Darrell McCall is back in Texas to stay

Big plans for San Antonio are in the works

Article pg. 8
JULY BANDS

Fri. 4th-Prototype  
Sat. 5th-Wolf Pak  
Fri. 11th-Spitfire  
Sat. 12th-Anniversary Party  
Tomans 12-6  
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Thursday, July 10...Pear Ratz, 9 p.m., $3 cover  
Friday, July 11...Ruben V, 9 p.m., $7 cover  
Saturday, July 12...South Texas Destroyers  
CD release, 9 p.m., $7 cover  
Thursday, July 17...Rich O'Toole, 9 p.m., $3 cover  
Friday, July 18...Texas music TBA  
Saturday, July 19...Train Wreck, 9 p.m., $7 cover  
Thursday, July 24...Honey Browne, 9 p.m., $5 cover  
Friday, July 25...Simmons Allison Group  
with Bruce Smith Band, 9 p.m., $9 cover  
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The Britt Lloyd Band CD release,  
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*2* Action Magazine, July 2008
Ruthie Foster headlines Water Street party

The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster is the title of Ruthie Foster’s new CD. The title fits the picture, and the picture fits the title, for the Austin-based Foster is by any definition a phenomenal musician and entertainer. San Antonio music lovers will have a rare opportunity to see and hear Ruthie Foster up close and personal on July 31 when she heads the music fare for Water Street Oyster Bar’s 20th anniversary blowout.

If there was ever a Texas queen of soul, it’s Ruthie Foster, an Austin-based singer and songwriter who combines elements of blues, gospel, country and folk in both recordings and live performances.

“Ruthie really is incredible,” says Water Street owner Thurman Love, a musician himself and a lover of musical originality. “I booked her in Bandera when I had the Cabaret, and the last several years she has been the hot ticket at the Kerrville Folk Festival. Her roots are in gospel music, and you can hear it plain and clear in the new CD which is truly a classic soul album.”

Ruthie Foster’s career started with her self-released 1977 debut CD Full Circle. Her 2002 breakthrough album, however, was a record called Runaway Soul.

The Incredible Ruthie Foster is her fifth and possibly best effort, but Ruthie has enjoyed plenty of success along the way. While touring North America and Europe, she was selling a staggering average of 100 CDs per show, and at one Canadian performance, she broke all records by selling 1,000 albums at a single show.

“I love Canada,” Foster laughs. Austin producing legend Lloyd Maines crafted Ruthie’s Runaway Soul work, and along with her live recording of Stages, she combined contemporary folk with some old-school gospel.

If you like Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin, chances are good you will love Ruthie Foster, for she has been compared with both of these living legends.

Opening for Foster at Water Street will be the talented McKay brothers of Pipe Creek, known far and wide for their catchy original song lyrics and powerful harmonies.

Water Street’s 20th anniversary party and concert will go to benefit the San Antonio Library Foundation. The tickets are $50 and include a seafood buffet that showcases Water Street’s culinary delights.

The McKays kick off the music at 7 p.m. Ruthie Foster is scheduled to take the stage at 8 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased exclusively at the restaurant by phone or in person.

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A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD ESTABLISHMENT
We will now attempt to analyze my recent trip to Atlanta, Georgia, offering a few observations and factual data for anyone of the persuasion to fly off to the “Peach State.”

First off, let me say this. If God ever decides to give the South an enema, he will surely insert the water tube in that wonderful city that William Tecumseh Sherman burned to the ground. And this is no endorsement of Union General Sherman, whose ghost is still the most hated ghost still roaming the Civil War battlefields of the South.

Keeping in mind that I have always been a Robert E. Lee fan at heart, and never forgetting a horrible 3-day stay near Chicago’s rat-infested Navy Pier area which I endured when riding with the Willie Nelson Family back in the 1980s, I will try to control my anti-yankee sentiments while penning this piece about Atlanta. Certainly the Maker would poke the anal tube into the windy city of Illinois if a national purge was called for, but Atlanta is bad enough.

