine, July 2005 • 15 •
Put your money
where the music is!

Why live entertainment clubs choose Action

Since 1975, Action Magazine has been the major voice for Texas music and Texas musicians in San Antonio and across South Texas.

We have featured the greats, the near-greats, and a number of struggling young pickers who deserved their shot in print no matter how broke or anonymous they may have been.

Our rewards for some 28 years of continuous publication in the rugged nightclub and live music business have been the advertising dollars to keep on keeping on.

Nightclub operators who advertise their live music lineups in Action Magazine ads know the value of consistent print advertising in this publication. Music fans read our ads religiously; using them to track their favorite musicians and schedule their weekend entertainment activities.

If you have a club featuring live music, your advertising dollars invested with Action Magazine will pay you dividends.

Our unofficial representatives are the musicians who toil on the club stages of San Antonio and South Texas. They know that the place to advertise live music is in Action Magazine. Their very livelihood depends upon music fans patronizing the clubs where they appear.

If you don't believe it, just ask them.