This is not meant to put down the general population of Atlanta. I know there are some decent souls in the big town of over 4-million, and among them is Stephanie Cherry Farmer, whose marriage to Chris Farmer in Atlanta’s historic midtown Fox Theater was the reason for me and wife Sharon flying to Georgia in the first place.

The free-spirit niece
Stephanie is Sharon’s free-spirit niece with a masters degree, and I have grown to literally love this razor-sharp kid whose e-mail moniker is “Sweet Punk.” Besides that, Stephanie is the only human on this planet ever to address me as “Uncle Sam,” a designation which I rather fancy.

With my 5-foot wife struggling to keep step, I plunged out into the 5,000-acre Atlanta Airport like Bubba on a short bicycle, never suspecting that I would have to ride a train to the airport baggage area which is larger than a West Texas horse trap. But the baggage train was just for openers. Next came “MARTA” and the advance guard of Atlanta’s homeless troops, a swarm of nicely-dressed bums who have honed the art of panhandling down to a finely-tuned science.

They were waiting for us as we boarded the “MARTA” train, Atlanta’s light-rail transit system which is officially titled Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. I said it should translate into “Moving Assholes Rapidly Through Atlanta.” Sharon said that my voice carries, and that I should shut my mouth before getting us both killed.

Forrest Gump from Texas
Wearing a western-cut suit, black Lucchese ostrich boots, a black John B. Stetson with a 4-inch brim, and a Wyatt Earp-style string necktie, I might as well have hung a sign around my neck which read Hustle Me, I’m Forrest Gump down from Texas, and this here’s my 5-foot wife.

Country as pig tracks, but not dumb enough to leave my poke with some overgrown graffiti artist wearing red-trimmed Reboks and a Georgia Tech pullover.

We were zooming across Atlanta on a MARTA train with a midtown destination of the Peach Tree Street Station. And I just thought I had seen graffiti on San Antonio’s West Side. Whole buildings on the midtown light rail system route in Atlanta are literally covered with the stuff. But the midtown Hotel Indigo, where we were to stay, was graffiti-free and unique in its ancient but unique decor.

Sharon’s brother, Dr. Steve Cherry, a Spartanburg, South Carolina cardiologist who also happens to be father of the bride, had blocked off most of the hotel for wedding guests. And we were soon to discover that the Fox Theater where the wedding was to be held was just across Ponce de Leon Drive, which intersects just a block away with Peach Tree Street.

Doc Steve and wife Linda were the gracious and magnanimous wedding party hosts. There were grand dinners, lunches, brunches, and wedding cake galas, with a 1940s area band playing for a reception dance in one of the Fox Theater ballrooms. And the wedding ceremony proper was conducted by a female minister on one of the theater building’s outdoor third-story balconies. Stephanie’s little sister Alex, a beautiful high school senior, served as maid of honor.

Me and King Tut
Only niece Stephanie would have selected the Fox for her wedding. She’s into old and spooking-looking buildings, with at least one of her university majors having something to do with monument restoration, and the Fox itself is a 100-year-old monument in its own right. Constructed of arabic design, the theater even has a room titled King Tut’s Tomb, and for a time there, I felt like I was right in their with the boy king. It was a great event, and both the 5-foot wife and I appreciated all of the family hospitality.

Reality, however, awaits right outside on the sidewalks bordering the historic Fox Theater. The Atlanta homeless, I might add, are nothing like the winos who solicit for aims on San Antonio streets. They are much more polished in their hustle, and most of them are far better dressed than our panhandlers.

Atlanta’s homeless wear New Balance running shoes, college-issue sweats, and porkpie hats that belie the objective.

“Hello, there, sir, and how are you doing this fine morning,” the pitch came from a well-built and personable young fellow in his mid-30s. “Those are mighty fine boots you have on, and I’ll bet that cowboy hat is a Stetson or a Resistol. And I’m wondering what you think of Barrack Obama and Hillary Clinton....”

Then comes the hook
Then he slips in the hustle. A few dollars to tide him over until lunch, and maybe a few extra bucks for dinner. And when you decline the solicitation, you see the true face of Atlanta’s unemployed.

“Well, fuck you, cowboy, and maybe your horse, too, if you have one....”

Then comes another and still another. They hustle you from one side of the block to the other, and nary an Atlanta cop even shows his face on Ponce De Leon Avenue while these well-dressed bums vent their invective.

The 5-foot wife beseeched me to stop cussin’ and trading insults with the street people, and I finally managed to get back on the MARTA train to the airport without rolling in an Atlanta gutter with some fashion plate wino.

Sharon called it all “stressful.”
I call it something else.
It’s good to be home in San Antonio.

Action Magazine, July 2008 •5•
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JULY BANDS

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Coming Soon To a Dealer Near You

• Action Magazine, July 2008
Casbeers, the world famous home of live Texas music in San Antonio, has moved to the downtown King William district and literally relocated in a church.

You have to see the new Casbeers at the Church (that’s the new name) to believe it. It’s bigger and better and even funkier than the old Casbeers on Blanco Road, and the joint’s rabid live music freaks will go bananas over the 3-level, 96-year-old building at 1150 S. Alamo Street which still has pews in what was once a second-story Methodist Church sanctuary.

As Texas music has evolved from those wild and wooly redneck rock (or progressive country, if you please) days in the 1970s, Austin has featured some of the coolest live music dumps in the land. There has been old Soap Creek Saloon, Armadillo World Headquarters (in an old National Guard armory), The Alliance Wagon Yard, The Checkered Flag, and the still operating Broken Spoke.

But not one single Austin skull orchard, past or present, could match Casbeers at the Church for an atmosphere that can only be described as outlandishly appealing. One can almost visualize Kinky Friedman hanging out of the belfry and cutting loose with tunes like his controversial but incredible masterpiece They Ain’t Makin’ Jews Like Jesus Anymore.

Operated by the husband-wife team of Steve Silbas and Barbara Wolfe, Casbeers at the Church will be featuring some bigger acts than space allowed at the old Blanco Road location, and the usual culinary delights of Kinky Burgers and “truck stop enchiladas” will be supplemented with a full food menu which will also include complete home-cooked meals.

“Some people thought we had lost our minds when we took over the old Casbeers in 1999 and started offering live roots music four and sometimes five nights a week,” Barbara Wolfe said. “And I’m sure there will be some who will think we have completely gone off the deep end with this new operation.”

Steve Silbas, a live music junkie who can rat-tie off biographical data and pinpoint statistical facts on just about any picker who might be working the highways and bivvies of Texas today, said he and wife Barbara hope to continue with the live music tradition they started with Casbeers on Blanco Road while adding on some acts that might have been too large for the old habitat.

“Our main stage and music room will be on the church’s basement level,” Silbas said. “This will be the bar and dining area which can seat about 80 patrons, although more can be seated when we utilize the outdoor patio and street-side cafe facilities.

“Steve said the dining, which was most recently a cafe and drama play operation known as The Church Bistro and Theater, actually features three levels. “There is the basement level where we will have the kitchen and main music room,” Silbas said. “Then there is the second level which housed the sanctuary when the building was the Alamo Methodist Church back during the early 1900s.

The sanctuary level will seat about 160, and here is where we will feature much larger acts as Billy Joe Shaver. We plan to replace the pews with tables sometime in the near future.”

The third level, Silbas explained, is “the balcony level, an area where we will possibly set up sound and lighting equipment and maybe even feature a small V.I.P. lounge for special guests. The possibilities are almost unlimited.”

The Wolfe-Silbas team was nearing the end of a lease at the old Blanco Road location, and when Barbara stumbled on a newspaper ad for the ancient church facility she said, “I knew that this was an opportunity we couldn’t pass up. We will be able to offer even more live music than we have in the past, and the last tenants left us with a complete kitchen operation we didn’t have at the old bar and grill. Actually, we had nothing but a bar and a little grill for burgers, enchiladas, and fries. Now we hope to offer the same food we had at old Casbeers, but also a full menu of home-cooked meals as well.”

The old Alamo Methodist Church, Wolfe said, was built in 1912. In the mid-1960s it closed down and sat dormant until the mid-1970s, serving mainly as a hangout for winos and the homeless.

The old building was bought and completely restored to its present-day beauty by Paul Boskind, a wealthy psychologist who now serves as landlord for Casbeers at the Church.

“We couldn’t be more happy or excited,” said Barbara Wolfe. “This is something we never even dreamed of.”

Although located just south of downtown in the quaint King William District, Casbeers at the Church will be easy for music fans and food customers to find.

There are numerous ways to reach the place, but probably the easiest involves driving south on U.S. 281, turning right on Durango near the Alamodome, and then turning left on Alamo Street.

Casbeers at the Church is at 1150 S. Alamo at the corner of Alamo and Wickes Street, approximately 10 blocks south of Durango.
Darrell McCall slated to host giant project at old Aztec Theater

Texas has been good to Darrell McCall, and the country music puritan with the soaring vocals is apparently back to stay.

While McCall relocated from Nashville to the Brady area some two years ago, he says the big Aztec Theater country music project he has been hired to host in San Antonio is still in the works.

"It's really big and involved, and there have been delays," McCall said. "But it's going to happen, and it's going to be something really good for San Antonio when it does."

To be titled San Antonio Rose Live, the permanent production will be hosted by McCall in a completely refurbished Aztec Theater near the San Antonio River Walk.

"We will be bringing major country acts to the Aztec," McCall said. "And I do mean real country music performers."

The gigantic stage show was first scheduled to open in May, then the date was pushed back into the summer. Now, according to McCall, San Antonio Rose Live will likely open the doors sometime in late fall.

"The money behind this project comes from the Drury Inn people out of Nashville," McCall said. "And they want everything to be right when they raise the first curtain."

McCall and his musical family are now based in the Brady area where Darrell is releasing records on Heart of Texas Records, a Central Texas record label owned by Brady radio station operator Terry Fitzco.

"Pitcox is an amazing person," Darrell said. "He founded the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, and his record label is featuring us and a bunch of really good pickers. Ferlin Husky, Leona Williams, Amber Digby, Curtis Potter, and more. And Mona McCall has released her first CD on Heart of Texas Records."

McCall had his French-Canadian wife Mona working the stage with him last month at Texas' Country on O'Connor Road, as well as his front band leader and recording producer Justin Trevino, who has relocated from San Antonio to the Brady area.

"Mona and I have settled in Freedomia," McCall said. "That's a little hamlet between Brady and Llano, and I guess you could say that our music operation is based in Brady. We've got Justin Trevino up there. He is the leader of our band, and he also produces my records. And our daughter Guyanne is working as a disc jockey on the Brady radio station, and she is writing songs that are being picked up by a number of artists."

In 2005, Darrell's first full length album in over five years—a CD titled Old Memories and Wine—was released to rave reviews. McCall says this is the first record in his career that he was actually allowed to pick all the material and the musicians who worked on the album.

Darrell's love affair with San Antonio started in 1971 when he and Mona lived in Helotes until 1975, and his love/hate relationship with Nashville, Tennessee has endured through the years as the McCall's yo-yoed sporadically between here and Music City.

"Heck, we raised our kids in San Antonio, so we have some strong ties," McCall said. "But things have happened. Once we left San Antonio and went back to Nashville when the bottom fell out of the economy in the early 1980s. But my main problem throughout those years were the promises the major labels kept making me. I would go back to Nashville, ready to start a new project, and the labels would again refuse to let me cut with fiddles and steels. It's a battle I have had since the beginning."

"So I say thank God for Texas, and thank God for San Antonio. My records have always received top air play in this area, and the fans who attend our live shows have never stopped coming."

McCall's next CD will be a remake of his Lily Dale album, the title cut being an award-winning duet single he made with Willie Nelson.

"Darrell McCall actually began his recording career as a member of the pop group Little Dippers in 1960. He broke away from that band the following year, and by 1963 his sound had evolved into pure country, and he moved from Ohio to Nashville with the late Johnny Paycheck, and the ensuing years have seen him work in movies, rodeos, and on country music stages throughout the land as a bass player with Ray Price's Cherokee Cowboys Band, a stellar group that also included Johnny Bush on drums and Willie Nelson on lead guitar.

With Lamar Morris, Darrell co-wrote Eleven Roses, the number-one hit that was a remake of his Lily Dale that year, and McCall flirt with stardom on numerous occasions. He has had near-hits, regional hits, and scattered success with such great songs as There's Still A Lot of Love in San Antonio, I'll Break Out Again Tonight, Wall of Daddy's Dreams, Pines and Needles, Long Line of Empties, and Memphis in May, to name only a few.

To many a Texas music fan, Darrell McCall will always be a superstar. He and his band have been picked up by the army of loyal fans who follow him like rats trailing the Pied Piper."

"I'm really happy now," McCall said. "Working with Justin Trevino, and recording with Heart of Texas Records is really what I want to do. And everyone in the family is contributing."

Darrell's daughter Guyanne wrote the title track to his Old Memories and Wine CD and son Cody did all of the harmony work. Wife Mona contributed two songs to the project—The French Song and Deepening Snow. Son Cody McCall is singing with a New York rock group called Paper Rival, a touring band that works some 300 days per year.

"I don't know a lot about it," Darrell said, "but they have something on My Space which is getting sixty-thousand hits a day. That sounds pretty strong to me. I'm just grateful that Cody still comes around to do my harmonies."

McCall's daughter Guyanne is planning a CD of her own which she plans to market on the internet. She works as a DJ on Brady's radio station, and her country tunes have been picked up by Amber Digby, Heather Miles, and Leona Williams.

"I'm really proud of her," Darrell said. "She writes classic traditional country music, the kind of stuff I have been fighting for all of my life."

"I asked what he thinks of the so-called 'new country' you hear on KJ-97 in San Antonio, McCall rolled his eyes and said, "I don't even think about it. It's from another world, maybe another planet. It just ain't country to me. I don't hear the fiddles, I don't hear the steels. Just squawks and squeals, and maybe a little foreign rap or something."

Darrell's wife Mona has her first CD out on the Brady records label. It's titled Memories Love a Melody, and it also includes her tunes The French Song and The Deepening Snow. "It's a beautiful piece of work," Darrell said, "and it has been way overdue from a very special person who stayed home raising kids during some of those rough years. I could never say enough good things about Mona."

And McCall can't say enough good things about Justin Trevino, the blind record producer, vocalist, and bassist who produces his records and opens all of his shows.

Other pros working with the group include fiddle wizard Ron Knuth, steel player Dickey Overby, and Smiley Reynolds on drums.

"Justin is a fine producer and he knows how to get the sound that I need and want," McCall said. "I am having so much fun now working the road and getting to see those Texas fans everywhere. This is the only life that I know, and I appreciate the opportunity to make a living doing what I love to do."
Help for Jeri
A special benefit and fundraiser for popular Fiasco day bartender Jeri Tarrillion will be held on Saturday, July 26, at the popular watering hole at 2250 Thousand Oaks.

A loveable fixture at the club owned by Marilyn Anderson and Bill Bateman, Jeri was hospitalized for about a week after suffering a mild heart attack which was followed by a stroke.

Tarrillion is home now and doing well, but she will be away from her job for at least a month, and her medical bills are astronomical.

"Everyone loves Jeri," Marilyn Anderson said. "She is just one of those very rare and special people."

The benefit party will include both silent and live auctions, a full buffet, and music by Hindsight. The all-you-can-eat buffet starts at 2 p.m. The band starts at 9:30 p.m. Donations will be greatly appreciated, both cash and auction items. A $10 contribution will be collected at the door.

Marilyn said that 100 percent of all donations and monies raised will go to Jeri.

Corrections
Two errors in last month's article on drum pioneer Kirk Scott need to be righted. An old photo of drummer Richard Harmachea was erroneously identified as "Richard Hernandez." And a mention of the late drummer Crossman identified Crossman as a current member of Ray Price's band while the past tense should have been used. Crossman died six years ago.

"Thumb pickin' great" Richard Smith, world renown fingerstyle guitarist who was a student of the late Chet Atkins, returned to Specht's Store in Bulverde last month for his second concert at the landmark bar and eatery. As he did in a show last fall, Smith played with his wife Julie Adams, a world-class cellist in her own right, and the audience who showed for the Sunday afternoon gig was treated to some of the best "thumb-pickin" music this side of Nashville.

Smith, who was named the number-one fingerstyle guitarist in the world, after a show at Specht's, returned to Bulverde last month for his second concert at the landmark bar and store.

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JULY BAND SCHEDULE

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<td>EMMERSON BIGGINS</td>
<td>8-12</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>FUNDRAISER FOR 6TH OLD HALEY ALONDO</td>
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<td>MUSIC BY BILLY MATA, EMMERSON BIGGINS, TEXAS EXPRESS, WILL OWEN GAGE, LARRY MARTIN SWEENEY &amp; HUBCAPS</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>TWO WAY STREET</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>WOODEN NICKLE</td>
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"This is Texas"
world by Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine, surprised the audience by singing along with his wife on several numbers.

He played Chet, Merle Travis, Jerry Reed, and a number of other hot thumb-pickers, but this concert contained more classical guitar than past performances.

“We will be back here at Specht's” Smith promised his audience. “I'm not yet sure of the date, but you can count on us coming back.”

Alonzo benefit
A benefit for 6-year-old Hailey Alonzo and members of her family will be held July 20 at the Hangin' Tree Saloon in Bracken.

The little girl is the daughter of the late Rene Alonzo, former operator of Luxello Hall and a onetime Windcrest city councilman, who died tragically of a single gunshot wound in April.

While majority of the proceeds of the First Annual Rene Alonzo Benefit will go to the child, part of the money will be used to buy a marker for Rene's grave. There will be live music from 10 a.m. until midnight, along with a live auction, food, and contests throughout the day. A guitar signed by George Strait will be one of the items auctioned. Other signed merchandise will include the signature of Robert Earl Keen. Also on the block will be a truck, a gas-powered scooter, many antique beer signs, and numerous other items.

The Miller Lite Girls will be present during the event.

Hangin' Tree owner John Oaks was a friend of Alonzo's, and the personable young club operator had a host of other friends from many walks of life.

Among the bands and musicians who will play the show are guitarist smoker Bill Owen-Gage, Larry Martin Sweeney, Billy Mata, Ueancelina, Texas Express, Emmerson Biggins, and the After Midnight Blues Band.

Auction items may be dropped off at the Hangin' Tree. For additional information, call the Hangin' Tree, (210) 651-5812, or Lisa at (210) 330-7025.

Johnny Rod shines
While onetime country music heart-throb Johnny Rodriguez sometimes looks like a picture on an iodine bottle, don't count the Sabinal flash out of the music business yet.

At his recent Texas Pride barbeque show, Rodriguez delivered one benefit will go to the child, part of the money will be used to buy a marker for Rene's grave.

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At his recent Texas Pride barbeque show, Rodriguez delivered one
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5 Rusty Nails
12 The 454's
19 Mike Lord Three
26 Ken Raba & Broken Rope
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Friday $3.00 Crown Royal
Saturday "You call it" Blasters - $3.00
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By Jacques E. Strap

Action sports analyst

For us dyed-in-the-wool Spurs fans, watching an NBA championship game between Boston and Los Angeles is like watching a duel to the death between two convicted child molesters.

You don’t give a big damn which one wins, and you figure it would be really fulfilling if there was some way that both could lose. And Jack Nicholson along with them, of course.

Howard Stern and the NBA brasshats got just what they wanted—a return to the big market glory days when the Boston Celtics and the L.A. Lakers commanded the biggest share of TV watchers and the money that comes with them.

Credit Gregg Popovich and members of his San Antonio Spurs staffs for a portion of Boston’s NBA championship this year. Pop drilled defense into the head of Boston coach Doc Rivers when Doc was a Spurs guard, and it was this defense coaching mentality which helped land Rivers his first NBA championship.

Boston, in the deciding game 6 for this year’s title, dismantled L.A.’s scoring machine like a chop shop foreman on crystal meth, and the Celtics proved, once again, that a good defense and a good offense is far more than the “greatest basketball player on the planet” can overcome.

And while Kobe Bryant and Jack Nicholson (He resembles a raccoon with his night time Raybans) may honestly believe that Bryant is another Michael Jordan, there are a bunch of us out here who feel otherwise about the current MVP.

Even with towering Spaniard Paul Gasol helping under the basket, Bryant was no match for the hardcharging, ball-hawking Celtics, an aging team which gelled miraculously when Boston management added Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to the group which already had All-Star Paul Pierce.

As for the “greatest basketball player on the planet” mantle bestowed upon Kobe Bryant, one must consider, with a grain of salt, the source of this stratospheric designation.

It came from the mouth of Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who verbally crowned “King Kobe” as the Spurs and the Lakers were in heated combat for the Western Conference title.

Like Lakers coach Phil Jackson, Popovich is capable of a little psychological bullshit when the need arises, and nobody knows better than Pop what a tough defensive team effort can do to a player who is already a legend in his own mind.

So let’s not start broom-riding over a possible return to the old dynasty days when the Larry Byrds, Jerry Wests, Magic Johnsons, Bob Cousys, Kareem Abdul Jabbaras, and Bill Russells were trading the NBA championships back and forth.

There are too many great basketball players on both coasts for anyone to start hollering “dynasty,” and you won’t find the Tim Duncans, Chris Pauls, Lebrons, Tonys, Shaqs, and Amares quailing at the notion of facing “the greatest basketball player on the planet” in L.A.

The San Antonio Spurs haven’t won four NBA championships by accident, and just a few moves and breaks this season could damn well have meant yet another title.

Tim Duncan has been handling Kevin Garnett for years. And wasn’t it Spurs defensive ace Bruce Bowen who reduced smooth-stroking Ray Allen to a blubbering crybaby when Allen was with Seattle? And Paul Pierce hadn’t realized a win over San Antonio since Coalie was a pup.

So here is the reality, Spurs fans and faithful.

The “cockroaches,” as Sir Charles has called us, still refuse to die.

Gregg Popovich and Spurs majority owner Peter Holt are beating the basketball bushes for a big, young stud to work with Tim Duncan in the paint. Tony Parker, as good as he already is, is still maturing and developing as a player. And Manu Ginobili, the third member of San Antonio’s fearsome threesome, may return to his same level of greatness which helped the Spurs win their last two NBA titles.

I hate to make excuses and sound like a negative crybaby, but facts are facts.

If Manu Ginobili hadn’t been playing on a seriously injured foot throughout the playoffs, San Antonio might well have won another title this year.

---

Kobe and ‘raccoon eyes’ Jack bad NBA memory
Scatter Shots cont’d

of the greatest performances of his career, causing Texas Pride proprietor Tony Talanco to shake his head in wonder.

"We all know he still has the voice, and you can see by the crowd reaction that he still has the fans," said Talanco, "but who in hell would have expected a performance like this one."

Rodriguez, clear-eyed and bounding with energy, covered many of his greatest hits over two full 45-minute sets. Then he autographs for a solid hour or more.

Tony Talanco to shake his head in wonder.

Action Magazine, July 2008

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Birthdays • Barry Hall, Ellie, Edith, Railroad Jim, Larry Goode

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Frankly Speaking:
I was there and I don’t understand it.
Taco Bell - Lady in front of me - “How many tacos in that 6-pack?”
Girl at counter - “Let me check”!!!
Whataburger - “Would you like Ketchup with your fries?”
“No thank you.” - “Good we’re out.”
I-Hop - “I’d like the omelete with pancakes.”
My friend - “I’ll have the same.” - “Sorry we’re out of pancakes.”
“I have a 5’x10’ sign on an 18’ pole and its not working”
Secretary at Sign Co. - “Would you like us to come out or do you want to bring it?”
A motorcycle with handicapped license plates!!!
Man holding sign on side of road - “Will do very, very, very, very light work for food.”

The Trap Blog—http://caughtinthe trap.blogspot.com/

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